



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

Jennifer L. Mitchell  
Chairperson

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**Meeting of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority**  
**Monday, June 28, 2021 · 10:00 am**  
**Electronic and In-Person Board Meeting**

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, Victor Cardwell, Rich Dalton, Patricia Doersch, Jay Fisette, James Spore, Mariia Zimmerman, Jennifer Mitchell (Chair).

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY**

Paul Nichols, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, Hossein Sadid, Wick Moorman

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

Bridget Davis, Joy Harris, Michael McLaughlin, Steve Pittard, DJ Stadtler.

**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. Chair Mitchell announced that the Board meetings would be moved to every other month.

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

## **Executive Directors Report**

*Presented by: DJ Stadtler, Executive Director*

*Executive Director Stadtler provided the following updates:*

Negotiations with Norfolk Southern continue. VPRA is working with Amtrak in a marketing event to get people back on the trains. Mike McLaughlin reviewed Capital projects and Steve Pittard noted VPRA monthly revenues for FY2021.

## **VRE Projects Update**

*Presented by Rich Dalton, CEO, VRE*

Updates to projects up and down the 95 corridor were reviewed. Questions were asked regarding multi-modal connections at stations and if solar power was being considered. Mr. Dalton noted that discussion was ongoing regarding parking and multi-modal connections and supports at stations along the 95 corridor.

## **VPRA INVESTMENT POLICY**

*Presented by Steve Pittard, CFO, VPRA, Wells Fargo Patrick Dixon and Frank Markioni*

Information regarding adopting an investment policy for VPRA was reviewed. Mr. Pittard noted that the investment objectives included capital preservation, liquidity, and to optimize total return within the context of the first two primary objectives. Mr. Fisetete asked if the Board had the authority to add focus to the investment policy.

## **PROPERTY TRANSFER: DRPT to VPRA**

*Mike McLaughlin, COO, VPRA*

The transfer of property, Amtrak Staples Mill Station, was reviewed. Purchase or ownership of this property is approved by the CTB in the instance of historically owned property by DRPT, now requiring transfer to VPRA. Authorize the VPRA's Executive Director to execute documents required to authorize the transfer of rail property owned by DRPT, which should be titled in and managed by VPRA, and the transfer of real property interests related to the CRA.

A motion was made by Ms. Butler-Painter and seconded by Ms. Bulova to authorize the Executive Director to execute documents required to transfer property owned by DRPT to VPRA. The motion was carried unanimously, with the vote in favor cast by Sharon Bulova, Deb Butler-Painter, Victor Cardwell, Patricia Doersch, Jay Fisetete, Wick Moorman, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, Paul Nichols, Hossein Sadid, James Spore, and Mariia Zimmerman.

## **ASSIGNMENT TO VPRA OF AMTRAK and VRE AGREEMENTS**

*Mike McLaughlin, COO, VPRA*

DRPT has entered into three agreements, each with passenger rail service providers: (i) the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (“Amtrak”) and (ii) the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. Under the Assigned Agreements, the passenger service providers (i) commit certain funding toward rail infrastructure improvements and (ii) receive certain service and operating rights.

At the time the Assigned Agreements were executed, administrative actions had not yet been taken to permit the VPRA to undertake the rights and duties imposed by the Assigned Agreements. Those administrative actions have now been completed.

A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman and seconded by Ms. Bulova authorizing the Assignment of Agreements between DRPT and AMTRAK, and Agreements between DRPT and NVTC and PRTC, from DRPT to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority. The motion was carried unanimously, with the vote in favor cast by Sharon Bulova, Deb Butler-Painter, Victor Cardwell, Patricia Doersch, Jay Fissette, Wick Moorman, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, Paul Nichols, Hossein Sadid, James Spore, and Mariia Zimmerman.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Mitchell opened the meeting up for public comment. Mr. Rob Whitfield, a citizen, spoke about the Rail Plan in Fairfax County.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Mitchell noted that she had not been adjourning meetings but would adjourn this one at this time. All presentations to the Board and meeting videos can be found at [www.drpt.virginia.gov/vpra/board-meetings/](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/vpra/board-meetings/).

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