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Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Transportation Technical Committee
February 7, 2007
Minutes

Attendees: Marshall Barron (VDOT – Culpeper District), Elroy Bentick (VDRPT), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), Chris Conti (RRRC), Liz Cook (Fauquier County Planning), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), John Egertson – *Vice-Chairperson* (Culpeper County Planning), Larry Fanton (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), John Giometti (VDOT – Culpeper District), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Bob Miller (Madison County Board of Supervisors), Chris Mothersead - *Chairperson* (Town of Warrenton Planning), Ray Parks (Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board), John Shelburne (VDOT Transportation Mobility & Planning Division –Richmond), Darryl Shifflett (VDOT-Warrenton Residency), Jeff Walker (RRRC)

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

Mr. Mothersead brought the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m, welcoming Mr. Miller of the Madison County Board of Supervisors, first-time attendee to the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission Rural Technical Committee (RTC), alternating with Mr. Arrington.

The RTC approved the agenda for the February 7, 2007 meeting with one change. The presentations of Orange County, Town of Orange and Town of Gordonsville regional priorities by Debbie Kendall, Mike Collins and Sam Martyn (unable to make the meeting), were deferred until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTC on March 7, 2007.

Mr. Egertson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fanton, to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2007, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

No members of the public were present. Mr. Walker mentioned staff had begun implementation of the earlier-adopted public participation plan and that informational brochures and fliers containing information about the RTC and Regional Long-Range Plan (RLRP) development process had been distributed to area libraries for posting.

Review of Culpeper County and the Town of Culpeper Regional Priorities and Discussion of Updated Preliminary Draft RLRP Goals and Objectives

Mr. Mothersead reiterated that one of the central purposes of ongoing priority presentations by participant jurisdictions was to enable the concurrent development of a regional list of priorities with accompanying maps. The Culpeper County and Town of Culpeper drafts were distributed shortly following the last meeting. Upon review of the draft project list and map, Mr. Eggertson recommended the addition of the Western Outer Loop, from Route 729 to 522 in Culpeper County to the project list and map.

Mr. Mothersead also pointed out that the draft (RLRP) goals and objectives as presented at the January meeting had been expanded to reflect an increased emphasis on the linkage between land use and transportation planning as requested. There were no further requests for additions or changes to the goals and objectives wording.

Presentation on Public Transit and Related Issues

Mr. Bentick, of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT), presented an overview of DRPT's programs and funding (federal and state), matching requirements and program beneficiaries (individual, agency and jurisdictional). Also discussed was the ongoing construction of transit administration and maintenance facilities around the Commonwealth. To date, four of these facilities have been completed and seven are in the development stage, with one such facility under construction located in the Town of Culpeper. Mr. Bentick commented how he viewed both the RTC and RLRP as important forums for the discussion and planning of rail and transit options, and how they in turn can be used to address varying transportation needs.

Mr. Parks added that his agency, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board, utilizes Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities (Section 5310) funding administered by DRPT. In response to a question by Mr. Walker concerning funding for commuter lots, Mr. Bentick, Mr. Giometti and Mr. Fanton indicated that while VDOT was responsible for the funding of such facilities, a number of Park and Ride Lots had been built or expanded by private developers through proffers negotiated during rezoning proceedings.

Discussion Regarding PD9 Travel Time Study

Mr. Mauney discussed the upcoming travel time study as an opportunity to collect benchmark data with regard to a number of important measures; namely, operating speed, elapsed travel time and duration and frequency of delays on key segments of identified regional thoroughfares. Based on the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission's Rural Transportation Planning Program annual workplan and upon consultation with VDOT Culpeper District, Mr. Mauney indicated that a decision had been reached to focus the upcoming study on a targeted three segments of the Route 29 corridor, enabling a benchmark comparison of how traffic flow varies along its course as it bisects the region, through varying land-uses, access management configurations, and between peak hour periods.

Mr. Giometti observed how the travel time study might evolve into a regular, recurring part of RRRC's annual workplan, in turn focusing on a different regional corridor each year, and in so doing, ultimately ending up with useful trend data as to the evolving performance of these roadways over time. This would provide staff and policy makers a useful tool in determining where to apply finite fiscal resources on physical improvements, as well as other "best management" practices, such as corridor overlay districts, and other strategies, in an effort to improve road performance.

Mr. Mothersead suggested staff provide in a map highlighting segments of Route 29 to be included in the travel time study for review by the RTC at their next meeting.

Announcements and Other Business

Mr. Walker indicated that a number of inquiries had been received on the subject of VDOT's upcoming Multimodal Grant round and welcomed discussion of project ideas being considered under the grant, with applications due March 1. Mr. Carr stated that Fauquier County and the Town of Warrenton were exploring the possibility of collaborating with RRRC on a proposal that would analyze the current multi-modal transportation network in and around Warrenton and make recommendations toward identifying and filling gaps in the existing bicycle and pedestrian facility network. Mr. Giometti inquired similarly as to the possibility of a regional proposal to

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study the potential of a multi-use, multi-jurisdictional, (bike, pedestrian and equestrian, for example) facility, with viability from an economic development, mobility and recreational standpoint and as a means of connecting many of the numerous cultural and historical venues across the region.

Mr. Walker referenced the ongoing National Capital Region (NCR)'s Evacuation and Sheltering Plan initiative, how he had recently had opportunity to hear presented a draft Evacuation Concept Plan being prepared for VDEM Region 7, and how a detailing briefing on the subject for area chief administrative officers and planning directors (actually, the first of several such briefings), was in the process of being scheduled.

Mr. Giometti and Mr. Carr discussed the corridor study initiative being conducted by the University of Virginia's Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems. The study, focusing on road corridor preservation opportunities in areas of high growth and development pressure, is likewise focusing on Rt. 29 corridor in Fauquier County. Mr. Carr mentioned that Fauquier has been actively examining strategies to preserve limited access in this corridor and viewed the study as a timely complement to the county's efforts.

Mr. Walker referenced an upcoming training workshop being offered by Virginia Tech on the subject of impact fees and proffers, given Fauquier's recent enabling by the General Assembly to enact such transportation impact fees. There followed discussion as to how Fauquier had gone about pursuing such enabling legislation and the extent to which other PD9 jurisdictions might also be interested.

Lastly, Mr. Giometti announced May 2, to coincide with the regularly-scheduled meeting day of the RTC, as the date that had been set for the state bicycle policy forum for the Rappahannock-Rapidan Region.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on March 7, 2007 at the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission offices. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.