

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

### Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, July 22, 2004

#### COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Commissioner Hilda M. Barg</b>                         | <i>County of Prince William</i> |
| <b>Commissioner Johnine P. Barnes</b>                     | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner Melvin Bray</b>                           | <i>Town of Dumfries</i>         |
| <b>Commissioner Sharon Bulova</b>                         | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| Commissioner James C. Chesley                             | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Treasurer</b>    | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner W. S. Covington, III</b>                  | <i>County of Prince William</i> |
| <b>Commissioner Joan Cross</b>                            | <i>City of Fairfax</i>          |
| Commissioner Anna F. Dixon                                | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.</b>                | <i>Town of Purcellville</i>     |
| <b>Commissioner Joan DuBois</b>                           | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg                          | <i>County of Arlington</i>      |
| <b>Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Vice Chairman</b> | <i>County of Arlington</i>      |
| <b>Commissioner Jay Fisette</b>                           | <i>County of Arlington</i>      |
| <b>Hon. David Snyder for Commissioner Robin Gardner</b>   | <i>City of Falls Church</i>     |
| Commissioner Robert C. Goessman                           | <i>City of Manassas</i>         |
| Commissioner Brian M. Gordon                              | <i>County of Prince William</i> |
| <b>Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene</b>                      | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner Penelope A. Gross</b>                     | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner Catherine Hudgins</b>                     | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.</b>                | <i>City of Fairfax</i>          |
| <b>Commissioner Lyman Krekel</b>                          | <i>City of Falls Church</i>     |
| Commissioner D. Patrick Lewis                             | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen</b>                       | <i>City of Manassas Park</i>    |
| <b>Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell</b>                   | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| Commissioner Natalie Mosher                               | <i>City of Alexandria</i>       |
| <b>Commissioner Brian Murphy</b>                          | <i>County of Prince William</i> |
| <b>Commissioner Martin E. Nohe</b>                        | <i>County of Prince William</i> |
| <b>Commissioner Michael O'Reilly</b>                      | <i>Town of Herndon</i>          |
| <b>Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby</b>                       | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| <b>Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II</b>                  | <i>City of Manassas</i>         |
| <b>Commissioner Redella S. Pepper</b>                     | <i>City of Alexandria</i>       |
| <b>Commissioner James Peterbok</b>                        | <i>County of Loudoun</i>        |
| Commissioner Bryan Polk                                   | <i>City of Manassas Park</i>    |
| <b>Commissioner Lilla D. Richards</b>                     | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| Commissioner Jane Seeman                                  | <i>Town of Vienna</i>           |
| <b>Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg</b>                      | <i>City of Alexandria</i>       |
| <b>Commissioner Linda Smyth</b>                           | <i>County of Fairfax</i>        |
| Commissioner Stephen J. Snow                              | <i>County of Loudoun</i>        |
| Commissioner J. Walter Tejada                             | <i>County of Arlington</i>      |
| <b>Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch</b>                      | <i>County of Loudoun</i>        |
| Commissioner Kristen C. Umstatt, NVRC Chairman            | <i>Town of Leesburg</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>                         |
| Doug Pickford       | <i>Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources</i> |
| David Schwengel     | <i>Senior Planner</i>                                 |
| Michelle Simmons    | <i>Director, Human Services</i>                       |
| James Van Zee       | <i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>           |

