

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission  
Transportation Technical Committee  
Minutes of November 7, 2007

*Attendees:* Marshall Barron (VDOT-Culpeper District); Rick Carr (Fauquier County, Planning); Mike Collins (Town of Orange, Planning); John Giometti (VDOT-Culpeper District, Planning & Land Development); Bob Miller (Madison County Board of Supervisors); Chris Mothersead, *Chairman* (Town of Warrenton, Planning); Harriet Parcels (RRRC); John Shelburne (VDOT Transportation, Mobility and Planning Division, Richmond); Jeff Walker (RRRC); Cathy Zielinski (RRRC)

1. Welcome, Agenda, Minutes, Matters from the Public

Chairman Chris Mothersead called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Mr. Mothersead asked for any modifications to the agenda. Mrs. Parcels said that there were changes to Agenda Item #3. Mrs. Parcels said that the invited guest speaker from the Virginia Trucking Association was unable to attend. She said that a representative from Norfolk Southern had indicated an interest in attending the December 5 meeting and she suggested that the freight discussion be postponed until then. An alternative that the committee could consider might be a separate standalone workshop session on truck and rail freight issues at which a panel of speakers would make presentations. In place of the freight discussion, Mrs. Parcels said that staff had prepared a background paper for preliminary discussion of Developments of Regional Impact with significant tie-ins to the ongoing Traffic Impact Analysis discussion. Chairman Mothersead stated that the commission will need to develop a process that sets forth how review of projects of regional impact will take place by the Transportation Technical Committee and be coordinated with the counties in which the projects are located. He asked RRRC staff to draft a process for this and present it to the Technical Committee at the December meeting. Mr. Walker also requested that another item be added under Other Business; namely, the recent announcement of a follow-on 2008 Multimodal Office Planning Grant funding round. Chairman Mothersead asked for a motion to approve the changes to the agenda. A motion was made and seconded and the motion was approved.

Chairman Mothersead then asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the October 3, 2007 meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.

2. Review of Phase I Goals and Objectives, Phase II Planning Process Background Draft

Mr. Mothersead asked Mrs. Parcels to discuss the draft background paper on Goals and Objectives for the Phase II planning process. Mrs. Parcels said that RRRC staff, in its concurrent drafting of future plan narrative had prepared a background section that discusses the requirement that a long-range transportation plan be developed by each reach, and that presents the goals and objectives that underpin the transportation plan for PD9. The draft section is the first of several draft plan chapters, together with initial goals and objectives that were adopted by the Committee as part of Phase I.

Mr. Collins commented that with regard to Goal #2: Promote land use patterns that maximize the efficiency of the transportation network, it should be noted that the Orange County has taken a position opposing any roundabouts in Orange and that the committee might want to better define the type of land use patterns the region seeks to

promote. Chairman Mothersead thanked Mr. Collins for his feedback and asked committee members to review the draft chapter on goals and objectives and provide requested edits to RRRRC staff.

### 3. Chapter 527, Traffic Impact Analysis and Discussion of Developments of Regional Impact

Mr. Walker reported on the recent Chapter 527 TIA training workshop held by VDOT and the analyses that will be required of Culpeper District jurisdictions beginning on January 1, 2008. In the first six months, only projects that generate over 5,000 vehicle trips/day will require such reviews, expanding to other qualifying development projects in the months thereafter. Mr. Walker said that most counties and towns, at least in conjunction with the larger scale developments are, of course, already in the habit of requiring such analyses, but there are questions as to whether code changes are going to be needed (to require them), and/or technical assistance rendered to developers unaccustomed to providing them. He stated that it might be possible for area localities via the RTC to not only help each other by exchanging information about their applicable development review processes and approaches, but to realize some economy of scale savings were such technical assistance, to be provided both in-house and if needed, by a competitively procured consultant.

Moreover, that the Committee might want to formalize its own process for review of so-called Developments of Regional Significance (DRI's). He distributed a handout with information on how two other states, Georgia and Florida, have defined these developments and go about their review.

Mr. Collins indicated that the Town of Orange was a on fast track to amend its zoning ordinance to bring it into compliance with the new 527 regulations. Mr. Giometti reiterated that the regulations give the localities a six-month window before the 527 reviews will be required for towns, giving local governments time before zoning changes must be implemented. He said that VDOT will be receiving feedback from counties and towns on the regulations over the first six months and making refinements, as needed. Mr. Collins said that it would be helpful if the RRRRC provided regional coordination among small towns to provide consistency on how zoning ordinances might be amended to comply with the new regulations. Mr. Walker said that the upcoming 2008 Multi-Modal Office planning grant round might conceivably serve as a source of funding to provide this regional planning assistance.

