

Summary Minutes MARC Advisory Council Meeting  
Thursday July 16, 2009, 4:30 p.m.  
Hall of the States, Room 238  
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

Attendees:

MARC Advisory Council:

Andrea Richardson, Brunswick – Excused  
Carol Oberdorfer, Brunswick – Excused  
Chikwe Njoku, Penn & Camden – Present  
Christopher Field, Penn – Excused  
David Frederick, Brunswick - Present  
Hameed Ahmed, Camden – Absent  
Josh Friedman, Camden – Absent  
Juan Calvo, Penn – Absent  
Laurence Gross, Brunswick – Present  
Lynda Clarke, Penn – Excused  
Makeda Scott – Penn – Excused  
Mark Dysart, Brunswick - Excused  
Rafael Guroian, Penn & Camden – Present  
Scott Minos, Brunswick – Absent  
Steve Chan, Penn – Present

Staff:

Jim Knighton - MTA Director of External Affairs  
Glenn Saffran – MTA Deputy Director of MARC Train & Commuter Bus Services  
Donna Walsh – Customer Service Superintendant  
Tiffany Jennings- MTA

Guests:

Michael Ditkoff  
Jeremy Flores – Operations Service Manager for VRE (703)-684-1001, x5437

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM by Chairman Rafi Guroian

Virginia Railway Express – Guest Speaker: Jeremy Floris – Virginia Railway Express Operations Service Manager - gave a presentation on the VRE Riders Advisory Council, which can be reached at [gotrains@vre.org](mailto:gotrains@vre.org)

- VRE was formed in 1992.
- It is a transportation partnership between NVTC = Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the PRTC = Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission.
- The VRE Riders Advisory Council is the counterpart to the MARC Riders Advisory Council.
- The VRE Riders Advisory Council started meeting quarterly in 2007.
- There is one person on the council for every suburban station.
- Currently, there are about 12 members.
- A typical meeting is attended by Jeremy Floris or CEO Dale Zehner or Deputy CEO Jennifer Mouchantaf.
- The VRE Riders Advisory Council acts as the eyes and ears for VRE.
- Generally, VRE management knows about the larger, more expensive problems.
- The council reports the smaller, less expensive problems.- such as the need to trim bushes, problems with the parking lot exits, etc.
- There is no set term limit for council members.

- The council puts out a paper news letter once per month. PDF versions of the newsletter are on their web site at <http://www.vre.org/service/seatnote.htm>
- There were two fare increases this past year – in January and June.
- The June 29<sup>th</sup> increase was 6%. The January increase was 7%.
- VRE does not anticipate another fare increase this fiscal year.
- The cost for a monthly ticket from Fredericksburg to Union Station is \$300.
- No alcohol is allowed, but food is permitted on VRE trains.
- VRE is funded by the local jurisdictions, based on local ridership.
- 60% of the funding comes from passenger ticket sales..
- Generally the council receives 10 emails/day on a regular basis, rising to about 50/day when delays occur.

House Bill 492: It was noted that we have not yet reached out to contact Bill Hellmann, PE, who specializes in transportation planning and design. Bill Hellmann was a former Maryland Secretary of Transportation, and is a Partner Emeritus with Rummel, Klepper, & Kahl, LLP (RK&K), <http://www.rkk.com/index.php/partners> a consulting company in Baltimore that specializes in transportation, environmental, construction, engineering, and planning.

New Council Members: It was noted that the MARC Riders Advisory Council needs more new members.

Next Meeting: The next MRAC meeting will be on Thursday August 20, 2009.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM Thursday July 16, 2009.