



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

CTB Rail Subcommittee Meeting
Minutes
December 6, 2016

Meeting began at 9:02 am.

CTB Rail Committee Members present: Jennifer Mitchell, Scott Kasprowicz, Shannon Valentine and Mary Hughes-Hynes

Jennifer Mitchell opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. She noted to members of the public present that DC2RVA will be presented in the full CTB meeting beginning at 10 am and not the Rail Subcommittee.

1. VRE Update – Pete Burrus, Chief of Rail, presented findings from DRPT’s review of the VRE System 2040 Plan, requested by the 2016 General Assembly for the Rail Subcommittee to perform. James Brown, HDR, assisted with the presentation of the Final Report.

It was discussed that the state match of funds comes from the Mass Transit Trust Fund which is funded from the gas tax. Capital funding is shared with other subsidies by statute.

Scott Kasprowicz asked about utilization of VRE capacity and if it had been studied that higher utilization with lower fares would improve VRE’s farebox recovery ratio.

Shannon Valentine asked if it is possible to look at the operating portion when reviewing the Statewide Rail Plan. VRE is considered transit and rail, but mostly receives funds from the transit side. The General Assembly increased the operating allocation in 2013 by introducing SB1140 Operating Methodology.

2. Bedford Study – Jeremy Latimer, Rail Transportation Programs Administrator, presented the Final Report on costs of service to and available funding for passenger rail service to the Town of Bedford, directed by the 2016 General Assembly for DRPT to study. DRPT was not tasked with making a recommendation. Bedford and Amtrak ridership analysis differ by a large margin. Bedford’s ridership assumptions included the Smith Mountain Lake (tourist area), while Amtrak uses a smaller 20 mile radius as part of their national ridership study standards. DRPT reiterated its position that the Department requires 2 years of ridership from the Roanoke extension before a determination can be decided.

3. Arkendale and Roanoke Update – Jeremy Latimer, Rail Transportation Programs Administrator, presented on Arkendale and Roanoke SYIP amendments. The Arkendale amendment seeks an additional \$9.16 million to complete the project, and is in addition to an Amendment with FRA that also reduced the project scope. The action decision will be made at Wednesday’s CTB meeting, but briefed for full CTB later today.

Roanoke will require an additional \$1.057 million to provide full funding for the construction of the rail servicing facility and passenger platform project elements – The proposed amendment will be presented at December’s CTB meeting, but CTB action will be taken at January’s CTB meeting.

4. Public Comment – None given at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.