

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
Minutes of April 2, 2008

Attendees: James Arrington (Board of Supervisors, Madison County); Rick Carr (Fauquier County, Planning Director); Matthew Bolick (Culpeper County; for Larry Fanton); Rosemary Damewood (Town of Remington-Town Council); Mike Collins (Town of Orange); John Cooley (Culpeper County); John Giometti (VDOT, Culpeper District, Planning & Land Development); Patrick Mauney (RRRC); Chris Mothersead, *Chairman* (Town of Warrenton, Planning Director); Harriet Parcels (RRRC); John Shelbourne (VDOT-TMPD); Jeff Walker (RRRC, Executive Director)

Guests: Jim Lambert, University of Virginia, accompanied by graduate students

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

Chairman Chris Mothersead called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and welcomed everyone. He introduced Matthew Bolick who will be replacing Larry Fanton on the Committee. Mr. Mothersead asked if there were any changes to the agenda for the meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made, seconded and approved. Mr. Mothersead then asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 6, 2008 and March 5, 2008 meetings. There were none. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded and approved. There were no matters from the public.

2. Phase II-Long Range Transportation Plan Development: "Hot Spots" Identification and Prioritization

Chairman Mothersead asked Harriet Parcels to present the two large maps that Commission staff (Patrick Mauney) had developed that showed the regional "hot spots" submitted by the five counties and towns and a map of Traffic Accidents (2004-2006) depicting intersections with more than ten accidents during 2004-2006 in the region. Staff had also prepared a list of the thirty-one hot spot locations and a list of intersections with the highest number of accidents (more than 30) that had not been listed on the hot spot list. The Committee members reviewed the lists and maps and discussed the process of arriving at a regional prioritization of "hot spot" locations to submit to VDOT for further study by the on-call consultant.

Chairman Chris Mothersead suggested that the Committee use several criteria to rank the locations in terms of regional priority. The criteria, supported by the Committee, were:

1. Projects whose importance is shared by more than one of the region's jurisdictions;
2. Projects that correlate with the regional arterial network including I-66, Routes 15/29, 28, 211, 33, 20, 17, 50 and 55;
3. Projects that are already being studied by consultants or VDOT should be listed but not given the same priority as projects that have not yet been studied.
4. At least one project should be selected from each jurisdiction;
5. Projects that are high accident locations.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Arrington stated that one of the intersections (Route 29 and Shelby Road) that was not on the regional hot spot list but appeared as a high accident location on the Traffic Accident map would be a good location to study in Madison County. John Cooley stated that the intersection at Route 29/15 and Alanthus Road (Rt. 663), that appeared as a high accident intersection on the Traffic Accident map, would also be a good location to study. He indicated that the other high accident locations were already the subject of other studies.

Rosemary Damewood stated that the railroad crossing in Remington, which currently has no gates or other safety protection, might be an important location to examine from a safety perspective as new commercial development is taking place in the buildings along the track and will generate increased traffic across the tracks. Rick Carr said that the accident locations identified on Route 29 are high accident sites and that some are already being looked at through other studies. John Giometti stated that he expected that VDOT will be putting the Route 29 Corridor Study out to bid shortly. The 18-month study will be a "visioning" study that examines the Route 29 Corridor rather than a detailed traffic study analysis.

Chris Mothersead asked Harriet Parcels to prepare a list of regional priority "hot spots" based on the five priorities and to email this out to everyone on the Committee for their review, comment and sign-off before the next meeting.

3. Announcements and Other Business

Before turning to invited guest speaker, Jim Lambert, Chairman Mothersead asked Jeff Walker to briefly discuss the announcements and other business items on the agenda.

--PD9 Regional Freight Study: Mr. Walker stated that the RRRC had received notification from VDOT's Multimodal Planning Office that the region's application for a regional freight study had been approved. Mr. Walker said that the study will be conducted by VDOT's on-call consultant and that he and Harriet Parcels had begun meeting with interested stakeholders in the region to form a Freight Advisory Committee. A meeting was held with MPS (formerly Von Holtzbrinck Publishing) and Orange County Chamber of Commerce, and a conference call meeting with Norfolk Southern Railroad VP, Bill Schaefer. Meetings are scheduled over the next week with the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce and Fauquier County Chamber of Commerce.

--RRRC Commuter Bus Start-Up Assistance: Mr. Walker said that RRRC Commuter Services has filed an application for a DRPT grant to assist with the start-up of a commuter bus service to take workers from the R-R region to jobs in the Northern Virginia/Washington D.C. area.

--Report on the Culpeper County Bicycle Master Plan kick-off: Mr. Walker said that a kick-off meeting for the Culpeper County Bicycle Master Plan had been held on March 3, 2008 at the RRRC's offices and that a second bicycle master plan study is similarly underway in Fauquier County/Warrenton.

--VACO Region 7 Transportation Committee Meeting: Mr. Walker said that the VACO Region 7 Transportation Committee, comprised of appointees from PD9 and PD16 jurisdictions, in addition to the County of Louisa had met for a second time March 28 and further discussed the status of HB 3202, with Spotsylvania County Administrator Randy Wheeler scheduled to present on the subject of that county's approach to designation of UDA at the proposed upcoming meeting in May.

--Impact Fees and Proffers: Lastly, he referenced a two-day workshop on Impact Fees and Proffers to be held by Virginia Tech on April 10-11. The course will review Virginia's new statute in the context of national practice. Further information on this workshop and others can be found at: www.planningacademy.ncr.vt.edu

4. Phase II-UVA CRMES Risk Corridors Study

Chairman Mothersead welcomed Professor Jim Lambert of the University of Virginia, who brought with him several of his graduate students, and thanked them for coming to update the Committee on the status of Phase II of the Risk Corridors Study, a continuation of the initial Fauquier study to remaining PD9 jurisdictions. Mr. Lambert noted that several members of the RTC served on the Phase I Advisory Committee, including Rick Carr and Jeff Walker; that Phase II began in March and will last for about 18 months. In Phase II, the study methodology,

which started with Fauquier County, will be applied to the rest of the PD9 region and to six other counties in the state. Mr. Lambert said that getting information on land parcels in each of the regions always comes in different forms as each region collects this information in its own manner. Rick Carr complimented Mr. Lambert and his students for the excellent work of the study and said that the results from Phase I had confirmed that the parcels most likely to be subject to development and where transportation issues will arise in the future in the county were precisely those that the county had established its "Service Districts" where development is to be focused. He said that the methodology can be of great use to other planners in the region and state. Following additional discussion, Mr. Mothersead thanked Mr. Lambert and his students for their efforts on behalf of the region.

With no additional business, Mr. Mothersead adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.