

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Transportation Technical Committee
October 19, 2006
Minutes

Attendees: Michael Barnes (VRTA), Marshall Barron (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), Elroy Bentick (VDRPT – Richmond), Susan Carol Browning (Orange County Planning), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), Michael Collins (Town of Orange Planning), Chris Conti (RRRC), Liz Cook (Fauquier County Planning), Larry Fanton (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), John Giometti (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), Donald Gore (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), Sabrina Martin (Town of Gordonsville Manager), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Chris Mothersead (Town of Warrenton Planning), John Shelburne (VDOT Transportation Planning –Richmond), Chuck Stephenson (Town of Culpeper Planning), Roy Tate, Jr. (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Cathy Zielinski (RRRC/Aging Together)

Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Walker brought the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. by welcoming participants to the initial Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission Rural Technical Committee (RTC) meeting. The attendees introduced themselves.

Regional Long-Range Plan for Transportation/Discussion of Local Transportation Priorities and Needs

Mr. Barron discussed the recently launched VDOT initiative requiring the development of regional long-range plans (RLRP) for rural, non-metropolitan study area jurisdictions. He reviewed a hardcopy of a VDOT power-point presentation on the process. Items discussed included the development, scope (limited to the analysis of federal functional classified routes of minor collector and above) and utility of the RLRP, the role of the planning district commissions in the process, funds and technical support available from VDOT and the formation and role of the RTC.

Mr. Carr asked about the timeline for the last phase or Phase IV-Public Endorsement and Regional Adoption of the RLRP. Mr. Barron stated that a timeline has not been definitively established for finalization of the RLRPs.

Mr. Barron, Mr. Mauney and Mr. Conti reviewed a data CD that VDOT has provided to support Phase I-Goals and Data Collection of the RLRP process. Several maps were shown and explained, as well as a number of attribute tables. Committee members were shown the utility of the CD, as well as several areas where local jurisdictional review and possible comment would be necessary (local jurisdictions were given a copy of the CD).

Mr. Walker went over a list of potential topics for future discussion and/or presentation. Among topics put forth were emergency preparedness, a time travel study, traffic pre-emption/signal control, regional rail study initiative and park and ride lot inventory and transportation needs of the elderly and disabled.

Members of the committee were asked if they had topics they were interested in for future discussion/presentation. Among topics put forth were roundabouts, build-out analysis and system capacity, new development that would have regional impacts, local land use designations and how they interact across jurisdictional boundaries, transportation impact fees/proffers and local streets/new urbanism.

Mr. Giometti recommended each participating jurisdiction discuss their transportation priorities/goals/needs as identified by local comprehensive plans/transportation studies/six year improvement programs during upcoming meetings. This would allow each jurisdiction to fully understand the other's transportation priorities and provide a baseline for how these local priorities would fit into an overall regional plan. The committee agreed this proposal should take precedence and the Town of Warrenton and Fauquier County would make the first local presentations at the next RTC meeting.

Mr. Barron mentioned to the committee about the election of officers. Mr. Mothersead was nominated chairperson.

Presentation of Draft PD9 Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Mauney presented the draft PD9 Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan to the committee. This plan provides an overview and benefit of bikeways, greenways and blueways in general, inventories/maps local plans and facilities, references local, state and federal recreational facilities-parks/open space within the region, discusses the Virginia Outdoors Plan, and provides goals/objectives and implementation strategies for the PD9 region. Mr. Mauney asked to the committee to review the plan and provide feedback if necessary.

Several committee members discussed the growing popularity of equestrian trails and the potential at looking at local equestrian trail networks.

Announcements and Other Business

Mr. Stephenson discussed that the Town of Culpeper Sidewalk, Bikeway and Trail Master Plan has been initiated. A VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Grant will fund this plan.

Next Meeting

The committee decided to meet every other month on the first Wednesday afternoon. Therefore, the next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on December 6 at the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission offices.