



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board*

Jennifer L. Mitchell  
Chairperson

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**MINUTES Meeting of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority**  
**Monday, MAY 24, 2021 · 10:00 am**  
**Electronic Board Meeting**

In light of the continuing state of emergency declared by Governor Northam, where it is impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location, and as allowed by the General Assembly during the continuing state of emergency, this meeting to take action to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operation, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority held an electronic meeting on May 24, 2021.

All board members participated remotely using a GotoMeeting platform. Members of the public were able to witness the meeting online via live-streaming and were provided with the opportunity to provide public comment telephonically at the outset of the meeting using a dial in number provided in the online meeting public notice. The online internet public notice for the meeting noted that this meeting would be conducted using an electronic process due to the COVID-19 state of emergency and as a precaution to reduce the risk and spread of the novel coronavirus. The online meeting public notice also furnished the Agenda and Board materials as well as information regarding the availability of online live-streaming of the meeting at the noted link. Online viewers were furnished a telephone number to call to notify staff of any interruption of the live streaming of the meeting in accordance with Item 4-0.01.g. of Chapter 1289 and Section 2.2- 3708.2 of the Code of Virginia.

The audio and meeting documents and presentation materials are on the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's website,  
<http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/vpra/board-meetings/>

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sharon Bulova, Deborah Butler Painter, Paul Nichols, Patricia Doersch, Cynthia MosesNedd, Jay Fissette, James Spore, Mariia Zimmerman, Jennifer Mitchell (Chair).

## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STAFF PRESENT**

Bridget Davis, Joy Harris, Michael McLaughlin, Steve Pittard, DJ Stadtler, Ashwini Tamhane, Michael Todd and Andrew Wright.

## **GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT**

Joseph Jagdmann and Michael Westermann (Office of the Attorney General).

## **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Chair, Jennifer Mitchell, presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the procedures and instructions for the electronic meeting, including all votes will be conducted by roll call vote. The following statement was made:

*"On November 19th, Governor Ralph Northam signed House Bill 5005, Virginia's revised biennial budget, which includes new language for meeting electronically. In light of the continuing state of emergency declared by Governor Northam, we are conducting this meeting in a remote setting, keeping safety top of mind and mitigating the impacts and spread of COVID-19."*

Executive Assistant Joy Harris then called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Mitchell opened the meeting up for public comment. There was none.

## **WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

The following item was presented for information:

### **Board Chair Update**

### **Executive Directors Report**

### **Transforming Rail in Virginia Milestones**

### **Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Budget Update**

### **MOTION TO APPROVE RECCOMENDED AMMEDMENTS TO FY22 BUDGET**

### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENTS AND TRANSFER OF PROPERTY**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m. All presentations to the Board and meeting video can be found at [www.drpt.virginia.gov/vpra/board-meetings/](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/vpra/board-meetings/).

Respectfully Submitted:

Joy Harris, Executive Assistant

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