



MINUTES
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING
February 19, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Webex

Members Present

*Walter Alcorn (NVTC)
*Andrea Bailey (PRTC)
*Preston Banks (PRTC)
*Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (NVTC)
*Meg Bohmke (PRTC)
*Katie Cristol (NVTC)
*Margaret Franklin (PRTC) **
*Matt Kelly (PRTC) **
*Jeanine Lawson (PRTC)
*Cindy Shelton (PRTC)
*Dan Storck (NVTC) **
*James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

Jurisdiction

Fairfax County
Prince William County
City of Manassas Park
City of Alexandria
Stafford County
Arlington County
Prince William County
City of Fredericksburg
Prince William County
Stafford County
Fairfax County
Fairfax County

Members Absent

Gary Skinner (PRTC)
Ralph Smith (PRTC)
Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)

Spotsylvania County
City of Manassas
Commonwealth of Virginia

Alternates Present

*Michael McLaughlin (DRPT) **

Commonwealth of Virginia

Alternates Absent

Canek Aguirre (NVTC)
Victor Angry (PRTC)
Pete Candland (PRTC)
Hector Cendejas (PRTC)
Deborah Frazier (PRTC)
Libby Garvey (NVTC)
Jason Graham (PRTC)
Jeff McKay (NVTC)
Alanna Mensing (PRTC)
Pam Sebesky (PRTC)

City of Alexandria
Prince William County
Prince William County
City of Manassas Park
Spotsylvania County
Arlington County
City of Fredericksburg
Fairfax County
City of Manassas Park
City of Manassas

*Voting Member

**Indicates arrival/departure following the commencement of the Operations Board Meeting. Notation of exact arrival/departure time is included in the body of the minutes.

Staff and General Public

Rich Dalton – VRE

John Duque – VRE

Chris Henry - VRE

Robert Hostelka - VRE

Lezlie Lamb – VRE

Steve MacIsaac – VRE Legal Counsel

Kate Mattice – NVTC

Kristin Nutter – VRE

Dr. Bob Schneider – PRTC

Mark Schofield – VRE

Alex Sugatan - VRE

Joe Swartz – VRE

Chair Bennett-Parker called the meeting to order at 9:03 A. M. The Roll Call followed.

Resolution Finding Need to Conduct the February 19, 2021 Meeting Electronically – 2

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Bohmke, to approve Resolution #02-02-2021, Finding Need to Conduct the February 19, 2021 Meeting Electronically. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Lawson, Shelton, and Walkinshaw.

Approval of the Agenda – 3

Ms. Lawson moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Lawson, Shelton, and Walkinshaw.

Approval of the Minutes of the January 15, 2021 VRE Operations Board Meeting – 4

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Shelton, to approve the Minutes from January 15, 2021 Meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Lawson, Shelton, and Walkinshaw.

[Ms. Franklin joined the meeting]

[Mr. Kelly joined the meeting]

[Mr. McLaughlin joined the meeting]

[Mr. Storck joined the meeting]

Chair's Comments – 5

Chair Bennett-Parker briefed the Operations Board Members on two bills of interest in the General Assembly:

- SB1271 which would codify the budget language secured last year, allowing public bodies to meet electronically during a declared state of emergency. The bill passed in the Senate unanimously on Thursday, February 18, 2021, passed the House General Laws Committee and is expected to be of the floor for final passage next week.
- HB1931, will grant greater flexibility for members of public bodies to participate in meetings electronically. It passed in the House and the Senate and was sent to Governor Northam for his signature.

Other General Assembly news:

- The House Appropriates and Senate Finance Committees released their respective budgets. This year is not notable for transit or transportation funding; however, the budgets do include \$22.4 million in Federal Coronavirus Relief Funding to DRPT to be used for the state’s annual commitment to WMATA.

Chair Bennett-Parker also announced Operations Board Committee Assignments:

2021 Audit Committee

- Katie Cristol – Chair
- Preston Banks
- Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
- Jeanine Lawson
- Gary Skinner
- James Walkinshaw

2021 CEO Evaluation Committee

- Andrea Bailey – Chair
- Preston Banks
- Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
- Katie Cristol
- Jeanine Lawson
- Dan Storck

2021 Finance Committee

- Meg Bohmke – Chair
- Preston Banks
- Katie Cristol
- Matt Kelly
- Dan Storck

2021 Legislative Committee

- Margaret Franklin – Chair
- Walter Alcorn
- Andrea Bailey
- Ralph Smith
- Cindy Shelton
- James Walkinshaw

Chair Bennett-Parker thanked the new Committee Members and reminded all Operations Board Members that they are welcome to sit in and participate in any committee meeting.

