



**MINUTES**  
**VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS**  
**OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING**

**October 15, 2021**

**14700 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192**

**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)  
\*Cindy Lamb (PRTC) \*\*  
\*Jeanine Lawson (PRTC)  
\*Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)  
\*Gary Skinner (PRTC)  
\*James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

**Members Absent**

Ralph Smith (PRTC)  
Dan Storck (NVTC) \*\*

**Alternates Present**

**Alternates Absent**

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

**Jurisdiction**

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

City of Manassas  
Fairfax County

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

‡ Indicates Member participated remotely

### **Staff and General Public**

Paolo Belito – PWC Staff  
Cindy Bullock – VRE  
Rich Dalton – VRE  
John Duque – VRE  
Christine Hoeffner - VRE  
Lezlie Lamb – VRE  
Megan Landon – PWC Staff  
Steve MacIsaac – VRE

Kate Mattice – NVTC  
Nick Ruiz - VRE  
Bob Schneider – PRTC  
Mark Schofield – VRE  
Emily Stock – DRPT  
Alex Sugatan - VRE  
Joe Swartz – VRE  
Alex Thorpe – Commonwealth Strategy Group

Chair Bennett-Parker called the meeting to order at 9:00 A. M. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call followed.

[Ms. Franklin and Ms. Lamb arrived at 9:02 a.m.]

### **Safety Moment – 3**

VRE Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting with a safety briefing.

### **Approval of the Agenda – 4**

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Lawson, to approve the Agenda. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lamb, Lawson, Mitchell, Skinner, and Walkinshaw.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the September 17, 2021 VRE Operations Board Meeting – 5**

Ms. Cristol moved, with a second by Ms. Bohmke, to approve the Minutes from the September 17, 2021 VRE Operations Board meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lamb, Lawson, Mitchell, and Walkinshaw. Mr. Skinner abstained.

### **Chair's Comments – 6**

Chair Bennett-Parker welcomed everyone and reminded Board Members that the meeting would be live-streamed and asked that Members keep side conversations to a minimum and, conversely, to speak up when recognized.

The Chair announced the Audit Committee will meet before, and the Finance Committee will meet after, the November Board Meeting.

Chair Bennett-Parker announced she would be appointing a Nominating Committee in November, stating the Committee would need at least one Member from each Commission and Members interested in serving on the committee should reach out to the Chair.

### **Chief Executive Officer's Report – 7**

VRE CEO, Rich Dalton, briefed the Operations Board on the following topics:

- Safety
- Ridership
- Performance
- Project Spotlight – Enterprise Resource Planning
- FY 2023 Budget Update
- Clifton Day Festival

[Mr. Alcorn arrived at 9:19 a.m.]

### **Public Comment Time –8**

Chair Bennett-Parker stated the public was encouraged to use the electronic means of submitting public comments and stated any written comments would be provided to the Board and attached to the minutes of this meeting. She inquired if there were any members of the public present who wanted to comment. There were no in-person public comments. Two written comments that were submitted online were read aloud and are attached.

### **Action Items - 9**

#### **Authorization to Amend Contract for Final Design Services for the VRE Crystal City Station Improvement Project-9A**

Ms. Cristol moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, to authorize the CEO to amend the contract for engineering and environmental services for VRE Crystal City Station Improvements to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. to exercise Option A for final engineering design services. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lamb, Lawson, Mitchell, Skinner and Walkinshaw.

#### **Authorization to Issue a General Engineering Consulting Task Order for Construction Management Services for the Quantico Station Improvements Project – 9B**

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Franklin to authorize the CEO to issue a Task Order to STV, Inc., for construction management services for the Quantico Station Improvements Project, under the General Engineering Consulting Services contract. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lamb, Lawson, Mitchell, Skinner, and Walkinshaw.

