



# MINUTES

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 14, 2021

Virtual ZOOM Meeting

Livestreamed at [YouTube.com/PRTCtransit](https://www.youtube.com/PRTCtransit)

### Members Present

\*Victor Angry  
\*Andrea Bailey, At-Large  
\*Kenny Boddy (arrived 7:30 p.m.)  
\*Margaret Franklin, Chair  
\*Jeanine Lawson  
\*Yesli Vega  
\*Tinesha Allen  
\*Cindy Shelton, Secretary  
\*Pamela Sebesky, Vice Chair  
\*Matthew Kelly  
\*Deborah Frazier, Treasurer  
\*Gary Skinner  
\*George Barker

### Members Absent

Jeanette Rishell, At-Large  
Jennifer Mitchell  
Lee Carter  
Elizabeth Guzman

### Alternates Present

\*Bennie Smith  
Kalai Kandasamy  
Kim Short  
Tom Coen  
Ralph Smith (arrived 7:27 p.m.)  
Alanna Mensing (departed 7:29 p.m.)  
\*Darryl Moore  
\*Todd Horsley

### Alternates Absent

Ann Wheeler  
Pete Candland  
Maggie Hansford  
Meg Bohmke  
Preston Banks  
Jason Graham  
Tim McLaughlin  
David Ross

### Jurisdiction

Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Stafford County  
Stafford County  
City of Manassas  
City of Fredericksburg  
Spotsylvania County  
Spotsylvania County  
Virginia Senate

City of Manassas Park  
Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Virginia House of Delegates

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

Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Stafford County  
City of Manassas Park  
City of Fredericksburg  
Spotsylvania County  
Spotsylvania County

\*Voting Member

Arrivals/departures following the commencement of the PRTC Commission Board Meeting are notated with the approximate arrival/departure time.

**Staff and Public on ZOOM**

Dr. Robert A. Schneider, PhD – PRTC  
Doris Lookabill – PRTC  
Carl Roeser - PRTC  
Becky Merriner – PRTC  
Christine Rodrigo – PRTC  
Perrin Palistrant – PRTC  
Joyce Embrey – PRTC

Joe Stainsby – PRTC  
Barbara Murdock – Keolis  
Rich Dalton – VRE  
Mark Schofield – VRE  
Steve MacIsaac - VRE  
Dwight Buracker – PBMAres  
Sharon Pandak – Greehan, Taves & Pandak

Chair Franklin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. noting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to PRTC Commission Resolution No. 20-05-01 dated May 7, 2020, this meeting of the PRTC Board of Commissioners is being conducted virtually via Zoom. Public access for this meeting is being provided via livestreaming on PRTC's YouTube channel. The public was given notice on PRTC's website, Facebook, at the Transit Center, and in InsideNova and the Free Lance-Star. The Chair then read an announcement detailing procedures for the electronic meeting. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Chair Franklin welcomed new PRTC Alternate Commissioners Kim Short and Kalai Kandasamy from Prince William County, Thomas Coen from Stafford County, and Alanna Mensing and Darryl Moore from the City of Manassas Park. Roll Call followed.

**Approval of Agenda – 4 [RES 21-01-01]**

Commissioner Angry moved to approve the agenda with a second by Commissioner Sebesky. There was no discussion on the motion. (ANGRY/SEBESKY; UNANIMOUS)

**Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2020– 5 [RES 21-01-02]**

Commissioner Shelton moved with a second by Commissioner Bailey. There was no discussion on the motion. (SHELTON/BAILEY; MOORE ABSTAINED; UNANIMOUS)

**Virginia Railway Express Chief Executive Officer's Time – 6**

Mr. Dalton updated the Board on the following items:

