

ITEM 7

(15 PAGES)

**POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION

MOTION: _____

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-12-____
OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2008**

SECOND: _____

**RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2008**

WHEREAS, the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission reviews and approves the minutes of each meeting; and

WHEREAS, the minutes of the November 6, 2008 PRTC meeting have been presented for review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby approve the minutes of the November 6, 2008 Commission meeting as presented/amended.

“PENDING BOARD APPROVAL”

POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (PRTC)

OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: November 6, 2008
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: PRTC Transit Center
14700 Potomac Mills Road, 2nd Floor
Woodbridge, VA 22192-6811

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Way called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

*Maureen Caddigan	Prince William County
*Corey Hill	DRPT
*John Jenkins	Prince William County
*Matthew Kelly, Secretary	City of Fredericksburg
*Michael May, Treasurer	Prince William County
*Paul Milde, Immediate Past Chmn	Stafford County
*Martin Nohe	Prince William County
*Frank Principi	Prince William County
*Jonathan Way, Vice Chairman	City of Manassas

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Jean Benson	City of Fredericksburg
Brad Ellis	City of Fredericksburg
Lorrain Lasch	Prince William County
Brian Potvin	Prince William County
*Corey Stewart	Prince William County
*Bill Wren	City of Manassas Park

STAFF AND GENERAL PUBLIC

Gina Altis	PRTC Executive Assistant
Tom Cain	FIRST TRANSIT Region Vice President
John Campbell	FIRST TRANSIT Bus Operator
Doris Chism	PRTC Dir., Customer Service & Dispatch
Mohamed Elatrabi	FIRST TRANSIT Bus Operator
Joyce Embrey	PRTC Dir., Finance & Administration
Althea Evans	PRTC Dir., Marketing & Communications
Anthony Foster	PRTC Transportation Project Manager
F.D.R. Fox	Citizen
Shanta Garth	FIRST TRANSIT AGM-Accounting & Administration
Al Harf	PRTC Executive Director
Angela Horan	PRTC Legal Counsel
Robb Howell	FIRST TRANSIT General Manager
Todd Johnson	FIRST TRANSIT Maintenance Manager
Bill Leisen	PRTC Mgr., Contract Operations
Steve MacIsaac	VRE Legal Counsel
Mary Marshall	PRTC Account & Budget Manager
Eric Marx	PRTC Dir., Planning & Operations
Betsy Massie	PRTC Dir., Grants & Project Management
Ginger Murphy	PRTC Transit Planner
Katy Nicholson	PRTC Marketing Assistant
Paul Pitchke	FIRST TRANSIT AGM-Operations
Charles Steigerwald	PRTC Senior Transit Planner
Jennifer Straub	VRE Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Dale Zehner	VRE Chief Executive Officer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wally Covington	Prince William County
Frank Jones, Chairman	City of Manassas Park
Scott Lingamfelter	Virginia House of Delegates
Jackson Miller	Virginia House of Delegates
Toddy Puller	Virginia Senate
George Schwartz	Stafford County

ALTERNATES ABSENT

Charles Badger	DRPT
Harry Crisp	Stafford County
Mark Dudenhefer	Stafford County
Peter LaMarca	City of Fredericksburg
Hal Parrish	City of Manassas
Sorine Preli	Prince William County
Phillip Rodenberg	City of Fredericksburg

John Stirrup
Matthew Tucker

Prince William County
DRPT

*Voting Member

3. INVOCATION Led by Commissioner Jenkins.
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Vice Chairman Way.
5. CITIZENS' TIME

Mr. F.D.R. Fox, Woodbridge, Virginia, provided written comments (attached) and read said comments into the record.

No other citizens came forward.

6. PRESENTATIONS

- [FT\Info] A. First Transit General Manager Robb Howell – Employee Recognition and Operations Report.

Mr. Howell recognized the October 2008 Operator-of-the-Month Mohamed Elatrabi (bus operator since 2006). He also recognized John Campbell, who was crowned the winner of the PRTC-First Transit Annual Bus Roadeo held at Garfield High School on Saturday, September 27, 2008. He went on to recognize Odise Adams and Donnell Griffin who took second and third place, respectively, and will join Mr. Campbell to compete in the Virginia State Roadeo in Roanoke, Virginia -- winners in Roanoke will move on to compete in the APTA-sponsored International Bus Roadeo in Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Howell reported that twenty-two commendations (directed to 15 different bus operators and 2 supervisors) were received during the month of October. He went on to note that the accident frequency rate during the month of October was 1.83 per 100,000 miles and the year-to-date rate is 1.56 compared to 1.63 for the same period last year.

