

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
November 5, 2008
Minutes [DRAFT]

Attendees: James Arrington (Madison County Board of Supervisors), Marshall Barron (VDOT – Culpeper District), Matthew Bolick (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), Susan Eddy (Fauquier County Planning), Sue Hromyak (RRRC Commuter Services), Debbie Kendall (Orange County), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Chris Mothersead - *Chairperson* (Town of Warrenton Planning), Ray Parks (RRCSB-AAA), Paul Russell (VDOT – Warrenton Residency), John Shelburne (VDOT TMPD), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Cathy Zielinski (RRRC)

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

Mr. Mothersead brought the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

There were no changes to the agenda as presented.

J Arrington motioned, with a second from D Kendall, to approve minutes from the October 1st meeting. The minutes were approved as is, ayes all.

No members of the public were present.

RLRP Public Information Meeting debriefing

Chairman C Mothersead provided committee members with an update on the ongoing public information meetings being held throughout the region. Meetings in Culpeper, Orange, Rappahannock and Fauquier have taken place, with a meeting in Madison scheduled for November 5th. Parsons, the consultant assisting VDOT and the PDCs with the Long Range Planning public outreach process, had been on hand for three of the meetings and provided a power point presentation for informational purposes.

Results and feedback at the meetings have been positive so far. Questions and comments have included the need for commuter rail options in the region, the potential for a bypass on the western side of Warrenton to facilitate traffic flow to Interstate 66 and Northern Virginia as well as other general comments about the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. In Orange County, meeting attendees identified some potential additional locations for hot spot study. However, D Kendall indicated that these intersections had previously been studied in depth with the two-phased Route 20 Corridor Study.

J Walker indicated that the RRRC will continue to work with the consultant as the statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (VTrans 2035) is developed and will again reach out to the committee for their assistance in scheduling the second round of public meetings, tentatively planned for spring 2009.

Report on VACO Region 7 – HB3202 Committee Activities

J Walker informed the committee of recent activities by the VACO Region 7 Committee that was formed in response to House Bill 3202 in 2007. VACO Region 7 includes all of Planning District 9 and Planning District 16 and provides representatives of each locality therein the opportunity to

provide feedback to the Legislative Study Committee created by HB 3202. Discussions and presentations to date have included Urban Development Areas, Traffic Impact Analyses and speakers have included State Senator Jill Vogel (27th District, including Fauquier County) and Speaker of the House William Howell, among many others.

C Mothersead asked that RRRC staff provide a synopsis of meeting events and provide to the Rural Transportation Technical committee as necessary.

Presentation on Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities, Transit and Transportation Planning in Germany

J Walker gave a presentation on Transportation Facilities, Planning and Regionalism in Germany after his recent McCloy Fellowship program experience. The presentation included information and examples of bicycle and pedestrian facilities interspersed with other transportation modes, the interaction of greenspace with housing and transportation facilities and the overwhelming availability of real-time information with regards to transportation and planning efforts in the modern German cities.

Committee members discussed the relationship between transportation and land-use planning and how each affects the planning process of the other and C Mothersead noted the recently completed Rail & Freight section of the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan as a comparison of where the Rappahannock-Rapidan region stands in that process.

Announcements and Other Business

S Hromyak provided an update on the Warrenton Commuter Bus initiative. Two bids were received to provide Commuter Bus service from the Warrenton Park & Ride Lot to Northern Virginia and D.C. Scenic America, Inc., based in Bealeton, was chosen as the provider and a contract and routing schedule are currently in development. The targeted start date is January 5, 2009.

J Walker presented a handout on the Route 29 Corridor Study that outlined the consultant's timeline and approach to handling of the study that will stretch from Gainesville/I-66 to the North Carolina border. The consultant will hold a series of studio meetings, the first of which will be at the RRRC offices on Monday, November 10th from 2pm to 4:30pm. Any interested members of the public and local governments are encouraged to attend.

C Zielinski discussed the Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS) initiative. Funding through the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has been received for two positions – a Mobility Manager, to be housed at RRRC, and a Mobility Specialist, to be housed at the Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board. Presently, the FAMS steering committee is developing job descriptions and will be looking to supplement the funding already received with the next round of New Freedom grants, which will open on December 1st.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

J Walker asked for the committee's feedback about future meeting scheduling, now that the data intensive portion of the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan has been completed. Committee members affirmed that the current meeting schedule is preferable and all would be amenable to continuing the existing schedule, with committee members providing RRRC staff with topics of interest for future meetings.

The next meeting will be held regular time and location—first Wednesday of the month, 2 p.m., December 3rd, 2007, at the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission offices. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.