

## **GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Thursday, March 12, 2026

6:15 p.m. ET

*This meeting was held in-person and accessible via YouTube.*

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to Order**

- ✓ Mayor Davis-Younger called the Governance and Personnel Committee (GPC) meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.
- ✓ Attendees:
  - Members: Mayor Davis-Younger, Chair Jefferson, Mayor Read, Delegate Sewell (Remote - Distance)
  - Staff: Monica Backmon (CEO), Michael Longhi (CFO), Abigail Hillerich (Communications Manager), Tara Dunion (EA)
  - Council of Counsels Attendees: Christina Brown (City of Alexandria) and Daniel Robinson (Fairfax County)
  - Other Attendees: Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC, Remote)

### **Action Items**

#### **2. Approval of February 12, 2026, Meeting Summary Minutes** Mayor Davis-Younger

- ✓ On a motion by Mayor Davis-Younger, seconded by Mayor Read, the Summary Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2026, were unanimously approved.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **3. General Assembly Discussion**

Ms. Baynard

- ✓ Mayor Davis-Younger asked Ms. Baynard for an update on bills/activity before the General Assembly that affect NVTA.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard reported that it is the last week of the General Assembly with many bills in conference. Resolving the differences between the House and Senate bills will take up all the legislators' time through Sine Die on Saturday.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard reiterated NVTA's issue with a proposed amendment in the Senate budget that would remove the sales and use tax exemption (SUT) for data centers and apply all of that money to the WMATA capital fund. This would result in an overall loss of funding for NVTA and for our member jurisdictions. It is legally problematic on several levels since it diverts funding from NVTA and directs all SUT related to ending the data center exemption raised in Planning District 8 to the

WMATA Capital Fund. NVTA and its member jurisdictions have been clear in their opposition to this component of the proposal. Ms. Baynard noted that we are not likely to see a resolution on this issue prior to Saturday. She noted that Delegate Sewell has been helpful in making introductions and helping facilitate key conversations with legislators on this issue. NVTA will continue its outreach supporting funding for WMATA, while advocating for the technical correct on the SUT.

- ✓ The General Assembly agreed to not move forward on creating a new regulatory framework for commercial autonomous vehicles. There is a workgroup on this issue that was created in 2025. The workgroup will continue its mission, with recommendations due in November 2026.
- ✓ As far as photo enforcement, whether for speed or red lights, the Assembly is exploring guardrails about how the local governments and the Commonwealth will be using that information. Those bills are in conference.
- ✓ The four bills reflecting SJ28 and DMVMoves were carried over into a much larger discussion about what tax policies are acceptable. Affordability is a key theme and the Assembly is not focusing on tax increases. So these initiatives are not moving forward this session.
- ✓ In response to a question about a study of parking spaces, Ms. Baynard responded that both the Senate and House budgets have two of the same studies. One is directing the Secretary of Transportation to explore the concept of reciprocity with Maryland and Washington, D.C. regarding out of state vehicle registration and ticket enforcement. The second one directs VDOT and the Department of Community and Housing Development to examine existing funding opportunities to support transit-oriented development around transit stations, particularly as it pertains to housing.
- ✓ Also, the House has funding for a study that Hampton Roads wants to do similar to the SJ28 transit study. The Senate is asking the Office of Infrastructure Planning and Investment to investigate taxing parking spaces not parking fees.
- ✓ There is also language in the House budget about identifying any federal funds eligible to assist with the development of a rural electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- ✓ There also is a proposed study for DRPT to look at Northern Virginia bus consolidation.
- ✓ In response to a question from Mayor Davis-Younger, Ms. Baynard noted that the proposed budget amendment from Senators Surovell and Srinivasan for a bike/pedestrian study was not included in the Senate budget.

#### **4. Adjournment**

- ✓ There being no further business for the Committee, Mayor Davis-Younger adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