#### **VRE Operations Board Resolution of Support for Prince William County’s Application for the Route 1 at Route 123 Interchange Funding for NVT A FY 2022-2027 Six-Year Program – 9C**

After extensive discussion, Ms. Franklin moved, with a second by Ms. Lawson, to defer consideration of a resolution of support for Prince William County’s application for the Route 1 at Route 123 Interchange Funding for NVT A FY 2022-2027 Six-Year Program until the November 19, 2021 VRE Operations Board meeting and to amend the resolution to specify the project would have a positive impact on the Woodbridge VRE Station. Mr. Alcorn asked that the resolution clarify the Board’s position that the future project design should include improved pedestrian and bike access to the VRE Woodbridge Station. Ms. Franklin stated it did not necessarily need to be included in the resolution but should be clarified for the Board. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Lamb, Lawson, Mitchell, Skinner, and Walkinshaw.

## **Information Items – 10**

### **Draft 2022 Legislative Agenda – 10A**

Ms. Franklin, Chair of the VRE Legislative Committee, described the committee's work to develop VRE's draft 2022 Legislative Agenda. VRE Chief of Staff, Joe Swartz, reviewed the draft Agenda. In November, the VRE Operations Board will be asked to recommend the Commissions approve a final 2022 Legislative Agenda.

### **2021 Gainesville VRE Extension Capital and Operating Analysis – 10B**

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Chief of Rail, Emily Stock, briefed the VRE Operations Board on a recently completed analysis of the operating and capital costs associated with a VRE extension from Manassas to Gainesville. This analysis was initiated at the request of the Virginia General Assembly.

The analysis concluded an estimated capital cost to be between \$783 million and \$865 million and an annual operating and maintenance cost of approximately \$27 million. It also estimated the extension would bring between 677 and 787 new daily riders to the system in 2030, in comparison to estimated ridership for the Broad Run expansion.

### **VRE System Plan 2040 Update – 10C**

Christine Hoeffner, VRE's Manager of Project Development, provided an overview of the current VRE System Plan 2040 which is linked to VRE's six-year Capital Improvement Program and 10-year Transit Development Plan, and briefed VRE Operations Members on a proposed update to the System Plan.

### **Update on Financing Analysis of Proposed CROC-Backed Debt Issuance – 10D**

VRE Chief Financial Officer, Mark Schofield, updated the VRE Operations Board on the financing analysis of the proposed long-term debt issuance to be backed by commuter rail operating and capital fund revenues.

[Mr. Alcorn left the meeting at 11:12 a.m.]

### **Spending Authority Report – 10E**

The following purchases were made in September that were greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000:

- On September 14, 2021, VRE executed a contract for Overhaul of Emergency Generators in the amount of \$71,939.

### **Closed Session – 11**

Vice-Chair Lawson moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey , that pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Sections 2.2-3711.A (3), (6) and (8) of the Code of Virginia), the VRE Operations Board convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing (1) one matter involving the acquisition of real property for public purposes including rail operations and rail equipment storage where discussion in public would adversely affect the bargaining position and negotiating strategy of the Commissions, and (2) the investment of public funds related to the provision of commuter rail service where competition or bargaining is involved, where if made public initially, the financial interest of the Commissions would be adversely affected, and (3) consultation with legal counsel concerning the terms and conditions of an agreement for the investment of such public funds.

The vote in favor was cast by Members Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lamb, Lawson, Mitchell, Skinner, and Walkinshaw.

Ms. Lawson moved, with a second by Ms. Cristol, that the VRE Operations Board certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge and with no individual member dissenting, at the just concluded closed session:

1. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed, and
2. 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 Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Bohmke, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lamb, Lawson, Mitchell, Skinner, and Walkinshaw.

### **Board Members' Time – 12**

Chair Bennett-Parker asked if Members had any additional business.

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

The vote in favor was cast by Members Bailey, Banks, Bennett-Parker, Cristol, Franklin, Kelly, Lamb, Lawson, and Walkinshaw.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021

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Elizabeth Bennett-Parker  
Chair

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James Walkinshaw  
Secretary

## CERTIFICATION

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie M. Lamb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leslie" being more prominent.

