



CTB Rail Subcommittee Meeting
Minutes
September 15, 2015 at 8 a.m.

Attending:

Jennifer Mitchell
Shannon Valentine
Scott Kasprowicz
Jim Dyke
Court Rosen

Director Mitchell began with an overview of the expenditure report effort underway and DRPT provided a handout regarding the appropriation act language and a high level description of the expenditure report (Attachment). Report to be provided by October 1, with review by CTB members October 7. Presented to CTB October 27.

A draft of the Benefit Cost Analysis Update was handed out and a high level discussion about the report noted that this was not a time sensitive topic for preparing the December 1 report to the General Assembly.

The Committee reviewed the presentation for the CTB Workshop, which had some edits from the CTB Rail Committee discussion in August.

- Ms. Valentine raised the issue that language under the Recommendation for “Protecting the Public Interest” did not reflect the August discussions. The committee agreed language should read **“Eliminate administrative practice of using carloads and passengers as the sole performance measurement on a project.”**
- Mr. Rosen brought up the concern that prioritization of passenger and freight dual benefit projects could penalize areas without passenger service. The committee agreed language should be added that this is a prioritization criteria “as applicable” to an area that is served by passenger and freight.
- Mr. Dyke reiterated his concern for a timeline of milestones to achieving recommendations and reports. The slide with a timeline was referenced.
- Director Mitchell said we would discuss the composition of a task force to work toward broader performance measures at the October CTB meeting.
- Ms. Valentine and Mr. Kasprowicz advocated for an update to the Statewide Rail Plan asap to use as criteria for prioritization. Director Mitchell committed that DRPT would budget for this effort in FY17 and start the process by July 2016, using a consultant to begin the effort.

Director Mitchell provided an update on the negotiations for rail improvements on the CSX RF&P division.

Public Comment:

Gale Wilson with the Virginia Railroad Association spoke:

- Carload numbers are an important measure, but carloads may go down when technology allows weight to increase and cars can carry more than before
- Noted there is no set % of REF that will be allowed for RPP when the legislation is proposed.
- He questioned the prioritization criteria that a greater than 30% match would receive favorable consideration, since that doesn't necessarily mean it's a better project.