

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Summary Minutes

MARCH 10, 2005

held at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission
7535 Little River Turnpike, Suite 100, Annandale, Virginia

Members

(those present are highlighted)

William Eulle

Christopher Zimmerman

Jeffrey Greenfield (alternate)

Gerald E. Connolly

David Snyder

Scott K. York

Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II

Bryan Polk

Martin Nohe (alternate)

William Mims

Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.

Jeff Frederick

Leonard S. "Hobie" Mitchel

Margaret E. G. Vanderhye

Karen Rae

Dennis Morrison

Mayor, City of Alexandria

Arlington County Board

Fairfax City Council

Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Falls Church City Council; NVTA Chairman

Chairman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Vice Mayor, City of Manassas

Manassas Park City Council

Prince William Board of County Supervisors

Virginia Senate, District 33

Virginia House of Delegates, District 34

Virginia House of Delegates, District 52

Governor's Appointee

Governor's Appointee

Director, VDRPT (non-voting member)

No. Va. District Administrator, VDOT (non-voting member)

Staff Present

Linda Summerall

NVRC

Call to Order

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called and members present or absent were noted for the record. Chairman Snyder welcomed Mr. Martin Nohe, alternate for Mr. Connaughton, to his first meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Connolly moved approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2005, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Presentation

A. Update: Idea 66

Theresa DeFore, VDOT's Project Manager for Idea-66, distributed the executive summary and reviewed the project to date, adding that the point of the study is to look at ways to ease congestion from west of the Rosslyn tunnel to the Dulles Toll Road, as well as to provide an evacuation route.

Concepts and criteria were developed through public meetings, web site comments, and comments received from stakeholders using a context sensitive solutions approach. The concepts were reviewed and narrowed down to 38 concepts that were evaluated under broad categories of no-build, HOV/HOT, transit, and roadway widening. In keeping with the original problem statement from Governor Warner and Congressmen Wolf and Davis, five concepts met the criteria. The study co-chairmen recommend that the study be advanced to a Multi-Modal Location Study in accordance with VDOT and DRPT guidelines and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Ms. DeFore confirmed that the study will be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on March 16, and the CTB is expected to act upon it then. Mr. Zimmerman stated his belief that the study should be peer reviewed, if not general public comment, before the CTB takes action. Ms. Rae explained that the timing is scheduled for the Six-Year Plan adoption in May.

Mr. Zimmerman moved that NVTA send a letter to the CTB urging for a reasonable amount of time for comments and review by the localities' professionals before the CTB decides the next step. The motion was seconded. Mr. Connolly stated his objection, noting the study has been underway for quite some time. Mr. Zimmerman replied that professional staff should be provided the opportunity to determine how several of the results were arrived at. Ms. Vanderhuy offered a substitute motion, accepted by Mr. Zimmerman, that NVTA urge the CTB to receive this study and to receive public input before taking final action and including it in the Six-Year Plan. The motion failed, with Messrs. Euille, Zimmerman and Snyder and Ms. Vanderhuy voting in favor, and Messrs. Greenfield, Connolly, Polk, Nohe, and Mims opposed.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if safety was a criterion, noting the lack of shoulders in five sections. It was confirmed that the study does not include comments from WMATA. Ms. Rae pointed out the study is pre-NEPA and the questions raised tonight would need to be answered through the NEPA process. Ms. DeFore said the study offers concepts that are feasible; that does not mean that any of these concepts will be implemented.

Photo Red

Chairman Snyder distributed draft letters to Governor Warner and to *The Washington Post's* editorial page supporting photo red legislation. Mr. Greenfield moved that the letters be sent. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Interim Technical Committee Report

A. Endorsement of VDOT Pilot Grants

James Van Zee, NVRC's Director of Regional Planning Services, presented eight proposed applications under VDOT's pilot transportation planning grants that NVRC will take to its board of Commissioners for application approval. The applications have been recommended by local and regional staff.

Mr. Connolly moved endorsement of the applications. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

CMAQ

Chairman Snyder distributed a draft letter to Secretary Clement concerning selection of projects to be funded under the additional \$10.5 million in CMAQ funds. Mr. Connolly moved that the letter be sent. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Proposed U.S. House Bill

Chairman Snyder called attention to the draft U.S. House Bill, "End D.C. Regional Traffic Gridlock Act," introduced by Rep. Moran. Mr. Euille moved that a letter of endorsement be sent to the three Congressional delegates. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Presentation

B. TransAction 2030 Website and Survey

A draft survey was distributed, with Jana Lynott of NVTC adding that both a computer video and the survey would be posted on the website. Authority members agreed the survey was too long, with Mr. Nohe suggesting that the public should be able to access the survey separately from viewing the video. Ms. Rae noted that the survey should address the needs of the aging population. She also offered the use of her marketing staff.

Interim Technical Committee Report

B. Information Items

• *Discussion of 2005 General Assembly Session*

Interim Technical Committee Chairman Tom Biesiadny briefly reviewed legislation. Mr. Connolly requested a chart showing the dollar amount that will come to Northern Virginia.

Referring to a *Washington Post* editorial, Mr. Connolly commented on the need to educate the *Post* on the power structure in Virginia, in that local jurisdictions have only the authority that is granted to them by the General Assembly. The members agreed to send a letter to the Governor requesting that he meet with Governor Erlich and Mayor Williams concerning a dedicated source of funding for Metro.

• *Update on TEA-21 Reauthorization*

TEA-21 authorization has been extended until May 31, 2005. In February, Rep. Don Young introduced a new, five-year TEA-21 reauthorization bill with \$283.9 billion in guaranteed spending over six years. The issue of the “donor” states (Virginia is one) could affect completion of the reauthorization.

• *Update: Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Study*

Mark Gibb, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, reported that NVRC staff is meeting with the appropriate Fairfax County Supervisors and citizens groups.

• *Update: TIP and CLRP*

Mr. Biesiadny noted that a HOT lane on the Beltway is new this year.

• *TIP Amendments*

Amendments include a project related to the fourth lane on I-95 between Route 7100 in Newington and Route 123 in Woodbridge. The amendment advances the project by two years, reducing the cost of the project right-of-way.

Amendments also include two projects for WMATA: a canopy at the West Falls Church Metrorail Station bus bay and a bus stop information program. Both projects are funded through CMAQ.

• *VDOT List for Statewide CMAQ Funds*

A copy of the Recommended FY 2006 CMAQ and RSTP Projects compiled in December 2004 was distributed, with the Interim Technical Committee expressing the need for funding.

Adjournment

Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.