



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Commonwealth Transportation Board*

Nicholas Donohue  
Chairperson

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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### **DRAFT MINUTES MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD ACTION MEETING**

VDOT Central Auditorium  
1221 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
February 17, 2026

The action meeting of the Commonwealth Transportation Board was held in the Central Office Auditorium of the Virginia Department of Transportation in Richmond, Virginia, on February 17, 2026. The Chairman, Nicholas Donohue, presided and called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. The Chair suspended the meeting at 11:15 a.m. on February 17, 2026. The Chair called the suspended meeting to order at 11:29 a.m. on February 17, 2026.

**Present:** Messrs. Byers, Coleman, Fowlkes, Good, Gribbin, Lawson, Laird, Minchew, Smoot, Stant, Ms. Dunlop, Ms. Green, Ms. Sellers, Mr. Brich, ex officio, Commissioner of Highways and Ms. Mariia Zimmerman, ex officio, Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation

**Absent:** Mr. Davis

#### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Brandon Davis, Chair, Shenandoah Rail Trail Partnership, addressed the Board expressing his concerns regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail.

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Ms. Kate Wofford, Executive Director of *Alliance for Shenandoah Valley*, addressed the Board expressing concerns with the Shenandoah Rail Trail project, specifically sharing comments from Ms. Sallie Wolf Garrison, Rockingham County Board of Supervisors.

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Ms. Mary Beth Price, Retired, Shenandoah County Valley Administrator, addressed the Board regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail, supporting agenda item 8 on the February 17, 2026 Action agenda.

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Dr. Don Hindman addressed the Board expressing his concerns regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail.

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Mr. Rowan Miller, Valley Railroad Company, addressed the board regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail speaking against item 8 on the February 17 Action agenda.

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Senator Nolan addressed the Board expressing his concerns regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail.

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Mr. Samuel Hadacek, Virginia Cattlemen's Association, addressed the Board, expressing his concerns regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail, speaking against agenda item 8 on the February 17, 2026 Action Agenda.

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Mr. Jim Pfeiffer, SMS Railroad Company, addressed the Board regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail.

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Mr. Joe Perry, Town of Front Royal, addressed the Board regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail,

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Mr. John Henry, John Henry General Store, addressed the Board regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail.

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Mr. Robert Franzen, Railroad Investment Corporate Holdings, speaking against agenda item 8 on February 17, 2026, Action Agenda.

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Ms. Meredith Richards, President, Virginia Rail Policy Institute and Chair, National Association of Rail Passengers, encouraged the Board to not rescind the January 6, 2026, resolution.

Mr. Hobey Bauhan, Virginia Poultry Federation, addressed the Board sharing his support for the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail.

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Mr. Jack Owens, Valley Engineering, addressed the Board regarding the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail.

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Mr. Kevin Walker, Battlefield Foundation, SVRT,

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Mr. Mark Dotson, Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors, addressed the Board expressing his support for the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail and ask the Board not to rescind the January 6, 2026, decision.

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Mr. Ed Knappenger, Harrisonburg Resident, addressed the Board regarding the road infrastructure.

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**Approval of Minutes:**

**January 6, 2026**

Made By: Mr. Fowlkes, Seconded By: Mr. Good  
Motion carried; minutes approved.

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**LOCAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION:**

- Agenda 1.** Action on Recreational Access to the Cleveland Barrens Natural Area Preserve Project 1207-193-105 – Russell County Located within the Bristol District.  
Made By: Mr. Fowlkes, Seconded By: Ms. Dunlop  
Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.  
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**OFFICE OF LAND USE:**

- Agenda 2.** Action on Abandonment – Primary System of State Highways: Previously Discontinued Portion of Route 57 Located in Henry County Located within the Salem District.  
Made By: Dr. Smoot, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.  
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- Agenda 3.** Action on Discontinuance – Secondary System of State Highways Portion of Route 1023 in Giles County Located in the Salem District.  
Made By: Dr. Smoot, Seconded By: Ms. Sellers  
Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.  
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- Agenda 4.** Action on Approval of Proposed Regulatory Amendments to 24VAC30-120, Rules and Regulations Controlling Outdoor Advertising and Directional and Other Signs and Notices.  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Dunlop  
Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.  
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**INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT DIVISION:**

- Agenda 5.** Action on Revised FY26-31 Six-Year Improvement Program Transfers December 13, 2025, through January 16, 2026.  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Mr. Good  
Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.  
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- Agenda 6.** Action on Addition of Projects to the Six-Year Improvement Program For Fiscal Years 2026-2031.  
Made By: Mr. Byers, Seconded By: Mr. Gribbin  
Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.  
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**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:**

**Agenda 7.** Action on Making Efficient and Responsible Investments in Transit Program Review.

Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Dr. Smoot  
Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.

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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION:**

**Agenda 8.** Action on Rescission of January 6, 2026, Resolution and Action Entitled:  
*Agreement with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Relating to the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail.*

Prior to the vote on this item, Mr. Good made a substitute motion for a partial rescission of January 6, 2026, specifically to remove items 1 and 3 of that resolution. Mr. Good's motion, having not received a second, failed.

Mr. Fowlkes then made a motion to approve the rescission of January 6, 2026, resolution, his motion was seconded by Ms. Sellers.

The vote was taken on Mr. Fowlkes' motion with the following members voting to rescind the resolution:

Ms. Sellers, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Fowlkes, Mr. Stant, Dr. Smoot, Mr. Byers, Mr. Laird, Ms. Green, Mr. Gribbin and Mr. Minchew; Mr. Good and Ms. Dunlop voted against the rescission with Mr. Lawson abstaining.

Motion carried, resolution approved.

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**SCHEDULING AND CONTRACT:**

**Agenda 9.** Bids.

Recommending award of Order Number 158  
Located within the Bristol District.

Made By: Mr. Fowlkes, Seconded By: Ms. Sellers  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 159  
Located within the Bristol District.

Made By: Mr. Fowlkes, Seconded By: Ms. Dunlop  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 280  
Located within the Salem District.

Made By: Dr. Smoot, Seconded By: Ms. Dunlop  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 559  
Located within the Hampton District.  
Made By: Mr. Coleman, Seconded By: Mr. Stant  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 281  
Located within the Salem District.  
Made By: Dr. Smoot, Seconded By: Ms. Dunlop  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 340  
Located within the Lynchburg District  
Made By: Ms. Green, Seconded By: Mr. Laird  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 489  
Located within the Richmond District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Mr. Coleman  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 565  
Located within the Hampton Roads District  
Made By: Mr. Stant, Seconded By: Mr. Coleman  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 886 - forward  
Located within the Staunton District  
Made By: Mr. Good, Seconded By: Ms. Sellers  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 910  
Located within the Northern Virginia District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 911  
Located within the Northern Virginia District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 484  
Located within the Richmond District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 161  
Located within the Bristol District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 163  
Located within the Bristol District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 285  
Located within the Salem District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 686  
Located within the Fredericksburg District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number N75  
Located within the Lynchburg District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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Recommending award of Order Number 341  
Located within the Lynchburg District  
Made By: Ms. Sellers, Seconded By: Ms. Green  
Motion carried, bid approved, unanimously.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. on February 17, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Mathis,

Assistant Secretary to the Board

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