

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTC)
Minutes of January 9, 2008

Attendees: Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper); James Arrington (Madison County, Board of Supervisors); Rick Carr (Fauquier County, Planning and Community Development); John Cooley (Culpeper County); Rosemary Damewood (Town Council, Town of Remington); Larry Fanton (VDOT, Culpeper Residency); John Giometti (VDOT, Culpeper District, Planning & Land Development); Deborah Kendall (Orange County, Strategic Planning); Patrick Mauney (RRRC); Chris Mothersead (Town of Warrenton, Planning); Harriet Parcels (RRRC); Ray Parks (RRCSB); John Shelborne (VDOT-TMPD, Richmond); Jeff Walker (RRRC).

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

Committee Chairman Chris Mothersead called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Mr. Mothersead asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, a motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved. Mr. Mothersead asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting. Mr. Parks said that he had attended the meeting but didn't see his name listed as one of the attendees. There were no other changes to the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, as amended. The motion was approved. There were no matters from the public for consideration.

2. Phase II: Long-Range Plan Development

Patrick Mauney presented a Powerpoint presentation of traffic volume data from the new SPS Lite data CD provided by VDOT to the region for Phase II of the Long-Range Plan development. Mr. Mauney reported that the CD contains base year 2005 traffic volume data and projections for the years 2015, 2025, 2030, 2035 and 2040 for road segments throughout the region. Committee members can review the data and the population assumptions that were used to arrive at the traffic volume projections to determine if they accurately reflect population growth projected for the highway segments. The committee, he indicated, has latitude to adjust the traffic volume projections that are too low (or too high) and inform VDOT of the needed changes.

Next, he presented three maps depicting "Levels of Service": a map for base year 2005, one for 2035, and an overlay map comparing road segments at Levels of Service D-F in 2005 and in 2035. The committee discussed the maps and raised questions about the categorization of certain segments of roadway. For example, questions were raised about the Level of Service assigned to certain segments of Route 3 south of Culpeper. VDOT representatives indicated that some of the links do not yet reflect improvements that have been made, and that the links will be updated. Similar questions were raised about the levels of service assigned to some rural routes such as segments of Routes 608 and 231 in Orange County and Routes 626, 709 and 713 in Fauquier County. Mr. Mothersead noted that the capacity of some rural roads is

constricted by their geometrics, and that they have been serving higher than expected volumes of traffic because they function as key connectors between larger arterial routes in the region. It was also noted that traffic volume concerns on important roads such as Route 20 in Orange County don't seem to be reflected in the 2005 base data. Mr. Fanton said that VDOT is beginning to assemble the next Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan and that data that the committee could provide to VDOT regarding changes in projected traffic volumes could be used as input as the plan is developed.

Lastly, Mr. Mauney showed two maps of Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) overlaid on Future Growth Areas in the region for the years 2005 and 2035. Mr. Mauney said that he would email traffic volume and road characteristic data charts for each county to committee members for their review.

3. Presentation and Discussion of Regional Safety Data

Mrs. Parcels gave a Powerpoint presentation that contained highway safety data for the state of Virginia and for the counties of the Rappahannock-Rapidan region. The information was taken from a recent statewide highway safety report, "Commonwealth of Virginia's Strategic Highway Plan: 2006-2010," and from a VDOT-provided highway safety data CD that contains extensive crash data for the period 1/1//2002-12/31/2006. Mrs. Parcels indicated that this information is related to the committee's efforts to identify highway "hot spots" in the region which are defined as areas of concern from both a capacity deficiency and from a safety perspective. Mrs. Parcels briefly reviewed the new method of crash data collection being used by the state and top measures the state is pursuing to reduce injuries and deaths. She presented a chart showing the leading causes of vehicle crash injuries (2001-2005) and maps that show how each county rates in terms of annual injuries and deaths from crashes and injuries and maps of deaths caused by aggressive drivers, by seat-belted drivers, at intersections and by road departures. A chart of the total crashes by county in the PD9 region and a map of the most critical safety segments in the VDOT Culpeper District were also presented. Mrs. Parcels told the committee that RRRC staff was working to access additional data provided on the CD and would be able to provide more detailed safety information for the region at a future meeting.

Committee members asked about the response RRRC was receiving to the "Hot Spot" survey forms. Mrs. Parcels said that RRRC has received some input from every county in the region and that more survey responses have come in recently. RRRC will compare the information provided on the survey forms with the Priority Corridors, Interchanges and Nodes identified by the committee in Phase I of plan development and provide this information to the committee. She said that it was important for the region to get as much information as possible in the near future on the region's "hot spots" in order to provide this to VDOT, who will have the on-call consultant conduct further traffic studies of these highway segment and intersection locations.

4. Highway Access and Subdivision Street Standards

Mr. Fanton gave a quick update on the status of the new highway access and subdivision street standards. He said that he had been reviewing the most recent information on the standards issued by VDOT this week and that the comment period is open for towns and counties to file comments. He will send out the VDOT link for the access standards to committee members. The street subdivision standards are being directed through the Secretary's office with implementation scheduled for July 1, 2008; the access standards will become effective July 1, 2008.

5. Chapter 527-Traffic Impact Analysis

There was a brief discussion of the Chapter 527 Traffic Impact Analysis. The committee discussed projects in the region that will be subject to them. Among the projects mentioned were Willow Run in Culpeper County and Warrenton Greene in Fauquier County. Many of the counties have been requiring traffic impact analyses of major projects by developers in recent years. The Chapter 527 TIA process formalizes the information that must be submitted to the counties by developers and sets definite thresholds that determine which projects are subject to them. Adoption of the 527 TIA process, however, does not preclude counties from continuing to require developments that fall below the threshold to submit traffic impact analyses, as they have done in the past. VDOT mentioned that there may be a rethinking about how the TIA process impacts smaller developments on low volume rural roads.

6. Announcements and Other Business

Mr. Walker made an announcement about an upcoming January 29 VAPDC Transportation Committee meeting in Richmond, in conjunction with at the annual VAPDC Winter Conference. He mentioned a proposed HB3202 VACO/PD9/PD16 Inter-Regional Transportation Committee meeting also proposed for the same date. Mrs. Parcels stated that the RRRC Multi-modal grant proposal to do a study of freight movement within and through the PD9 region had passed the first round of approvals. She also mentioned that the Town of Orange had been approved for a multi-modal grant to examine levels of service on local roads and developing a process for creating a level of service grid that would provide a framework for the town's efforts to raise levels of service on congested roads.

With no further business, Chairman Mothersead thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.