

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
May 25, 2017
Minutes

Attendees: Julie Bolthouse (PEC), Salem Bush (Town of Culpeper), Josh Frederick (Orange County), Kobina Gaituah (VDOT), Jim Hoy (Town of Culpeper), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Marie Pham (Fauquier County)

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

P Mauney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

The agenda was approved as presented. S Bush moved for approval of the minutes from the January 26th and March 23rd meeting, seconded by M Pham. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no comments from the public.

VDOT STARS Program Overview

P Mauney provided a brief overview of the Strategically Targeted and Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program. This is a program of VDOT's Transportation and Mobility Planning Division that works with multiple stakeholders to jointly identify cost-effective measures aimed at improving safety and reducing congestion. The program was designed to utilize existing data, such as historical crash data, Volume-to-Capacity ratios, congestion duration, and Travel Time Indices (TTI), to identify specific roadway segments and intersections for further analysis and solution design. With the move to Smart Scale, the STARS program may be utilized as a project development program for potential Smart Scale applications.

P Mauney also referenced a GIS database provided by VDOT that allows for initial analysis of the existing data points. Based on that analysis, VDOT Transportation and Mobility Planning Division identified potential STARS development corridors in the region for both 2016 and 2017. The committee briefly discussed the potential corridors and asked for a follow-up presentation in the future to discuss methods of gaining additional local involvement in the process.

Historic Bridge Inventory Project

J Bolthouse presented on an ongoing study of statewide historic bridges undertaken by the Piedmont Environmental Council. The main bridges of interest to the study are metal truss bridges and masonry and concrete arch bridges across the state. Locally, the Waterloo Bridge between Culpeper and Fauquier counties is most known example, although there are other bridges along the Rappahannock River and in portions of Fauquier County included, as well.

The Virginia Transportation Research Council studied metal truss bridges in 1975 and masonry and concrete arch bridges in 1984. Over 90% of the former and 75% of the latter have been removed or replaced since the initial studies. A primary finding is that there is a need for a single comprehensive and publically accessible state historic bridge inventory. Secondary findings are the need for a funding source for bridge rehabilitation, as the main sources current available are competitive with other VDOT projects, such as Smart Scale.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the committee webpage at <http://www.rrregion.org/trancmte.html>.

Statewide Policy & Planning Updates

The committee discussed proposed changes to the Revenue Sharing program that are under consideration by a Commonwealth Transportation Board subcommittee. P Mauney indicated that the changes may include setting ceilings for annual requests to the Revenue Sharing program per locality, as well as lifetime requests per project. Given that most localities in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region that utilize Revenue Sharing request low amounts of funding, this may be a positive result if it allows for more projects to be funded each year.

The committee also briefly touched on potential changes for the third round of Smart Scale in 2018. A more detailed discussion will be held at a future meeting once potential changes are outlined more clearly by the Secretary of Transportation's office and the Commonwealth Transportation Board. P Mauney stated that the committee may be asked to put forth recommendations to the Regional Commission should comments or feedback be warranted based on any proposed changes.

Other Business

Committee members provided brief updates on local planning and transportation activities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next Rural Transportation Committee is scheduled for **July 27, 2017**.