

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
May 24, 2018
Minutes

Attendees: Marshall Barron (VDOT), Julie Bolthouse (PEC), Salem Bush (Town of Culpeper, VICE-CHAIR), Joe Costello (RRRC), Josh Frederick (Orange County), Kobina Gaituah (VDOT), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Holly Meade (Fauquier County), Marie Pham (Fauquier County, *CHAIR*), Alan Saunders (VDOT)

Call to Order

M Pham called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was approved as presented. Motion by S Bush, 2nd by J Frederick.

Minutes from the March 22, 2018 meeting were approved as presented. Motion by J Frederick, 2nd by S Bush.

Smart Scale Projects Discussion

Committee members discussed the upcoming third round of Smart Scale, referencing potential local projects that may be submitted. Members from Fauquier County, Orange County, and Town of Culpeper discussed projects that would emanate from their respective localities.

M Pham noted that Fauquier County would not be submitting two previously discussed projects at Route 600/Route 676 and at Route 600/Route 215. M Pham discussed the applications to be submitted including two projects at the Opal interchange. The first project, identified as Phase I, would realign Route 17 to Route 15/29. The second project, identified as the full Opal interchange project, would remove the traffic light at Route 15/29 and Route 17 and require those heading north on Route 17 to utilize the interchange to access Route 15/29 south and Route 15/17/29 north. Fauquier County is also still working through plans for an application at Interstate 66, exit 28 near Marshall.

S Bush indicated that the Town of Culpeper will submit a project at Route 3 and McDevitt Drive for construction of a roundabout, and was also continuing to look at an application for intersection improvements at Route 3 and Route 15 in town. This is a difficult intersection for pedestrians and the proposed solution is still in development.

J Frederick referenced five projects that may be submitted by Orange County. The County has worked with VDOT to identify improvements at Route 20/Route 522, Route 20/Route 611, and the southern intersection of Route 20/Route 33 in Barboursville. In addition, there are two roundabout projects in the Town of Gordonsville that were studied in 2013 and may be submitted. These projects are at either end of High Street at the intersections with Route 231 and Route 15/33/Main Street. The fifth project would likely require submission by the District Commonwealth Transportation Board member in order to qualify since Orange County is limited to four submissions.

Committee members discussed various items related to Smart Scale including funding availability for the upcoming round, sourcing match funds via Revenue Sharing, Secondary Six Year Plan funds, or other local funds to better compete for District and High-Priority funds, and the pre-application project limits.

P Mauney indicated that RRRC staff would produce Resolutions of Support for projects for Regional Commission consideration in June for any localities that have their projects identified at that point in time. For localities that do not have their projects firmed up until July, RRRC will consider a separate resolution at its August meeting.

Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan

J Costello shared a draft scope of work for an update to the regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. An initial plan was completed in 2007 and a follow-up Bicycle/Pedestrian inventory was completed in 2012. J Costello referenced similar plans in other regions that utilized crowd-sourced information from existing users, bicycle apps such as Strava or RideGPS, and the potential to analyze usage versus infrastructure to identify gaps or usage patterns.

Committee members discussed how to best identify inter-county or regional projects and connections. The region has several 'nodes' of bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, most often within the towns or where there are hiking/walking/bike trails in places such as Montpelier/Market at Grelen in Orange County, County parks in Fauquier and Culpeper County with trailheads, etc. Committee members also discussed whether the plan should focus on gaps in pedestrian infrastructure (highly localized) or on recreational type activities such as on-road cycling, hiking, etc.

J Costello asked about right-of-way identification as a means of noting whether specific roads would be easier to add bicycle infrastructure. A Saunders noted that right-of-way is typically looked at as part of projects but that there is not a database of where VDOT owns right-of-way or where it is prescriptive.

J Bolthouse raised the question of connections to blueways and/or water access. P Mauney indicated that this would be useful to identify where those access points exist or are planned and how they might be accessed from planned bicycle/hiking trails.

Committee members also provided feedback to the idea of a technical committee to oversee and/or provide input into the plan. J Costello will look at potential development and outreach to stakeholders.

Other Business

Committee members shared brief updates from their localities and discussed the proposed funding allocations for the Transportation Alternatives Program. Funding was proposed for the Timber Fence Trail project in Warrenton, the Waterloo Bridge project, and the Schools Connector Trail in Rappahannock County.

P Mauney noted that the July committee meeting may be rescheduled.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.