

Commonwealth Transportation Board Rail and Transit Subcommittee Minutes
VDOT Conference Room
1221 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
March 18, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes

Staff and Members Present

DRPT STAFF

Andrew Wright, Evan Price, Jennifer Mayton, Emily Stock, Grant Sparks, Zach Trogdon, Tiffany Dubinsky, Mike Todd, Randy Selleck, Dan Sonenklar, Jordan Chapman

COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Smoot, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Davis, Mr. Kasprowicz, Mrs. Dunlop, Director Robinson (DRPT), Mr. Miller, Secretary of Transportation.

OTHERS PRESENT

Danny Plaughter (Virginia Transit Association), Robb Bohannaon (Virginia Railroad Association), Noelle, Dominguez (Fairfax County DOT)

Agenda

1. Approval of May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. Introduction of Transit and Rail Program Scoring

Call to Order

At 9:02 AM, Mr. Miller called the meeting to order. Mr. Miller provided a preview of the agenda for the subcommittee.

Rail Program Scoring

Mr. Todd delivered his presentation on DRPT's rail programs.

Dr. Smoot inquired about minimum points an application must receive to be awarded a grant. Dr. Smoot inquired about who the FREIGHT program grant recipients are. Mr. Coleman inquired who makes the applications for the FREIGHT program. Mr. Todd provided answers.

Mr. Coleman inquired what qualifies as a shortline railroad. Mr. Kasprowicz inquired how many shortlines operate in Virginia. Mr. Todd provided answers.

Mr. Kasprowicz inquired about the track miles, and the ability to quantify the state of good repair on the shortline network. Mr. Todd provided an answer. Dr. Smoot inquired about railroads removing trucks from Virginia's roads. Mr. Todd provided an answer. Mr. Kasprowicz commented that active rail sidings add capacity and remove trucks from roads. Mr. Kasprowicz noted that the end goal should be increasing the number of transload sidings. Mr. Kasprowicz noted that transload sidings provide value to the

railroad network. Mrs. Stock provided additional information. Mr. Kasproicz noted there is a need for more data on inbound and outbound rail traffic. Mr. Coleman noted that more businesses would use rail if more convenient sidings were available. Director Robinson noted that DRPT continues to evaluate the rail plan.

Mr. Todd completed his presentation. Dr. Smoot commented on the rail program. Mr. Kasproicz commented on the evaluation of railroads and gathering high-level rail data. Director Robinson provided a final comment.

Public Transportation Scoring

Director Robinson introduced Grant Sparks, Director of Transit Programs at DRPT. Mr. Sparks began his presentation with an overview of DRPT's Transit Capital program.

Dr. Smoot inquired about the amount of funding in the MERIT programs. Mr. Sparks provided an answer. Director Robinson provided a note about major expansion applications. Mr. Sparks noted that major expansion applications average between two to five projects a year.

Mr. Sparks provided information about state of good repair scoring. Mr. Kasproicz inquired about operating efficiency and if fuel efficiency is counted towards that metric. Mr. Sparks provided an answer. Mr. Kasproicz inquired specifically about the definition of operational efficiency. Mr. Sparks provided an answer. Mr. Coleman inquired about validating required reports for accuracy. Mr. Sparks provided an answer.

Mr. Sparks continued his presentation on minor enhancement and major expansion projects.

Mr. Sparks continued his presentation on DRPT's operating assistance program, noting funding is allocated based on formula. Director Robinson provided final closing notes.

Approval of May 14th, 2024 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

On motion of Dr. Smoot, seconded by Mr. Davis, the May 2024 Subcommittee Meeting minutes were approved. Motion passed, unanimously.

Public Comments

None.

Other business

None.

Adjournment

At 10:02 AM, the subcommittee adjourned.