

**ITEM 5
October 4, 2018
PRTC Regular Meeting
Res. No. 18-10-___**

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: APPROVE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

ACTION:

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (“PRTC” or the “Commission”) convened its regular meeting at the PRTC Transit Center, located at 14700 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, PRTC conducted business in accordance with a published agenda dated October 4, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby approve the minutes of September 6, 2018.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent from Vote:

Alternate Present Not Voting:

Absent from Meeting:



POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

14700 POTOMAC MILLS ROAD • WOODBRIDGE, VA • 22192 •

PRTCTRANSIT.ORG

MINUTES

PRTC Commission Meeting – September 6, 2018

Members Present

*Ruth Anderson, Chair
*George Barker
*Maureen Caddigan
*John Jenkins
*Jeanine Lawson
*Marty Nohe
*Frank Principi, Immediate Past Chairman
*Jeanette Rishell, Vice Chair

*Gary Skinner, At-Large Member
*Paul Trampe
*Mark Dudenhefer

Members Absent

Matt Kelly
Wendy Maurer, Treasurer
Jennifer Mitchell
Pamela Sebesky, Secretary

Alternates Present

Margaret Franklin
*Jason Graham
D.J. Jordan
Kalai Kandasamy
*Steve Pittard
*Cindy Shelton
*Mark Wolfe

Alternates Absent

Hilda Barg
Pete Candland
Jack Cavalier
Norm Catterton
Hector Cendejas
Todd Horsley
D.J. Jordan
Tim McLaughlin
Suhas Naddoni
David Ross

Jurisdiction

Prince William County
Virginia Senate (**arrived at 7:09PM)
Prince William County (** left at 9:00 PM)
Prince William County (**arrived at 7:09 PM)
Prince William County
Prince William County
Prince William County
City of Manassas Park

Spotsylvania County
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County

City of Fredericksburg
Stafford County
Department of Rail and Public Transportation
City of Manassas

Prince William County
City of Fredericksburg
Prince William County
Prince William County
Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Stafford County
City of Manassas

Prince William County
Prince William County
Stafford County
Prince William County
City of Manassas Park
Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Prince William County
Spotsylvania County
City of Manassas Park
Spotsylvania County

*Voting Member

**Delineates arrival/departure following the commencement of the PRTC Board Meeting. Notation of the exact arrival/departure time is included in the body of the minutes.

Staff and General Public

Karen Adebisi - Citizen	Jacqueline Lucas – PRTC Legal Counsel
Doug Allen – VRE	Monae Nickerson – City of Dumfries
Michael Artson - Citizen	Betsy Massie – PRTC
Paolo Belita – Prince William County	Jerry McIntosh – PRTC
Faith Brown - Citizen	Tonisha Belton – PRTC
Kasaundra Coleman – PRTC	Nydia Blake – Prince William County
Tracy Dean – PRTC	Perrin Palistrant – PRTC
Rob Dickerson – PRTC Legal Counsel	Christine Rodrigo – PRTC
Joyce Embrey – PRTC	Danica Roem, City of Manassas
Cheryl Hall – Citizen	James Salmons – Citizen
Xavier Harmony - Citizen	Mark Scheufler - Citizen
Donnell Johns - Citizen	Bob Schneider – PRTC
Lamarr Johnson – PRTC	Sharon Cornish-Scott - Citizen
Todd Johnson – First Transit	Chuck Steigerwald – PRTC
Ken Jones – PRTC	Nia Tuix – Citizen
Tammi Lambert - Citizen	Zoe Vitter - Citizen
Bob Leibbraundt – Prince William County	
Doris Lookabill – PRTC	

Madam Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call followed.

Approval of the Agenda –4 [RES 18-09-01]

Commissioner Caddigan moved, with a second by Commissioner Principi to approve the agenda, as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. (CADDIGAN/PRINCIPI, UNANIMOUS)

Arrival Commissioner Jenkins and Commissioner Barker at 7:09 PM

Approval of the Minutes of the July 5, 2018 PRTC Board Meeting – 5 [RES 18-09-02]

Commissioner Lawson moved, with a second by Commissioner Principi, to approve the minutes of July 5, 2018, as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. (LAWSON/PRINCIPI, UNANIMOUS)

VRE – 6

Mr. Allen briefed the Board on the following item(s) of interest:

- There were no action items.
- Training with TSA with canine units in July. There was a great response from TSA and other organizations.

