

DRAFT

Minutes

**Rail Advisory Board Meeting
Board Room
DMV Headquarters Building
2300 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA**

February 25, 2010

Note – At the direction of the Board and the Director of DRPT, these summary minutes will reflect Actions, Presentation Items and Informational Requests to the Agency from the Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Trenton Crewe Jr., Chairman
Sharon Bulova
James Keen
Bruno Maestri
Peter Shudtz

Richard Beadles
Dwight Farmer
Gregory Marston
Steven Powell

Thelma Drake, Director, DRPT

Call to Order

The Rail Advisory Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Crewe. Mr. Crewe welcomed Thelma Drake, the new Director of DRPT.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

A motion to accept the agenda of the February 25, 2010, meeting was made by Mr. Keen and seconded by Ms. Bulova. The motion carried without opposition.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion to accept the November 12, 2009 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Bulova and seconded by Mr. Marston. The motion carried without opposition.

Public Comment

There were no public comments received by e-mail nor did anyone sign up to speak.

Director's Update

Thelma Drake, Director of DRPT, introduced herself and gave the Board a general overview of current DRPT projects and an update on the General Assembly actions related to transportation.

Adoption of 2010 Rail Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

Due to scheduling conflicts the April 8, 2010 meeting would need to be moved. After discussion of possible dates, the next meeting of the Board will be Thursday, April 1, 2010 at the DMV building. The chair suggested that the next meeting date be decided at each meeting. The Board agreed by consensus.

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Rail Enhancement Fund Application Update

Mr. Kevin Page, Chief of Rail Transportation for DRPT, reviewed for the Board the Fiscal Year 2011 REF applications received and a preliminary review and recommendation.

High Speed Rail/ARRA Projects Update

Mr. Page reviewed the current condition and future vision for high speed rail in the Commonwealth, and current and new passenger rail service in the Commonwealth including the ARRA application process.

Winter Storm Event/Lessons Learned – Rail Perspective

Jay McArthur of Amtrak, Dale Zehner of Virginia Railway Express, Steve Powell of Buckingham Branch Railroad, Quintin Kendall of CSX and Bill Shafer of Norfolk Southern reviewed their railroad preparations before, activities during and recovery after the recent winter weather events.

Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Project Update

Mr. Page provided an overview of the environmental study process followed by the Department to develop the Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the alternatives for high speed rail to serve Hampton Roads. The Commonwealth Transportation Board decided on Alternative 1 for the proposed service.

CSX Rail Enhancement Fund Projects

Mr. Carl Warren of CSX Transportation Intermodal Office updated the Board on the CSX National Gateway project underway.

Norfolk Southern REF Project Update

Mr. Bill Schafer, Director of Strategic Planning for Norfolk Southern, reviewed the status of the NS Rail Enhancement Fund projects.

Information Items

Mr. Page provided an overview of the informational items provided to the Board in their notebooks. This included responses provided by staff to questions raised by Board member Mr. Beadles, the status of the REF revenues and projects as well as Amtrak and VRE ridership and on-time performance.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m. The next meeting of the Rail Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the DMV Headquarters Building in Richmond.