

**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 Building, Melfa, Virginia, on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Oliver H. Bennett, Chairman  
Donald L. Hart, Jr., Vice Chairman  
C. Reneta Major, Secretary-Treasurer  
Granville F. Hogg, Jr.  
Larry E. LeMond

Absent:

Ron Wolff

Ex-Officio member absent:

Steven Hennessee, DRPT

Nonmembers present:

J. T. Holland, Bay Coast Railroad  
Alex Parry, Bay Coast Railroad  
Joyce Collins, Bay Coast Railroad  
John Maher, STAR Transit  
Billy Moore, Canonie Atlantic Co.  
Bill Parr, Parr Properties  
Linda Cicoira, media  
Paul Muhly, Accomack Board of Supervisors

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 Ms. Major.

In Re: Statements from the Public

There were no statements from the public; however, Chairman Bennett recognized the Hon. Paul Muhly, a member of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Muhly asked if the Bennett Street (Parksley) railroad crossing could be repaired. Mr. Parry responded that this crossing will be reviewed soon for repairs.

In Re: Account Balances

The monthly Assistant Secretary-Treasurer's report showed an ending balance at January 31st of \$28,389.14.

In Re: Minutes of January 3, 2017

Motion was made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Ms. Major, that minutes of the meeting of January 3, 2017 be approved. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Wolff and voted "yes". Motion was unanimously passed.

In Re: Public Transportation Report

The following Management Report was distributed:



**STAR Transit Management Report**

**Operations**

- Weather Related Delays:
  - The major snow storm that dumped up to 12 inches of snow on some parts of the Eastern Shore the weekend of Jan. 7, had a significant impact on our operations:
    - Monday, Jan. 9, all services were cancelled.

- Tuesday, Jan. 10, a 1 ½ to 2 hour delayed start on the Red, Purple and Yellow routes and very limited service on the Green Demand.
- WESR radio 103.3 FM has done an outstanding job disseminating information about our weather closings and delays:
  - This information is also posted on their website [www.shoredailynews.com](http://www.shoredailynews.com).
- Despite the snow storm and 5+ inches of rain in January, ridership has been exceptionally strong:
  - There were 5 days with over 400 rides as of Jan 26:
    - The 472 rides recorded on Thursday, Jan. 19 was the highest single day total for **any** month.
- Talking to Four Corner Plaza in Onley about placing 2 bus shelters on their property.
- Engaging a contractor to install a bus shelter at the Food Lion Shopping Center in Cape Charles.

### **Human Resources**

- Still looking for one PT driver.

### **Facility**

- RFPs went out for the striping and resurfacing of our parking lot.

### **Marketing and Outreach**

- Met with Steven Hennessee, Jan. 11 at our facility.
- Meeting scheduled for Jan 30<sup>th</sup> with ESAAA Director Dianne Musso and her staff to continue talks about a possible partnership:
  - Have been meeting and planning with Katherine Moore, Manager of their Onancock Senior Center about meeting the transportation needs of her clients:
    - The Onancock Senior Center is a stop on our Blue/ Gold Routes.

- As part of a trial program, recently we have been using our existing services to help those who can no longer be transported to the Senior Center due to a decrease in ESAAA transit funding.

**Transit Maintenance**

- ***Preventive Maintenance Program***
  - Routine vehicle preventive maintenance is up to date.

**Monthly Ridership Statistics**

Dec. 2015 - 7015	Dec . 2016 - 7539 7.5% increase
Jan. 2016 - 6128	Jan. 2017 - pending

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**In Re: State's Comments**

There were no comments submitted from the State.

**In Re: Airport Update**

There was no airport update.

**In Re: Railroad Comments**

The following report was presented:

In January, BCR handled 118 carloads. Sixty-one of these were at Little Creek with the top shippers being:

29 for Mid-Atlantic Transload (grit),  
26 for Gordon Paper, and  
6 for Dynaric.

Eastern Shore location handled the remaining 57 cars:

Pep-Up Gas 15 Cars,  
KMX Chemical 4 cars,  
Sharp Energy 23 cars,  
Coastline Chemical 11 cars, and  
Bayshore Concrete 4 cars.

Mr. Parry reported that Bayshore Concrete should be shipping 39 large units in late spring, early summer.

## NEW BUSINESS

### In Re: Adopt New Mileage Rate

Motion was made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Ms. Major, that the Commission adopt the new IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.535 per mile, effective February 8, 2017. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Wolff and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

### In Re: SB 1554

A lengthy discussion was held among the membership in reference to proposed legislation entitled, “SB 1554”. While the bill has successfully been “killed” for this session, it proposed to modify the existing membership of the ANTDC, creating a Governor-appointed body of 9 citizen members and 1 ex-officio member. The ANTDC was the only transportation district commission in the entire Commonwealth cited for this membership change. The bill was sponsored by Senator Cosgrove of Chesapeake and our local representatives, Delegate Rob Bloxom and Senator Lynwood Lewis, were unaware of the proposal.

Mr. Hart reported that Senator Cosgrove had been quoted as saying that the ANTDC is negatively affecting both Orbital at Wallops Island and Perdue and referenced a barge facility in Cape Charles. He was further quoted as saying that the “ANTDC needs to make this happen.” Mr. LeMond reminded the Commission that many overtures have been made throughout the past several years to solicit Wallops’ and other traffic opportunities.

When the contents of the bill became known, many organizations, both locally and across the Commonwealth, opposed it, including the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce and the transit lobbies.

It was suggested that Senator Cosgrove should be invited to a future meeting to determine what prompted this unprecedented action as well as Delegate Bloxom and Senator Lewis.

### In Re: Adjourn

Motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. LeMond, that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Wolff and voted “yes”. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned.