



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

CTB Rail Subcommittee Meeting  
Minutes  
September 20, 2016

Meeting began at 8am.

CTB Rail Committee Members present: Jennifer Mitchell, Scott Kasprovicz, Court Rosen, Shannon Valentine, Mary Hynes

Jennifer Mitchell opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the Rail Committee meeting, reminding the members of the public we would allow public comment, but have to adjourn just before 9am so the Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting can begin on time.

1. Rail Plan Update - Jeremy Latimer, Rail Transportation Programs Administrator, presented the schedule for the Rail Plan and discussed the opportunities for involvement, and the public outreach plan as it relates to the CTB Rail Committee members.
2. VRE Update - Jeremy Latimer presented the Virginia Railway Express System Plan 2040 plan review findings, and provided a draft report to the CTB Rail Committee members. CTB-R committee members were asked to provide comments back by October 5 so that DRPT could prepare a final report for presentation to the CTB in October.
3. DC2RVA Update – Emily Stock, Manager of Rail Planning, presented a preview of the presentation she would give at the CTB meeting (on the agenda for the 9am meeting). She discussed the recently completed Richmond to Raleigh Tier II study, the purpose and need for DC2RVA, the types of improvements to improve the corridor, Alternatives proposed for Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania, Ashland/Hanover, and Richmond station alternatives.

Members of the public were allowed 3 minutes to speak:

- James Murray, Vice Mayor of Ashland, submitted his comments in writing and asked for four items: 1) CTB oppose the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail proposal in Ashland, 2) slow down the study process, 3) Allow public input on a feasible solution, 4) CTB members should visit Ashland.
- Kathy Abbott, Ashland Town Council stated 3<sup>rd</sup> rail would destroy building and negatively impact Ashland's cultural resources and way of life.

- Tom Wulf, Director of Ashland Main Street Center reminded CTB-R of the Town resolution to oppose the 3<sup>rd</sup> rail in July; Crossroads Grocery would be destroyed; Tourism – an important industry to the town – would be diminished.
- Wayne Hazzard, Hanover Board of Supervisors, South Anna District asked to slow the study down. CSX should be participating and have better communication with Amtrak to avoid need for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail.
- Preston Bryan, Randolph Macon College Trustee advised that Randolph Macon College opposed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail – Town and College are aligned to oppose it. DRPT seems uninterested in alternatives.
- Ellen Popoulakis, Hanover citizen has a family farm in Hanover would be negatively affected by a by-pass rail option – affecting generations of history. Member of Families Under The Rail. County has rescinded support for the by-pass option. Public needs opportunities for input.
- Aubrey (Bucky) Stanly, Hanover Board of Supervisors, Beaverdam District stated 600 people showed up to oppose the by-pass at the first public meeting (despite what times-dispatch reported). It has changed the mood in the community – everyone is upset. Against 3<sup>rd</sup> rail or Bypass and need to discuss alternatives. Need to slow down the study. DC2RVA has not proposed good alternatives.
- Michael Martin is an Ashland citizen that moved there for the charm. Small towns are disappearing, Ashland represents what is disappearing. 3<sup>rd</sup> rail and safety requirements would hurt/change the nature of downtown.
- Tim Davis, Spotsylvania land owner, said that his house would be 200 ft from 2<sup>nd</sup> rail bypass option. FAMPO is opposed. DC2RVA has had poor communication and no consideration for impact on the community. Study shouldn't have happened and needs to stop. Pending legal battle.
- Ian Sutton, reported on codes and engineering standards he wants to discuss with DC2RVA. Has report on safety and risk analysis – trains going through today carry hazardous materials.

Meeting adjourned at 9am.