

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

Attendees: Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper Engineering), Michael Barnes (VRTA), Elroy Bentick (VDRPT), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), Mike Collins (Town of Orange Planning), Chris Conti (RRRC), John Egertson – *Vice-Chairperson* (Culpeper County Planning), John Giometti (VDOT – Culpeper District), Debbie Kendall (Orange County Planning), 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), Cathy Zielinski (RRRC/Aging Together)

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

Mr. Walker brought the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

The RTC approved the agenda for the March 7, 2007 and the minutes from the February 7, 2007 meetings.

No members of the public were present.

Presentation by Orange County and Town of Orange Regional Transportation Priorities

Ms. Kendall, Director of Planning for Orange County, presented the county’s regional transportation priorities to the RTC. Transportation planning in the county was discussed within the context of the comprehensive plan and special area plans (Gordonsville Bypass and improvements to Route 20).

Mr. Collins, Planner for the Town of Orange, presented the town’s transportation priorities to the RTC. Similarly, transportation planning in the town was discussed within the context of the comprehensive plan, with a background (topography, existing road network, average daily traffic trips) to transportation planning, specific projects and implementation strategies presented. As an aside, Mr. Collins discussed grant initiatives (WQIF - current, Multi-modal – application under consideration by VDOT) the town is involved with (in cooperation by county) that relate to transportation planning.

Review of the Draft Regional Priority Map/Vision Plan - Transportation Projects and Draft Growth Area Map/Source Notes

Mr. Conti presented a format (table and map) to document the region’s transportation priorities. The source for these maps is the ongoing priority presentations by the participant jurisdictions. Mr. Mothersead reiterated that one of the central purposes of this exercise would be to establish a consensus based transportation vision for the region, where inter-jurisdiction support for specific projects would then be possible.

Mr. Conti also presented the draft growth area map with source notes. Mr. Collins noted a possible modification to a portion of a growth area in Orange County, near the southwest corner of the Town of Orange. It was agreed Ms. Kendall and Mr. Collins would review the map further

and report any recommended changes to staff. Mr. Walker added that the growth area map was part of the on-going “Phase I: Goals and Data Collection” effort as prescribed by VDOT’s FY07 Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan Tasks and Deliverables. FY 08 “Phase II: Analysis and Problem Identification” is to be presented by VDOT to the planning district commissions at the upcoming Transportation Planning Workshop, scheduled for March 21 in Charlottesville.

Presentation on Public Transit and Related Issues

Mr. Barnes, Transit Manager for Virginia Regional Transit (VRTA), discussed VRTA’s management, funding, vision/mission, history, rider ship, service provided and a new operational facility under construction in Culpeper. He also presented operations specific to the region, including Culpeper Connector, Culpeper County Express, Circuit Rider (Warrenton) and Demand and Response (Fauquier County) Programs, TOOT (Orange and Gordonsville) and FRAT (Front Royal).

Transportation-Related Legislative Update/Recap

Mr. Walker mentioned Mr. Eldon James, representing the Virginia Association of Counties, would provide a briefing at the next Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) meeting on April 25 concerning the transportation bill recently passed by the legislature and now at the governor’s office for consideration. RTC members are invited to attend.

Mr. Mothersead expressed his concerns over stipulations found in the proposed legislation pertaining to maintenance of secondary roads/newly created subdivision streets by the counties rather than VDOT and the lack of funding/taxing mechanisms available to Virginia counties to be able to fund road maintenance.

Mr. Walker pointed out a graphic on display in the RRRC meeting room pertaining to the PD9’s continued rapid growth in comparison to the remainder of the commonwealth, where only the George Washington Regional Commission (Fredericksburg area) grew at a faster rate than RRRC between 2000 and 2006.

Announcements and Other Business

Mr. Walker mentioned two multi-modal grant applications that were submitted to VDOT in the region, including (1) a joint Town of Warrenton – Fauquier County application concerning pedestrian, bicycle and trail linkages between the jurisdictions and existing/proposed recreational, social and cultural venues in the area and (2) a Route 29 Corridor Study from the Madison/Greene County line to Gainesville. The Route 29 Corridor Study has been strongly endorsed by members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board and is to focus on design based treatments for heavily congested areas of Route 29 particularly where local and regional/through traffic frequently interacts. These applications were submitted in addition to the Town of Orange/Route 15 proposal mentioned earlier by Mr. Collins.

Mr. Walker also mentioned a Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Coordination Forum to held on April 23.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on April 4, 2007 at the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission offices. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.