

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
December 6, 2006
[DRAFT] Minutes

Attendees: Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper Engineering), Michael Barnes (VRTA), Elroy Bentick (VDRPT – Richmond), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), Chris Conti (RRRC), Liz Cook (Fauquier County Planning), John Egertson (Culpeper County Planning), Larry Fanton (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), John Giometti (VDOT – Culpeper District), Debbie Kendall (Orange County Planning), John W. McCarthy (Rappahannock County Administration), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Ray Parks (Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services Board), John Shelburne (VDOT-TMPD-Richmond), Darryl Shifflett (VDOT-Warrenton Residency), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Cathy Zielinski (RRRC/Aging Together)

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Walker brought the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on behalf of Regional Commission Rural Technical Committee (RTC) Chair Chris Mothersead, who was unable to attend. Members and staff of the Committee introduced themselves.

Introductory Comments on the Regional Long Range Plan Goals and Objectives

Mr. Conti presented example regional vision, goals, objectives and measures documents for review. These were presented as an introduction to the upcoming development of same by the RTC, of which an initial version, commencing with Fauquier and Warrenton goals, will be presented at the next meeting.

Presentation by Fauquier County, Town of Warrenton and Town of Remington Comprehensive and/or Strategic Plan Transportation Priorities.

Mr. Carr, Director of Community Development for Fauquier County, presented the county's, Town of Warrenton's (on behalf of Mr. Mothersead), and Remington's regional transportation plans to the RTC. Transportation planning in the county was discussed within the context of nine Fauquier Service Districts, the comprehensive plan, zoning and subdivision ordinances, and multi-modal efforts and projects currently contained in VDOT's Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Future projects and needs were discussed, grouped by road corridor, service district and area transportation plan. Other topics of discussion included access management, traffic calming techniques, traffic impact modeling and impact fees.

Questions from the committee pertained to a proposed link between Routes 17 and 211 on the western side of Warrenton. Mr. Carr discussed several possible alignments, right of way efforts, potential timeline and political considerations associated with this proposal.

Discussion of Proposed RTC Public Participation Plan

Mr. Conti presented a proposed public involvement process and related strategies for the upcoming development of a Regional Long Range Plan (RLRP). Several additions were suggested including having participating RTC jurisdictions link to a RTC/RLRP web page found on the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission's website, sending notices of special meetings and "events" to the governing bodies of participating RTC jurisdictions for inclusion in

Board/Council packets, provision for annual review of the public involvement process, and polling members of the public to ascertain which participation method was most effective in attracting them to a RTC meeting or “event”.

Update on VDOT Data CD, Draft Regional Bike Plan and State Bicycle/Pedestrian Policy

Mr. Mauney mentioned that he had received several comments from RTC members concerning the VDOT data CD and draft regional bike plan that was distributed to the RTC at the last meeting. He also mentioned that the regional bike plan will be revised for consistency with the recently presented draft PD9 section of the 2007 Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Outdoor Plan (November 30, 2006 DCR meeting).

Mr. Giometti mentioned that VDOT is preparing to commence outreach to inform and solicit feedback from the public concerning the department’s bicycle and pedestrian policies, guidelines and initiatives. Toward that end, VDOT is interested in partnering with the state’s MPOs and RTCs to publicize the process. VDOT would like to hold meetings in the Rappahannock-Rapidan/PD9 region in late winter/early spring.

Presentation of Transportation Needs of Elderly and Disabled in R-R Region Report

Ms. Zielinski presented a report “Transportation Needs of the Elderly and Disabled in the Rappahannock-Rapidan Region” to the RTC. The report grew out of a larger, eighteen-month strategic planning effort that examined the needs of the elderly in the region. It was discovered that transportation is one of the leading concerns of the region’s elderly and disabled. Several transportation issues that face the elderly and disabled were discussed, as well as various organizational, private/volunteer/public transportation and planning efforts that are underway to address these issues. The main short-term recommendation of the report was to form a strong volunteer coalition among organizations and individuals to address identified transportation shortcomings.

Mr. Parks of the Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services Board (RRCSB), discussed the organization’s efforts to address these needs, focusing on the RRCSB’s passenger van fleet that provides door-to-door paratransit services in the region’s five counties.

Mr. Bentick commented how it was good that the needs of the elderly and disabled were being discussed and would be included in the RLRP.

Announcements and Other Business

Mr. Egertson volunteered and was unanimously affirmed as Vice Chair of the RTC.

The minutes of the October 19, 2006 RTC meeting were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

Mr. Walker referenced the deadline of an upcoming grant opportunity, the Virginia Recreational Trails Fund, and ongoing PD9 Park and Ride Lot survey with its accompanying web-link.

RTC members were given a summary report of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority’s “TransAction 2030 – Transportation for Today and Tomorrow” plan. This was presented by way of background if interested in requesting a more detailed presentation and for use as possible template.

Mr. Giometti announced an anticipated three million dollars in grant funding would shortly be made available through VDOT for multi-modal project planning or construction in early 2007; details to be released after the beginning of the new year.

It was agreed that Culpeper County and Town would be the next local government transportation priority presenters at the next RTC meeting. Mr. Bentick commented that a presentation on public transportation could be included during this series, and that a public transit route and environmental justice population concentration map would be a useful presentation tool for display.

Mr. Shelburne indicated that he could arrange a presentation on roundabouts, if interested, at a future RTC meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at the Regional Commission offices.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.