

Minutes of the VACO Region 7 Transportation Committee Meeting
January 29, 2008 5:00pm
Offices of GWRC
Fredericksburg, VA

In Attendance:

Bossio	Frank	fbossio@culpepercounty.gov
Dean	Eddie	eddiedean@vabb.com
Gentry	Willie	LCBS_CD@louisa.org
Howard	Jim	howardjb@crosslink.net
James	Eldon	eldon@eldonjamesassociates.com
Kelly	Matthew	Kelly058@verizon.net
Pace	Teri	tpacedist4@aol.com
Risner	Jim	irisner@culpeper.to
Schwartz	Peter	peter.schwartz@fauquiercounty.gov
Walker	Jeffrey	jpwalker@rrregion.org
Walker	Steve	swalker@culpepercounty.gov
Wilson	Bob	wilson@gwregion.org
Farley	Rupert	Fredericksburg resident

Welcome and Introductions

Steve Walker

Culpeper County Board of Supervisor Member and VACO Region 7 Co-Director Steven Walker began by welcoming individuals to the organizational first meeting of the VACO Region 7 Transportation Committee. He explained that the idea for the initiative owed its origins to a discussion last fall, among Region 7 officials in attendance at the VACO Annual Meeting; and that the purpose of the committee—to be comprised of an appointed member from each Region 7 jurisdiction—was to identify, study, exchange information, and provide feedback, as needed, on practical and policy implications with respect to the local implementation of the Virginia Transportation Act, or HB3202, adopted by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor in 2007.

Mr. Walker volunteered to facilitate the evening's discussion, subsequently appointed chair by unanimous consent, and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves. He provided an overview of the agenda, indicating that planned presenter Nick Donohue, Assistant Secretary of Transportation, had called to say he was unfortunately going to be unable to make it.

Legislative Update

Eldon James

Mr. James, of Eldon James & Associates, along with Planning District 9 (RRRC) and 16 (GWRC) Directors, Jeff Walker and Bob Wilson, just in from General Assembly committee, and Virginia Association of Planning District Commission (VAPDC) Winter Conference attendance, respectively, in Richmond, commenced his legislative overview with an update on SB768 (J. Watkins)- Impact Fee legislation, referred to Finance committee that afternoon, that as proposed, would replace existing proffer system with capped impact fees (see <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+sum+SB768> for additional details and current status).

He also referenced HJ 178 (C. Athey)- Urban Development Area study, and its companion in the Senate SJ 70 (J. Vogel), calling for the formation of joint committees to study the HB3202-required designation by specified jurisdictions of Urban Development Areas, and its implications (see <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi->

[bin/legp504.exe?081+sum+HJ178](http://legp504.exe?081+sum+HJ178) and <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+sum+SJ70>). Ostensibly, the findings and/or recommendations of the VACO Region 7 Transportation Committee, he pointed out, should be able to roll right into the upcoming Athey/Vogel Study committee.

Goals & Objectives of the Committee

Group

Among other topics, the following were touched on as the group evaluated the potential and assessed the prospective benefits of moving forward with the proposed VACO Region 7 (VR7?) Transportation Committee effort:

- What exactly should be the role of the Committee, and how might it be of benefit to both member jurisdictions and two adjoining Planning Districts which comprise VACO Region 7?

To educate, exchange information, provide feedback, and otherwise serve in an advisory capacity on HB3202-related implementation issues of interest to members; solicit, assemble, and evaluate detailed case study examples and data from the localities by way of the RRRC and GWRC's Rural Transportation Technical and MPO committees, local planning directors, and others, with attention to possible legislative "unintended consequences"; and disseminate information on findings.

Given not only its timeliness with regard to legislation currently pending before the General Assembly, but applicability of anticipated findings to each of the Region 7 jurisdictions, there was agreement among those in attendance as to the Committee's potential, if unclear as yet as to how duties were to be assigned, and logistics worked out.

- Where and how often should the committee meet?

It was decided to hold off on meeting again until conclusion of the General Assembly session; then, as often as needed to identify issues, arrange presentations, document findings, etc.

- Should membership be broadened to include additional jurisdictions?

While undoubtedly of interest to other jurisdictions and regions, it was decided at least for now that the two PDCs—Rappahannock-Rapidan and George Washington Regions (Planning Districts 9 and 16), together with adjoining Madison and Louisa Counties, among themselves possess the varied levels of urbanization, demographics, and perspectives needed to get a full picture. Moreover, the commonalities of transportation challenges faced, not to mention key regional thoroughfares shared across the adjoining planning districts and localities were also seen as a plus.

- What information is going to need to be gathered, and by whom?

Responsibilities and assignments to be further spelled out at a future meeting.

Continued Discussion, Other Benefits, and Additional Questions Remaining to be Answered

Group

- Anticipated eventual tie in to nutrient caps/non-point source related questions
- Potential to translate into more quantitative data gathering, and/or transportation modeling effort
- How disseminate findings/structure public outreach?

Adjourn

At 6:15 p.m., GWR attendees excused themselves to proceed to another meeting that evening, whereupon the RRR attendees broke for dinner, kindly provided by GWRC, and continued the general discussion.

There being no further business, Chairman Steve Walker adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m., thanking the George Washington Regional Commission for their hospitality.

It was proposed that the next meeting be tentatively scheduled for **Friday, March 28**, at Germanna Community College- Locust Grove Campus (further details to be announced), to coincide with the VACO-Culpeper *Regional Courthouse* meeting scheduled for the same day.

For additional info, please visit the VACO Region 7 Transportation Committee webpage at www.rrregion.org/vaco, or contact Committee Chairman Steve Walker at: 540-825-7716.

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