



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### *Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board*

Jennifer DeBruhl  
Chairperson

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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#### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting of the Board of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority**

Thursday, October 20, 2022, · 10:45 am

Truist Place · 919 East Main Street · Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board held a regular meeting using electronic and in-person communications means on October 20, 2022. The primary location was Truist Place, 919 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Chair Jennifer DeBruhl, Sharon Bulova, Rich Dalton, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Jay Fiset, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, John Watkins,

#### **MEMBERS PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY**

Victor Cardwell, Bruno Maestri (See the attached approval forms noting the reasons for remote participation)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rod Hall, Wick Moorman, Charles Payne, James Spore

#### **VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY STAFF**

DJ Stadtler, Michael McLaughlin, Steve Pittard, Joan Panik, Michael Westermann, Jeremy Latimer, Fyiad Constantine, Shirlene Cleveland, Gericia Goodman, Claire Mansfield

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

Randy Selleck

#### **GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT**

Jay Corbalis

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

Chairperson DeBruhl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Ms. Douglas called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment was made by Jay Corbalis with JBG Smith. Mr. Corbalis noted that JBG Smith is a major proponent of VPRA's work. He listed three (3) priorities for National Landing; 1. MARC run through service, 2. New passenger rail station and airport connection planned for National Landing and 3. Amtrak is eager to serve VRE's new station at National Landing.

## **BOARD CHAIR WELCOME**

*Presented by: Jennifer DeBruhl, Board Chairperson*

Ms. DeBruhl welcomed all in attendance in person and virtually.

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## **MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Cynthia Moses-Nedd and seconded by Sharon Bulova to approve the previous board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously, with the vote in favor cast by Sharon Bulova, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Jay Fisette, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, and John Watkins.

Jay Fisette noted that the minutes from July 23, 2022, were lean and suggested additional details wherever possible for future meeting minutes.

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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Presented by: DJ Stadtler, Executive Director, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

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. Ridership in September 2022 is the biggest September since 2019; additional ridership may be attributed to the addition of the Roanoke train addition.

Mrs. Drake asked about rail maps of the Commonwealth. Ms. DeBruhl noted that DRPT is working on both the rail maps and the Statewide Rail Plan. Ms. DeBruhl offered one-on-one meetings for those that would like to provide input. Once finalized, the Statewide Rail Plan will be reviewed with the Board.

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## **KING AND COMMONWEALTH PRESENTATION**

*Presented by Fyiad Constantine, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

Fyiad Constantine presented on the King and Commonwealth Bridges and the results of a feasibility study. The feasibility study supported that the King and Commonwealth bridges need to be replaced. Mr. Fisette asked about the interconnectability between Alexandria VRE Station and King Street Metro station, highlighting the pedestrian experience.

A motion was made by Jay Fisette and seconded by Cynthia Moses-Nedd to approve a capital project budget adjustment for King and Commonwealth bridge reconstruction design. The motion was carried unanimously, with the vote in favor cast by Sharon Bulova, Victor Cardwell, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Jay Fisette, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, and John Watkins.

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### **FTA/CORE CAPACITY PRESENTATION**

*Presented by: Mike McLaughlin, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

Northern Virginia Capital Investments were reviewed. VPRA is working with the Federal Transit Administration in applying for grant assistance.

A motion was made by Sharon Bulova and seconded by John Delandro to approve authorization for VPRA to apply for FTA federal transportation assistance. The motion was carried unanimously, with the vote in favor cast by Sharon Bulova, Victor Cardwell, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Jay Fisetete, and John Watkins.

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### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT**

*Presented by: Michael Westermann, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

Mr. Westermann presented information regarding the Personnel and Compensation committee membership. A recommendation was presented to add an additional member, Jay Fisetete, to the Personnel and Compensation Committee, which then balances participation in both subcommittees (each with 6 total members, inclusive of *ex officio* members). A motion was made by Sharon Bulova and seconded by Victor Cardwell to approve VPRA Personnel and Compensation Committee Assignment as follows:

Mr. Wick Moorman (chair and current committee member)  
Ms. Sharon Bulova (current committee member)  
Mr. Rod Hall (current committee member)  
Mr. Victor Cardwell (current committee member)  
Mr. Jay Fisetete (newly assigned committee member)

The motion was carried unanimously, with the vote in favor cast by Sharon Bulova, Victor Cardwell, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Jay Fisetete, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, and John Watkins.

