

**SUMMARY MINUTES
NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

July 10, 2008

**George Mason High School
Falls Church, Virginia**

NVTA Members Present:

Voting Members:

Christopher Zimmerman, Chairman	Arlington County
Martin Nohe, Vice Chairman	Prince William County
Judy Connally	Governor's Appointee (CTB)
Gerry Connolly	Fairfax County
William Euille	City of Alexandria
Jeffrey Greenfield (for R. Lederer)	City of Fairfax
Joe May	House of Delegates
Sharon Pandak	Governor's Appointee
Bryan Polk	City of Manassas Park
Thomas Rust	House of Delegates
David Snyder	City of Falls Church
Jonathan Way (for H. Parrish)	City of Manassas
Scott York	Loudoun County

Non-voting Members:

Corey Hill	DRPT
Morteza Salehi	VDOT
Kristen Umstaddt	Town Representative

Staff:

John Mason	Executive Director
Toni Copeland	Clerk
Various jurisdictional staffs	

Item I: Call to Order

Chairman Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Item II: Roll Call

The roll was called and members present were as noted above.

Item III: Approval of the Minutes of June 10, 2008

Mr. Connolly moved, and Mr. York seconded, the approval of the minutes of June 10, 2008, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Item IV: Public Comment on Transportation Needs in Northern Virginia

After a presentation by Mr. Biesiadny summarizing NVTA's activities to implement HB 3202 and restore funding after the Virginia Supreme Court decision, the amount of funding lost and NVTA's future role, Mr. Zimmerman directed the clerk to call the speakers. Eight speakers offered a range of comments on Northern Virginia transportation issues and concerns, including comments opposing additional taxes and fees; support for dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the Virginia Railway Express; support for investments in transit; the need for NVTA to adopt a list of a finite number of major transportation projects as Hampton Roads has done; and the need to reevaluate the Authority's focus and mission.

Item V: Report of Nominating Committee and Appointment of Town Representative

Mr. Nohe reported on the recommendation of the Town Representative Nominating Committee and moved appointment of Kristen Umstadt, mayor of Leesburg, as the town representative. The motion was seconded by Mr. York and carried unanimously. Ms. Umstadt was invited to join the Authority members at the table.

Item VI. Approval of Project List for Bonus Obligation Funding

Mr. Connolly moved, and Mr. Nohe seconded, the approval of the list of projects for FY 2008 Federal Bonus Obligation funding attached to the July 8, 2008, revised report. The motion carried unanimously.

Item VII. Approval of Deadline for CMAQ/RSTP Applications

Mr. Connolly moved, and Mr. York seconded, to establish Friday, September 26, 2008, as the submission deadline for FY 2010 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) applications. The motion carried unanimously.

Item VIII. Ratification of Agreement between NVTA and Fairfax County

Mr. Connolly moved, and Mr. Euille seconded, ratification of the agreement between NVTA and Fairfax County attached to the July 3, 2008, report for provision of funds to address NVTA's FY 2008 financial obligations.

Additional Item: Reports from Managers of Regional and State Transportation Agencies

Mr. Catoe, General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, addressed the criticalness of funding for Metro. He spoke about increased ridership and capital costs and the need for replacement of infrastructure (including rail cars) on a schedule consistent with its life expectancy. He discussed some of the side effects of not addressing the capital needs, as well as the need to address increased operating costs. He said Metro was able to reprioritize capital funds for FY 09 to address needs for the next few years; however, there are still unmet needs in FY 09 and beyond. He concluded that the federal government and the region must come together to invest in the system that is essential to the growth and economic viability of the area. After discussion, NVTA members expressed their support for funding the capital needs of Metro.

Mr. Dale Zehner, Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), spoke about funding issues and the need for the purchase of additional locomotives and a potential increase in fares. He noted that NVTA funding from HB 3202 would have allowed VRE's to purchase locomotives, expand service, address insurance requirements and address increased fuel costs. He said that trains are at capacity with standees on some of the trains at peak hours. VRE will discuss funding issues with its Operations Board in August.

Mr. Alfred Harf, Executive Director of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), stated that ridership is up by 16% in the last four months with vehicles at capacity. The cost of fuel continues to be a challenge. The PRTC is drafting a coping plan which proposes a fare increase, fare indexing policy, supplementation of service hours, expedited purchases of buses and fareboxes, and other items.

Mr. Corey Hill, Chief of Transportation for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), gave a presentation on the Department's Total Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) which is approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. He also reported on a new system in process for assessment management.

Mr. William Cutler, P.E., Assistant District Administrator at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), gave a presentation on the impacts to VDOT from SYIP funding reductions and delays and cuts in projects in the future. He provided a list of 101 projects in Northern Virginia that have been affected by cuts in SYIP funding.

Item IX. Update on General Assembly Activities

In a general discussion, Mr. York suggested that Northern Virginia establish a committee to investigate Northern Virginia statehood.

Item X. Update on Advocacy

A general discussion by Authority members ensued, in which concern was expressed with respect to the General Assembly's failure to resolve the transportation funding issue in its recent special session.

Item XI. VDOT Update

See "Additional Item" above.

Item XII. Transit/Rail Funding Update

See "Additional Item" above.

Item XIII. Closing of NVTA Office

Consistent with guidance from the NVTA meeting in June, Mr. Mason presented a plan for the closing of NVTA office and its operations. Following discussion and a general sensing that NVTA should cease operations, Mr. Euille moved, and Mr. Zimmerman seconded, that NVTA hold an additional meeting of the Authority in September 2008 to discuss matters relating to the closing of the NVTA office and operations, with a view to adjourning indefinitely until such time as a dedicated funding source is identified. Following a question by Mr. Way and further discussion, Chairman Zimmerman clarified that a decision about meetings beyond September 11, 2008, would be made at the September 11, 2008, meeting. The motion carried by a vote of 13 to 1, Mr. Way voting "no". Chairman Zimmerman provided additional guidance that NVTA staff, in coordination with the Council of Counsels, prepare a list of activities that NVTA must legally continue to undertake and those which may be desirable for it to continue to undertake.

NVTA members expressed their gratitude to John Mason, Tom Biesiadny, the Jurisdictional and Agency Coordinating Committee, and others involved with NVTA for their time and support. Mayor Euille also expressed his thanks to the Technical Advisory Committee for their willingness to serve.

Item XIV. Status of Refund Process

No comments.

Item XV. NVTA Financial Status

No comments.

Item XVI. Update on TIP/CLRP

No comments.

Item XVII. TIP Amendments

No comments.

Item XVIII. Air Quality Amendments

No comments.

Item XIX. Status of Major Transportation Studies and Projects in Northern Virginia

No comments.

Item XX. Executive Director's Report

No comments.

Item XXI. Correspondence

No comments.

Item XXII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

DRAFT