

New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority

Minutes

February 26, 2026

11:30 a.m.

Pulaski County Innovation Center

Attendees: Angie Hill, Mary Biggs, and Steve Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Mike Barber and Scot Shippee, Town of Christiansburg; C.B. Andrews, Giles County; Jonathan Sweet, Pulaski County; Todd Meredith, David Horton, and Melissa Skelton, City of Radford; Jerry Ford and Larry Spencer, Town of Blacksburg; Angela Joyner and Chris Stafford, Radford University; Dwyn Taylor, Virginia Tech; Kevin Byrd and Chris Owens, New River Valley Regional Commission; and Reid Broughton, Sands Anderson PC.

Others Present: Colin Burch and Jenna Friedberg, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (via Zoom); Ann Cassell, NRV Passenger Rail; Chris Robinson, Wendel; John Neel, Foresight Design Services; and Robert Natale and Alyson Gregorowicz, Wendel (via Zoom).

Absent: Dirk Compton, Pulaski County; Ricky McCoy, Giles County; Todd Day and Shannon Collins, Town of Pulaski; and Lynsay Belshe, Virginia Tech.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Barber, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:45 am.

II. Minutes from February 26, 2026

Motion: Ms. Biggs moved for approval of the February 26th minutes.

Mr. Horton seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. Finance Update

a. Revenue & Expense Report July 1, 2025-December 31, 2025

Mr. Byrd presented the report showing funds on hand of \$263,339.69 in the NRVPRSA account. It was noted that \$200,000 of the balance is restricted match contributions for the ARC Planning Grant.

IV. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Update—Colin Burch and Jenna Friedberg, VPRA

Mr. Burch reported that construction by Norfolk Southern contractors at both the Cambria station and the overnight location in Radford is continuing to progress on schedule. It was also reported that Amtrak would be debuting its Airo fleet later in 2026 that will greatly improve the rider's experience. Ms. Friedberg reported that VPRA has started on the planning and coordination of a service launch event and they would like to conduct a student contest to design an event poster. The board discussed potential options for the student contest.

- a. Historical marker/sign content—Mr. Burch reported that the narrative for the historical marker signage had been submitted to Virginia Department of Historic Resources following reviews by the NRVPRSA.

- V. Architecture/Engineering Building Update—Chris Robinson, Robert Natale, Alyson Gregorowicz, and John Neel (Wendel and Foresight Design)
 - a. Coordination of utility connections—It was reported that the installation plans for all the utilities including fire protection, water, sewer, and electric currently stop two feet from the building. The A/E team, working with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, determined a strategy to work with Norfolk Southern’s contractor to connect the utilities to the building while they are working on site utilities and prior to the parking lot asphalt being laid. This would be an additional cost of approximately \$20,000-\$50,000 to NRVPRSA. The cost and disruption to the site would be much greater if this work was conducted after service begins. VPRA offered to pay for this work initially then add reimbursement by the NRVPRSA to the Term Sheet agreement between VPRA and the Station Authority. It was also reported that the A/E team is still waiting on Amtrak’s approval of the 60% design. Monthly coordination meetings with Amtrak are helping to keep this front of mind for all parties.

- VI. Station Building Construction Cost Share Discussion

Mr. Byrd presented a Station Construction Project Cost Model showing that approximately \$1.3 million would be needed to renovate the passenger rail station and how that would be distributed between the nine partners, if no grant funds were available. Station Authority staff has identified two potential funding sources through Community Project Funding with Congressional offices and the Appalachian Regional Commission. Staff will communicate with the board on any progress with these funding sources or others.

- VII. NRV Passenger Rail Organization Update (Ann Cassell)—

Ms. Cassell reported that David Bailey and Associates continue to follow relevant legislation in Richmond and that the NRV Passenger Rail Organization has a meeting scheduled with the Montgomery Regional Tourism office to begin early discussions on rail service to the region.

- VIII. Next Meeting Date—March 26, 2026

- IX. Adjourn