

APPROVED

At the January 8, 2009 Rail Advisory Board meeting, a motion to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting was made by Gregory Marston, seconded by James Keen, and approved by the Rail Advisory Board members.

Minutes

**Rail Advisory Board Meeting
Discovery Room
Science Museum of Virginia
2500 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA
November 13, 2008**

Note – At the direction of the Board and the Director of DRPT, these summary minutes will reflect Action Items and Informational Requests to the Agency from the Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wiley Mitchell Jr., Chairman
Richard Beadles
Dwight Farmer
Bruno Maestri
Peter Shudtz

Trenton Crewe, Vice Chairman
Sharon Bulova
James Keen
Gregory Marston

Charles Badger, Deputy Director, DRPT

Call to Order

The Rail Advisory Board Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Mitchell.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Adoption of Minutes

A single motion to accept the agenda of the November 13, 2008 meeting and the minutes of the July 10, 2008 Rail Advisory Board meeting was made by Mr. Beadles and seconded by Mr. Keen. The motion carried without opposition.

Public Comment

There were no public comments received by e-mail nor did anyone sign up to speak.

Director's Update

Charles Badger, Deputy Director of DRPT, announced a preview of the Rail Resource Allocation Plan, to be presented later in the meeting by Kevin Page, Chief of Rail Transportation. Mr. Badger also updated the Board on the revenue situation related to transportation funding.

Mr. Badger announced that the application period for Rail Enhancement Fund FY2010 funds will open December 1, 2008 and close February 1, 2009.

Chairman Mitchell requested that the minutes reflect the need for DRPT to bring back to the Board individual projects for consideration before they move forward. Mr. Badger also updated the Board on the Commonwealth Transportation Board's approval of the program of projects recommended at the May Rail Advisory Board meeting, which took place at the CTB's September meeting.

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Nominating Committee

Chairman Mitchell passed the gavel to Ms. Bulova of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Bulova reported unanimous agreement of the Committee to nominate Wiley Mitchell as Chair and Trenton Crewe as Vice Chair of the Rail Advisory Board for the period of January through June, 2009. The motion to accept was made by Mr. Keen, and seconded by Mr. Maestri and carried without opposition.

2009 Meeting Schedule

A motion to accept the proposed calendar of meetings for 2009 was made by Mr. Crewe, seconded by Ms. Bulova and passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell noted the possibility of additional meetings to this schedule.

Amtrak /VRE On-Time Performance and Ridership Update

Jay McArthur of Amtrak and Dale Zehner of Virginia Railway Express updated the Board on both passenger rail systems' performance, ridership figures and the reduction of delays. Mr. McArthur, with Jay Westbrook of CSX, addressed Board questions about service needs and maintenance-caused delays. Mr. Zehner was questioned by members of the Board about ridership related to fare rates and transportation for the upcoming presidential inauguration.

Draft Statewide Rail Resource Allocation Plan Update

Kevin Page, Chief of Rail Transportation, gave a presentation to the Board on the status of the Statewide Rail Resource Allocation Plan and the proposed projects for Six-Year Improvement Plan.

Information Items

Mr. Page provided an overview of the informational items provided to the Board in their notebooks.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Rail Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Discovery Room of the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.