



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

DJ Stadtler
Executive Director

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Tiffany Robinson
Chairperson

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 · 9:30 am

All Virtual Board Meeting

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board held a virtual meeting on December 16, 2025.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY

Tiffany Robinson (Chair), Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Darien Flowers, Cynthia Lawrence, Jennifer Mitchell, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Dallas Richards, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

John Watkins joined at 9:37 AM

MEMBERS ABSENT

D.J. Jordan

VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY STAFF

DJ Stadtler, Michael McLaughlin, Joan Verbonitz, Michael Westermann, Laura Farmer, Jason Cheeks, Jonathan Capek, and Mary Estelle Douglas.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairperson Robinson presided and called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Mary Estelle Douglas called the Roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

BOARD CHAIR WELCOME

Presented by: Tiffany Robinson, Board Chairperson

Tiffany Robinson welcomed everyone to the December 16, 2025, Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tiffany Robinson reviewed the *Protocol for Public Comments at VPRA Board and Committee Meetings* (the "Comment Protocol") adopted by the board in January 2023. Because this meeting was all-virtual, public comments were made by electronic communication means by way of written comments, in accordance with Va. Code § 2.2-3708.3(C)(6), and the board-adopted *Remote Participation and All-Virtual Meeting Policy* (Aug. 26, 2025) § B.1.f. The Comment Protocol limits all public comments to a maximum time limit of 30 minutes during a meeting. Because of the large volume of written comments received relating to the Shenandoah Trail project, there was insufficient time to read them all out loud. Accordingly, Ms. Robinson reviewed and summarized them, and noted that DJ Stadtler would provide more information regarding public comments during the Shenandoah Corridor Transaction agenda item.

MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Charlie Payne and seconded by Neal Crawford to approve the Board meeting minutes from October 7, 2025. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Darien Flowers, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Presented by: Tiffany Robinson, Board Chairperson

Jennifer Mitchell was introduced and gave a few remarks.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Presented by: Tiffany Robinson, Board Chairperson

Laura Farmer was introduced and gave a few remarks.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICERS

Presented by: Tiffany Robinson, Board Chairperson

Tiffany Robinson presented two new officers for approval.

A motion was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Beth Rhinehart to appoint Neal Crawford as VPRA board vicechair. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Darien Flowers, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

A motion was made by Darien Flowers and seconded by Susan Spears to appoint Laura Farmer as VPRA board treasurer. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Sandy Bushue, Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Darien Flowers, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Presented by: DJ Stadtler, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

DJ Stadtler provided a brief update on VPRA projects. He noted that progress is being made on the projects and ridership numbers are showing positive growth.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION RESOLUTION

Presented by: Michael Westermann, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Michael Westermann reviewed VPRA's property acquisition needs and the reason for this resolution request.

Sandy Bushue asked for clarification on the condo association, and Mr. Westermann responded.

Cynthia Lawrence asked for an understanding of what the parcel of land we need is currently being used for, and Mr. Westermann responded.

A motion was made by Charles Payne and seconded by John Delandro to authorize acquisition of property for rail projects. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Darien Flowers, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins. Sandy Bushue abstained.

SHENANDOAH CORRIDOR TRANSACTION

Presented by: DJ Stadtler, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

DJ Stadtler presented information regarding the Shenandoah Valley Trail.

He also reviewed public comments made regarding this transaction.

Charles Payne asked if, at a minimum, the trail would be built. DJ Stadtler responded.

Patricia Doersch asked how public comment would work moving forward in this situation. DJ Stadtler responded.

Sandy Bushue notes that this information came up quickly and she was bothered by the rush and felt more information was needed. Tiffany Robinson responded.

John Watkins asked about VPRA having ownership of the trail and DJ Stadtler and Michael Westermann responded.

A motion was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Neal Crawford to authorize FY26 Budget Adjustment for Shenandoah Valley Corridor grant. The motion was carried, with the vote in favor cast by Neal Crawford, John Delandro, Patricia Doersch, Darien Flowers, Cynthia Lawrence, Charles Payne, Beth Rhinehart, Susan Spears, and John Watkins. Sandy Bushue abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

Tiffany Robinson, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting.

All presentations to the Board and meeting videos can be found at <http://vpra.virginia.gov/about/Board-meetings> and on the VPRA YouTube site.

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