- VRE continues to operate at a reduced service level
- VRE continues to manage and enhance the health and safety measures implemented system wide in 2020
- VRE recently completed the pre-registration process for COVID-19 vaccinations for staff and contracted service providers through local health departments. Public transit workers are considered to be essential and are in the 1B category for vaccinations
- December average daily ridership dropped by about 1,000 primarily due to holidays
- December on time performance was 96 percent system wide
- Most staff continue to work remotely, and all business functions are fully operational

**Adopt and Refer the Amended FY2021 and Recommended FY2022 Virginia Railway Express Operating and Capital Budgets to the Jurisdictions – 6.2 [RES 21-01-03]**

Mr. Dalton said the recommended budget totals \$185.9 million. The operating budget includes no change to passenger fares and projects average daily ridership of about 6,000 trips which results in a projected annual fare revenue of \$18.2 million. The budget includes no change to total jurisdiction subsidy over FY21 levels resulting in a total subsidy of \$18.3 million across the nine jurisdictional partners.

VRE was allocated about \$86 million in relief funding through the CARES Act to help offset additional costs and lost revenues. The amended FY20 and recommended FY22 operating budgets reflect the projected use by fiscal year, and there's a table showing that information in tonight's packet.

Regarding capital improvements, the recommended budget continues to include an integrated set of projects and programs that will improve passenger safety and operational efficiency to maintain VRE in a state of good repair and expand capacity. Full funding for the projects in FY22 through FY27 totals \$816.6 million using current cost estimates at the year of expenditure. Of this total, about \$705 million, or 86 percent, is funded from a range of federal, state, regional, and local sources.

Commissioner Bailey moved with a second by Commissioner Frazier. Commissioner Lawson asked how much of the \$86 million received from the federal government for COVID has been spent. VRE CFO Mark Schofield said VRE has drawn about \$3 million from the CARES Act money for the deficit in the fourth quarter of FY20. VRE is preparing a draw for the first quarter of FY21 that will be about \$8 or \$9 million and will make a draw for the second quarter that will also be around \$8 million. There's no deadline for spending CARES Act money for transit agencies. (BAILEY/FRAZIER; UNANIMOUS)

**Authorize Closed Meeting of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission 6.3 [RES 21-01-04]**

PRTC Sharon Pandak stated that the PRTC Board will go into a closed meeting to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to VA Code § 2.2-3711.A.1. VRE Attorney Steve MacIsaac advised there are actually two items for closed session, both a personnel matter and a real estate property acquisition pursuant to VA Code § 2.2-3711 (3). Commissioner Sebesky moved with a second by Commissioner Bailey. There was no discussion on the motion. (SEBESKY/BAILEY, UNANIMOUS). The closed meeting began at 7:22 p.m.

Commissioner Ralph Smith arrived at 7:27 p.m.

Commissioner Mensing departed at 7:29 p.m.

Commissioner Boddye arrived at 7:30 p.m., and Commissioner Bennie Smith became a non-voting alternate.

**Certify Closed Meeting – 6.4 [RES 21-01-05]**

At 7:47 p.m., Chair Franklin asked for a motion certifying that the PRTC Board only discussed those matters that are legally allowed during the closed session, pursuant to VA Code § 2.2-3712. Commissioner Angry moved with a second by Commissioner Bailey. There was no discussion on the motion. (ANGRY/BAILEY, UNANIMOUS)

**Approve a Limited Waiver of Conflict of Interest for McGuire Woods LLP Arising from its Representation of JBG Smith Properties in Matters Related to the Crystal City VRE Station Project – [RES 21-01-06]**

Commissioner Lawson moved with a second by Commissioner Angry. There was no discussion on the motion. (LAWSON/ANGRY, UNANIMOUS)

**Public Comment Time – 7**

The Board Clerk was experiencing audio problems and was unable to read two comments that had been submitted. The Commission moved forward with the agenda while the Clerk attempted to regain audio.

**Consent Agenda – 8 [RES 21-01-07]**

Commissioner Skinner moved with a second by Commissioner Bailey. There was no discussion on the motion. (SKINNER/BAILEY, UNANIMOUS)

- **Acceptance of the PRTC Monthly Jurisdictional Financial Report for the Periods Ended September 30, 2020 and October 31, 2020 - [RES 21-01-08]**
- **Authorization to Budget and Appropriate Spotsylvania County's Motor Fuels Tax Funds for Various FY2021 and Prior Transportation Projects - [RES 21-01-09]**

**PRTC Executive Director's Time – 9**

Dr. Schneider updated the Board on the following items:

**Safety and Security**

The January 6, 2021 riots at the U.S. Capitol triggered OmniRide's internal safety and security plans. The plans aren't reviewed in depth in public meetings, but OmniRide was already operating on its Emergency Services Plan. We participated in a regional safety and security call this week along with Prince William County Public Schools, Prince William County Transportation Department and representatives from Arlington, Alexandria, and beyond. We are issuing reminders to employees and passengers to be aware and remain vigilant. Our front line employees have done a phenomenal job and we continue to thank them for their excellence.

#### COVID-19

OmniRide continues to work to keep our fleet and facilities clean and our employees and passengers safe. OmniRide is considered a 1B organization in the COVID-19 vaccine protocols and last Friday, in advance of the state moving into 1B vaccinations we made contact with the Prince William Health Department. We have registered and are awaiting the notification from the health department as we begin the steps to provide information to the health district. Front line workers will be given internal priority for receiving the vaccine.

#### Funding

On December 27, 2020 Congress passed a supplemental CARES funding package with an additional \$14 billion in aid to transit agencies, with approximately \$1 billion for Amtrak and about \$600 million for rural transit systems. The remainder is applied under the same formula that was used in April 2020, however, Congress is treating the two relief packages as a single unit and has set limitations on the percentage of budget an agency can receive. Funds will then flow back to FTA for re-distribution to systems that received funds that were 75 percent or less than 2018 operating funds. OmniRide's prior CARES funding is well below this threshold. Our initial projection indicates OmniRide will receive between \$2 million - \$3 million in this new supplemental package. Prior funds of \$9.3 million were projected to run out by early April, so this is expected to take us through at least the end of July 2021 at our current spending rate. Additional funds will extend that date and also have the potential for redistribution of the supplemental funds. In addition, it's been reported that President-Elect Biden will propose an additional \$20 billion in aid for transportation.

As ridership and revenues return, we will be able to extend these dollars further into the fiscal year and ensure a managed fiscal year with checks and triggers that allow the return of commuter services to match our ridership while achieving our primary goals: protecting the jobs of employees and preserving the services our customers ride with a priority on our local routes.

OmniRide is very appreciative of the federal funds but this is a temporary fix as challenges are coming in the middle of summer. We expect to close the fiscal year on budget and in position to spend any additional dollars to take care of the workforce, Dr. Schneider said.

#### Keolis Update

Keolis General Manager Barbara Murdock updated the Board on the following items.

- Thank you to Chair Franklin and Commissioner Angry who visited the Transit Center to meet employees during the holidays.
- Working closely with Dr. Schneider on the vaccination process and providing safe service for our customers and employees into D.C. over the next week.

Commissioner Angry thanked Ms. Murdock for the transition process and the opportunity to hear from employees about the improvements that have been put into place. Chair Franklin said she appreciates Ms. Murdock's goal of more active interaction between Commissioners and the Keolis/OmniRide staff.

Dr. Schneider wrapped up his report by noting that tonight's materials include an industry article about free transit increasing local business support. OmniRide hasn't charged local fares since the start of the pandemic. Historically we collect about 10% of revenue on local routes. He added that Keolis has done a fantastic job.

### **Presentations and Information Items – 10**

Dwight Buracker of PBMAres presented PRTC's FY20 Audited Financial Statement.

Commissioner Bailey and Chair Franklin thanked Mr. Buracker for his work and for making the information easy to understand.

