

**MINUTES OF THE
ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission was held at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Office, Melfa, Virginia, on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Oliver H. Bennett, Chairman
Donald L. Hart, Jr., Vice Chairman
C. Reneta Major, Secretary-Treasurer
Willie C. Randall
Laurence J. Trala
Ron Wolff

Ex-Officio member present:

Steven Hennessee

Nonmembers present:

Larry LeMond, Bay Coast Railroad
J. T. Holland, Bay Coast Railroad
Darrel Feasel, Virginia Regional Transit
Mark McGregor, Virginia Regional Transit

In Re: Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order and indicated that a quorum was present.

In Re: Invocation

The invocation was given by Mr. Bennett.

In Re: Statements from the Public

There were no statements from the public.

In Re: Account Balances

The monthly Assistant Secretary-Treasurer's report showed an ending balance at April 30th of \$13,368.44.

In Re: Minutes of April 2, 2013

Motion was made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Ms. Major, that minutes of the meeting of April 2, 2013 be approved. All members were present and voted "yes". Motion was unanimously passed.

In Re: Public Transportation Report

Mr. Feasel distributed the following Management Report:



STAR Transit Management Report

May 7, 2013

Operations

- ***Driver Training*** - VRT staff hosted a Driver Training workshop at STAR Transit facility on April 23rd. The all hands training was on wheelchair lift and tie down procedures. VRT will continue to host driver training workshops on a regular basis over the coming months.

Transit Capital

- ***FY2013 Bus Capital Program*** - VRT staff is in the process of ordering three (3) bus stop shelters that were approved in the FY2013 Bus Capital Program. These bus stop shelters will be stored at the transit facility until they are installed.

With the indication by VRT of the sometimes difficult process of installing bus shelters within VDOT right-of-way, it was suggested that the local Residency Administrator, Chris Isdell, be invited to attend a future meeting of the ANTDC. VRT officials, however, noted that it would be more productive to wait until after the Transit Development Plan is completed.

Marketing and Outreach

- ***Transit Advertising on Star Transit Buses*** - Tim Brazil with Media Transit contacted over 50 businesses on the Eastern Shore during the week April 8th. Hopefully they will

become prospective advertising partners. Mr. Brazil will continue to follow up with these opportunities.

- **Northampton County Planning Commission Presentation** - VRT management staff will present an overview of the STAR Transit system at the May 7th Planning Commission Meeting. VRT staff also updated the Transportation Data Section (Star Transit Section) of the “Draft” Northampton County Comp Plan for the County Planning staff.

Commission members were provided a copy of the powerpoint presentation (to the Planning Commission).

Also distributed was the financial analysis through March 2013.

Transit Maintenance

- **Preventive Maintenance Program** - All Star Transit vehicles have been serviced for the month of April and all vehicle records are up to date.

Ridership Statistics for March 2013

- **Ridership Statistics** -Star Transit carried approximately 7,608 passengers in April as compared to 5,704 passengers this time last year. This is a 33% increase in ridership. This is also a milestone for Star Transit in that it is the highest monthly ridership in STAR Transit’s history.

Note: *The VRT Management staff will be attending the CTAA Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 4th and will not be able to attend the regularly scheduled ANTDC Board of Directors meeting that evening. A STAR Transit Management Report will be provided as usual.*

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Commission members stressed the need for a route in southern Northampton County.

In Re: State’s Comments

Mr. Hennessee indicated that the draft Six Year Improvement Plan will be provided to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for its review and approval in June 2013.

In Re: Airport Update

Mr. Wolff reported that Wallops and the US Navy have reached agreement for touch-and-go operations beginning in September/October. It is expected that this will involve 150 sailors and 22,000 missions in 3-5 week stretches and represents a \$1.9 million contract.

Mr. Wolff also noted that Orbital's first test launch held approximately two weeks ago, went successfully and the next launch is scheduled for September. He noted that the extremely large volume of visitors resulted in traffic issues for the State Police and he foresaw similar logistic concerns for future launches. There are also opportunities for camping/food sales/souvenirs that may be generated by "space tourism".

In Re: Railroad Comments

Mr. LeMond reported that the railroad had a 90-car increase year-over-year in April. Eighty-seven percent of this traffic was out of Little Creek. He also said that there was a good chance to have a new customer (lumber) loading out of Hallwood. The customer hopes to be in sawmill production in August/September and ship about 100 cars per year and employ 4-5 persons. Lastly, Mr. LeMond stated that repairs to the Wachapreague crossing are scheduled for the week of May 20th and will take 4-5 days.

In Re: Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Randall, that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned.