



# MINUTES

## VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

May 17, 2024

14700 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

### **Members Present**

\*Sarah Bagley (NVTC)  
\*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)  
\*Ralph Smith (PRTC)

### **Members Absent**

Andrea O. Bailey (PRTC)  
Alanna Mensing (PRTC)  
Daniel G. Storck (NVTC)  
James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

### **Alternates Present**

Pam Sebesky (PRTC)

### **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)  
Emily Stock (DRPT)  
Pamela Yeung (PRTC)

### **Jurisdiction**

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

Prince William County  
City of Manassas Park  
Fairfax County  
Fairfax County

City of Manassas

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

Rich Dalton – VRE	Kristin Nutter - VRE
John Duque – VRE	Dallas Richards – VRE
Anaya Farah – VRE	Bob Schneider - PRTC
Karen Finucan Clarkson - VRE	Mark Schofield – VRE
Scott Kalkwarf - NVTC	Dagmawie Shikurye – VRE
John Kerins - Keolis	Alex Sugatan – VRE
Lezlie Lamb – VRE	Joe Swartz – VRE
Steve MacIsaac – VRE Chief Counsel	

Chair Bohmke called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.; the roll call followed.

Chair Bohmke informed the Board that Member Karantonis requested to participate remotely from Cincinnati, OH, where he attended a conference. Mr. Smith moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to approve Mr. Karantonis’ remote participation. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, McLaughlin, and Smith.

## **Safety Moment – 3**

VRE Chief Executive Officer 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. Holmes 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, Bohmke, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

## **Approval of the Minutes of the April 19, 2024 VRE Operations Board Meeting – 5**

Mr. Smith moved, with a second by Ms. Hayes, to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2024 VRE Operations Board meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

## **Chair’s Comments – 6**

Chair Bohmke thanked Vice Chair Bagley for running the April meeting in her absence. The Chair invited Board members and the public to the Fredericksburg Station Improvement Project Ribbon Cutting on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

- Safety
- Performance
- Ridership
- Special Events
  - Meet the Management
  - Fredericksburg Great Train Race
- Bike-to-Work Day
- Annual Customer Service Survey
- MWCOG’s Unified Vision for Transit in the DMV

[Ms. Franklin arrived at 9:14 a.m.]

**Public Comment Time – 8**

The Chair opened the floor for public comments. No speakers were present, and no written comments were submitted.

**Closed Session – 9**

Vice Chair Bagley moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Sections 2.2-3711.A(3), (6) and (8) of the Code of Virginia), that the VRE Operations Board convene a closed meeting for the purposes of (1) consultation with legal counsel regarding the terms of the Norfolk Southern Operating Access Agreement which require the provision of legal advice by counsel; (2) discussion of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in public would adversely affect the negotiating strategy and bargaining position of the Commissions; and (3) discussion of the investment of public funds where bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.

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

The closed session convened at 9:24 a.m.

Vice Chair Bagley moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, 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 Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

The open session reconvened at 10:08 a.m.

**Recommend Authorization to Extend the Term of the Operating Access Agreement with Norfolk Southern – 9A**

Vice Chair Bagley moved, with a second by Mr. Smith, to recommend the Commissions authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a letter of agreement to extend the term of the current Operating Access Agreement with Norfolk Southern. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

**Action Items – 10**

**Recommend Authorization to Execute an Amendment for the Fifth Year of the Second Option Period of the Contract for Operating Services for Commuter Rail – 10A**

Mr. Smith moved, with a second by Mr. Gordy, to recommend the Commissions authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute an amendment for the fifth year of the second option period of the contract for operating services for commuter rail. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

Recommend Authorization to Execute an Amendment for the Fourth Year of the First Option Period of the Contract for Maintenance Services for Commuter Rail – 10B

Ms. Hayes moved, with a second by Ms. Holmes, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute an amendment for the fourth year of the first option period of the contract for maintenance services for commuter rail. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

Authorization to Amend the Contract for Maintenance and Service of Positive Train Control Software and Hardware – 10C

Ms. Holmes moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to amend the contract for maintenance and service of Positive Train Control software and hardware. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

Authorization to Execute a Sole Source Contract for Window Gaskets for VRE Railcars – 10D

Ms. Gary moved, with a second by Ms. Holmes, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a sole source contract for window gaskets for VRE railcars. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

Authorization to Execute Contracts for the Delivery of Diesel Fuel for VRE Locomotives – 10E

Vice Chair Bagley moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute contracts for the delivery of diesel fuel for VRE locomotives. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

Authorization to Issue a Program Management Consulting Services Task Order for Support for the L'Enfant Track and Station Improvements Project -10F

Vice Chair Bagley moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a PMC task order for the L'Enfant Track and Station Improvements Project. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for Prince William County's USDOT FY2023 ATIP Grant Application – 10G

Ms. Franklin moved, with a second by Mr. Gordy, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for Prince William County's USDOT FY2023 ATIP Grant Application. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for VPRA’s CRISI Grant Application for Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1 -10H

Ms. Gary moved, with a second by Vice Chair Bagley, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for VPRA’s CRISI Grant application for Lorton to Route 1 third track and railroad bridges over Route 1. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for Amtrak’s Application for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program Funding for the Crystal City High Level Platform Project – 10I

Mr. Karantonis moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for Amtrak’s application for CRISI funding for the Crystal City High Level Platform Project. The vote in favor was cast by Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, and Smith.

**Information Items – 11**

Spending Authority Report – 10A

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


Update on Midday Storage - 10B


VRE Chief Engineer Dallas Richards briefed the Board on the development of a future midday storage facility in the District of Columbia.

Members Time – 12

Ms. Bagley mentioned attending a Meet the Management event at the Alexandria station and plans to attend the Manassas Heritage Train Festival on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Smith reiterated Ms. Bagley’s mention of the Manassas Heritage Train Festival and invited everyone to attend. Ms. Franklin thanked VRE staff for participating in the Woodbridge VRE station's Bike to Work Day event. Ms. Sebesky thanked the Board for their warm welcome at the Board meeting. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the VPRA Finance and Audit Committee met on May 16<sup>th</sup> and would recommend an FY25 Capital budget to the full Board at its June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Holmes reiterated the invitation to the Fredericksburg Station Improvement Project Ribbon-Cutting event on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Hayes stated the Spotsylvania County transportation staff is working to secure funding to upgrade the railroad crossing at Mine Road due to multiple incidents that have occurred recently. Mr. Dalton shared her concern and that VRE staff is planning some messaging campaigns at that location.

Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2024

  
Meg Bohmke  
Chair

  
Ralph Smith  
Secretary

**CERTIFICATION**

This certification hereby acknowledges the minutes for the May 17, 2024 Virginia Railway Express Operations Board Meeting have been recorded to the best of my ability.



Leslie M. Lamb