Mr. Howell noted that the complaint rate on the OmniRide service in October is 5.97 per 10,000 trips. The current year-to-date rate is 7.5 per 10,000 trips vs. a rate of 8.33 for the same period last year. The complaint rate decreased to 4.81 per 10,000 trips on the OmniLink service in October while the year-to-date rate is 5.06 per 10,000 trips vs. 4.53 for the same period as last year.

Mr. Howell reported that the Customer Satisfaction Survey results show a decline in the satisfaction levels on the OmniLink service. An analysis of the survey comments and customer comments (six months prior) received via Customer Service is being conducted and an action plan will be submitted to the PRTC Planning and Operations Department by November 14th.

Mr. Howell noted that the vehicle maintenance audit will commence on Monday, November 10th and results similar to the previous audit are expected. He went on to note that the Maintenance Department was awarded the ASE Blue Seal, marking two years in a row that the Maintenance Department has received this laudable distinction. He also noted that the performance measure -- miles between service interruptions -- for the month of October is 6,085, the best it has been in over two years.

Mr. Howell reported that First Group America has been awarded the National Safety Council's "Green Cross Medal". He explained that the award is issued annually to one company nationally deemed an innovator in safety and employee health. The award will be presented to First Group America at the next National Safety Council Dinner in April 2009.

On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Way congratulated the October 2008 Operator-of-the-Month, PRTC-FT Bus Roadeo award recipients, and First Group America.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RES 08-11-01 Minutes of October 2, 2008.
[PRTC\Minutes]

Commissioner Principi moved, with a second by Commissioner Jenkins, to approve the Minutes as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. (PRINCIPI\JENKINS, UNANIMOUS)

8. AGENDA APPROVAL

RES 08-11-02 Agenda of November 6, 2008.
[PRTC\Agenda]

Commissioner Principi moved, with a second by Commissioner Milde, to approve the Agenda as amended (Item 12-B.5 – Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Annual FY 2009 Certifications and Assurances added). There was no discussion on the motion. (PRINCIPI\MILDE, UNANIMOUS)

9. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

RES 08-11-03 Consent Agenda of November 6, 2008.
[PRTC\Consent Agenda]

Commissioner Kelly moved, with a second by Commissioner Nohe, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. (KELLY\NOHE, UNANIMOUS)

RES 08-11-04 A. Treasurer's Report.
[PRTC\Finance]

Approved the Treasurer's Report of August 31, 2008, as presented. (KELLY\NOHE, UNANIMOUS)

RES 08-11-05 B. City of Manassas Request for \$35,000 in 2% Motor Fuels
[PRTC\Manassas] Tax Funds to be Budgeted and Appropriated for a Study of
the Traffic Systems along the Sudley Road Corridor.

Authorized the budget and appropriation of \$35,000 of the City of Manassas' 2% motor fuel tax account for a study of the traffic systems along the Sudley Road Corridor. (KELLY\NOHE, UNANIMOUS)

RES 08-11-06 C. City of Manassas Request for \$780,000 in 2% Motor Fuels
[PRTC\Manassas] Tax Funds to be Budgeted and Appropriated for the VRE
Parking Garage Project, the Dean Drive Extended Project,
and the Maple Street Project, and Authorization to Release
and Supersede PRTC Resolution No. 06-09-08.

Authorized the budget and appropriation of \$780,000 of the City of Manassas' 2% motor fuels tax account for the VRE Parking Garage, the Dean Drive extension, and Maple Street projects releasing and superseding PRTC Resolution No. 06-09-08. (KELLY\NOHE, UNANIMOUS)

RES 08-11-07 D. Authorization for the Executive Director to Award a Contract
[PRTC\Banking Services] to SunTrust Bank for Banking Services.

Authorized to award a contract for a period of three years for banking services to SunTrust Bank and to exercise one additional two-year option. (KELLY\NOHE, UNANIMOUS)

10. VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS (VRE)

[VRE\Info] A. Operations Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes of
October 17, 2008. There were no comments.

[VRE\Info] B. Chief Executive Officer's Report (Oct 08).

Mr. Zehner reported that ridership during the month of October is 9.5% higher than for this time last year. On-time performance is 85% system-wide (83% and 88% on the Fredericksburg and Manassas lines, respectively). He explained that CSX freight trains lost power/broke down on the Fredericksburg line and wet leaves on the track caused problems on the Manassas line.

