



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board

Jennifer L. Mitchell
Chairperson

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DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 · 10:00 am

DRPT Conference Room · 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102 · Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) Board held a regular meeting using electronic communications means on February 1, 2022. The primary location was at the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, located at 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

MEMBERS PRESENT

The Chair Jennifer Mitchell, Sharon Bulova, Victor Cardwell, Patricia Doersch, Jay Fisette, Rod Hall, Paul Nichols, Mariia Zimmerman and Rich Dalton (ex-officio).

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY

Deborah Butler Painter, Wick Moorman, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, James Spore and Bruno Maestri (ex-officio).

MEMBERS ABSENT

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VPRA STAFF

DJ Stadtler, Michael McLaughlin, Steve Pittard, Joan Panik, Shannon Perry, Michael Westermann, Jeremy Latimer, and Ashwini Tamhane.

DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STAFF

Emily Stock and Haley Glynn.

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

None.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Mitchell presided and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Ms. Panik called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments presented or received.

BOARD CHAIR WELCOME

Presented by: Jennifer Mitchell, Board Chair

Chair Mitchell welcomed everyone and gave an update about funding increase to Transportation Trust Fund revenues, execution of the Norfolk Southern agreement, potential proposed changes to VPRA Investment Policy, retirement of board member Hossein Sadid, legislative session updates and a brief overview of the day's agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Presented by: DJ Stadtler, Executive Director, VPRA

Mr. Stadtler presented the Executive Director's report to brief the Board about administrative updates, Amtrak performance data, capital project updates, and financial updates for the previous month.

MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Bulova and seconded by Mr. Nichols to approve the previous board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously with the vote in favor cast by Bulova, Butler Painter, Cardwell, Doersch, Fisetite, Hall, Moorman, Moses-Nedd, Nichols, Spore, and Zimmerman.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Presented by: Jennifer Mitchell, Board Chair

Chair Mitchell introduced board members who had volunteered to serve as board officers for the year 2022. Ms. Bulova volunteered to continue her position as Vice Chair, Ms. Butler Painter volunteered to be the new Treasurer, and Mr. Spore volunteered to continue in his position as the Secretary of the VPRA Board.

MOTION TO ELECT BOARD OFFICERS

A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman and seconded by Mr. Nichols to approve election of Ms. Bulova as Vice Chair, Ms. Butler Painter as Treasurer, and Mr. Spore as Secretary of the VPRA Board. The motion carried unanimously with vote in favor cast by Bulova, Butler Painter, Cardwell, Doersch, Fisetite, Hall, Moorman, Moses-Nedd, Nichols, Spore, and Zimmerman.

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT THE RECOMMENDED FY23 VPRA BUDGET TO COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Presented by: Steve Pittard, Chief Financial Officer, VPRA

Mr. Pittard thanked the members of the VPRA Board Finance Committee for their work over the past year and updated the board about minor changes made to the FY23 Recommended Budget presented to the board on January 10, 2022. He also went over the timeline for approval of the budget and the next steps for submission of the Recommended FY23 Budget to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. After some discussion, the Chair called for a motion to approve the Recommended FY23 Budget to the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT THE RECOMMENDED FY23 VPRA BUDGET TO COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

A motion was made by Ms. Bulova and seconded by Ms. Zimmerman to approve the authorization to submit the Recommended FY23 VPRA Budget to Commonwealth Transportation Board. The motion carried unanimously with vote in favor cast by Bulova, Butler Painter, Cardwell, Doersch, Fiset, Hall, Moorman, Moses-Nedd, Nichols, Spore, and Zimmerman.

TRANSFORMING RAIL IN VIRGINIA MILESTONES

Presented by: Michael McLaughlin, Chief Operating Officer, VPRA

Mr. McLaughlin gave an overview of project milestones for the Transforming Rail in Virginia infrastructure projects, including Long Bridge, Alexandria 4th Track, Franconia to Lorton 3rd Track, Franconia-Springfield Bypass, Nokesville to Calverton Double Track, Roanoke Yard and New River Valley Passenger Station.

ST. JULIAN'S YARD ACQUISITION

Presented by: Jeremy Latimer, VPRA

Mr. Latimer briefed the board about purchase of the St. Julian's Yard facility which is currently used as an Amtrak service facility for the state-supported Norfolk to Washington, D.C. services.

ARKENDALE TO POWELL'S CREEK PROJECT UPDATE

Presented by: Jeremy Latimer, VPRA

Mr. Latimer gave an overview of the Arkendale 3rd Track & Quantico Station Improvements project, including project overview, budget, construction elements, project challenges, and lessons learned. A brief discussion ensued after the presentation.

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Following the presentations, Ms. Bulova made the following motion:

"I move that the Board convene in a Closed Session pursuant to:

- a. Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of discussing (i) of prospective candidates and salaries with respect to specific VPRA employee positions and (ii) the performance of specific public VPRA officers, appointees, or employees, and*
- b. Section 2.2-3711 (A)(6) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of discussing a project involving the investment of public funds where bargaining is involved and where the financial interest of the Commonwealth would be adversely affected if the discussion were made public at this time*

"Additionally, I move that staff and attorneys attend the Closed Session because their presence is deemed necessary, and will aid the Board in its consideration of this matter."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hall and carried unanimously by Board roll call vote.

The Board suspended the open session at 12:03pm on February 1, 2022 to move into closed session.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The vice chairperson reconvened the open session meeting at 1:04 p.m. on February 1, 2022. Upon reconvening the meeting, the Vice Chair made the following statement:

"We are now going to take a roll call vote, and I ask that each member indicate their agreement with the following:

To the best of my knowledge, during the Closed Meeting, the only matters heard, discussed or considered were those matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and only those public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened."

The roll was then called, with all members indicated their agreement to the statement.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMPENSATION TO DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION AND LONG BRIDGE PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Cardwell motioned to authorize compensation to Director of Engineering and Construction and Long Bridge Project Manager. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bulova and carried unanimously with vote in favor cast by Bulova, Butler Painter, Cardwell, Doersch, Fisetta, Hall, Moorman, Moses-Nedd, Nichols, Spore, and Zimmerman. There were no abstentions or oppositions.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE VPRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SERVE ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WI-TRONIX GROUP, INC.

Ms. Bulova motioned to authorize the Executive Director to serve on the Board of Directors of Wi-Tronix Group, Inc. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cardwell and carried unanimous with vote in favor cast by Bulova, Butler Painter, Cardwell, Doersch, Fisetta, Hall, Moorman, Moses-Nedd, Nichols, Spore, and Zimmerman. There were no abstentions or oppositions.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mitchell, Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m. All presentations to the Board and meeting video can be found at <http://vpva.virginia.gov/about/board-meetings>.

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