Mr. Mothersead noted that the traffic impact reviews that towns in the region are already doing are obviously different and less uniform from what the new VDOT regulations require. Communities will be the responsible entities for determining if developments are subject to 527 review. He suggested that in addition to the RRRRC's Rural Technical Committee website [<http://www.rrregion.org/longrangeplan>] VDOT might also consider creating a link to provide a site where small towns can share information and experiences as they begin working on the 527 reviews. Mr. Mothersead said that discussion of the Traffic Impact Analysis process should be a standing item on the agenda at the very least for the next six months, enabling counties and towns to share knowledge and experiences.

Mr. Carr said that Fauquier was in the process of working on adoption of Urban Development Area (UDA) regulations and this effort will likewise need to be coordinated with the 527 reviews.

Mr. Giometti pointed out that there is no grandfathering in of developments. The regulations don't state at what point in the planning process the town or county must require the developer to do the traffic impact analysis. To the extent that developers are aware of this

requirement early in the planning review process (ie, pre-application process), it should greatly help to facilitate things.

There was also discussion of the new regulations on subdivision street design that will go into effect on July 1, 2008. Committee members inquired if VDOT would be providing an information packet and briefing on these regulations for towns and counties before they become effective. Mr. Giometti said he imagined that would be the case, but didn't yet have anything specific.

#### 4. Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) Grant Proposal and Input to the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Consolidated Human Services Mobility program

Mrs. Zielinski provided a briefing on the Housing and Transportation Alliance (THA) grant proposal that was recently submitted for funding by RRRC. Mrs. Zielinski said that the Transportation and Housing Alliance is a statewide initiative linking public and private leaders in the areas of transportation and housing for the elderly and disabled. The grant will fund proposals that use a Toolkit that was developed under a grant to the PD 10 for gathering data about the housing and transportation needs of the elderly and disabled.

Mrs. Zielinski said that the proposal submitted by RRRC will complement the aforementioned Consolidated Human Services Mobility (CHSM) planning efforts already underway, and provide funding for mapping of data and public outreach hearings throughout the R-R region were it to be awarded. The collected information, and completed CHSM component will both ultimately be incorporated into the long-range transportation plan. She said that the grantees will be notified by the end of November and that the funding period for awardees was anticipated to be 13-months, with final reports due in January 2009.

Mr. Walker next shared with the committee two overlay maps of the region, as referenced last meeting, showing the 65+ and disabled populations, overlaid with existing transit systems. The maps, as indicated earlier, are required components of the plan. He also shared with the committee, news that RRRC GIS Program Coordinator and RTC liaison Patrick Mauney, was presently on medical leave and to please join staff in keeping him in their thoughts.

#### 4. Announcements:

- Report on the UVA-CRMES Route 29 Risk Based Approach to Protecting Accessibility, Mobility and Safety Options study: Mr. Carr said that the study has produced a GIS-based model that holds excellent promise for other jurisdictions as a means of identifying corridor "hot spots," or most likely locations of future development.
- October 22, 2007 VDOT Traffic Impact Analysis Workshop: In addition to earlier discussion, Mr. Giometti noted that the workshop was very well attended and that VDOT will hold another, more technical gathering on the same subject on Friday, December 7.
- November 1, 2007 VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) briefing and hearing: Mr. Walker reported on the recent VDOT public official's briefing and open house on 2008-2013 transportation priorities. He requested that committee members whose localities had submitted formal, adopted priority lists to please forward a copy to Mrs. Parcels as soon as possible so that they could be included.
- November 15, 2007 Fall VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Workshop in Charlottesville: Mr. Walker said that he and Mrs. Parcels would be attending the workshop sponsored by VDOT to provide information on Phase II of the Long-Range Transportation Planning process.

- December 7 VDOT Traffic Impact Analysis workshop: As earlier referenced by Mr. Giometti.
- 2008 Multi-modal Office Planning Grant round: Mr. Walker indicated that announcement had recently been made regarding the follow-on grant round, with information forwarded to Committee members via email in advance of the meeting. He encouraged Committee members to let their counties and towns know about it and to forward ideas for projects, if interested, as soon as possible.
- Commuter Services new website: In closing, Mr. Walker said that the RRRC Commuter Services new standalone web site had recently gone live and could be found at: <http://www.rcommute.org>.

There being no further business, Chairman Mothersead adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.