Chief Executive Officer’s Report – 6

Mr. Dalton thanked Secretary Valentine for her comments. He thanked Mr. Skinner for his leadership through the challenges in 2020. He briefed the Operations Board on the following items of interest:

- Safety COVID-19 Update
- Ridership
- Performance
- Project Spotlight: Automatic Passenger Counters
- Welcome Back marketing efforts

Public Comment Time –7

Chair Bennett-Parker stated that in the virtual meeting environment, Public Comments were being accepted electronically through the VRE Website. The Chair asked the Clerk to read any comments received into the record. Ms. Lamb read a comment from Mark Sheufler (attached.)

Action Items - 8

Authorization to Amend the GEC VII Task Order for Design Services for Alexandria Station Improvements – 8A

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Cristol, to authorize the CEO to amend the GEC VII Task Order for Design Services for Alexandria Station Improvements. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Authorization to Issue a General Planning Consulting Services Task Order for Relocation Advisory Services for Real Estate Acquisition Activities for the Broad Run Expansion Project – 8B

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Cristol, to issue a GPC Task Order for Relocation Advisory Services for Real Estate Acquisition Activities for the Broad Run Expansion Project. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Information Items – 9

Spending Authority Report – 9A

In, the following purchases greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 were made:

- On January 14, 2021, VRE amended an existing Purchase Order with International Display Systems for software integration services for the Variable Message System Proof-of-Concept project; increasing the commitment by \$15,272, to an amount not to exceed \$97,630, to address changes to the software design for the project.

Closed Session – 10

Ms. Lawson moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Section 2.2-3711.A (1) and of the Code of Virginia,) to convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing one matter involving one personnel matter involving an appointee of the Commissions.

The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Ms. Lawson moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge and with no individual member dissenting, at the just concluded Closed Session, only public business

matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed; and, only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

[Mr. Banks left the meeting at the conclusion of the Closed Session] ‡

The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Board Members' Time – 11

Chair Bennett-Parker asked if Members had any additional business. There was none.

Ms. Bohmke moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, to adjourn the meeting.

The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Approved this 19th day of March 2021

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Chair

James R. Walkinshaw

James R. Walkinshaw (Mar 19, 2021 14:14 EDT)

James Walkinshaw

Secretary

‡Correction

CERTIFICATION

This certification hereby acknowledges the minutes for the February 19, 2021 Virginia Railway Express Operations Board Meeting have been recorded to the best of my ability.



Leslie M. Lamb

From: vre.no.reply@gmail.com
To: [Lezlie Lamb](#)
Subject: Public Comments
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021 11:23:50 AM

A response was submitted for the form "Public Comments"

(REQUIRED) First and Last Name: Mark Scheufler

City or County of residence: Prince William County

Comments: With ridership down 90% and future ridership uncertain, I am concerned about the long term viability of the current VRE commuter business model. Telecommuting, the reduction of 5 day office work weeks, improvements to I-66, I-95 and Route 28 will significantly impact future VRE ridership growth. Expanded roadways will induce more vehicles and congestion free bus transit service at the expense of premium commuter rail service. The best way to address these concerns is to plan for transit oriented development directly adjacent to each station. This is especially important at the VRE stations in Fairfax County. I also hope Alexandria will develop a new VRE station in the Eisenhower West area as this is a logical end point for future MARC run through service. High density development around the intermediate stations will also improve the viability of bi-directional VRE service and create opportunities to increase affordable housing supply in the region. With the significant investment in the rail capacity by the commonwealth, I hope these items are addressed in future jurisdiction comprehensive plan updates and the next VRE system plan.

Acknowledgement Yes









VRE Minutes - Feb2021 - As Moved

Final Audit Report

2021-03-19

Created:	2021-03-19
By:	Lezlie Lamb (llamb@vre.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAqRMKLD3Wb8pfPEjx77NGlsh_6ir02aQ9

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-  Document created by Lezlie Lamb (llamb@vre.org)
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