- VRE is on schedule and have met criteria for positive train control implementation which is required by the end of the year. They are on schedule to meet implementation date but may get extension for belts and suspenders. They have been approved for extension.
- Good ridership for July but not good for on time performance due to rain and wreaked havoc on railroad signaling system. Rain also caused problems for Amtrak tunnel used to go from L'Enfant to Union station, which caused delays. On time performance for July was under 80 percent.
- July 9th, they opened up storage track that was activated by the L'Enfant station. Prior to that they wouldn't have storage at Union Station for trains and they would run it back to Broad Run. Storage track has been operating well.
- Reported to Operations Board Customer Satisfaction Survey. Saw good improvements with already existing high marks. Significant improvements by 4-6% points on social media presence and ongoing train talks. High marks for new LED lighting and cleanliness (90% rating).
- Submitting build grant application to get money for final design efforts for L'Enfant station. Project will make platform longer and in the center so there can be a track on either side. Half of their riders board at L'Enfant station and it is congested and restricted. Want to use 3 million dollars from federal government and VRE will match that with 3 million dollars from CROC from general assembly.
- Working on budget and at September meeting they will be proposing a preliminary 2020 budget.
- The state has been working on state operating assistance and moving towards a formula based approach for distributing funds for transit systems. Chairman Nohe sent memo that would allow VRE to get fair share for funding distribution.
- Operations Board endorsed important element for Broad Run expansion. Looked at having more assessable parking by expanding Broad Run yard. The board endorsed that parking be endorsed north of the tracks. PWC will be providing 10 million dollars and they have also put in a build grant application that could increase their contribution up to 20 million dollars.
- Doug Allen and Bob Schneider attended a community event in Haymarket to communicate what they are doing with VRE in that area.
- Commissioner Lawson requested updated staff meeting with Christine to get update of Broad Run area. Commissioner Lawson asked if the expansion was explained and Mr. Allen indicated yes.
- Mr. Graham ask if the ballast could be fixed so that it wouldn't be affected by the rain. Mr. Allen indicated that CSX was doing everything they can to ensure it works properly and that it is maintained when we get that much rain.

Citizen's Time - 7

Madam Chair Anderson noted that anyone wishing to address the Commission this evening will have three minutes to speak and for those who do speak to introduce themselves and to state if they are representing an organization or themselves and where they live. She noted that they were being recorded. A number of individuals addressed the Commission (Transcript attached).

Madam Chair Anderson thanked everyone who spoke this evening and noted that the Commission takes everyone's comments very seriously, the comments are recorded, and the Commission will receive the comments in written form.

Approval of the Consent Agenda – 7 [RES 18-09-03]

Commissioner Wolfe moved, with a second by Commissioner Skinner, to approve the consent agenda, as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. [WOLFE/SKINNER, UNANIMOUS]

- Accepted the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Monthly Jurisdictional Financial Report for the Periods of April 30, 2018, May 31, 2018 and June 30, 2018, as presented. [RES 18-08-04]

PRTC Executive Director's Time – 9

Dr. Schneider briefed the Board on the following item(s) of interest:

