



MINUTES
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING
January 15, 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)
*Gary Skinner (PRTC)
*Ralph Smith (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
Spotsylvania County
City of Manassas
Fairfax County
Fairfax County

Members Absent

Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)

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

**Delineates 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

Christine Hoeffner - VRE

Robert Hostelka - VRE

Lezlie Lamb – VRE

Steve MacIsaac – VRE Legal Counsel

Kate Mattice – NVTC

Adeel Mysorewala - VRE

Kristin Nutter – VRE

Dr. Bob Schneider – PRTC

Joe Swartz – VRE

Chairman Skinner called the meeting to order at 9:08 A. M. The Roll Call followed.

Resolution Finding Need to Conduct the January 15, 2021 Meeting Electronically – 2

Mr. Smith moved, with a second by Ms. Lawson, to approve Resolution #02-01-2021, Finding Need to Conduct the January 15, 2021 Meeting Electronically. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Skinner, Smith, Storck and Walkinshaw.

Approval of the Agenda – 3

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Cristol 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, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Skinner, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 18, 2020 VRE Operations Board Meeting – 4

Ms. Bennett-Parker moved, with a second by Ms. Shelton, to approve the Minutes from December 18, 2020 Meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Lawson, Shelton, Skinner, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw. Mr. Kelly and Mr. McLaughlin abstained.

Chairman's Comments – 5

- Chairman Skinner introduced Virginia Department of Transportation Secretary Shannon Valentine, who briefed the VRE Operations Board on the following:
 - Financial impacts of COVID-19
 - Passage of the Long Bridge Act of 2020
 - Noted VRE's agreements with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority were approved by the VRE Operations Board in November and by the Commissions in December
 - Areas of focus for the Transportation Secretariat at this year's session of the General Assembly
 - Introduction of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
 - Transit Ridership Incentive Program
 - Restore funding to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
 - \$50M for extending Amtrak service from Roanoke to Christiansburg/Blacksburg

Installation of New Officers – 6

Mr. Skinner officially turned the meeting over to the 2021 VRE Operations Board Chair, Elizabeth Bennett-Parker.

New Chair's Comments – 7

Chair Bennett-Parker thanked Chairman Skinner for his service to the VRE Operations Board in 2020. During his tenure Chairman Skinner presided over the challenge of switching to virtual meetings. Other accomplishments under Chairman Skinner:

- VRE was awarded the Virginia Transit Associations Safety Award
- hiring a new CEO
- partnering with DRPT as it works to stand up the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and ensure that the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative moves forward
- advancing several important construction projects, including a new Lifecycle Overhaul and Upgrade Facility, and improvements at the Fredericksburg, Quantico, and Rolling Road stations
- new railcar procurement

Chief Executive Officer's Report – 8

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
 - VRE will be suspending service from January 17 through January 21st.
 - Transit workers are included in COVID-19 vaccine prioritization group 1B
- Ridership
- Performance
- Project Spotlight: Lifecycle Overhaul and Upgrade Facility
- Financial Reporting
- Welcome Back marketing efforts

Mr. Dalton Also recognized Mike Lake from Fairfax County on the occasion of his final VRE Operations Board Meeting. Mr. Lake is retiring after a long career with Fairfax County Department of Transportation. Mr. Lake has been a member of the VRE Coordinating Committee since VRE's early days.

Public Comment Time –9

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 stated no Public Comments had been received.

Action Items - 10

Authorization to Extend the Lease Agreement for Parking at Rippon Station– 10A

Ms. Franklin moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, to authorize the CEO to extend the lease Agreement for Parking at Rippon Station. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Skinner, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Adoption of Changes to the 2021 VRE Operations Board Meeting Schedule – 10B

Ms. Cristol moved, with a second by Mr. Smith, to adopt changes to the 2021 VRE Operations Meeting Schedule, changing the regular June meeting from June 18, 2021 to June 25, 2021, adding a regular meeting on July 16, 2021; and, eliminating the August meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Shelton, Skinner, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Information Items – 11

Spending Authority Report – 11A

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

- A Purchase Order in the amount of \$52,503 was issued to Progress Rail Locomotive, Inc. to purchase new water pump assemblies for VRE's fleet of locomotives.
- A Task Order was issued in the amount of \$91,019 to ADS System Safety Consulting, LLC under the Safety and Security Consulting Services contract to conduct a gap assessment and continue development of the VRE System Safety Program Plan.
- A Purchase Order was issued in the amount of \$54,960 to Standard Steel to purchase a total of 40 new wheels for VRE's fleet of locomotives.

Closed Session – 12

Mr. Skinner moved, with a second by Ms. Lawson, pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Section 2.2-3711.A (1) and (3) of the Code of Virginia,) to convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing one matter involving the acquisition of real property for public purposes related to VRE's Broad Run station and maintenance facility where discussion in public would adversely affect the Board's negotiating strategy and bargaining position; and 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, Skinner, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

[Mr. Banks left the meeting during the Closed Session]

Mr. Skinner moved, with a second by Mr. Alcorn 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.

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

Board Members' Time – 13

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

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

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

Approved this 19th day of February 2021

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Chair

James R. Walkinshaw

James R. Walkinshaw (Feb 19, 2021 19:02 EST)

James Walkinshaw

Secretary

CERTIFICATION

This certification hereby acknowledges the minutes for the January 15, 2021 Virginia Railway Express Operations Board Meeting have been recorded to the best of my ability.



Lezlie M. Lamb









VRE Minutes - Jan 2021 - approved

Final Audit Report

2021-02-20

Created:	2021-02-19
By:	Lezlie Lamb (llamb@vre.org)
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