**GUEST PRESENT**

Dr. Mary Lynn Tischer

*Advisor to the Governor for Transportation Reauthorization*

- CALL TO ORDER** Vice Chairman Favola called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.
- 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** The minutes of the June 24, 2004, meeting of the Commission were moved by Commissioner Connolly and seconded. Commissioner Ormsby commented that she was not the only person to express an opinion that not having citizen representatives would diminish the Commission. She added that she also believed a sentence had been dropped from the bottom of the fourth page referring to the two proposed changes to the Charter.
- The minutes were approved as amended. Commissioner Greene abstained since she did not attend the meeting.
- PRESENTATION** *VTrans2025*
- Vice Chairman Favola welcomed Dr. Mary Lynn Tischer, Advisor to the Governor for Transportation Reauthorization.
- Mary Lynn Tischer* Federal requirements and state legislation dictate preparation of a long-range plan (approximately 20 years). VTrans2025 is the Commonwealth's long-range, multimodal, statewide transportation planning effort responding to both the state and federal requirements.
- Dr. Tischer reported that over the past 20 years, vehicular travel in Virginia has increased 79% and transit ridership has increased 58%, while lane miles have increased only 7%; purchasing power of the dollar has decreased approximately 40% while highway maintenance costs have nearly tripled.
- VTrans2025 addresses intermodal and multimodal challenges and problems in Virginia. It can be described as a blueprint for aligning agency planning processes: highway plan, rail/transit plan, port plan, and air transportation system plan. Under this plan, there are eleven Multimodal Investment Networks (MIN), including a Northern Virginia Connections MIN, Bicycle and Pedestrian System MIN, Emergency Transportation MIN, and Port Accessibility and Mobility MIN.
- A policy committee composed of members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Aviation Board, the Port Authorities, VDOT and the Secretary of Transportation's office oversees the work. An objective prioritization process was developed using the goals identified from the 40 stakeholder/ public hearings held around the state. Dr. Tischer said she found it interesting that the general consensus is that the public is unwilling to trade off on environmental and quality of life concerns for transportation improvements. There was also significant interest in alternative transportation modes. Further, residents were willing to pay additional taxes if guaranteed that the funds would go to specific projects. Dr. Tischer reported there is not enough funding for roads, transit and ports.
- Dr. Tischer distributed draft policy recommendations and invited Commissioner comments.

*questions and answers*

Commissioner Connolly pointed out that the draft policy recommendation on transportation and land use sounds like Northern Virginia, as those jurisdictions' comprehensive plans coordinate these two areas; however, localities lack the enabling legislation to adopt public facilities ordinances, meaning localities are limited in their power to tie development to transportation or any other infrastructure. He added that the second recommendation, *"Give priority funding to local governments that coordinate transportation and land use planning and implement land use plans consistent with the transportation component in the comprehensive plan and regional plans,"* means the Northern Virginia jurisdictions will be the beneficiaries of this policy.

Commissioner Gross pointed out that the fifth recommendation, *"Clarify that one of the key responsibilities of the Planning District Commission is to perform multimodal transportation planning and to further coordinate land use and transportation planning and development. Provide additional funds for the Planning District Commission in Northern Virginia and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority that carry out these responsibilities,"* is incorrect because MWCOG, rather than NVRC, carries out transportation planning for the entire metro region. However, she would like to make sure additional funding for NVRTA is provided.

Commissioner Bulova mentioned the freight railroads (both class 1 and class 2) participate on the Governor's Commission on Rail Enhancement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Public investment in freight railroads would get more trucks off the highway and could improve capacity for passenger rail.

Commissioner Peterbok commented that cost reductions are not mentioned in the Funding/Revenue/Investment category, adding that he hoped public-private partnerships have been considered, as well as new material and design standards.

Commissioner Fisette commended the foresight of this plan, adding that the multimodal focus is very strong. However, he believes that transit needs a larger proportion of revenue. He pointed out that the region's 2020 Plan includes criteria for reducing pollution and congestion.

Dr. Tischer thanked the members for their insight, and they in turn thanked her for sharing this information with them.

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

- A. In addition to the report in the meeting package, Mr. Gibb commented on the many responses received in reply to the Commission's letter concerning the possible siting of the power transmission line along the W&OD Trail in western Loudoun County.
- B. Commission staff met last week with MWCOG staff and identified several areas where the two agencies can work cooperatively.
- C. Mr. Gibb introduced Resolution No. P05-03 concerning Congressional proposed funding reductions to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Program. Commissioner Connolly pointed out that since the House approved the cuts, and the recommendation came from a committee chaired by Rep. Frank Wolf, there was no point in sending a letter to Virginia's Congressional Delegation. Several Commissioners concurred. Commissioner Connolly moved Resolution No. P05-03, amended to send the letter to Virginia's U.S. Senators. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO  
HSA BOARD

Commissioner Hudgins introduced Resolution No. P05-02 and reported that the Human and Community Services Committee met prior to the Commission meeting and interviewed three candidates for two positions on the Board of Directors of the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia. The committee recommends appointing Brenda Greene and Ann Zuvekas. Commissioner Hudgins moved Resolution No. P05-02 and the motion was seconded.

Further, the committee recommends the other candidates, Michael Scruggs and James Lapsely (Mr. Lapsely was unavailable for the interview due to health reasons), to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for future consideration.

Resolution No. P05-02 was adopted unanimously.

PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO  
NVRC CHARTER  
AGREEMENT

Commissioner Bulova, Chairman of the *ad hoc* Membership Committee, recapped that at the June Commission meeting, the proposed resolution was moved, seconded, amended, tabled, and referred back to the Membership Committee to review weighted voting. The committee did this at its July 15 meeting.

Commissioner Bulova noted that over the decades, the Commission has evolved to a point where it is ready to be a body of all-elected officials. She apologized for not having discussed this with the citizen members prior to last month's meeting; she has met with several of them since then and has had constructive discussions. Commissioner Bulova proposed expanding the membership committee to include Commissioners Greene, Chesley, Ormsby, Kirkpatrick and Gordon, and to have the Membership Committee meet in lieu of the Commission's September meeting.

Commissioner Bulova moved adoption of Resolution No. P05-01, adding that weighted voting would be addressed under the Bylaws amendments at a future *ad hoc* Membership Committee meeting. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Greene said she is the longest-serving Commissioner, having served for 22 years, and she has seen the elected officials "buy into" the Commission gradually over the more recent years; this has led to NVRC becoming the key stakeholder for making regional planning work effectively. Commissioner Greene added that she applauds the elected officials for recognizing the value of this regional planning body and not forgetting the citizens' contributions over the years. While she thinks the outcome of the Membership Committee's recommendations are very sound, Commissioner Greene said she was concerned that this major change in the composition of the Commission has taken place without having had a full strategic planning process.

Commissioner Richards questioned the inclusion of the terms of office from the 1970's on page two of the Charter. Both Commissioner Bulova and Ms. Tenney said this is included on the advice of the Commission's attorney. This is a restated document incorporating all of the amendments over the years. Ms. Tenney said the appended changes will be attached to the original Charter. Commissioner Barnes, an attorney, concurred with Commissioner Richards, and offered assistance with revising the Bylaws when that action is needed. Commissioner Connolly suggested that the Commission's attorney review the Charter for all "housekeeping" changes before sending it to the jurisdictions for adoption. The members agreed.

Commissioner Fisette voiced support of the changes, noting that the details of weighted voting can be worked on by the Membership Committee and when agreed upon by the Commission, spelled out in the Bylaws.

Commissioner Tulloch informed the members that the Loudoun County attorney has found that the language Commissioner Tulloch requested on membership was not correct in regards to the Loudoun County form of government. Commissioner Tulloch moved that the language be changed as follows: "...who shall be the chief elected officer from the governing body or his/her designee except when another elected official of the governing body has been appointed by the governing body." The motion was seconded. Commissioner Fisette questioned the proposed change, stating that every body he serves on puts some prioritization on the at-large chair to be the first among equals in terms of choice. Commissioner Bulova raised the point that the Commission already adopted this change last month, and Commissioner Tulloch's amendment is to simply make the adopted change less ambiguous.

In reply to Commissioner Barg's inquiry, Commissioner Tulloch explained that Loudoun County has a board form of government where the chairman is the executive but gets his power from the board; the power of the board is given by the board and the powers of the chairman are explicitly stated.

Commissioner Bulova moved adoption of Resolution No. P05-01 as amended. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Ludvigsen reiterated his concern, noting that the smaller jurisdictions' elected representatives often do not participate in the Commission, leaving representation to the citizen members. The motion carried with 19 voting in favor, 7 voting against, and 4 abstaining.

Vice Chairman Favola directed that a letter from the Chairman be sent to the member localities with the Charter amendment. She added that each member locality must adopt the amended Charter before the changes can be implemented.

Commissioner Bulova moved that the expanded Membership Committee meet September 23 to discuss future citizen involvement in the Commission; this meeting would be in lieu of the full Commission meeting. Addressing Commissioner Gross's concern, Mr. Gibb said if there is business that needs to be attended to before the October 28 Commission meeting, the Executive Committee can meet. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Favola invited citizen members interested in serving on the Membership Committee to contact her or Commissioner Bulova. Commissioner Barnes volunteered to serve.

Councilman Snyder, representing the City of Falls Church, requested that this action be included in the letter to the jurisdictions regarding the Charter amendment. Vice Chairman Favola agreed. Commissioner Bulova added that the Membership Committee is looking at enhanced citizen involvement in committees by having representatives of such bodies as the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the Northern Virginia Health Systems Agency and other regional agencies.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT      There being no further business, Vice Chairman Favola adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Barbara Favola  
Vice Chairman