



## **GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Thursday, November 14, 2024

5:30 pm

2600 Park Tower Drive, Suite 601, Vienna, VA 22180

Meeting conducted in-person and live-streamed via YouTube

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

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

- ✓ Chair Randall called the Governance and Personnel Committee (GPC) meeting to order at 5:53 pm.
- ✓ Attendees:
  - Members: Chair Randall, Mayor Davis-Younger, Mayor Read, Delegate Sewell (arrived 5:57 PM), Chair Jefferson (Remote – Medical, Joined 6:02 PM)
  - Staff: Monica Backmon (CEO), Michael Longhi (CFO), Alyssa Beyers (Regional Transportation Planner)
  - Other Attendees: Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsel), Christina Brown (Council of Counsel)

### **Action Items**

#### **2. Approval of March 14, 2024, Meeting Summary Minutes**

- ✓ Chair Randall moved approval of March 14, 2024, GPC Meeting Summary Minutes seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **3. Review of Draft Bylaws Revisions:**

- ✓ Mr. Longhi presented proposed updates to the NVTA's bylaws. The proposed changes include minor edits as well clarifications of committee purposes, appointment responsibilities and voting requirements. The Committee discussed the proposed changes and added additional clarifications and edits.
- ✓ Chair Randall moved the GPC recommend Authority approval of the Draft Bylaws as amended during the meeting, seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **4. Review of the Draft 2025 Legislative Program**

- ✓ Ms. Backmon highlighted that there are no new requests this year, unlike the previous year. She noted that the presentation remains consistent with the same approach since 2018, particularly with regard to the non-diversion of revenues from NVTA and the restoration of the funds diverted in 2018.
- ✓ Chair Randall acknowledged that there are no new requests and that the message remains consistent. However, she noted that an important point has not been clearly stated. She recommended a policy statement to clarify that they do not wish to take on responsibility for maintenance and operations that could potentially divert or impose additional taxes on

constituents. She proposed adding a policy statement that the NVTa should oppose any efforts to amend HB 2313 to include maintenance and operations responsibilities.

- ✓ Ms. Baynard discussed the work being done to refine language for key talking points that Delegates and state representatives can use. She also highlighted the creation of a one-pager summarizing Ms. Backmon's presentation at the Annual Transportation Forum, which focused on NVTa's achievements and responsibilities. The goal is to reinforce that, while NVTa is carrying out their vision, NVTa's scope should not change.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard also shared that she feels more confident now, as it seems the Delegates and Senators are supportive of NVTa's position. She emphasized the importance of leaving the funding and language for Metro's funding gap unchanged, particularly for FY26. The focus is on ensuring that the current budget stays intact throughout the session. She also highlighted the need for educational outreach to legislators, especially those from outside the region, to discuss the importance of transit in Northern Virginia, covering local systems like VRE and WMATA, as well as broader regional transit issues.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard provided an update on their current efforts, highlighting that she has been aligning her language with other key stakeholders to ensure consistency in messaging. She emphasized that transportation will likely require significant attention in 2026, not just for Northern Virginia, but for all transportation systems, as inflation-driven cost increases continue to impact everything from labor to materials. Although inflation rates may have decreased, the prices for these inputs remain high, leading to long-term challenges.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard also shared that 2025 will be a budget adjustment year. Additionally, the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee will hold their annual retreat, where they will conduct in-depth discussions on major budget drivers and the revenue outlook, which will play a crucial role in shaping upcoming budget discussions. Ms. Baynard noted that all relevant General Assembly committees, including Appropriations and Finance, will be involved in these discussions.

## **5. Adjournment**

- ✓ Chair Randall concluded the meeting at 6:21 pm.