Leslie M. Lamb

**From:** [vre.no.reply@gmail.com](mailto:vre.no.reply@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Lezlie Lamb](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:54:38 PM

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## A response was submitted for the form "Public Comments"

(REQUIRED) First and Last Name: Stephen Repetski

City or County of residence: Arlington County

Comments: Hello, I strongly recommend the VRE Operations Board oppose the Resolution of Support for the Prince William County Application for the Route 1 at Route 123 Interchange Funding for NVTAFY 2022-2027 Six Year Program (Agenda Item 9-C Action Item). This project as currently proposed via the Woodbridge Area STARS study (May 2021) is significantly over-designed and serves only to increase vehicle speeds, reduce safety, and induce additional vehicle trips in the area. The alternatives presented thus far restrict vehicle turn movements to/from the VRE and include circuitous bike/ped movements to access the station. This project does little to provide additional access to potential new riders to help grow the service but instead makes it easier for vehicles to bypass the station to access I-95. The VRE Operations Board should wait until a preferred alternative is selected to reconsider this action item. Thank you, Stephen Repetski Arlington County resident

Acknowledgement Yes

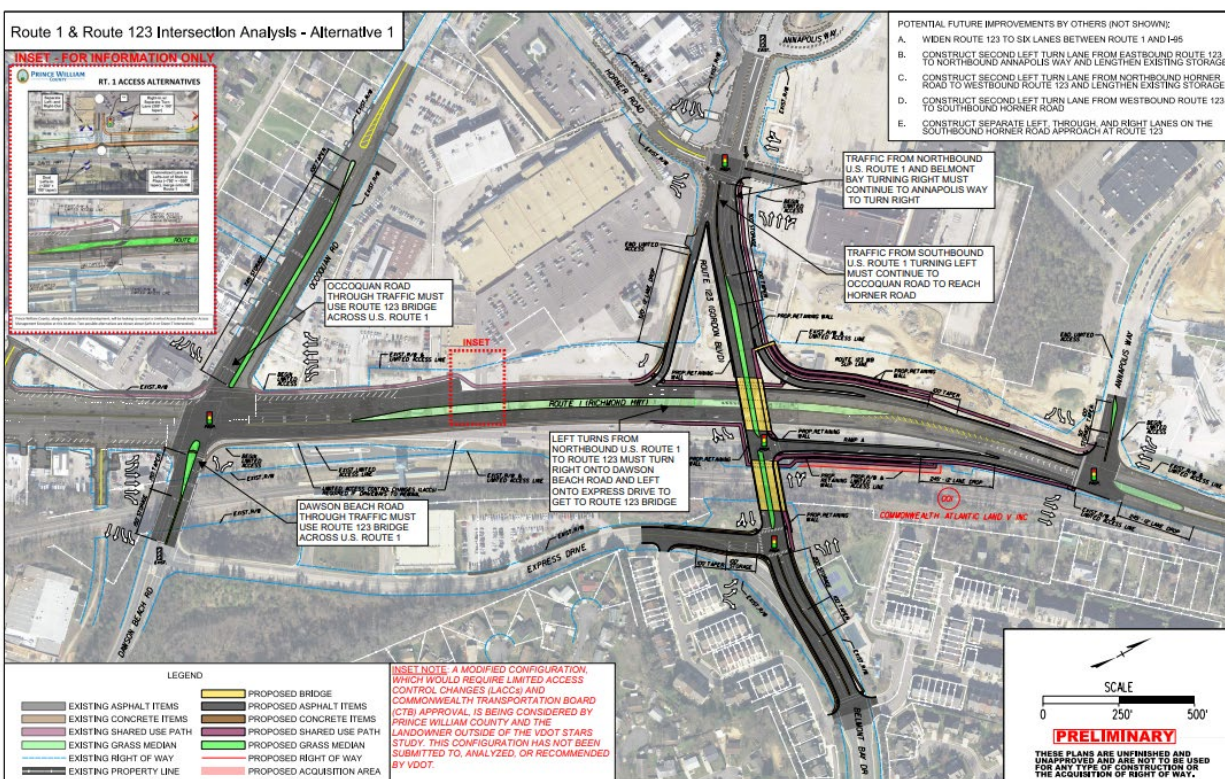
From: Mark Scheufler

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 5:05 PM

To: Gotrains

Subject: VRE Operations Board | Public Comment | Agenda Item 9-C Action Item

