

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Transportation Technical Committee
July 11, 2007
Minutes

Attendees: Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper Engineering), Michael Barnes (VRT), Marshall Barron (VDOT – Culpeper District), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), David Cubbage (VDOT – Warrenton Residency), Rosemary Damewood (Town Council- Town of Remington), Larry Fanton (VDOT-Culpeper Residency), John Giometti (VDOT – Culpeper District), Nilesh Joshi (UVa Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems), James Lambert (UVa Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Chris Mothersead - *Chairperson* (Town of Warrenton Planning), Cynthia Porter-Johnson (Fauquier County Planning), John Shelburne (VDOT Transportation Mobility & Planning Division –Richmond), Chad Tucker (VDOT Transportation Mobility & Planning Division – Richmond), Jeff Walker (RRRC)

Welcome and Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, Matters from the Public

Mr. Mothersead brought the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The RTC approved the agenda for the July 11, 2007 meeting and the minutes for the June 13, 2007, meeting.

No members of the public were present.

Presentation Regarding Risk-Based Approach to Protecting Accessibility, Mobility, and Safety Options Study for Route 29 in Fauquier County

Mr. Tucker provided some background information regarding the project. VDOT, the Virginia Transportation Research Council, and the Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems (CRMES) are looking to develop a replicable, analytical method for quantifying the likelihood of development along specified corridors. This is a proactive measure to aid in identifying areas for right-of-way purchase, corridor overlay zones, access management, and the like. The development of such a replicable, GIS-based methodology to identify and prioritize sources of risks to performance of countywide corridors is the primary goal of the program.

Mr. Lambert presented the project findings to date. CRMES undertook a literature review of similar nationwide studies and found that the Minneapolis/Saint Paul, MN, area to be a close match. Field work included an inventory of access corridors (driveways, crossovers) using aerial photography of the corridor and on-site photographic inventory of corridors in Fauquier County. The CRMES team collected GIS data from Fauquier County and VDOT and compiled a data encyclopedia including zoning data, easements, service districts and additional data files. Mr. Fanton commented that additional VDOT data, including rights of way, crossovers and access corridors would most likely be available to the Research Council. However, availability of said data, at least in digital format, was uncertain.

CRMES' methodology involved buffering the functionally classed road system in Fauquier County and subtracting areas under easement from these buffered zones. Next, CRMES identified population centers and distances from population centers (high volatility areas), using census block data. Overlaying these two layers provided a preliminary risk evaluation

assessment. CRMES provided data for 1-mile buffer zones of both Route 29 and Route 28 in Fauquier County. Currently, CRMES is conducting a parcel value analysis to provide further risk assessment.

Preliminary findings are that areas of higher volatility are closer to existing population centers. Prioritization of volatile areas for preservation is a necessity, while low-risk areas can be ignored. Next steps for CRMES include repeating the methodology with additional indicators including employment centers, land assessment values, comparison of land use and zoning and distance from roads. Inclusion of traffic counts, utilities, right-of-way, zoning changes, etc. are also proposed for further study. Mr. Cabbage suggested including crash histories in this review.

In the end, up-to-date easement, assessment, zoning and parcel data, ideally in standardized digital format, is likely to prove essential, if the methodology is to be repeated in other jurisdictions.

Mr. Mothersead questioned the ability to discern if one value/indicator holds more importance than others and wondered about the economic benefits and/or restrictions based on the implications of risk assessment recommendations.

Mr. Tucker stated that localities and the state would have to work to minimize that impact and also mentioned the implementation of local ordinances to reduce risk.

Mr. Carr indicated that there was potential regional applicability for such a program, allowing jurisdictions to quantitatively see what they “do” to each other with regard to growth issues. This would provide additional support in any discussions with Northern Virginia.

Mr. Fanton questioned how by-right development and impact fees would factor in. Mr. Lambert pointed out that all data thus far is raw, but that understanding the full implication of the data within a specific jurisdiction would take an expert on both the data and the local impact.

Mr. Walker pointed out that such quantification would likely be prove very time and labor intensive if not impossible in those jurisdictions without GIS capability and/or available staff assistance. Mr. Tucker stated that VDOT’s goal is to have a program that can be undertaken with universal GIS layers, with potential to include additional layers that jurisdictions may have on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Lambert mentioned that water and sewer availability and expansion would be useful in the risk evaluation. Discussion ensued regarding capped allocation (Chesapeake Bay) and potential for changes to the current structure.

Report on 6/15 PD9-Area CAO/Emergency Coordinator NOVA Evacuation Scenario Planning Briefing

Mr. Walker provided an update on ongoing NOVA Evacuation planning efforts, referencing a briefing of PD9 Chief Administrative Officers and Emergency Coordinators, convened by RRRC during the preceding month, in anticipation of upcoming similar evacuation planning efforts by Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) personnel, for this region.

Extensive encouragement has and will continue to be given on behalf of broadly involving area planning and transportation personnel in the effort, if and upon such time as the VDEM-initiative for Region 2 (of which Planning District 9 is a subset) officially gets underway.

Announcements and Other Business

Mr. Walker announced the upcoming July 24 VML/VACo 2007 Transportation Act Symposium to be held in Glen Allen, July 25-27 VAPA Annual Conference in Wintergreen, and September 10 VDOT Chapter 527 Implementation Training at the Culpeper District Auditorium, 2pm-5pm (alternate location September 11 at Albemarle County Office Building from 9am-12pm).

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be held regular time and location—first Wednesday of the month, 2 p.m., August 1, 2007, at the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission offices. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.