Mr. Zehner noted that the Crossroads maintenance facility is almost complete. The "engine house" is now in service and a "train washer" has also been installed. The train washer is currently undergoing testing and is expected to be operational next week.

- [VRE\Info] C. Recommended Passenger Rail Plan for Virginia – Intercity and Commuter Rail (10/17/08). There were no comments.
- RES -08-11-08 D. Authorization to Approve the 2008 Legislative Agenda.
[VRE\FY2008
Legislative Agenda]

Mr. Zehner explained that on the federal side VRE proposes to pursue funding for 15 new tier-two locomotives, expansion of commuter rail service to Gainesville-Haymarket, parking expansion, and platform extensions/additions, building on its earlier successful efforts to secure earmarked funds (e.g. a \$5 million earmark already received thanks to Senator Webb's sponsorship for new locomotives). The VRE also proposes to promote amending the current federal liability cap of \$200 million to include third party claims and progressing a comprehensive plan for systematic corridor improvements.

On the state side, Mr. Zehner observed VRE proposes to seek an amendment of the Virginia Code to allow for increased fines and penalties for "fraudulent" tickets. Currently, the law only allows VRE to fine passengers for "invalid" tickets. VRE also proposes the pursuit of amendments of the Virginia Code to: prohibit pedestrians from crossing public thoroughfares at train crossings (i.e., Quantico and Manassas); allow VRE to utilize an independent third party to manage the liability insurance plan to oversee the VRE insurance Trust Fund; a liability cap for commuter rail operations within the state; and additional funding for locomotives, the Gainesville-Haymarket extension, "third track" work on the CSX tracks, and state assistance to replenish the Insurance Trust Fund.

Commissioner Ellis asked who will enforce the new train crossing law at the Quantico and Manassas VRE stations. Mr. Zehner answered that the CSX, Quantico, and Prince William County police will be able to issue citations.

As discussed at the October 2008 VRE Operations Board meeting, Commissioner Kelly noted that the projects (i.e., platform and restroom improvements, elevators, heaters on the track etc.) specific to the City of Fredericksburg and part of the Master Agreement amendments negotiated are not included in the legislative agenda. He explained that the understanding reached in the course of that negotiation was to assist in obtaining funding for the projects. Mr. Zehner noted that the platform improvements are included in the legislative agenda, but the other projects are not. Commissioner Kelly faulted this, observing that it is at odds with the earlier, negotiated agreement.

Commissioner Milde echoed Commissioner Kelly's sentiments, observing that Stafford County also sought project assistance as consideration for agreeing to the amended Master Agreement. He acknowledged VRE's ongoing efforts in the Stafford-specified projects, and said the County wants to ensure that all the southern member jurisdictions receive what they were promised.

Vice Chairman Way asked if a language modification to the legislative agenda incorporating these thoughts is available this evening. Commissioner Kelly noted that the original list of projects can be provided to Mr. Zehner if the Commission wishes to pass the Legislative Agenda based on the stipulation that the list is included.

Commissioner Jenkins moved, with a second by Commissioner Caddigan, to approve the VRE 2008 Legislative Agenda as presented and actively pursue its elements in coordination with the local jurisdictional and Commission staffs.

Commissioner Milde noted that the Federal Legislative Agenda includes the Brooke and Leeland Stations which satisfies Stafford County's needs as discussed at the last VRE Operations Board meeting, but it does not include specific reference to Fredericksburg. Commissioner Kelly recommended that the Fredericksburg Station be added to the list.

Commissioner Jenkins asked VRE legal counsel if the addition of Fredericksburg poses a problem in terms of the already agreed-upon Master Agreement amendments. VRE Legal Counsel Steve MacIsaac answered "no." At this time, Commissioners Jenkins and Caddigan amended their motion to include a reference to Fredericksburg in the proposed legislative agenda.

Commissioner Nohe noted that any amendment to the Legislative Agenda would have to be contingent on NVTC's concurrence. Mr. MacIsaac explained that the final legislative agenda will be confined to only those elements that are commonly approved, and went on to say that the legislative agenda can be presented to the NVTC "as amended" when they act on it next month.

Commissioner Ellis expressed concern about merely adding only "Fredericksburg" to the language when specific projects should be included. Commissioner Kelly recommended adding "support facilities".