I strongly recommend the VRE Operations Board oppose the Resolution of Support for the Prince William County Application for the Route 1 at Route 123 Interchange Funding for NVTA FY 2022-2027 Six Year Program (Agenda Item 9-C Action Item). This project as currently proposed via the [Woodbridge Area STARS study](#) (May 2021) is massively over-designed and only serves to increase vehicle speeds, reduce safety, and induce additional vehicle trips in the area. The alternatives presented thus far restrict vehicle turn movements to/from the VRE and include circuitous bike/ped movements to access the station. This project does little to provide additional access to potential new riders to help grow the service and makes it easier for vehicles to bypass the station to access I-95. The VRE Operations Board should wait until a preferred alternative is selected to reconsider this action item.



Thanks,

Mark Scheufler

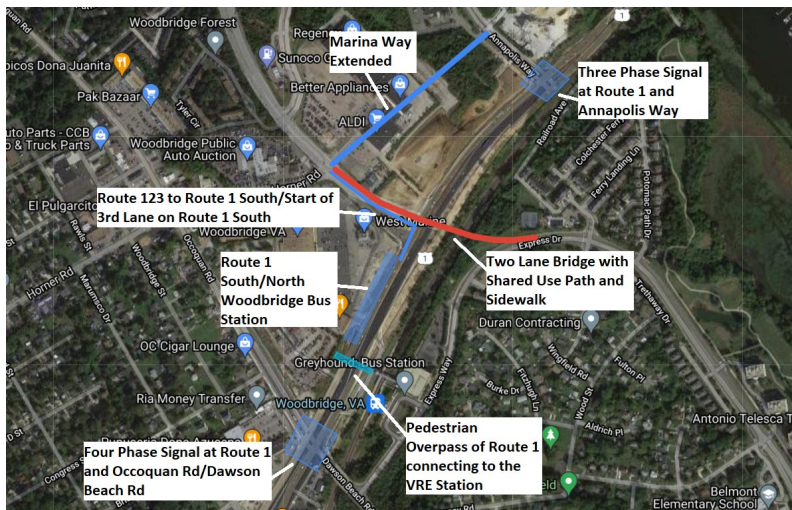
PWC Resident

On Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 8:36 PM Mark Scheufler <[scheufler@gmail.com](mailto:scheufler@gmail.com)> wrote:

Please consider the following alternative for the area around the Route 1 and Route 123 Intersection.

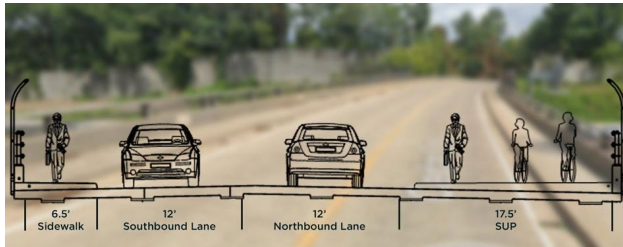
This alternative is a much simpler and cost effective design that provides network connectivity with Belmont Bay while prioritizing transit access and bike/ped movements.





#### Design Elements:

1. Two Lane Bridge with Bike/Ped between Route 123 and Belmont Bay over Route 1 (Similar to Cedar Lane over I-66)



2. Pedestrian Bridge connection over Route 1 connecting the Woodbridge VRE and future Town Center
3. Access from Route 123 South to Route 1 South (Start point of Third Lane on Route 1 South)
4. New Route 1 South Bus Terminal similar to the Route 1 North Bus Terminal next to the Woodbridge VRE to similar BRT service
5. Three Phase Signals at Route 1/Annapolis Way
6. Four Phase Signal at Route 1/Occoquan Road/Dawson Beach Rd
7. Express Drive and Marina Way Extended provide access between Route 123/Belmont Bay and Route 1.

Thanks,  
Mark Scheufler  
PWC Resident