- Introduction of new Human Resources Director, Becky Merriner
- Announced initiative of SharePoint intranet for employees
- Noted that employee recognition will be done at the October meeting
- Exstare kicked off culture change initiative. Discussed past of the organization. Nancy West is reviewing our policies and will start interviews next month. Dr. Schneider noted that we will provide updates at every meeting.
- Discussed driver shortage in the next 6 – 8 months as WMATA is opening up new facility. Starting wage from WMATA is \$1.50 more than OmniRide offers.
- Article on Metro 29 Platform Shutdown on Yellow and Blue line. Looking at 4-5 different packages. It will be shut down from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- Facility update – we are out of office space and space for busses. We reached out to PWC schools and VDOT to store buses. Looking to spend up to \$10,000 a month to store buses. We are opening Western office in two years to house about 20 employees.
- Fuel tax revenue memo – PRTC is a funding jurisdiction, not a service jurisdiction. Trends - PWC pumped 35 million gallons of gas in PRTC community. 67.7% of fuel tax funds comes out of PRTC fund because of CROC and it goes to VRE. Acknowledge that financial reporting of funds budget is not the easiest to read. The format is being worked on with Joyce Embrey.
- Commissioner Lawson asked if the 67% number comes from ridership. Dr. Schneider and Joyce Embrey answered that it is based on distance and ridership. Commissioner Nohe states that the CROC money is largely driven by how much money were the NVTC able to put in.
- Update on board resolution for EEO Recommendations. We are been going through inventory and audit of employee evaluations. Evaluations are to be completed by September 11th. Mrs. Merriner conducted management and employee training for understanding the ratings of employee evaluations.

Presentations – 10

Strategic Plan Update

- August 18th. held focus group to support transportation development plan and transportation demand management plan. 28 attendees, with a wide range of representation with great discussion.
- Focus group was centered around five questions for TDP and TDMP:
 1. Where should we focus our outreach for partnerships?
 2. When we look at restructuring our local services, should we be focused on a geographic area or areas with high potential for ridership?

3. Should we focus on enhancing areas we already service or should we look in to new areas?
4. In regards to technology should we focus on improving customer experience or internal improvements for efficiency?

Commissioner Lawson comments that she was surprised that the response for social media was low. Commissioner Shelton commented that she attended the focus group

5. What are the most effective ways to communicate services to riders?

- Big take aways: improving internal processes to that we can collect data to tell a story of the services offered; we need to balance ridership and expanding services

Chair Anderson interjected with an offer to other Commissioners to reach out to Chuck for any specific reports in regards to the strategic plan.

PRTC Action Items – 11

Authorization for the PRTC Executive Director to Commence the public participation process for the proposed Prince William County western area local service plan and the proposed Haymarket Express bus service – 11-A [RES 18-09-05]

Dr. Schneider gave a presentation noting that he is looking for approval for the commencement of a public hearing – not approval for funding.

Commissioner Lawson questioned where Commissioner Candland stood on the matter. Dr. Schneider noted that he is supportive of it.

Commissioner Wolfe moved, with a second by Commissioner Principi, to authorize the Executive Director to commence the public participation process for the Prince William County western local service plan and the Haymarket Express bus service. There was no discussion on the motion. (WOLFE/PRINCIPI, UNANIMOUS)

Authorization to Purchase Six 45-Foot MCI OmniRide Buses– 11-B [RES 18-09-06]

Commissioner Jenkins moved, with a second by Commissioner Principi, to authorize the purchase of six (6) 45- foot MCI OmniRide buses. (JENKINS/PRINCIPI, UNANIMOUS)

Commissioner Skinner asked if there was always a plan to purchase six buses or more. Dr. Schneider noted that we will be purchasing more since we have a greater replacement fund of Section 53-39 money which is discretionary money from the federal government. We are able to provide the match through a soft match requirement, with no local match. Mr. Skinner asked if we are going to have more 45-foot buses or are we going towards smaller buses. Dr. Schneider noted that the 45-foot buses are commuter class buses.

Authorization to Create Six New Positions to Further Facilitate the Advancement of the Strategic and Vision 2020 Plans – 11-C [RES 18-09-07]

Commissioner Skinner moved, with a second by Commissioner Wolfe, to authorize the creating six new positions to further facilitate the advancement of the Strategic and Vision 2020 plans .(SKINNER/WOLFE, WITH MAJORITY VOTE COMMISSIONER DUDENHEFER ABSTAINED)

Dr. Schneider gave a presentation on the Strategic and Vision 2020 plans and how we are under performing and the opportunity presented for new employees will provide these needs to be met. He noted these positions are not based on the RIF. The new six positions will be offered internally to

OmniRide employees. He noted that as employees fill new positions, we will have continuity and backfill as needed.

