



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Jennifer B. DeBruhl
Director

DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
600 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 2102
RICHMOND, VA 23219-2416

(804) 786-4440
FAX (804) 225-3752
Virginia Relay Center
800-828-1120 (TDD)

APPROVED MINUTES CTB Rail and Transit Subcommittee Meeting

VDOT Central Office – HR Training Room
1221 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 9:00 am

The CTB Rail and Transit Subcommittee held a meeting on December 6, 2022. The location was VDOT HR Training Room, located at 1221 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

CTB MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer DeBruhl (Chair), H. Randolph Laird, E. Scott Kasprovicz, Frederick Stant, III, Thomas Fowlkes, Mark Merrill, Dr. Raymond Smoot, and Wayne Coleman

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Sheila Beard (VDRPT), Emily Stock (VDRPT), Michael McLaughlin (VPRA), Karen Harrington (HDR), Bridget Wagner (HDR), Margaret Rockwell (McGuireWoods Consulting), Grant Sparks (VDRPT), Mike Todd (VDRPT), Katy Miller (VDRPT), Andrew Wright (VDRPT), Mike Todd (VDRPT), and Robert Whitfield.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeBruhl called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE June 21, 2022 MINUTES

On a motion by Thomas Fowlkes and seconded by Mark Merrill, the June 21, 2022, CTB Rail and Transit Subcommittee meeting minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Presented by Chair Jennifer DeBruhl

Chair DeBruhl provided everyone with a brief overview of what to expect in the board meeting with updates on the following:

- FY 24 freight rail grant application cycle opened on December 1 for Rail Preservation Program and the Freight Fund
- FY 24 Transit and TDM application period opened from December 1, 2022 through February 1, 2023
- WMATA Silverline completion and celebration on November 15
- Hampton Roads Transit held a ribbon cutting on December 2 to mark the opening of the Base Express
- Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study
- SMART SCALE
- Petersburg Area Transit (PAT)

Another item mentioned to the committee, Virginia Breeze Ridership had the highest ridership month in the nearly five-year history of the Breeze with a total ridership of 6,705. The three routes had their highest ridership ever: Piedmont Express, Capitol Connector, and Highlands Rhythm. It is anticipated that November 2022 will have an even higher increase.

Virginia Statewide Rail Plan Update

Presented by Emily Stock, Chief of Rail, DRPT

Mrs. Stock provided an overview of DRPT's statewide rail plan which is currently in its final stages. The 2022 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan (SRP) is the commonwealth's comprehensive rail plan for short- and long-range projects. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requires each state to update its SRP every four years. This updated document is necessary to apply for and receive federal rail funding for passenger and freight projects. The SRP includes 6 and 20-year time horizons. The 2022 Virginia SRP aligns with VTrans goals and objectives and has been completed in close coordination with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), the FRA, and other rail stakeholders. Progress can be measured and tracked between the updated and previous rail plans and comparisons can be made to work being done in other states across the country. The 2022 Statewide Rail Plan is hosted on an online StoryMap to make the data more accessible and interactive to the public.

Key components of the 2022 SRP include: The Role of Rail on Statewide Transportation, Virginia's Existing Rail System, Passenger Rail Improvements and Investments, Freight Rail Improvements and Investments, Virginia's Rail Service and Investment Plan, and Public Involvement and Coordination. A policy framework for freight rail and passenger station development is included in the updated plan. DRPT's strategies for improving and maintaining rail excellence in Virginia include funding access and capacity improvement projects, maintaining and fostering partnerships, ensuring effective program delivery, and planning based on best practice research and recommendations. Public benefit for all freight and passenger rail projects and initiatives can be found within the Virginia Statewide Rail Plan and status updates for ongoing work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Robert Whitfield of Fairfax provided public comment to the Subcommittee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair DeBruhl adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m. All presentations to the Board and meeting video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9uvU8vO09umEWIdES2lvow>

Respectfully Submitted: Sheila Beard, Executive Assistant