There was no further discussion on the motion. (JENKINS\CADDIGAN, UNANIMOUS)

RES 08-11-09 E. Award Contract for Banking Services and Line of Credit.
[VRE\Banking Services]

Commissioner Caddigan moved, with a second by Commissioner Milde, to enter into a contract with SunTrust Bank for a period of three years, with an option to extend for up to two additional years for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 over the five year period, authorized the VRE Chief Executive Officer to sign any associated banking documents, overdraft protection not to exceed \$ million, and authorized signatories for VRE's accounts include the VRE Chief Executive Officer, VRE Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and VRE Chief Financial Officer. There was no discussion on the motion. (CADDIGAN\MILDE, UNANIMOUS)

RES 08-11-10 F. Update and Recommendation on FY 2009 Mid-Year Fare
[VRE\Fare Increase] Increase.

Mr. Zehner explained that the Commission is being asked to approve a 7% fare increase effective January 2009. He went on to say that public hearings were held to inform the public of two potential fare increases to occur in January and July 2009. The VRE Operations Board will be presented a proposed budget for FY 2010 which includes a fare increase for July 2009. The proposed FY 2010 budget will come before the Commissions in January. He explained that the jurisdictions have made it clear that they cannot incur a subsidy increase in 2010 and VRE is working to exclude a subsidy increase. He noted that a meeting is scheduled tomorrow with the jurisdictional staffs on this subject.

Commissioner Caddigan moved, with a second by Commissioner Milde, to implement a 7% mid-year fare increase for FY 2009 effective January 1, 2009. There was no further discussion on the motion. (CADDIGAN\MILDE, UNANIMOUS)

11. CHAIRMAN'S TIME

[PRTC\Info] A. Group Commissioner picture to be taken at 6:00 p.m. prior
to the January 8, 2009, PRTC Board Meeting.

Vice Chairman Way announced that a Commissioner "group" picture will be taken at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2009.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S TIME

[PRTC\Info] A. Executive Director's Report.

Mr. Harf reported that about 90% of PRTC's fuel is currently locked-in through the end of the fiscal year, now that PRTC has purchased a pair of "futures" contracts for each month. He went on to explain that the remaining fuel (approximately 10,000 gallons per month) will have to be purchased at the "rack" price. As a result, PRTC's negative variance relative to budget has significantly declined compared to what it was in previous briefings to the PRTC Board on this subject.

Mr. Harf noted that the PRTC Executive Committee met earlier this evening to receive the results of the FY 2008 PRTC audit. The audit is spotless and there is no management letter, which is a testimony to the efforts of the Finance Department. At Vice Chairman Way's request, management will be researching investments that the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) makes on PRTC's behalf. The audit findings will be presented to the Commission at its December meeting.

Mr. Harf reported that the SJR-122 Bus Rapid Transit Study Committee met at the PRTC Transit Center on Wednesday, October 22nd. Both Commissioner Hill and the Executive Director made presentations, which are included among the materials appended to the

Executive Director's report. The Committee will wrap up its work efforts by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Harf went on to say that a mid-course correction plan to deal with the rapid rise in fuel prices and the resultant surge in ridership has been developed and is the subject of a PowerPoint presentation to be made this evening introducing three related action items (Items 12-B.1, 12-B.2, and 12-B.3).

[PRTC\
Action Items] B. Action Items:

RES 08-11-11 1. Amendments to Fuel Price Hike Coping Plan.
[PRTC\Fuel]

At this time, Mr. Harf made a PowerPoint presentation to update the Commission on an amended plan to counteract the effects of the rapid rise in fuel prices. A question and answer discussion followed the presentation, as summarized below:

Commissioner Way: Will the additional buses be fully funded without additional money from the jurisdictions? Mr. Harf replied, "yes" and explained that the difference in the recommended OmniRide fare between "not acquiring" the buses and "acquiring" the buses is \$0.25 per trip. This will provide PRTC with adequate resources to completely amortize the cost of the four buses. He noted that no supplemental appropriation is being sought and in large measure the dependency on "general fund" appropriations from Prince William County has disappeared.

Commissioner Way: Why is the Commission being asked to approve two separate plans and then choose one plan? Mr. Harf explained that it is sensible to show the recommendations associated "with buses" and "without buses" scenarios so that the Board has full knowledge of the ramifications of what it is being asked to consider. He explained that the resolutions are written in a way that in the first instance the Board approves both versions of the plan and then, by virtue of what the Board decides on Item 12-B.3, the Board would declare which of the two plans is operative.

Commissioner Principi asked what is the ridership effect associated with the OmniRide fare increase at 12+% vs. 18+%. Mr. Harf explained that at the higher level, PRTC will see about a 4% decline in ridership and, despite the decline, PRTC will see an increase in passenger revenue that is estimated in the 11-12% range. He went on to explain that the financial situation of the member governments has significantly changed for the worse, so the fact that fuel prices have declined doesn't obviate the need for the fare increase.