Commissioner Skinner asked is this in addition to their current job, what happens to their previous position? Dr. Schneider indicates we will backfill or consolidate duties. Commissioner Skinner asks if we will backfill from outside. Dr. Schneider says it will be internal. Commissioner Skinner asks about backfilling internally. Dr. Schneider notes that we will backfill as appropriate.

Commissioner Rishell asks for confirmation that the six new positions are not dependent on the reduction in force funding. Dr. Schneider says, absolutely.

Commissioner Lawson asks if positions are a shift or additional responsibilities. Dr. Schneider notes that we are shifting.

Commissioner Graham asks who is responsible for the (upcoming) mobile app, noted by Dr. Schneider. Dr. Schneider notes that Technical Support Specialist will.

Senator Barker asks if these positions are within the existing budget and if some of the positions may not be backfilled. Dr. Schneider notes that the Graphic Designer position will be funded out of the new tax floor revenues.

Commissioner Principi asked how many of the new positions are dedicated to the implementation of the strategic plan vs the needed core services. Dr. Schneider responds that the Safety Security Manager is a core services element and it also is a federal mandate and required by 2020. The Vanpool is grant funded.

Authorization to Approve Pursuit and Subsequent Transfer of Federal Transportation Administration Discretionary Passenger Ferry Grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation – 11-D
[RES 18-09-08]

Commissioner Principi moved, with a second by Commissioner Caddigan, to approve pursuit and subsequent transfer of federal transportation administration discretionary passenger ferry grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation. (PRINCIPI/CADDIGAN, UNANIMOUS)

Commissioners Nohe, Lawson and Caddigan recognize Commissioner Principi's work in this effort. Commissioner Skinner asks who is paying for the \$845,000 match? Commissioner Principi states that FTA allows for payment out of cash or through in kind real estate property. In the case of the capital improvements at the Occoquan Harbor Marina, the in kind would be funded by the property owners and developers who are also building out in the area so they would be absorbing the cost as the in kind match. He is not asking PRTC to fund anything. Chair Anderson notes for complete transparency they need to discuss the quarter FTE that will be administering the FTA grant – she asks Commissioner Principi to explain it. Commissioner Principi notes that he is asking PRTC to become a grant administrator of an already awarded 4.2 million dollar grant from FTA. That grant was applied for, and awarded to VDOT. VDOT is interested in moving it to a local agency that has the legal authority to implement it. In order for PRTC to do that, we are currently estimating that will take about a quarter of one individual to do that. The six new positions don't include any grant administration so that it off of the table. None of the six positions will serve as a grant administrator. In the resolution, it notes that PRTC will pursue funding for staffing, sufficient to administer the FTA grant from any eligible federal, state or local grant. PRTC also has Commission authorization to pursue funds from local government entities that may benefit from this new service. The group that has moved this along over the years

has raise 5.5 million dollars for a passenger ferry. They have grants that they are sitting on now that haven't been spent and they are aggressively applying for other federal grants. We are not asking PRTC to fund the .25%. That funding will come from an outside grant. It has to be under the PRTC umbrella because they are the only organization in this region that can legally administer this. There is no cost match or staffing cost here for PRTC. The service that is being proposed by eastern Prince William, Occoquan Harbor Marina, to join the Department of Homeland Security, are not competing with bus and rail service because PRTC and VRE do not go there. We are looking at two, 400 pound, high speed catamarans in the water in the am and pm, Monday through Friday, on one-hour increments. We would be taking a million people off of interstate 95 with this new innovative carry service that 32 cities in the country are already doing.

Commissioner Skinner asks, how do we determine which locality gets to benefit from this? Dr. Schneider answered, that one of things looked at was being cognizant at allowing communities to say yes to participating in the service, there is no obligation. This is a step to work with FTA.

Commissioner Graham asks, how did you estimate the potential ridership? Commissioner Principi states that they are in their 5th study and did a formal market analysis. There are 6,000 employees in a 15 minute driving radius. There is a high level of confidence on projections, with the ferry cutting travel time in half to 45 minutes.

