



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, October 7, 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 October 7, 2025 at 919 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Tiffany Robinson (Chairperson), Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Damien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Dallas Richards, Susan Spears, John Watkins

Charles Payne arrived at 10:39 AM

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY STAFF

DJ Stadtler, Michael McLaughlin, Joan Verbonitz, Michael Westermann, Gerica Goodman, Charles Nelson, Cosmin Udrea, Selma Nuhanovic, Lamar Bates, John Kostyniuk, Bonnie Hite, Sarah Hoover, Shirlene Cleveland, Adeel Mysorewala, Jonathan Capek, 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 October 7, 2025, Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

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

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS

Presented by: Tiffany Robinson, Board Chairperson

AUDIT RESULTS

Presented by: Bonnie Hite, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Bonnie Hite gave a high level update on the FY25 Financial statements. Patricia Doersch asked about the toll revenues we receive, and Bonnie Hite and DJ Stadtler responded. Dwight Buracker with PBMares reviewed the recent audit results.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

DJ Stadtler provided updates about VPRA's community activities during Rail Safety Week and information about the continued ridership growth across the Commonwealth. He also reviewed the FY26 Organizational goals. Sandy Bushue asked who was collecting data for the Customer Service Standards Program, and DJ Stadtler responded. Darien Flowers asked if CMAQ funds are state or federal funds, and DJ Stadtler and Bonnie Hite responded.

A motion was made by Thelma Drake and seconded by John Watkins to authorize VPRA to execute the FY26 Amtrak 209 Agreement. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, 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 Beth Rhinehart and seconded by Darien Flowers providing authority to execute CMAQ Grant Agreement. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES REPORT

Presented by: Mike McLaughlin, Shirlene Cleveland, Geoff Pelletier, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Shirlene Cleveland provided an update on construction for Long Bridge North.

Sandy Bushue asked about neighboring construction projects at the Long Bridge North construction area, and Shirlene Cleveland responded.

Darien Flowers asked if Long Bridge South's permit schedule is on track, and Shirlene Cleveland responded.

PROJECT UPDATES

Presented by: Geoff Pelletier, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Geoff Pelletier reviewed that the Alexandria Fourth Track, King and Commonwealth Bridges, and Alexandria Station projects are now ready to start construction.

Patricia Doersch asked about plans for replacing the pedestrian tunnel at Alexandria station. Dallas Richards responded.

CONSTRUCTION WINDOWS AND SERVICE PLAN

Presented by: DJ Stadtler, Gerica Goodman, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

DJ Stadtler and Gerica Goodman reviewed the communication plan VPRA is using to share information about disruptions and work windows across the Commonwealth.

Thelma Drake asked if the work window would be seven days a week, and DJ Stadtler responded.

Sandy Bushue asked who issues noise waivers for Long Bridge North project and DJ Stadtler responded.

BOARD MANAGEMENT RESERVE AND FY26 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Presented by: Selma Nuhanovic, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Selma Nuhanovic provided an update on the Board Management reserve and the FY26 Budget Amendment. She reviewed the primary drivers causing an increase through FY31.

A motion was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Susan Spears approving Management Reserve Balance and Second FY26 Budget Amendment. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins

LONG BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PHASE PROJECT ADDENDUM

Presented by: Shirlene Cleveland, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Shirlene Cleveland reviewed the Long Bridge Construction Phase project addendum.

Sandy Bushue asked why this was an addendum. Michael Westermann responded.

A motion was made by John Delandro and seconded by Darien Flowers approving authority to execute Long Bridge Construction phase project addendum. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Executive Director Performance

Thelma Drake made the following motion:

(i) "I move that the Board convene in a Closed Session pursuant to Va. Code Sec. 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion of the performance and compensation of a specific public employee of VPRA, namely, the VPRA executive director's performance during performance year 2025.

The motion was seconded by Charles Payne to move into a closed session. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, 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 Sandy Bushue, 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 Patricia Doersch and seconded by John Delandro approving the Executive Director's Performance Year 2025 salary adjustment. 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. Sandy Bushue opposed.

A motion was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Susan Spears approving the Executive Director's Performance Year 2025 bonus. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins. Sandy Bushue and Thelma Drake opposed.

A motion was made by Beth Rhinehart and seconded by John Delandro, authorizing the VPRA Board Chairperson to negotiate and execute a new employment contract between the Board and the VPRA Executive Director, in consultation with the P&C committee. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Thelma Drake, Darien Flowers, D.J. Jordan, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

ADJOURNMENT

Tiffany Robinson, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:40 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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