

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, December 8, 2005

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Melvin Bray	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Commissioner Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Vice Chairman	County of Fairfax
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Commissioner Joan DuBois	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Chairman	County of Arlington
Commissioner Robin Gardner	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Martin E. Nohe	County of Prince William
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly	Town of Herndon
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Treasurer	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	City of Alexandria
Commissioner Bryan Polk	City of Manassas Park
Commissioner M. Jane Seeman	Town of Vienna
Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Commissioner Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada	County of Arlington
Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch	County of Loudoun
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstatt	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Commissioner Lori Waters	<i>County of Loudoun</i>

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Kenneth Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</i>
Barbara Gordon	<i>Communications Director</i>
Doug Pickford	<i>Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning Director</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Tylee Smith	<i>Information & Referral Program Manager</i>
James Van Zee	<i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>

GUESTS PRESENT

Chris Zimmerman	<i>Vice Chairman, No. Va. Transportation Authority</i>
Margie Vanderhye	<i>Member, No. Va. Transportation Authority</i>
Jana Lynott	<i>No. Va. Transportation Commission staff</i>
Rick Canizales	<i>Prince William County transportation staff</i>
Eldon James	<i>Legislative Consultant</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>Principal, SR Consulting</i>
Tanya Husick	<i>Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation</i>
Marie Travesky	<i>Travesky & Assoc.</i>
Mark Kellogg	<i>Arlington Co. transportation staff</i>
Ken Mobley	<i>Parsons</i>
Steve Suder	<i>Dewberry</i>
Bruce Bennett	<i>Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee</i>
Roger Diedrich	
Alex Verzosa	<i>City of Fairfax transportation staff</i>
Alfred Harf	<i>PRTC</i>
Tamara Ashby	<i>VRE</i>
Wendy Block Sanford	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Wendy Tia	<i>WMATA</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Favola called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

JOINT
PRESENTATION
WITH NVTA

TransAction 2030: Northern Virginia's Regional Transportation Plan

Rick Canizales (Prince William County staff) and Jana Lynott (Northern Virginia Transportation Commission staff) provided a brief overview of TransAction 2030, the update to the Northern Virginia 2020 Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Canizales reviewed the following background points:

- The 2020 plan was prepared in 1999; some of the projects included in that plan have been completed or are underway; since then, vehicle miles have increased at 2.1% annually and transit trips have increased at 4% annually.
- The 2030 plan contains eight regional, multi-modal corridors.
- The D.C. metropolitan region is growing dramatically and has the 3rd highest traffic congestion in the U.S.
- Demand on Metrorail exceeds capacity, and VRE usage has grown by 76% since 2000.

In order to complete the projects in TransAction 2030, \$15 billion will be needed above the funding identified in the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP).

Ms. Lynott reviewed the public involvement opportunities, adding that 1,263 adults living in Northern Virginia participated in a telephone survey. Fifty percent of the respondents said that public transportation is their top priority; people living in Prince William County were as supportive of public transportation as those living in Arlington County.

Once the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) members approve the draft summary report in January, it will be forwarded to the General Assembly. In reply to a question, NVTA Vice Chairman Chris Zimmerman said the funding will be a combination of state and federal funds.

*questions and
answers*

Chairman Favola noted that transportation funding is NVRC's legislative priority. She added that all Northern Virginia regional bodies need to have the same message and that members need to personally work with the General Assembly on this issue. NVTA member Margie Vanderhye suggested the report also be forwarded to the members of the START Task Force. Commissioner Connolly, who also is a member of NVTA, added that he has heard that several General Assembly members are blaming transportation problems on the localities' land use practices. Ms. Vanderhye replied that her impression is that the Task Force recognizes the need for a comprehensive solution, including empowering the localities to do more to work on land use issues, looking at funding allocation formulas, etc., but by no means will the entire solution be handed off to the localities. There is a tremendous amount of recognition that the current funding is insufficient and that additional tools are needed to make the funding as optimal as possible. Commissioner Tulloch expressed concern that some Task Force members may want to turn the secondary road system over to localities.

Commissioner Connolly requested that the Highway System Peak Period Performance charts be included in the final summary report.

