



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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APPROVED MINUTES CTB Rail and Transit Subcommittee Meeting

VDOT Central Office – HR Training Room
1221 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 9:00 am

The CTB Rail and Transit Subcommittee held a meeting on May 17, 2022. The location was VDOT HR Training Room, located at 1221 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

CTB MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer DeBruhl (Chair), Stephen Johnsen, E. Scott Kasproicz, Frederick Stant, III, Thomas Fowlkes, Mark Merrill, Cedric Rucker, and Dr. Raymond Smoot.

STAFF

Sheila Beard (VDRPT), Emily Stock (VDRPT), Chris Swanson (VDOT), Chris Berg (VDOT), Larry Land, Mary Olivia Rentner (VDRPT), DJ Stadler (VPRA), Miriam Foster (VDRPT), Michael McLaughlin (VPRA), Adisa Muse and Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County).

CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeBruhl called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE April 19, 2022 MINUTES

On a motion by Stephen Johnsen and seconded by Mark Merrill, the April 19, 2022, CTB Rail and Transit Subcommittee meeting minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Presented by Chair Jennifer DeBruhl

Chair DeBruhl informed everyone that the Rail planning team is wrapping up the Roanoke to Clifton Forge Multimodal Connections study. This is a legislatively mandated study for making a better connection between the Roanoke and Clifton Forge train stations. A full update will be provided at the June Subcommittee meeting.

Another item mentioned to the committee was the current news with WMATA. There was an issue regarding train operator's certifications. With the reduction in the number of available operators, there has been a service reduction on the green and yellow lines which is not impacting Virginia. Additional news was the retirement of General Manager and CEO, Paul Wiedefeld effective immediately. The Chief Operating Officer, Joe Leader has resigned as well. A new GM has been named which is Randy Clark from Austin, Texas, with a strong background in rail operations and safety. Chair DeBruhl stated the Commonwealth will continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure accountability for the Commonwealth's investments in Metro.

I-66 Commuter Choice – FY 2023-24 Program of Projects Briefing

Presented by Ciara Williams, Northern Virginia Transit Planning Manager

Ciara explained to the Subcommittee the I-66 Commuter Choice is a partnership between the Commonwealth of Virginia and NVTC. Led by NVTC, the Commuter Choice Program uses toll revenues from I-66 inside the Beltway for transit and other improvements that can benefit the toll payers.

NVTC held a call for projects from November to January and received 11 initial applications. Nine of the 11 met eligibility requirements and proceeded to the technical evaluation process. Based on project scores and expected funding, NVTC staff are proposing a draft program that includes the seven top-scoring projects, totaling \$14.6M. These can be accommodated within the \$14.7M available for projects.

What's in the recommended program?

- Two long-lived capital investments that would benefit I-66 commuters for decades to come and leverage over \$160 million in other fed-state-local funding
- Continuation of three established commuter bus routes that are experiencing rebounding ridership; two of these will use the OTB Express Lanes leading to faster and more reliable travel
- A half-fare campaign for five OmniRide commuter routes from western Prince William County into Arlington and DC for the first months of the OTB lanes being open, to help build on rebounding ridership
- A critical one-mile segment of the planned Outside the Beltway I-66 Trail that will provide a safe, comfortable means for cyclists and pedestrians to access the Vienna Metrorail station. Overall this is a \$9M project for which the requested \$2.2M would complete the funding for implementation

For the first time, NVTC looked at the projected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and fuel savings. In total, the six recommended projects are projected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 84% and save over \$2M in annual fuel costs for commuters relative to drive-alone travel.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ciara informed the Subcommittee that NVTC will be reviewing the public input received and will seek approval next month from their Commission prior to seeking adoption of a Program of Projects and referral to CTB for inclusion in the FY 2023-28 Six Year Improvement Program.

STATEWIDE RAIL PLAN UPDATE

Presented by Emily Stock, DRPT

Emily Stock presented an additional overview from April's meeting explaining the Rail Plan format, which is being developed using the web-based application ArcGIS StoryMaps. Additionally, during the April Subcommittee meeting, members asked for details about the Statewide Rail Plan's vision for freight investments, which was the focus of the May Rail Plan presentation.

DRPT's freight rail vision is to invest in projects to achieve core tenants of a multimodal network.

- The plan targets resilience through port expansion made possible with the FREIGHT program guidelines, and a state of good repair with the Rail Preservation guidance
- It targets competition by increasing business access to the rail network and increasing capacity to drive competition
- It targets cost-sharing by requiring a match to public funds and ensuring efficient implementation by the private sector who are responsible for maintenance

The committee discussed the need for a more strategic vision for the freight portion of the rail plan. Chair DeBruhl agreed that would be incorporated into the plan prior to submission to the CTB for approval.

The passenger rail vision is guided by commitments for rail improvements and service from the agreements associated with Transforming Rail in Virginia, and with commitments for service with the FRA's Records of Decision (DC2RVA, Richmond to Raleigh, Richmond to Hampton Roads, Long Bridge).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public listed for comment

ADJOURNMENT

Chair DeBruhl adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. All presentations to the Board and meeting video can be found at www.drpt.virginia.gov/rail/ctb-rail-transit-subcommittee/

Respectfully Submitted: Sheila Beard, Executive Assistant