



Southeast Corridor Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2021  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST

**Roll Call**

Julie White conducted a roll call at 10:01 AM on January 12, 2021.

**Present**

<b>Committee</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Commission Member / Proxy</b>	<b>Technical Committee Member</b>	<b>Others</b>
DC	Jeffrey Bennett	<i>N/A</i>	-
Virginia	Jennifer Mitchell	Emily Stock	-
North Carolina	Julie White	Eddie McFalls	Jason Orthner
South Carolina	Doug Frate (proxy)	<i>N/A</i>	-
Tennessee	Dan Pallme (proxy)	Amy Kasonovic	-
Georgia	Meg Pirkle	Kaycee Mertz	Ashley Finch
Florida	<i>Not Present</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	-

<b>Non-Voting</b>	
FRA	Randy Brown, Jessie Gatti, Natalie Williford
Consultants	Corey Hill (Kimley Horn), Emily Grenzke (Kimley Horn), Brett Gallagher (Mott MacDonald), Brian Speight (Mott MacDonald)

**Old Business**

Julie White welcomed everyone and addressed an edit to the September meeting minutes and requested the discussion of permanence be added to the meeting minutes. Julie White asked for a motion to approve the September Commission meeting minutes. Motion was moved by Meg Pirkle, seconded by Jennifer. Ayes from DC, VA, NC, SC, TN, GA.

**New Business**

Emily Grenzke presented an update on the Economic Impact of Study. The draft technical report was distributed to the Technical Committee in December. Waiting on feedback from DDOT, FDOT, and FRA. Commission will see final technical report early February.

Eddie McFalls presented on the SEC Implementation Plan next steps. The purpose of the plan is to look at due diligence required for S-Line in VA and NC, and document lesson learned; memorialize operating plans and studies into one single document. Procurement is under way to set up task and funding. We will use Kimley-Horn as a sub to Mott MacDonald. Julie requested a budget update at the next meeting.

Jessie Gatti presented on the SEC Southeast Regional Rail Plan. FRA has handed the final report off to the Commission. Purpose of the plan was to develop a long-term vision for a conceptual passenger rail service network. Once the plan has been approved, it will be published on the SEC Commission website.

Julie White asked for a motion to approve the Southeast Regional Rail Plan and publish it on the SEC Commission Website. Motion made by Jeff Bennett. Seconded by Meg Pirkle. Ayes from DC, VA, NC, SC, TN, GA.

Brett Gallagher gave a presentation on the new SEC Commission website. Requested changes included: different banner photo, “recent updates” on the home page, and the web address be southeast-comission.org. Commission also concurred that the “Press” tab would be the responsibility of each individual state to send in articles to keep it up to date. A link was distributed to the Commission after the meeting: <https://www.southeastcorridor-commission.org/>

Discussion of the future of the Southeast Corridor Commission: discussion of how to fund and staff the Commission. Julie White shared that she had done research to identify expertise in rail commission permanence and had received a recommendation from Rob Padgette of Sophy Chen, who has expertise in different types of governance structures including NEC. The conversation continued on asking Sophy to create a policy memo on the various governance structures. There was expressed support for such an idea. Julie asked for a motion for the Commission to authorize Sophy Chen to develop a policy memo that outlined governance structures to consider including federal funding options. Julie asked for a motion for the Commission to authorize Sophy Chen to develop a policy memo that outlined options to seek dedicated federal funding. Jennifer Mitchell made the motion, Jeff Bennett seconded. Ayes from DC, VA, NC, SC, TN, GA.

States presented on new or existing rail initiatives:

- **Washington, DC:** Working with the greater Washington Partnership on the regional rail plan. Streetcar project at 30%, working with FRA on Long Bridge project.
- **Virginia:** TRIV, working through final agreements with CSX and Amtrak, hope to have it finalized by end of the month. Finalized an agreement with VRE that will give us \$200M in dedicated commuter rail funding over a 10 year period. Got a grant approved by the northern Virginia transportation authority for \$23M for a rail bypass for Franconia. Working on a western rail initiative, governor included \$50M in general funds. Working on procurement for preliminary engineering for Long Bridge, taking us from 10%-30%. Working on 4<sup>th</sup> track project between Arlington and Long Bridge, funded by \$45M FASTLANE grant. Mobilizing Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, two meetings of new board, hiring executive director, in process of getting budget approved, establishing policies and procedures.
- **North Carolina:** Won an FTA grant for \$900K to do TOD planning along the S-Line corridor. Full local match was provided by the communities along the line that wanted to do potential station area planning. Raised \$445K from 7 communities. Seeing huge local interest as something that will be transformational for the community. Continuing efforts to acquire the S-Line. Working to identify incremental projects along the Raleigh to Richmond corridor. Coordinating the SOGR grant obligated for new fleet. Continuing work with CSX on CCX facility. Working on developing State Rail Plan
- **South Carolina:** Received formal acceptance letter from FRA for statewide rail plan update. Work underway on upstate express corridor, funded by \$25M BUILD grant that will add rail capacity to NS between Columbia and Inland Port Grier. Targeting for completion of 2023.
- **Tennessee:** Needs assessment of short lines is complete. Completing action plan for grade crossing safety.
- **Georgia:** Addressing comments from FRA on FEIS ROD to finalize the document. Completing State Rail Plan.
- **Florida:** *Not Present*
- **FRA:** FY 21 Omnibus bill passed. All of FRA grant program are being carried forward to 2021, don't have info on timelines for NOFOs but expect in coming weeks they can share.



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**Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The April 14, 10:30 AM meeting date/time was approved.

**Additional Agenda Items**

N/A

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Julie White.

*Minutes prepared by: Marston Raue*

*Minutes submitted by: Meg Pirkle*

*Approved on: XXX*

*These minutes will be circulated to Commission nominees, Proxies, Technical Committee members, and other attendees for comments. Any comments received within ten days of distribution will be incorporated into a final version. These meeting minutes will be formally approved at the subsequent Commission meeting.*