

**Minutes of the VAPDC Transportation Committee Meeting**  
**January 29, 2008 10:00am**  
**Omni Richmond Hotel**  
*in conjunction with the VAPDC Winter Conference*

In Attendance:

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Committee Chairman Jeff Walker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed presenters, members and guests. Attendees introduced themselves. He noted it was a full agenda, with numerous timely topics requested by committee members, but that an effort would be made to allow as much time as possible for questions. A change in the order of the agenda was requested by Mr. McCormack, who indicated he had another meeting obligation later in the morning.

## Legislative Update

*Ted McCormack*

Mr. McCormack of the Virginia Association of Counties provided everyone with a hand-out on the numerous bills that have been introduced to amend HB 3202. Some of these include:

- HB 1033: grants towns the authority to create urban transportation service districts (he noted this was introduced for Dumfries);
- HB 1571 (Hull): restores the provisions related to impact fees to the way they existed prior to July 1, 2007 and repeals those passed in 2007;
- SB 768 (Watkins): eliminates cash proffers and replaces them with a broadened system of capped impact fees; allows acceptance of on-site non-cash proffers (with credits possible for off-site development);
- SJ 70 Study (Vogel): proposes a study of the voluntary and required incorporation of urban development areas into local comprehensive plans. The legislature has been hearing a lot from localities about the HB3202 UDA requirement

Mr. McCormack also provided a hand-out and brief summary of several other pending bills:

- HB 147 (Fraline, Frederick and Rust): requires the CTB to conduct a comprehensive review of statewide needs in a Statewide Transportation Plan that inventories construction needs for all systems and establishes goals and priorities for a 20-year planning horizon;
- SB 233 (Whipple): Senate companion bill to HB 147
- HB 977 (Shannon): amends the performance data that will be collected by MPOs and PDCs and report to the CTB;
- SB 186 (Herring): amends the statistical information that VDOT must collect in cooperation with the MPOs and PDCs to provide increased information on the performance of the Commonwealth's transportation system.

He noted there is ongoing discussion of revisions to the sidewalk regulations and the secondary road regulations. Mr. McCormack distributed findings of a survey of Regional Goals and Data collected in a 2006 MPO Questionnaire. Planning entities that were surveyed included: Charlottesville, Hampton Roads, Harrisonburg-Rockingham, LENOWISCO, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Richmond Area MPO, Roanoke Valley Area MPO, Tri-Cities MPO, Win-Fred MPO and Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council. He also distributed some statewide statistical maps.

## MPO "Year of Expenditure" Amendment Process

*Jake Gilmer*

Mr. Gilmer of the Roanoke Valley MPO gave a Powerpoint presentation about how the Roanoke Valley developed its constrained transportation project list. He said that all constrained LRTPs must be in dollars in the year of expenditure. He said that SAFETEA-LU provides the requirements for the public involvement process that must be followed. In the Roanoke Valley, the MPO listed its constrained funding priorities in six-year increments: 2008-2013; 2014-2019 and 2020-2035. He said that the MPO broke out the revenues by system type. He said that staff is working with the counties and towns on the secondary and urban system draft lists of priorities. He said that the secondary systems took the biggest reduction between what is desired and what is available to fund under financial constraints. He noted that the newly required rural transportation plans do not have to be fiscally constrained.

There was significant discussion that followed the presentation. One committee member noted that in order to make it easier for the public to understand the difference between what is needed (the “vision”) and what can be funded under the constrained plan, their region was presenting the information in terms of lane miles, intersections and other tangible projects. Simply telling people the dollar shortfall doesn’t adequately convey the discrepancy between need and what’s currently doable. Harrison from the Charlottesville MPO said that the “vision” should reflect projects that are “really needed” but that the region cannot afford to fund under the financial constraints. Lloyd from the George Washington region said that their region had established a goal of maintaining a Level of Service of D. He noted that his region felt that if you set the goal higher, you would end up paving over too much. He noted that bridge replacement costs are a big cost item. There was some discussion of “devolution” and how it can occur as responsibilities (and costs to maintain) move from the state to local levels of government.

#### Regional Long Range Plan Development, Phase II Update *Darrel Johnson, Marsha Fiol*

- Mr. Johnson, of VDOT-Transportation & Mobility Planning Division, gave an overview of Phase II of the Regional Long Range Plan Development. He said that Matt Merrill was in the process of creating a coverage layer with safety data and would be shortly be distributing it via CD.
- He announced that VDOT would be holding a Video-Conference for rural PDCs on February 27 at 10:00 a.m. to provide further details about Phase II.
- Ms. Fiol, Transportation & Mobility Planning Division Administrator, said that in late spring/early summer, VDOT will hold meetings in each District to solicit feedback on ways that the rural transportation planning assistance and grant programs might be improved.
- She indicated said that VDOT was moving toward having MPOs and PDCs sign a detailed agreement only once every five years, rather than annually as is the current practice.
- Lastly, Mr. Johnson closed with a reminder that quarterly invoices for SPR and PL funds were due the end of January, requests for deprogramming must be received by March 31, and that FY’09 Work Plan proposals for the Rural Tran Planning Program are due March 15.

#### Multimodal Office Update *Mary Lynn Tischer*

- Dr. Tischer talked briefly about completion of Phase I of the Statewide Multimodal Freight Study and said that information about Phase I is available at [www.vtrans.org](http://www.vtrans.org). She noted that Phase II of the study is now getting underway. She said the Truck Origin-Destination survey had provided some interesting insights, such as the fact that a lot of the truck traffic on the Virginia highways is coming all the way from Texas. Studies were done for I-81, I-95 and I-64. Study of the Hampton Roads to Richmond corridor is underway and will be available in February. Dr. Tischer said that the study will look at how freight transport affects the environment and noted that better enforcement of speed limits was also needed.
- In regards to the recently Multimodal Planning Grant application round, she indicated that the Office had received 32 applications for funding and that staff will be making recommendations on February 15, with final decisions and notification to applicants shortly to follow.

- Dr. Tischer said that the Multimodal Office was required to do a Long Range Plan update that includes a unified look at highways, transit and rail. Finally, she provided a detailed hand-out on the various Performance Measures that HB 3202 requires Transportation Authorities to collect and measures that had been recommended by the Regional Measures Committee, chaired by Ray Griffin of Central Shenandoah PDC. She indicated that the committee would be getting back together soon to provide further input and discussion of the measures.

#### Access Management Regulatory Changes

*Paul Grasewicz*

Mr. Gracewicz, of VDOT Asset Management Division gave an update on the Access Management Regulations scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2008. He said that extensive public comment had been received and that a complete copy of the ordinance, spacing requirements, and other detailed information could be found on VDOT's website at [www.virginiadot.org/projects/accessmgt/](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/accessmgt/). Harrison expressed concern that the new regulations may end up posing counterproductive hurdles for communities trying to implement new urbanism.

With no further business, Mr. Walker, adjourned the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. He indicated that materials from the meeting would shortly be posted to a VAPDC Transportation Committee page on the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission's website, located at: [www.rregion.org](http://www.rregion.org), and to please get in touch with him with questions, comments, or requested agenda items for the committee's next meeting, to be held in conjunction with the VAPDC Summer Conference (details, *t.b.a*) in Virginia Beach.

*With thanks to the presenters for their time and informative briefings, all, for your participation and quality meeting discussion, and Harriet Parcels of RRRC, for preparation of the minutes. Look forward to seeing each of you, next meeting, in Va Beach! -JW*