



MINUTES

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

April 22, 2022

14700 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Members Present

*Walter Alcorn (NVTC) **
*Sarah Bagley (NVTC)
*Andrea Bailey (PRTC)
*Preston Banks (PRTC)
*Meg Bohmke (PRTC)
*Margaret Franklin (PRTC)
*Libby Garvey (NVTC) **
*Monica Gary (PRTC)
*Lori Hayes (PRTC)
*Matt Kelly (PRTC)
*Ralph Smith (PRTC)
*Daniel G. Storck (NVTC)
*James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

Jurisdiction

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

Members Absent

Jeanine Lawson (PRTC)
Michael McLaughlin (VPRA)

Prince William County
Commonwealth of Virginia

Alternates Present

Emily Stock (DRPT)

Commonwealth of Virginia

Alternates Absent

Canek Aguirre (NVTC)
Victor Angry (PRTC)
Pete Candland (PRTC)
Katie Cristol (NVTC)
Deborah Frazier (PRTC)
Jason Graham (PRTC)
Jeffrey C. McKay (NVTC)
Alanna Mensing (PRTC)
Pam Sebesky (PRTC)
Ann Wheeler (PRTC)
Pamela Yeung (PRTC)

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

*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.

‡ Indicates Member participated remotely

Staff and General Public

Jason Bortz – VRE
Alex Buchanan- VRE
Cindy Bullock - VRE
Rich Dalton – VRE
Chris Henry – VRE
Robert Hostelka – VRE
Chris Kocher - VRE

Lezlie Lamb – VRE
Steve MacIsaac – VRE Chief Counsel
Kate Mattice – NVTC
Kristin Nutter – VRE
Dallas Richards - VRE
Dr. Bob Schneider – PRTC
Mark Schofield – VRE
Alex Sugatan – VRE
Joe Swartz – VRE

Chair Franklin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call followed.

Safety Briefing – 3

Rich Dalton briefed attendees on safety procedures and assigned specific tasks to qualified staff members in case of an emergency.

[Ms. Garvey arrived at 9:03 a.m.]

[Mr. Alcorn arrived at 9:04 a.m.]

Approval of the Agenda – 4

Mr. Kelly 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 Bagley, Bailey, Banks, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Stock, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Approval of the Minutes of the March 18, 2022, VRE Operations Board Meeting – 5

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Mr. Kelly, to approve the Minutes from the March 18, 2022, VRE Operations Board meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bailey, Banks, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Stock, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Chairman's Comments – 6

Chair Franklin welcomed Stafford County Supervisor Monica Gary to the VRE Operations Board. Supervisor Gary was previously the alternate for Stafford County and was recently appointed to be a primary Member. She also welcomed DRPT's Chief of Rail, Emily Stock, who is the Alternate for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Chair announced there would be a Closed Session to receive an update on VRE's cyber-security activities. She also reminded Members that the Bylaws Committee would meet after the Operations Board Meeting.

Chief Executive Officer's Report – 7

Mr. Dalton briefed the Operations Board on the following items of interest:

- Safety
- Performance
- Ridership
- Mask Mandate
- Manassas Line Maintenance

Public Comment Time – 8

The Chair opened the floor for public comment time. There were no speakers. Chair Franklin inquired if any electronic comments had been received in which there was one submitted by Mark Scheufler of Prince William County (attached.)

Action Items – 9

Authorization to Issue an Invitation for Bids for Construction of the Manassas Park Parking Expansion – 9A

Mr. Banks moved, with a second by Mr. Kelly, to authorize the CEO to issue an invitation for bids for construction of the Manassas Park Parking Expansion. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Banks, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Stock, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Authorization to Amend the VRE Passenger Tariff – 9B

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Mr. Smith, to authorize the CEO to amend the VRE Passenger Tariff by updating the sections covering classes of ticket, fare evasion, VRE and contract carrier rights, and the bicycle policy. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Banks, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Stock, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Authorization to Execute a Contract for Financial Auditing Services – 9C

Ms. Bohmke moved, with a second by Mr. Kelly, to authorize the CEO to execute a contract with PBMares for Financial Auditing Services. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Banks, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Stock, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority for a USDOT RAISE Grant Program Application for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Section 4(f) Mitigation of the Long Bridge Railroad Expansion Project – 9D

Mr. Kelly moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, to authorize the CEO to provide a letter of support on behalf of the Operations Board for the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary infrastructure grant program for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Section 4(f) Mitigation of the Long Bridge Railroad Expansion Project. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Banks, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Stock, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Information Items – 10

Crystal City Station Improvements Update – 10A

VRE Staff provided an overview of the Crystal City Station Improvement project, adjacent projects, and related funding.

[Mr. Alcorn left the meeting at 10:09 a.m.]

Spending Authority Report – 10B

In March 2022, VRE made the following purchases greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000:

- On March 3, 2022, VRE issued a Task Order in the amount of \$54,500 to HDR Engineering under the General Engineering Consulting Services contract to provide project and technical support for multiple VRE projects, as an extension of VRE staff. Activities addressed as part of this Task Order may include host railroad (Amtrak, CSXT and Norfolk Southern) coordination, as well as support for shop and yard related projects.

Closed Session – 11

Vice-Chair Walkinshaw moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Section 2.2-3711.A (19) of the Code of Virginia,) to convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing one matter involving plans to protect public safety as it relates to specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and actions taken to respond to such matters and related threats to public safety. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bailey, Banks, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Vice-Chair Walkinshaw moved, with a second by Mr. Kelly, 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 Bagley, Bailey, Banks, , Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Stock, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

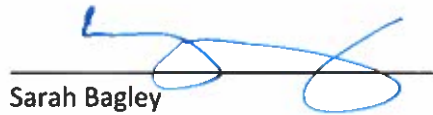
Chair Franklin asked if there were any other business of which there was not.