Concurrence with PRTC Board Representative Appointment to the VRE Operations Board – 11-E [RES 18-09-09]

Commissioner Principi moved, with a second by Commissioner Lawson, to approve concurrence with PRTC Board representative appointment to the VRE Operations Board. There was no discussion on the motion. (PRINCIPI/LAWSON, UNANIMOUS)

Authorization to Approve FY19 Schedule and Bus Stop Display Production Task Orders– 11-F [RES 18-09-10]

Commissioner Nohe moved, with a second by Commissioner Principi, to approve FY19 schedule and bus stop display production task orders. There was no discussion on the motion. (NOHE/PRINCIPI, UNANIMOUS)

Authorize the Executive Director to Execute a Letter of Agreement Documenting the Responsibilities for Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) Between the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)–11-G [RES 18-09-11]

Commissioner Wolfe moved, with a second by Commissioner Nohe, to authorize the Executive Director to execute a letter of agreement documenting the responsibilities for Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) between the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB).There was no discussion on the motion. (WOLFE/NOHE, UNANIMOUS)

Authorize Closed Meeting of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission – 11-H [RES 18-09-12]

Commissioner Principi moved with a second by Commissioner Lawson to authorize a closed meeting of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. There was no discussion on the motion. (PRINCIPI/LAWSON, UNANIMOUS)

Certify Closed Meeting – 11-I [RES 18-09-13]

Commissioner Lawson moved with a second by Commissioner Skinner to certify a closed meeting of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. There was no discussion on the motion. Closed session discussion was about Dr. Schneider's first year of employment and his employee incentive measures. (LAWSON/SKINNER, UNANIMOUS)

Approval of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Executive Director's Performance Review – 11-I [RES 18-09-13]

Commissioner Nohe moved with a second by Commissioner Skinner to approve the Potomac and Rappahannock and Transportation Commission Executive Director's performance review. There was no discussion on the motion. (NOHE/SKINNER, WITH MAJORITY VOTE COMMISSIONER GRAHAM ABSTAINED)

PRTC Chairman's Time – 12

Madam Chair Anderson presents the first read of the bylaws and notes that there will be a vote in October. The bylaws were last amended in 2010. She notes the updates were needed as some of the laws were not up to Virginia code.

PRTC Bylaws – 12-A [RES 18-09-15]

Commissioner Rishell moved with a second by Commissioner Skinner for the first reading of the PRTC Bylaws amendment. Commissioner Rishell moved to amend the amendments further by adding section B.4, for evaluation for Executive Director. Whenever Executive Director is evaluated, input will be sought from all regular Commissioners in addition, input will be sought from all regular attending alternate Commissioners who have attended a majority of the regular meetings held during the subject evaluation period. There was no discussion on the motion. (RISHELL/SKINNER, UNANIMOUS)

Other Business/Commissioners' Time – 13

Chair Anderson mentions engagements for Commissioners.

Adjournment – 14

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Madam Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Information Items

There were no comments.

NEXT MEETING: October 4, 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: PRTC Transit Center
14700 Potomac Mills Road, 2nd Floor
Woodbridge, VA 22192-6811

DRAFT

Transcript of September 6, 2018 Citizen's Time

Delegate Danica Roem (Virginia House of Representatives)

Thank you very much Supervisor Anderson and to all the board members here thank you very much for having me. My name is Danica Roem, I'm the State Delegate from the 13th District, which includes the City of Manassas Park (thank you Mayor) as well as the Prince William County portions of Haymarket, Manassas and Gainesville, home to uh Bob Schneider, so two of my constituents up here which is great. And I'm a constituent of Ruth Anderson as well as Senator Barker, so it's nice to see you all up here as well. And just to kind of start with, one of the things we had talked about at the Haymarket town hall meeting is the importance of making sure that we actually have bus service out in Haymarket by the time that the 66 tolls uh open, and the main reason for this is that if we are going to have tolls on I-66 and there are plenty of people on both sides of the issue who are here today, and so rather than litigate that, what I want to mention to this is that if our commuters have to, you know, basically either put themselves onto I-66 in the public access lanes or they have to choose between the tolls and that's it and they don't have any other mass transit options out in Haymarket, that's going to cause a big problem and a big fuss for a lot of my constituents who live out in Haymarket, who live out in Gainesville. So any moves that the um basically that the PRTC can do to make sure that we do have that bus service coming up by the time that that opens, I guess what, that's early next year that's supposed to come online, January. I know um I know um Mr. Schneider's been um talking to me a lot about this. He's really had his um eye on the ball with this so thank you for your advocacy on that. And so just as he makes his presentation tonight for that bus service I would certainly um second and support any notion that we can do to make sure we have bus service as soon as possible out in that parking lot that's going to be near uh Route 15, I-66 and Route 55 over in Haymarket and as one of my other constituents here will be talking about, about increasing bus service on Route 28 in the years to come, uh I absolutely support that once we have the existing infrastructure there to support it. So thank you all very much for your time, appreciate it.

