

**Joint Meeting between
New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority
and
New River Valley Passenger Rail
Minutes**

January 25, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Assembly Hall – Holtzman Alumni Center at Virginia Tech

Attendees: Dirk Compton, Pulaski County; Angie Hill and Mary Biggs, Montgomery County; Randy Wingfield and Mike Barber, Town of Christiansburg; David Ridpath, City of Radford. Darlene Burcham and Shannon Collins, Town of Pulaski; C.B. Andrews and Ricky McCoy, Giles County; Angela Joyner and Brandon Cohen, Radford University; Lynsay Belshe and Bob Broyden, Virginia Tech; Jerry Ford and Larry Spencer, Town of Blacksburg; Kevin Byrd, Elijah Sharp, and Chris Owens, New River Valley Regional Commission; Reid Broughton, Sands Anderson PC; and Ann Cassell, Blacksburg Partnership.

Others Present: Members of New River Valley Passenger Rail advocacy group
Staff from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Absent: Jonathan Sweet, Pulaski County; and David Horton, City of Radford.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Barber, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 am.

- a. Oath of office for any new appointees—New appointees were sworn in just prior to the meeting being called to order.

II. Minutes from December 15, 2023

Motion: Lynsay Belshe moved for approval of the December 15th minutes.

Darlene Burcham seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Update (VPRA)

- a. Presentation on 30% design update—STV Engineers delivered a 30% engineering design that provides details on station location options, cost estimates, and operation target dates. Option A, Cinnabar Road, was a new site and is estimated to cost \$355M with service by 2028; Option B, NRV Mall Site, is \$785M with service by 2030; Option C incorporates both sites with Option A being temporary and Option B the permanent location. Option C costs \$951M and service dates the same as Option A and Option B.

- b. Anticipated next steps for the NRV project—In the coming weeks, VPRA will be sharing additional details pertaining to Option A at Cinnabar Road to include preliminary engineering site designs and aerial imagery. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process requires continued public engagement. VPRA will be releasing a survey at the public meeting scheduled for January 29th and it will be open until February 29th.
 - c. Group discussion—VPRA plans to take both station locations (Cinnabar and NRV Mall) to 60% design before any decisions are made. The final station location should be determined in late summer/early fall 2024 as the NEPA process evolves with federal reviewing agencies.

- IV. NRV Passenger Rail Update—On behalf of NRV Passenger Rail, Dr. Smoot and Mr. Hincker provided observations and insights on the project progress to date. They reaffirmed the region’s resolve to see this project through to completion and expressed appreciation to VPRA for their commitment to providing service to the region.

- V. Next Meeting Date—February 22, 2024