

New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority

Minutes

October 31, 2024

11:30 a.m.

Pulaski County Innovation Center

Attendees: Angie Hill, Mary Biggs and Steve Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Randy Wingfield and Mike Barber, Town of Christiansburg; C.B. Andrews and Ricky McCoy, Giles County; David Ridpath, City of Radford; Todd Day, Town of Pulaski; Angela Joyner, Radford University; Lynsay Belshe and Dwyn Taylor, Virginia Tech; Larry Spencer and Jerry Ford, Town of Blacksburg; Dirk Compton and Jonathan Sweet, Pulaski County; Kevin Byrd and Chris Owens, New River Valley Regional Commission; and Reid Broughton, Sands Anderson PC.

Others Present: Ann Cassell and Larry Hincker, NRV Passenger Rail; Colin Burch, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; John Neel, Foresight Design Services.

Absent: David Horton, City of Radford; Shannon Collins, Town of Pulaski; Brandon Cohen, Radford University.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Barber, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:54 am.

a. Oath of office for any new appointees—None present.

II. Minutes from September 26, 2024

Motion: C.B. Andrews moved for approval of the September 26th minutes.

Mary Biggs seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. Initial Review of Term Sheet—Reid Broughton, Legal Counsel

a. Roles and Responsibilities document between VPRA and Station Authority—Mr. Broughton presented a draft version of the Term Sheet with proposed edits. There was a discussion about the number of parking spaces with 150 being preferred; requested clarity on the role/responsibility of environmental coordination; establishing of a level of service for the parking area; cite both entities need to agree on the site plan; and the pros and cons of sharing the revenue generated from parking fees.

IV. VPRA Update—Colin Burch and Jenna Friedberg, VPRA

a. Environmental Impact Report Process Underway—Mr. Burch reported that the environmental report was submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) two (2) weeks prior. All public comments due to DEQ by November 12th, anticipate DEQ comments by December 10th.

- b. Site Development Neighbor Notices—Mr. Burch reported that flyers would be sent to all the households in the Cambria area the week of November 4th notifying them Norfolk Southern would begin site development activities to include tree clearing and land disturbances.
- c. VPRA is in the early stages of planning a groundbreaking ceremony in mid-March. Once a date is set invitations will be distributed.

V. Grants Update

- a. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for preliminary Architecture/Engineering costs—Mr. Byrd reported that the Commission is continuing to work with the ARC representative to get the contract for the planning grant so the A/E team can begin work. Final documentation has been provided by the engineering team to satisfy ARC pre-contract requirements.
- b. CRISI grant for construction—Mr. Byrd reported that there are match requirements that would be due next fiscal year (FY26). The board continued the discussion from the previous month on equitable ways to share matching requirements for the project. The question of whether to weigh votes based on percentage of investment was discussed. The concept of a project charter to structure the investment in the station was proposed. Reid Broughton shared the Station Authority legislation and bylaws allow for participation agreements which are intended to layout the methodology of how each project under the Authority will operate in terms of investment, expenses, and roles of those opting into the participation agreement. It was noted that participation agreements are utilized in other authorities in the region such as Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (ie-Commerce Park). Mr. Broughton offered to prepare a draft participation agreement for the November meeting to support further conversation on the investment topic. The board also discussed whether the Town of Dublin was invited to participate in the Authority when it was established. Staff was directed to extend invitation to the Town of Dublin to ensure there is an opportunity to participate.

VI. NRV Passenger Rail Organization Update—Ann Cassell

- a. November 14th Regional Briefing—Ms. Cassell reported that NRV Passenger Rail has scheduled a Regional Briefing to be held on November 14, 2024, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum. This will be an opportunity for the larger steering committee to receive a presentation from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and the NRV Station Authority on the Cambria station location. All members of the Station Authority are invited to attend.

VII. Next Meeting Date—November 21, 2024

VIII. Adjourn