Mark Scheufler (Citizen)

Good evening Commissioners. My name is Mark Scheufler. I am a Prince William County resident in the Coles District. Thank you for the opportunity to uh speak on uh transit service in Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park. I wanted to bring up two opportunities to your attention uh regarding future OmniRide service. The first uh Delegate Roem had mentioned is service on Route 28. I strongly recommend OmniRide begin planning for OmniRide service uh from the Manassas Park VRE Station along 28 to Tysons Corner via the I-66 Express Lanes starting in 2022 um when the express lanes are

done and the widening of Route 28 is done in Fairfax County as well as the parking garage in Manassas Park is completed. The main justification for this route is the dense development uh residential nodes next to the Manassas Park VRE and the 1260 dwelling units being built at uh the Orchard Ridge development along 28 uh near Bull Run uh that was approved by Prince William County back in the 1980's. Uh, these are two of the densest locations in the entire (inaudible) county and they have limited or no bus service. Uh, the reason I bring this up now is following discussion of improvements on Route 28 in Prince William County, there really is limited mention of transit service to supplement the upcoming capacity improvements. Transit needs to be integrated in the solution and not just be an add-on or afterthought in the process. I encourage OmniRide to coordinate with Fairfax County on their widening project to uh improve travel times in the corridor. Um, their comp plan calls for HOV lanes on Route 28 south of 66, um it's just with all the continuing growth in the area it's imperative that we add transportation options along 28 or we're just going to end up in the same uh predicament we're at now with significant congestion just a few years after the uh capacity permits are made. Second, I uh would like to strongly integrate, strongly recommend that uh OmniRide uh integrate autonomous vehicle technology into the strategic plan based on the industry wide driver shortage, bus driver shortage, and the current progression of autonomous vehicle technology. There should be no reason why uh free, all day, high speed autonomous bus service with Metro-like frequency is uh, that there's no reason it couldn't be provided from the planned park and rides near the new western maintenance building and Vienna Metro, the park and rides to Vienna Metro along the bi-directional uh I-66 managed lanes, unlike 95 which is only one direction, which gives it more liability. OmniRide is in a unique position to be a leader in providing a real-world application for autonomous vehicle service and help Northern Virginia be an all-weather test bed for autonomous technology applications. If successful, this could lead to the imitation of high speed capacity bus transit service along 66 with stops in Centreville, Springfield and Fair Oaks uh that were preserved and actually (inaudible) median. [Chair Anderson: Mr. Scheufler, can you] Uh, ok yeah um, this type of service will help reduce automobile demand, it provides backups for slug lines along the corridor and help lower the average tolls on the express lanes. I would recommend that you guys uh submit an RFI industry to understand the feasibility of this. In closing, I just hope you add these to the I-66 transit plan so funding can be available from the future outside the Beltway transit fund. Thank you.

Jerry McIntosh (PRTC)

Jerry McIntosh, QA for, I better get used to all so say it gotta say OmniRide okay. I think that uh we need to concentrate on, and the young man that spoke about bus drivers, let's concentrate on keeping the ones that we have, we don't to be shuttling bus drivers around. If we make an environment that everybody can work in, everybody can it can be a peaceful environment, everybody will stay here. We like to have 15-20 year patches on 'em. Let's work on safety, let's work on our service, let's work on being better. We work for the people of Prince William County. We are servants, we are servants all of us. Good to see you all good politicians in here working together. We work for the people of Prince William County.