Commissioner O'Reilly moved that NVRC send a cover letter with the draft summary report to the START Task Force by December 16 and to the General Assembly. The motion was seconded. Chairman Favola confirmed that NVRC's cover letter will state that the Commission received the report, believes its information is important and endorses the report. NVRC members unanimously approved the motion.

presentation con't. Ms. Lynott summarized the TransAction 2030 regional public hearing held December 6 at George Marshall High School in Falls Church. Members of the Interim Technical Committee were posted at each station to answer questions from the public. Fifty-plus members of the public attended the public hearing; twelve people signed up for public comments. The public gave high marks for the scientific survey. One criticism of the survey was that project cost information was not provided. Ms. Lynott added that the project staff were impressed that three of the public speakers had taken public transportation to the hearing. One of those speakers said better communication on bus routes and schedule information is needed and suggested using the ART bus (Arlington Rapid Transit) as a model for transit information and maps.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

MINUTES

Commissioner Connolly moved approval of the minutes of the October 27, 2005, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Polk and Nohe abstaining.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Connolly moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. July, August and September Financial Reports
- B. Resolution No. P06-08: Authorization to Enter into a Contract with the Engineers and Surveyors Institute to Update the *Northern Virginia BMP Handbook*
- C. Resolution No. P06-11: Consent Resolution Amending and Re-Establishing NVRC Cafeteria Plan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. A copy of the Northern Virginia BRAC Working Group's summary report was distributed. Reflecting the twin impacts of the BRAC-related actions, the report and recommendations are organized around two top priorities: transportation improvements for those parts of Northern Virginia where sudden new job relocation will occur; and economic development assistance for those parts of Northern Virginia negatively impacted by the sudden loss of jobs. Critical planning and policy recommendations are outlined in a separate section of our report.

Commissioner Connolly, a member of the Northern Virginia BRAC Working Group, reported that the process was a good regional effort that prioritized the region's needs.

Responding to Commissioner Pepper's inquiry, Mr. Gibb explained that some of the transportation projects needed to mitigate the BRAC impact are included in the TransAction 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. However, some projects are BRAC-induced, and the BRAC decision was made after TransAction 2030 was formulated.

- B. Mr. Gibb reported that 211 for human services information and referral is progressing. Approximately one-half of the U.S. population has access to 211. It is estimated that \$1.6 million is needed annually to provide 211 in Northern Virginia. A subgroup of the Human Service Officials Committee is examining 211 and reporting to the Chief Administrative Officers Committee.

Mr. Gibb added that he would like to bring this to the Commission for a report. Commissioners expressed interest.

Ms. Smith, NVRC's Information & Referral Program Manager, reported that currently there is no federal funding for 211 although there is legislation to establish federal funding.

C. Mr. Gibb reported that the Alexandria-Arlington Four Mile Run Restoration Task Force is holding a public hearing tonight.

D. Mr. Gibb reported on the need for additional office space, and 2,000 square feet is available adjacent to the present office. He requested authorization to negotiate for the space and that request was moved and seconded. Commissioner Connolly raised the issue of evening access to the building for public meetings, and amended the motion to make the authorization contingent upon solving the problem of building access (not locked for evening meetings). The motion as amended was carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Favola pointed out the Commission's meeting schedule for calendar year 2006 was included in the meeting package. The next meeting will be January 26, 7:30 p.m.

The Commission will also meet briefly in Richmond before meeting with legislators on February 9, VML/VACo day. Commissioner Smedberg added there is a possibility of holding a press conference in Richmond to highlight the Commission's Legislative Program, and he will work with Ms. Gordon on this. Further, the Commissioners agreed to hold their regular monthly meeting on February 23 at the Commission office.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Staff distributed revised talking points on Immigration Law in the draft Legislative Program.

In reply to Commissioner Tejada's inquiry, Mr. Gibb said staff is involved in a study of what percentage of crime in Northern Virginia is attributed to juvenile gangs as opposed to general crime.

Commissioner Connolly moved adoption of both the 2006 Legislative Program with the additional talking points on Immigration Law and Resolution No. P06-10. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Seeman suggested that NVRC distribute the Draft TransAction 2030 Summary to the General Assembly along with NVRC's Legislative Program, since the summary is referenced in the Legislative Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Connolly informed the members that the Northern Virginia Delegation will hold its meeting at the Commission's office on December 14 and has agreed to receive the Commission's 2006 Legislative Program from the NVRC officers.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Tejada reported that MWCOG will hold a follow-up summit on the day laborer issue in the spring. The November 16 summit was well-attended.

B. Commissioner Smedberg reported that NVRC issued a press release about car decal enforcement in Northern Virginia.

NVRC lapel pins were distributed to the Commissioners present.

C. Chairman Favola announced that the Operations Committee will begin meeting regularly on the Fridays before Commission meetings. The first meeting of the Operations Committee will be 12:00 noon, January 20.

The committee is chaired by NVRC's Treasurer, Commissioner Parrish. Members include Commissioners Bulova, Gross, O'Reilly and Tulloch. Others are welcome to join.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Favola adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Barbara A. Favola
Chairman