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### **SERVICE PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

*Presented by: Jeremy Latimer, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

The Board asked for a Service Performance update at each Board meeting. This update includes ridership and VRE train performance.

Heat orders have been responsible for a lot of delays throughout the past few months. VPRA is working to understand the CSX rules regarding heat orders. VRE managed schedules to mitigate for CSX heat orders in order to meet customer expectations. Mr. Fisetete noted that communication to train riders is important and Jeremy Latimer said VPRA is talking to Amtrak about communication to customers.

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## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROCUREMENT**

*Presented by: Shirlene Cleveland, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

Shirlene Cleveland presented an overview of the Long Bridge Project in anticipation of the upcoming award of the associated project management support services (PMSS) contract. Work completed and upcoming work was reviewed. A description of the PMSS contract was provided.

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## **RAIL SAFETY MONTH RECAP**

*Presented by: Gerica Goodman, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

Gerica reviewed VPRA outreach on social media and the Children's Museum for Rail Safety month, including an associated proclamation by Governor Younkin.

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## **FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE**

*Presented by: Claire Mansfield, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and Randy Selleck, Department of Rail and Public Transportation*

Information was provided on upcoming Federal Funding options: CRISI Grants, and Congressionally Directed Spending.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Debruhl, the Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m. All presentations to the Board and meeting video can be found at <http://vpra.virginia.gov/about/board-meetings> and on the [VPRA YouTube site](#).

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## VPRA BOARD MEMBER REQUEST TO CHAIRPERSON FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION

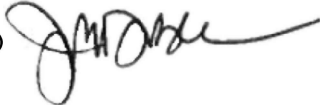
I, Victor O. Cardwell hereby notify the chairperson of my intent to, and do hereby  
(Name)

request to, participate remotely from virtual location using electronic communication  
(Remote Location)  
means during the public meeting of VPRA Board scheduled on  
(VPRA Board, or name of VPRA committee)  
10/20/2022 for the following reason:  
(Date)

- I have a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents my physical attendance; or
- a medical condition of a member of my family requires me to provide care that prevents my physical attendance; or
- my principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location; or
- I am unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter, which is  
Personal Matter \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>  
(Identify with specificity the nature of the personal matter)

This request is (for the chairperson to select):

- APPROVED
- DENIED



This form constitutes the record of notice, request, and approval or disapproval required for remote participation pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3708.3, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the corresponding VPRA public body.

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<sup>1</sup> Remote participation based on a “personal matter” may not exceed the greater between two times and 25% of meetings, in each case, during a specific calendar year with respect to a specific public body. Meetings of the full VPRA Board and meetings of each committee will be measured independently.

## VPRA BOARD MEMBER REQUEST TO CHAIRPERSON FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION

I, Bruno Maestri hereby notify the chairperson of my intent to, and do hereby  
(Name)

request to, participate remotely from Washington, DC using electronic communication  
(Remote Location)

means during the public meeting of VPRA Board Meeting scheduled on  
(VPRA Board, or name of VPRA committee)

October 20, 2022 for the following reason:  
(Date)

- I have a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents my physical attendance; or
- a medical condition of a member of my family requires me to provide care that prevents my physical attendance; or
- my principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location; or
- I am unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter, which is  
I also need to attend a meeting in Baltimore, MD that evening<sup>1</sup>  
(Identify with specificity the nature of the personal matter)

This request is (for the chairperson to select):

- APPROVED 
- DENIED

This form constitutes the record of notice, request, and approval or disapproval required for remote participation pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3708.3, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the corresponding VPRA public body.

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