



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

CTB Rail Subcommittee Meeting
Minutes
April 19, 2016 at 8 a.m.
Craddock Terry Hotel and Event Center
Granite Hall
1312 Commerce Street
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

CTB Members present:

Jennifer Mitchell
Court Rosen
Jim Dyke
Scott Kasprowicz
Shannon Valentine

Director Mitchell called the meeting to order at 8:03 am.

1. VRE Budget Amendment

Pete Burrus, DRPT Chief of Rail, presented a VRE System Plan Presentation. Please see presentation labelled VRE 2040 Plan.

Doug Allen, CEO of Virginia Railway Express (VRE), presented to CTB members. Please see presentation labelled VRE Briefing to CTB April 2016.

CTB members brought up concerns and questions in regards to VRE's operations, present and future. Members asked the following:

- What if we don't expand VRE, what would it cost to build another beltway?
- What about VA trains going into MD and MD trains coming into VA? General Assembly will need to understand the regional context and economic impacts. It was discussed that VRE is very efficient in operations. Funding for serving major corridors is up to local jurisdictions and pulling from general funds of those localities. VRE is also funded under the Transit Capital Program.
- Clarification is needed on natural growth vs. expansion growth, ridership to capacity is what? How does it compare to Metro North?
- What real economic impact of VRE is to VA? Need emphasize to the urgency of VRE in regards to Metro. What is the operating cost of losing VRE? Third track investments and Long Bridge will strip finances in rail, but growth in VRE, Amtrak, etc. are dependent upon this infrastructures improvements first.

- What is the cost of I-66 road capacity for capacity congestion vs. VRE? How does this effect spending outside of NoVA?
Cost escalation is part of providing funding

Director Mitchell called for VRE to present to the full CTB in July or September.

2. Public Comment – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 am.