Commissioner Way asked why PRTC requires a larger increase than VRE. Mr. Harf explained that each increase was sized to fit particular circumstances peculiar to each operation, with differences in fare increase histories and other factors. In PRTC's case, there is chronic overcrowding on the commuter bus routes resulting in "standees". He went on to elaborate that VRE's fare increases have been nominal and at more frequent intervals.

F.D.R. FOX, M.S., M.S.
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

**OPPOSITION TO THE
POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (PRTC)
PROPOSED FUELFARE INCREASE
AND
INDEXING
I Never Thought That I Would See**

Testimony presented to PRTC Meeting Public Session November 6, 2008

To the Chairman, Commissioners my fellow transportation participants and friends...
GOOD EVENING.

The October 2008 idea and agenda item was de-facto tabled to a time certain November 6, 2008 PRTC meeting.

This presentation parallels Maurice Revel's Bolero and Duke Ellington's Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue.

In consideration of my naiveté I Never Thought That I Would See :

1940's fuel costs above 20 cents per gallon at the pump,

1950's an increase in the price of a 5 cent Coca Cola to a machine dispensing a Coca Cola for 7 cents

1968 fuel was 39 cents a gallon at Esso stations

1998

In 2008 an all time high per barrel crude oil price- approximating \$128 to \$168 depending on the Counter to a drop to the current \$68 per barrel. A high fuel pump price of \$3.99 coupled with a PRTC Proposed Fuel Fare Increase associated with a parallel uninterrupted-continuous decline in fuel pump price to the current \$2.14 per gallon price.

LOCAL OR INTRASTATE

to

My relocation from the Nation's Capitol with 24/7 road transportation to Prince William County Virginia with a truncated transportation service that consisted of and consists of service originating approximately 0540 hours and the last Bus departure approximately 2155 hours or 9:55 P.M. Monday through Saturday. No Sunday and major holiday service. September 1998 to September 2008 represents not only 10 years- a decade of my residency but experience in little or no measurable change in the transportation paradigm.

COMMUTER OR INTERSTATE

Service begins generally 0400 hours and approximately 0525 hours for the first Prince William Direct from the Transit Center to Franconia Springfield Metro Station. The return trip generally emanates approximately 1934 hours or 7:34 P.M. to Prince William County. The Prince William Direct departs Franconia Springfield Metro Station to the Transit Center at 2125 hours or 9:25 P.M. with a connection to the last local bus at 2155hours or 9:55 P.M. The last Prince William Direct departs Franconia Springfield Metro Station to the Transit Center approximately 2230 hours or 10:30 P.M. arrives at the Transit Center approximately 2255hours or 10:55 P.M. without a connection to local OMNILINK service.

F.D.R. FOX, M.S., M.S.
PO BOX 11004
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

Continuation of Testimony presented to PRTC Meeting Public Session November 6, 2008

INDEXING

A practical hypothetical cursory review of the minimum wage in Prince William County Virginia and the Living Wage in the Nations Capitol.

Any resemblance in the hypothetical and reality is coincidental.

A mathematical calculation of the average of a hypothetical Minimum Wage of \$5.65 per hour in Prince William County Virginia and a hypothetical Living Wage in the Nations Capitol of \$11.80 = $\$5.65 + \$11.80 / 2 = \$8.73$ per hour.

This calculation provides an adverse impact on Prince William County Virginia Residents employed in Prince William County Virginia utilizing the local or OMNILINK service to local employment venues.

Should you institute this Proposed INDEXING, you would essentially legislate discrimination and compound discrimination by automatically increasing fares without adhering to the national process of providing a "public hearing" on all proposed fare increases. The proposed FARE increase and INDEXING process is not a FAIR FARE increase. It could be labeled unfair.

I concur with a doctrine of decency and fairness and recommend that the proposed fuel fare increase and automatic indexing be withdrawn or tabled.

In closing, I am a graduate of the OLD SCHOOL.

The OLD SCHOOL mandates:

Problem identification be accompanied with a solution and the steps;

1. Problem Recognition,
2. Problem Identification,
3. Proposed Solutions,
4. Selection of a solution with consideration of socio, ethnic, economic and the current environment, and
5. Implementation.

My presentation has completed steps 1, 2, 3 and 4. You have the capability and ability to do the right thing and withdraw or table the Proposed Fuel Fare Increase and Indexing.

I am available for discussion.