Tonisha Belton (PRTC)

Good evening. I'm Tonisha Belton, dispatch for PRTC and I'm just here to um touch on the base suggest we work for the people of Prince Georges, Prince I'm sorry, Prince William County and over the past month we've been failing our people of Prince William County. We have missed 1700 passengers plus in the past month from dropped trips because we are not treating our operators' right. We are not retaining our operators and we just need to learn to work together and think about our choices that we're making moving forward because we are failing our community.

Ken Jones (PRTC Dispatch Manager)

Good evening, I'm Ken Jones, Manager of Dispatch. Um, I had a speech written, but I'm gonna piggyback on what Jerry and Tonisha just brought out and that's our operators. Um, we look at them sometimes as, as dispensable. Uh, I know the Executive Director likes to put us all under a big tent and say you know that there's 200 and some odd people working here, but the systems that we're, that they're under is totally separate. It's the haves and the have nots. It's separate and unequal. Bus operators, they don't get a pension. The health insurance is inferior, so you know you talk about retaining operators and an operator shortage industry wide and it's not just here at this agency, but the easy thing is to just keep contracting out, contracting out. But you look at those agencies that don't contract out and those that do and you look at the retention level, it's totally different. So at the end of the day contracting isn't the end all and be all of everything. Yes it's easy to do because the responsibility is not on you anymore, it's on somebody else to hold their feet to the fire. But, the operators, my dispatchers, they all contribute to this service running efficiently and effectively and we gotta pay attention to that. You know, we stood up here and we just took the pledge and the last three words of that pledge is justice for all and those are things I ask you to consider because we've been coming up here since December and it's a long time to have people in limbo, wondering if they're gonna be having a job or not. So I just ask for you, before you consider any other decisions or proposals to make a decision on what you're gonna do with the RIF proposal that was on the table. Thank you.

Nia Tuix (General Public)

Good evening, Nia Tuix, Greater DC Chapter National Action Network founded by our great president, Reverend Dr. Al Sharpton. Since December ma'am we've come here to stand in defense of justice for the Potomac PRTC Thirteen, Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission. The thirteen, eleven Blacks, one Jewish gentleman, one Hispanic who have all contributed one hundred percent to PRTC. There was a lady that was here last month, uh two months ago uh that was allegedly looking to see about whatever you know you hired her for to help with the situation, because the situation has been wrong uh against the employees who have contributed a hundred percent effort. These are career

conditioned employees, fathers, wives, they want their children to go to college, they are mortgage owners, car note payments like everybody else in here. And yet, instead of thank you, they are faced with a proposal with no merits, filled with racism and lies, according to our investigation. Also, on my table recently I've heard about a sexual investigation that we're looking into, very serious uh sexual harassment has been brought to our attention. We're not, I'm not accusing but I'm looking at it and it's very serious. Um, two cases. One with two Caucasians with getting tapped on their hands lightly about it and the other a black woman and another woman. Those are very serious allegations for PRTC thirteen, well PRTC. We are coming here for the right reasons because you have great employees that are systematically singled out from doing a good job and asked to be kicked out of the agency. We hope you've taken a look and uh I don't know where the lady is that was here two months ago and she was supposed to be talking to people and giving a fair assessment. But these are serious charges, nobody sittin up here wants to be wearing shoes that you might be RIF'd from your skin color, that's insane. It's not right and uh we're standing on the side of justice and hope that the assessment that you have come up with is fair and justice for all. I thank you Madam Chairman for allowing me to speak.

Marcus Short (General Public)

Marcus Short from Prince William County, forty some years. I look around this table, the gentleman was sitting here and I think I see the gentleman from Fredericksburg that uh eloquently uh put some things before the board the last time we were here. Uh, this is not a Mickey Mouse operation. It's serious, it involves young women, young men, old people getting from one place to the other. So it deserves concrete lookin at and making sure things are done in the right way and that's the name of the tune. When it comes down, I keep hearing things about race. I mentioned it last time, every one of us in here came from Ham, Shem or Japheth. Those were the sons of Noah. So race has no business in this operation. It's that we're doing things for the benefit of one another and that's the name of that tune. Thank you very much.