



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

DJ Stadtler  
Executive Director

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Tiffany Robinson  
Chairperson

### **MINUTES**

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

Tuesday, August 26, 2025 · 10:30 am

919 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board held a regular, in person meeting (with certain members participating remotely) on August 26, 2025 at 919 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON**

Tiffany Robinson (Chairperson), Rich Dalton, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Damien Flowers, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, John Watkins

#### **MEMBERS PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY**

Neal Crawford, D.J. Jordan, Bruno Maestri,

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sandy Bushue

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

DJ Stadtler, Michael McLaughlin, Steve Pittard, Joan Verbonitz, Michael Westermann, Gerica Goodman, Charles Nelson, Cosmin Udrea, Selma Nuhanovic, Jon Griffin, Rob Pinckney, Lamar Bates, John Kostyniuk, Jeremy Latiner, Bonnie Hite, Dawn Durrett, Ian Langan, Adeel Mysorewala, Natasha Vance, Jonathan Capek, Matt Jett, and Mary Estelle Douglas.

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

Chairperson Robinson presided and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mary Estelle Douglas called the Roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

#### **BOARD CHAIR WELCOME**

*Presented by: Tiffany Robinson, Board Chairperson*

Tiffany Robinson welcomed everyone to the August 26, 2025, Board meeting and introduced new Board members.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were not public comments.

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

A motion was made by John Delandro and seconded by Darien Flowers to approve the Board meeting minutes from June 26, 2025. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

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## **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS**

*Presented by: Tiffany Robinson, Board Chairperson*

## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Tiffany Robinson presented the slate of proposed committee assignments for the Finance and Audit Committee and Personnel and Compensation Committee:

A motion was made by Patricia Doersch and seconded by John Watkins to approve the VPRA Committee Assignments. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

## **REMOTE PARTICIPATION AND ALL VIRTUAL MEETING POLICY**

A motion was made by John Delandro and seconded by Beth Rhinehart to approve the VPRA Remote Participation and All Virtual Meeting Policy. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

DJ Stadtler provided information about our positive meetings with the FRA, ridership data, and Capital Projects, as well as updates on the Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern merger. The SWaM goal for FY26 was reviewed. Patricia Doersch asked if there was a local hire provision for SWaM, and Michael Westermann responded.

A motion was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Darien Flowers to authorize VPRA to execute \$100M CRISI Grant Agreement. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

A motion was made by John Delandro and seconded by Charles Payne providing authorization of Siding A project addendum with CSXT. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

A motion was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Darien Flowers to approve the adoption of DBE and SWaM goals for FY26. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

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## **BOARD MANAGEMENT RESERVE**

*Presented by: Selma Nuhanovic, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

FY26 Financial plan and management reserve update process were reviewed. Primary drivers causing the increase through FY31 were reviewed.

A motion was made by Patricia Doersch and seconded by Thelma Drake to approve the management reserve balance. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

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## **AMTRAK 209 AGREEMENT OVERVIEW**

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

Jeremy Latimer provided an overview of the PRIIA 209 Amtrak Agreement.

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## **SERVICE PERFORMANCE UPDATES**

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

Jeremy Latimer reviewed the Long Bridge Construction Service Plan. Patricia Doersch asked if VRE was working with WAMATA, and Rich Dalton responded. Thelma Drake asked for clarification on the service adjustments for service to Norfolk and Newport News. DJ Stadtler responded.

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## **MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

*Alexandria Fourth Track Project Updates*

Thelma Drake made the following motion:

*I move that the Board convene in a Closed Session:*

- *(i) "I move that the Board convene in a Closed Session:*
- *(i) pursuant to Va. Code Sec. 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of public contracts relating to VPRA's Transforming Rail in Virginia projects involving the expenditure of public funds, including*

*discussion of the terms or scope of such contracts, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position and negotiating strategy of VPRA.*

The motion was seconded by Beth Rhinehart to move into a closed session. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

## **RECONVENE IN AN OPEN SESSION**

The chairperson reconvened the open session meeting. Upon reconvening the meeting, Tiffany Robinson 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 indicating their agreement with the statement. Those indicating agreement were Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

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## **FY26 ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS**

*Presented by: Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

FY26 Organizational goals were reviewed, including those for ridership and revenue. Thelma Drake asked about track ownership and DJ Stadtler and Mike McLaughlin responded. Charles Payne asked about line inspections and Natasha Vance and Mike McLaughlin responded.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

Tiffany Robinson, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

All presentations to the Board and meeting videos can be found at <http://vpra.virginia.gov/about/Board-meetings> and on the VPRA YouTube site.

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