### **PRTC Action Items – 11**

#### **Authorization to Accept the PRTC FY20 Audited Financial Statements, Required Communication to the Commissioners, and PBMAres LLP Management Letter 11.1 - [RES 21-01-10]**

Commissioner Kelly moved with a second by Commissioner Bailey. There was no discussion on the motion. (KELLY/BAILEY; UNANIMOUS)

#### **Authorization to Apply for and Accept Funding for FY2022 – FY2023 I-395 Commuter Choice Projects – 11.2 - [RES 21-01-11]**

Dr. Schneider said five of the seven projects are the continuation of existing routes or services; the other two are directly related to vanpools. These projects are funded entirely through the I-395 project agreement. Commissioner Bailey moved with a second by Commissioner Boddye. Commissioner Shelton thanked everyone for their work to run routes from Stafford County and said Stafford supports this new grant request. Commissioner Horsley said he will abstain because DRPT makes a funding recommendation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. (BAILEY/BODDYE; HORSLEY ABSTAINED; UNANIMOUS)

### **Public Comment Time**

Chair Franklin asked the Board Clerk to read the submitted comments now that her audio problems were resolved. Two comments were received, read into the public record, and are attached to this document.

### **Chair's Time - 12**

#### **Election of the 2021 PRTC Officers 12.1 – [RES 21-01-12]**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Commissioner Sebesky put forth the following nominations for PRTC's 2021 Officers:

Margaret Franklin, Prince William County as Chair  
Jeanette Rishell, City of Manassas Park as Vice Chair  
Pamela Sebesky, City of Manassas as Secretary  
Deborah Frazier, Spotsylvania County as Treasurer  
Andrea Bailey, Prince William County as At-Large  
Cindy Shelton, Stafford County as At-Large

Commissioner Sebesky asked for other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Commissioner Lawson moved with a second by Commissioner Angry. Commissioner Sebesky thanked members of the Nominating Committee for being responsive to the task of putting together the slate of officers. Commissioner Moore said Commissioner Rishell couldn't be at tonight's meeting but is honored to be nominated as vice chair. (LAWSON/ANGRY; UNANIMOUS)

On behalf of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, Commissioner Angry said their decision to elect Chair Franklin to a second term as PRTC Chair is an opportunity to allow her to finish what she started during 2020 which was a trying year with the pandemic and a contractor transition. Chair Franklin thanked Commissioner Angry.

#### **Concurrence with Member Jurisdiction Appointments to the VRE Operations Board 12.2 – [RES 21-01-13]**

Commissioner Moore moved with a second by Commissioner Vega. There was no discussion on the motion. (MOORE/VEGA; UNANIMOUS)

### **Commissioners' Time - 13**

Many Commissioners wished everyone happy new year and congratulated the new PRTC officers.

Commissioner Boddye said transportation will be needed throughout the community once residents get the vaccine and people return to work.

Commissioner Skinner expressed concerns about the letters read during public comment time. He asked Dr. Schneider to provide an update at the next meeting including details about the schedule for the driver with the longest run. Dr. Schneider said an analysis will be put together for the February meeting.

Commissioner Barker said state general fund revenues for the first six months of the fiscal year appear to be 8 percent above last year's figures which will help unfreeze funding. On the transportation side, revenues are up largely because of the transportation bill passed last year but are still a bit behind projections because of the reduction in driving which has caused a decrease in gas tax revenues. In the long term things look good. There's \$250 million in federal funding for transportation, with no restrictions on how it can be used, that Sen. Warner helped to get into legislation that was passed in late December. In addition, the Governor's proposed amendments to the budget includes \$50 million to begin the process of developing extensive rail capacity between the Northern Virginia and Washington DC area to Roanoke, VA.

