



MINUTES

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

March 15, 2024

14700 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Members Present

*Sarah Bagley (NVTC)
*Andrea O. Bailey (PRTC)
*Meg Bohmke (PRTC)
*Margaret Franklin (PRTC)
*Monica Gary (PRTC)
*Tom Gordy (PRTC)
*Lori Hayes (PRTC)
*Jannan W. Holmes (PRTC)
*Takis Karantonis (NVTC) ‡
*Michael McLaughlin (VPRA)
*Alanna Mensing (PRTC)
*Daniel G. Storck (NVTC)
*James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

Jurisdiction

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

Members Absent

Ralph Smith (PRTC)

City of Manassas

Alternates Present

Alternates Absent

Canek Aguirre (NVTC)
Tinesha Allen (PRTC)
Victor Angry (PRTC)
Kenny Boddye (PRTC)
Deborah Frazier (PRTC)
Libby Garvey (NVTC)
Will Mackintosh (PRTC)
Darryl Moore (PRTC)
Pam Sebesky (PRTC)
Emily Stock (DRPT)
Pamela Yeung (PRTC)

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

*Voting Member

**Arrived/departed following the commencement of the Operations Board Meeting. Notation of exact arrival/departure time is included in the body of the minutes.

‡ Participated remotely via Webex in accordance with the Electronic Participation Policy

Staff and General Public

Sara Allred – Fairfax County
Trinette Broussard - VRE
Rich Dalton – VRE
John Duque – VRE
Anaya Farah – VRE
Karen Finucan Clarkson – VRE
Christine Hoeffner – VREJ
John Kerins - Keolis
Lezlie Lamb – VRE

Steve MacIsaac – VRE Chief Counsel
Dallas Richards – VRE
Nick Ruiz - VRE
Bob Schneider - PRTC
Mark Schofield – VRE
Rebecca Sprouse - STV
Alex Sugatan - VRE
Joe Swartz – VRE

Chair Bohmke called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.; the roll call followed.

Chair Bohmke informed the Board that Member Takis Karantonis requested to participate remotely from Arlington due to a conflict in his meeting schedule. Ms. Hayes moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to approve Mr. Karantonis’ remote participation. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Safety Moment – 3

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

Approval of the Agenda - 4

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2024 VRE Operations Board Meeting – 5

Mr. Karantonis moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, to approve the Minutes from February 16, 2024. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Chair’s Comments – 6

Chair Bohmke welcomed members and attendees to the March Operations Board meeting. The Chair noted that staff and others were invited to wear athletic shoes to the meeting in celebration of March Madness.

Chief Executive Officer’s Report – 7

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

- Safety
- Performance
- Ridership

Public Comment Time – 8

The Chair opened the floor for public comments. There were no speakers and one written comment had been submitted, was forwarded to Board Members and is attached.

Action Items – 9

Authorization to Issue a MEC VII Task Order for National Transit Database and Asset Management Reporting Phase X – 9A

Ms. Bailey moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Mechanical Engineering Consulting Services Task Order to STV Incorporated for National Transit Database and Asset Management Reporting Phase X.

The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Acceptance of Title VI Service Standards and Policies Monitoring Results – 9B

Ms. Mensing moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, to accept the results of the Title VI Service Standards and Policies monitoring and to forward them to the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission for inclusion in their Title VI submittal. Ms. Franklin asked Mr. Dalton to elaborate on metrics involving On-Time Performance (OTP) and vehicle load. Mr. Dalton pointed out that VRE has not consistently met its OTP target.

The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Information Items – 10

Primer on the Regional Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax – 10A

In the cities and counties comprising the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac & Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), a Regional Motor Vehicle Fuels tax is levied on fuels sold by a distributor to a retail dealer. The information item detailed how the funds generated may be used by each of the commissions.

System Plan 2050 Update: Presentation of Recommended 2050 Service Vision – 10B

VRE Project Development staff presented a draft recommended 2050 Service Vision. The Board will be asked to recommend approval of System Plan 2050 at the April meeting.

Discussion Summary:

- Members had asked about assumptions for future funding. There was additional discussion about the impact of a transition to electric vehicles (EVs) on the jurisdictions' motor vehicle fuels tax revenue. Staff explained that the projections were based on a continuation of current funding sources, but it is expected the plan will be reviewed and refined periodically.

- Ms. Bagley commented that the societal benefits outlined in the presentation are impactful.
- Mr. Walkinshaw asked how weekend service in Scenario A and AI would impact ridership in comparison to expanded weekday service.
- Mr. Walkinshaw also discussed doing an analysis of the comparison of HOT lane use versus taking the train.
- Ms. Gary noted that the benefits of VRE as compared to the HOT lanes is that the cost of riding the train is predictable, whereas the HOT lane costs are variable from day-to-day, depending on congestion.
- Mr. Storck requested data on changes in capacity versus fare-box recovery.
- Mr. Gordy stated he believes the US economy is in transition and that the EV market could be impacted by rising costs of electricity.

[Mr. Karantonis signed of remote participation at 10:50 a.m.]

Spending Authority Report – 10C

The March Spending Authority Report outlined purchases greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 made in February 2024.

Closed Session – 11

There was no closed session.

Members Time – 12

Ms. Bagley thanked everyone involved on VRE’s Manassas St. Patrick’s parade float.

Mr. Gordy noted he had had a meeting with the Manassas Regional Airport Authority and suggested coordination between VRE and the Manassas Regional Airport.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 10:54 a.m.

Approved this 19th day of April 2024

Meg Bohmke
Chair

Ralph Smith
Secretary

CERTIFICATION

This certification hereby acknowledges the minutes for the March 15, 2024 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 written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Leslie M. Lamb

From: opscommforms@gmail.com
To: [Lezlie Lamb](#); [Holly Cockrell](#)
Subject: Public Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:13:18 PM

Caution: This email originated outside of VRE. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

A response was submitted for the form "Public Comments"

(REQUIRED) First
and Last Name: Ayush Rohatgi

City or County of
residence: Washington, DC

Comments: I am a user of the reverse flow trains in the morning and the afternoon. I appreciate their existence and their general on time nature. Just yesterday though, I had about 30-40 minutes of delay (not VREs fault) spread out from the start to the end of the journey. I have had these kinds of delays in colder weather as well, where it was hard to wait for extended times. I am requesting that VRE look into better train statusing and tracking for users, similar to how WMATA offers using the GTFS-RT specification. It would be useful to know when and where delays might be expected, so we can plan the journey better. For example, if I knew I would be waiting 25 minutes at Lenfant unable to exit, I would have gotten off at Alexandria and taken the metro into DC instead.

Acknowledgement Yes