



# MINUTES

## VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

July 19, 2024

14700 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

### **Members Present**

\*Sarah Bagley (NVTC) ‡  
\*Meg Bohmke (PRTC)  
\*Margaret Franklin (PRTC)  
\*Monica Gary (PRTC)  
\*Tom Gordy (PRTC) ‡ \*\*  
\*Lori Hayes (PRTC) ‡ \*\*  
\*Jannan W. Holmes (PRTC)  
\*Takis Karantonis (NVTC)  
\*Ralph Smith (PRTC)  
\*Daniel G. Storck (NVTC)  
\*James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

### **Members Absent**

Andrea O. Bailey (PRTC)  
Alanna Mensing (PRTC)  
Zach Trogdon (DPRT)

### **Alternates Present**

\*Michael McLaughlin (VPRA)

### **Alternates Absent**

Canek Aguirre (NVTC)  
Tinesha Allen (PRTC)  
Victor Angry (PRTC)  
Kenny Boddye (PRTC)  
Deborah Frazier (PRTC)  
Libby Garvey (NVTC)  
Will Mackintosh (PRTC)  
Darryl Moore (PRTC)  
Pam Sebesky (PRTC)  
Pamela Yeung (PRTC)

### **Jurisdiction**

City of Alexandria  
Stafford County  
Prince William County  
Stafford County  
Prince William County  
Spotsylvania County  
City of Fredericksburg  
Arlington County  
City of Manassas  
Fairfax County  
Fairfax County

Prince William County  
City of Manassas Park  
Commonwealth of Virginia

Commonwealth of Virginia

City of Alexandria  
Stafford County  
Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Spotsylvania County  
Arlington County  
City of Fredericksburg  
City of Manassas Park  
City of Manassas  
Stafford County

\*Voting Member

\*\*Arrived/departed following the commencement of the Operations Board Meeting. Notation of exact arrival/departure time is included in the body of the minutes.

‡ Participated remotely via Webex in accordance with the Electronic Participation Policy

### **Staff and General Public**

Dave Bohmke – Private Citizen  
Trinette Broussard – VRE  
Alexander Buchanan – VRE  
Dwight Buracker - PBMares  
Rich Dalton – VRE  
John Duque – VRE  
Anaya Farah – VRE  
John Kerins – Keolis  
Lezlie Lamb – VRE

Steve MacIsaac – VRE Chief Counsel  
Kate Mattice - NVTC  
Dallas Richards – VRE  
Bob Schneider - PRTC  
Mark Schofield – VRE  
Hunter Simmons – PBMares  
Alex Sugatan - VRE  
Joe Swartz – VRE

Chair Bohmke called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

Chair Bohmke informed the Board that Members Bagley, Gordy, and Hayes requested to participate remotely. Ms. Bagley participated from Alexandria, VA, due to travel delays; Mr. Gordy participated from Dulles, VA, due to travel; and Ms. Hayes participated from Spotsylvania County, VA, due to a conflicting meeting. Ms. Holmes moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to approve Members Bagley, Gordy, and Hayes’ remote participation. Members Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw voted in favor of the motion.

### **Safety Moment – 3**

CEO, Rich Dalton briefed attendees on safety procedures and assigned specific tasks to qualified staff members in case of an emergency.

### **Approval of the Agenda - 4**

Mr. Walkinshaw moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw voted in favor of the motion.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the June 21, 2024 VRE Operations Board Meeting – 5**

Mr. Storck moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to approve the June 21, 2024, minutes. Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Gordy and Ms. Hayes abstained.

### **Chair’s Comments – 6**

Chair Bohmke apologized for the delay in starting the meeting and thanked the technical staff for their work to resolve it. The Chair announced that the Finance Committee meeting would follow the regular meeting and reminded the Board that there would be no meeting in August. Chair Bohmke invited Members to the Manassas Park Parking Garage Topping Out ceremony on Tuesday, August 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **Chief Executive Officer’s Report – 7**

Mr. Dalton introduced the audit team leader from PBMares to brief the board on the audit activities that were taking place. Mr. Dalton briefed the Operations Board on the following items of interest:

- Safety
- Performance
- Details of congestion-caused delays
- Ridership
- Customer Service Survey Results
- New Website and mobile app update

### **Public Comment Time – 8**

The Chair opened the floor for public comments. There were no speakers, but two written comments had been submitted, read, and forwarded to the Board members.

### **Closed Session – 9**

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Section 2.2-3711.A(3) of the Code of Virginia), Mr. Smith moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, that the VRE Operations Board convene a closed meeting for the purposes of discussion of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose related to VRE operations on the Norfolk Southern rail line where discussion in public would adversely affect the negotiating strategy and bargaining position of the Operations Board and the Commissions. Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Hayes, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw voted in favor of the motion.

The closed session convened at 9: 54 a.m.

[Ms. Hayes left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.]

At 10:55 a.m. the Operations Board concluded the closed session.

Mr. Smith moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, that the VRE Operations Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge and with no individual member dissenting, at the just concluded Closed Session:

1. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed; and,
2. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered.

Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw voted in favor of the motion.

### **Action Items - 10**

#### **Authorization to Amend the GEC 8 Task Order for Final Engineering Design Support for the King Street and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Replacements – 10A**

Ms. Gary moved, with a second by Ms. Holmes, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to amend the current GEC 8 task order with HDR, Inc. for Final Engineering Design Support for the King Street and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Replacements.

Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Gordy, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw voted in favor of the motion.

[Mr. Gordy left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.]

Authorization to Amend VRE's Microsoft Volume Licensing Agreement – 10B

Ms. Holmes moved, with a second by Mr. Karantonis, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to amend the agreement with Microsoft Corporation for Microsoft Volume Licensing.

Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw voted in favor of the motion.

Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for Amtrak's Application for FFY24 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program Funding – 10C

Mr. Storck moved, with a second by Ms. Gary, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for Amtrak's application to the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail program.

Members Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Gary, Holmes, Karantonis, McLaughlin, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw voted in favor of the motion.

**Information Items – 11**

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Key Issues – 11A

Staff presented information to the Operations Board members on key issues for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 budget process.

Publication of Proposed Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal for Federal Fiscal Years 2025-2027 – 11B

At their July 11, 2024 Commission meeting, the PRTC Board of Commissioners authorized the publication of the proposed Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal for Federal Fiscal Years 2025-2027 for public comment, and provisionally adopted the goal for Federal Transit Administration-assisted contracts for both PRTC and VRE.

Introduction to VRE's iCompass Board Portal – 11C

Staff announced a new VRE Operations Board Portal scheduled to launch in September. The new portal will be hosted by iCompass, which is the same system currently used by PRTC and Fairfax County. Staff outlined the next steps for Board Member access and use.

Legislative Agenda Discussion – 11D

Staff updated the Operations Board on the 2024 Legislative Agenda efforts and outlined a timeline and key issues for the development of a 2025 Legislative Agenda.

Spending Authority Report – 11E

The July Spending Authority Report outlined purchases greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 made in June 2024.

Members Time – 12

NVTC Director Kate Mattice stated VRE Operations Board Members should expect an invitation to a celebration commemorating NVTC's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024

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Meg Bohmke  
Chair

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Ralph Smith  
Secretary

**CERTIFICATION**

**This certification hereby acknowledges the minutes for the July 19, 2024 Virginia Railway Express Operations Board Meeting have been recorded to the best of my ability.**



Lezlie M. Lamb