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Bagley, to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bailey, Banks, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Gary, Hayes, Kelly, Smith, Stock, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Approved this 20th day of May 2022.



Margaret Franklin
Chair



Sarah Bagley
Secretary

CERTIFICATION

This certification hereby acknowledges the minutes for the April 22, 2022, Virginia Railway Express Operations Board Meeting have been recorded to the best of my ability.



Leslie M. Lamb

From: [Lezlie Lamb](#)
To: [Lezlie Lamb](#)
Subject: FW: VRE Operations Board | Public Comment | 10,000 Additional Dwelling Units Adjacent to VRE Stations
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 10:48:40 AM
Attachments: [image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

From: Mark Scheufler [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Gotrains <Gotrains@vre.org>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Subject: VRE Operations Board | Public Comment | 10,000 Additional Dwelling Units Adjacent to VRE Stations

VRE Operations Board,

Please consider the following public comment:

After listening to last month's discussion regarding the future of VRE, I am concerned about the long term viability of the service based on the post pandemic paradigm and competition from the future I-66 and I-95 express lane corridors.

The best solution to expanding ridership is to develop an **additional 10,000 mixed-income dwelling units within 1/8 mile of the VRE platform** across 16 stations south of Alexandria. This is 625 dwelling units per station. This requires a collaboration between the PRTC/VRE and the jurisdictions representing VRE.

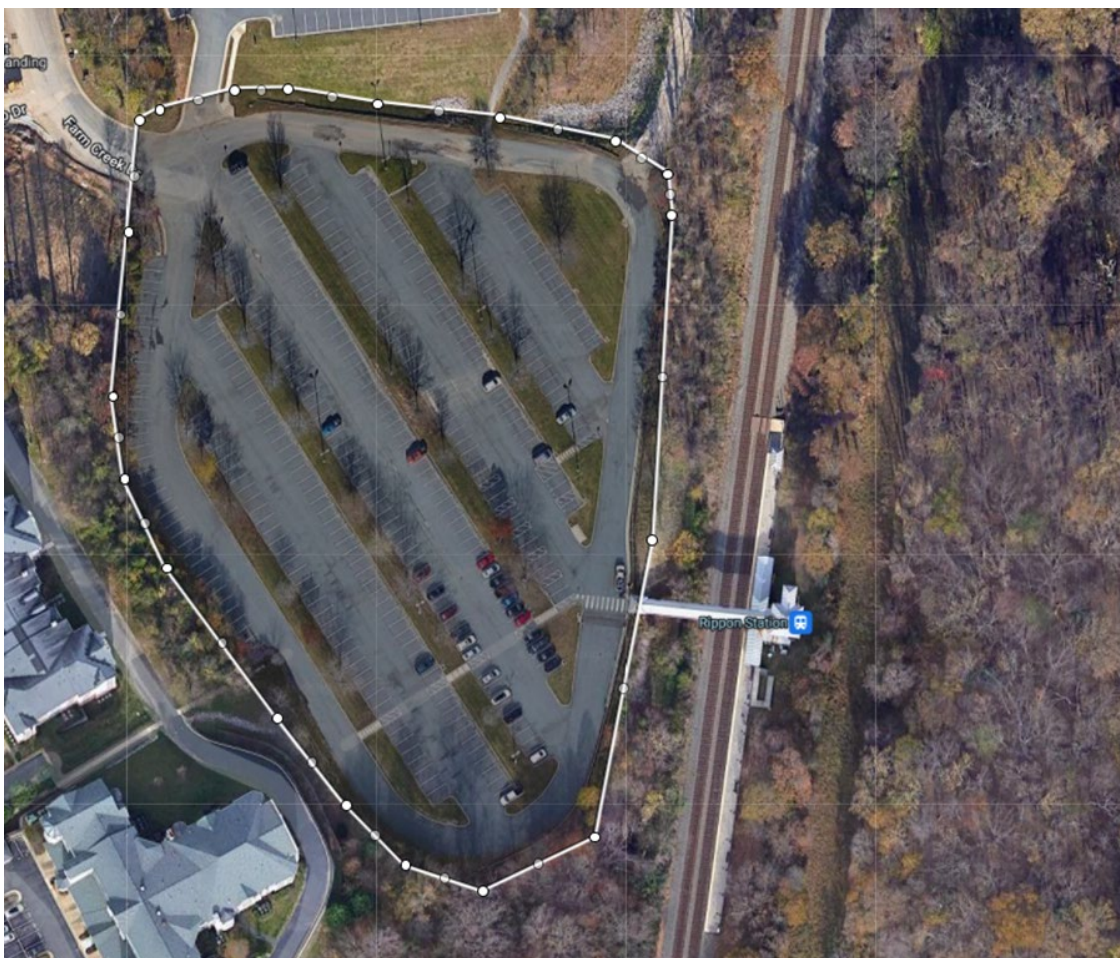
On April 7th WMATA released its first ever [10 Year Strategic Plan for Joint Development](#) to accelerate transit-oriented development.

VRE needs to develop and start executing a similar initiative before COVID

relief funding is expended. **A blueprint should be developed within the next six months.** Surface parking adjacent to the stations should be reallocated to structured parking that is shared with future development.



Example: The county owned parking lot at Rippon Station could be redeveloped into a 625 unit complex with ground floor retail, structured parking and expansive views of the Potomac River.



Thanks,
Mark Scheufler
PWC Resident/VRE Rider
[Active Prince William](#)