Chair Franklin thanked everyone for their vote of confidence in electing her to a second term as Chair and said she's optimistic for the future. She also thanked Commissioner Sebesky for serving as PRTC vice chair last year. She commended PRTC staff for being patient with the transition, and Keolis for jumping on board. Addressing Commissioner Skinner's request, she said everyone will have an opportunity at the next meeting to understand how the runs are structured.

### **Adjournment – 14**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Franklin entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bailey moved, with a second by Commissioner Boddye. There was no discussion. (BAILEY/BODDYE; UNANIMOUS)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

## Christine Rodrigo

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**From:** Moses Ismerio <mosesismerio@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 5:06 PM  
**To:** Christine Rodrigo  
**Subject:** Drivers in Woodbridge

My mom told me just now that she sent you an email you would read out loud to the transportation committee. Since this is too late, please read it at the next meeting.

My dad is a driver in Woodbridge. Today is his birthday ☺ Right now he has a schedule that requires him to be at the yard just after 4am and he gets home at night at about 830pm. He has a 7 hour "split" in between his shifts so he drives to Fredericksburg every lunch and back to Woodbridge. At night he has almost exactly 8 hours to commute, eat and sleep. That's not enough! So he sleeps on his lunch break sometimes. I'm one of 6 kids. We need our dad. He commutes for 4 hours every day just to be in our lives. That is part of being a bus driver of commuters, I understand. However if he had just a few more hours at night, he could get a proper sleep and not rush while driving. He could even eat dinner with us and not rushed. Every day my mom reminds us to have everything ready to maximize time with dad.

My mom has been trying to help my dad get a better schedule with this recent "bid". The company is refusing to let her in and can't answer most of her questions, and is treating her like she is so problematic. All she is trying to do is help my exhausted dad have one less stress. When dad is stressed, his risk of an accident is higher. Dad could kill people if he wrecks his bus! His passengers don't wear seat belts like the drivers. Mom always tells him to "be safe".

I am 19 and I just got my license. I don't want to be on the road with drivers who are sleepy. I don't want to be on the road with drivers who have no scheduled lunches. Mom said the drivers with "straight" schedules meaning no split shift, most have no lunch or breaks scheduled. That's legal in Virginia, but for a bus driver to never walk in 8 hours, they risk blood clots that can kill them! Denying people a lunch break or even a break to walk for 8 hours seems cruel to me. Yes, they "might" get 5-10 minutes here and there, but if it's not scheduled, they "might" not.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. My dad is not my father, my father died. It is so important to me that my dad is able to stay in my life. Please help keep my dad and his co workers safe.

Sincerely,  
Moses DeCarlo

## Christine Rodrigo

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**From:** Elena Ismerio <elenaismerio@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 5:17 PM  
**Cc:** Christine Rodrigo  
**Subject:** Anthony DeCarlo

Mrs. Rodrigo,

Hi. My name is Elena. Can you please read my email next month? My mom said the deadline already passed for today.

Dear Transportation Commission of PRTC,

My mom said the new schedules are not safe. My mom is a smart person, and she gives good advice that has never been wrong, so I trust her. She also used to drive buses in San Diego. My dad has a bad schedule right now that my mom said more drivers are at risk of having schedules like that. He is always sleepy. He is a lot more grumpy and less patient since moving to Virginia. He has to wear his uniform ALL DAY! He leaves around 3:30am and is not done working until after 7:30 at night. He works so hard to provide a good life for us. He has never had an accident, and he never complains that he is tired.

I have been helping my mom with the math of these schedules to find my dad the good ones. Almost all the schedules have less than 10 hours at night between sifts! That's not enough time for life and family. Did you know that bus drivers who drive long distances get a mandatory minimum of 10 hours to rest? Not at my dad's a yard. I don't like this new company. Please make them treat these people like they deserve to be treated: loved family members. That's my dad you are discussing.

I have my learners permit since I am 16, and my parents are teaching me how to drive. This is important to me because I am driving on the road with these buses. I hope they are alert and not distracted.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Elena DeCarlo