

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
November 2, 2011
Minutes

Attendees: Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), Denise Harris (Journey Through Hallowed Ground), Debbie Kendall (Town of Gordonsville Planning), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Dan Painter (VDOT Culpeper District), Jeff Walker (RRRC)

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

D Kendall called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

The agenda was approved as presented following a motion by R Carr and second by J Cooley.

The minutes from the October 5, 2011 meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by J Cooley and a second by R Carr.

There were no comments from the public.

VDOT Updates

D Painter provided updates on several VDOT programs, including Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements, Chapter 527 Traffic Impact Analysis regulations and Access Management Regulations.

Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements: Revisions to the SSAR were approved at the October 19, 2011 Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting. The effective date of the changes was October 19th, but there is a grace period until February 1, 2012. These revisions include:

- Elimination of the Connectivity Index
- Elimination of Area Types
- Reduction in median lot size and addition of traffic volume threshold for requiring pedestrian accommodation
- Require additional external connections when network addition contains over 200 dwelling units or generates 2,000 additional vehicle trips per day

D Painter also discussed some proposed changes to the Access Management regulations and Traffic Impact Analysis regulations, which were approved by the VDOT commissioner after the November RTC meeting. A summary of the changes to these regulations can be found at: http://www.virginiadot.org/VDOT/Projects/asset_upload_file372_51848.pdf

Urban Area/Urban Cluster Definition Changes

P Mauney presented information regarding changes to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 Census urban area criteria described in the August 24, 2011 Federal Register. There were several changes from the 2000 Census urban area criteria, including:

- Census tracts and blocks are now the building blocks for identifying initial urban area cores, rather than census block groups and blocks
- Non-contiguous territories are now subject to maximum hop distances of 0.5 miles and maximum jump distances of 2.5 miles with *no hops after jumps*. Previously, hops after jumps were allowed.
- Blocks can be added to urban areas with population density of 500 people per square mile, as long as the total density does not drop below 1,000 per square mile.

Two population density maps were provided. One showed the region's census block population densities and one was an inset map of Fauquier County and Prince William County with census block population densities, as well as the 2000 Census Urban Area boundaries. Committee members discussed the potential for the Washington, D.C. urban area to extend into Fauquier County at some point in the future. The final list of 2010 Census urban areas will not be released until October 2012.

Announcements and Other Business

Committee members held a brief discussion of potential funding cuts to VDOT's maintenance budget.

D Harris reminded committee members to keep an eye on the federal transportation bill. Transportation enhancement funding has been discussed as a potential program to be cut in order to fund maintenance and bridge repair projects.

D Harris also reported that Journey Through Hallowed Ground's *Living Legacy* project launched at the end of October. More information about the development of the Living Legacy Master Plan is available at: <http://www.hallowedground.org/Partner-Resources/National-Scenic-Byway/Master-Landscape-Plans/Development-of-the-Living-Legacy-Master-Plan>

J Walker asked about VDOT's plans to move forward with an update of the VTrans 2035 study and provided a copy of a November 2nd press release from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. There will be a regional forum on December 14th at five locations in the Commonwealth. Northern Virginia and Richmond are the closest forum locations to the Rappahannock-Rapidan region.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. after a motion by J Cooley and a second by D Painter.