

SUMMARY
Commonwealth Transportation Board
Rail Subcommittee Meeting
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 E. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Members in Attendance: Aubrey Layne, Chairman, Dana Martin, Roger Cole

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Aubrey Layne called the meeting to order and started with Public Comments: no one had any public comments to report.

President of Virginia Rail Policy Institute, Richard Beadles, provided a presentation of Rail and what the Virginia Rail Policy Institute is about. An invitation was extended to their next annual meeting on May 20, 2013 in Richmond, VA.

DRPT Director, Thelma Drake, and DRPT COO, Kevin Page presented a rail update. DRPT comments started with the new "I AM NEW IN TOWN" promotion of Amtrak Virginia with the Norfolk Train. She mentioned that the inaugural train is December 11, 2012 with the first revenue train on December 12, 2012. Staples Mill Station parking and traffic was addressed with potential options on how to fix the situation. Additional information regarding the Norfolk Train was stated that as of October 1st crew training and qualification trains began operating. The train is running at speeds of 75 mph as opposed to 50 mph. Pictures of various sites of construction along the track were provided along with design of the new Norfolk station with a timeline of Spring 2013 to be completed. Currently there is an Amtrak trailer in lieu of the station. DRPT had hopes of receiving the record of decision in regards from Richmond to DC. Due to public comments that need to be addressed and the FRA to review, DRPT anticipates receiving the record within 30-60 days. The VA State Rail Plan and Resource Allocation Plan is in the process of being finalized. DRPT will continue to further public outreach with public meetings and CTB Fall Transportation meetings.

Questions and Comments included Chairman Layne discussing the Virginia Beach Lite Rail and the referendum that will be on the November election ballot. He stated that he is promoting educating citizens with information concerning the need for lite rail in Virginia Beach. The initial poll taken concerning the Virginia Beach Lite Rail was favorable.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.