

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Transportation Technical Committee
April 11, 2007
Minutes

Attendees: Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper Engineering), Mike Anderson (Warrenton Fauquier Airport), Marshall Barron (VDOT – Culpeper District), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), Mike Collins (Town of Orange Planning), Chris Conti (RRRC), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), Larry Fanton (VDOT-Culpeper Residency), John Giometti (VDOT – Culpeper District), Sue Hromyak (RRRC Commuter Services), Debbie Kendall (Orange County Planning), Lisa Kelly (Madison County Administration), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Peggy Miles (Orange County Airport), Bob Miller (Madison County Board of Supervisors), Chris Mothersead - *Chairperson* (Town of Warrenton Planning), Ray Parks (Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board), Don Schenck (Fauquier County Parks & Recreation), John Shelburne (VDOT Transportation Mobility & Planning Division –Richmond), Peter Schwartz (Commonwealth Transportation Board), Terry Snead (RRRC Commuter Services), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Tanya Woodward (Culpeper Regional Airport)

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

Mr. Mothersead brought the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Members and staff of the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) Rural Technical Committee (RTC) introduced themselves.

The RTC approved the agenda for the April 11, 2007 meeting with one change. The review of the Orange County, Town of Orange and Town of Gordonsville regional transportation priorities (as presented at the March 7 meeting) were added to the agenda.

Mr. Alderman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fanton to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

No members of the public were present.

Presentation by Madison County of Regional Transportation Priorities

Mr. Miller, Madison County Board of Supervisors, presented the county's regional transportation priorities to the RTC. Mr. Miller began with a background on transportation planning in Madison, including its agricultural/rural nature, central location to more sizable population centers to the north and south, and state transportation planning and its effect on the county. He then referenced recent commercial development along Route 29, as in several other PD9 jurisdictions, the primary transportation corridor across the region. Mr. Miller concluded with transportation planning as discussed in the Madison County Comprehensive Plan, particularly as it applies to Route 29 (maintenance as a scenic corridor, overlay districts, provision of water and sewer to designated growth areas, performance criteria for development and access management).

In response to inquiries from the RTC, Mr. Miller stated that most of the development in the county has been the result of individuals and retirees relocating to the area from Northern Virginia, but in recent years there has been also been growth from the Charlottesville area. The trend has been four to seven lot subdivisions, mainly outside designated growth areas due to unavailability of public utilities. Mr. Miller also described the nature of traffic along Route 29 as

mostly transient or pass-through, with accidents occurring at signalized intersections in the corridor the primary safety concern. He mentioned VDOT's VTrans2025 Plan has recommended widening Route 15 to four-lanes through Madison County, but indicated there were conservation easements in place along that length of road within the county.

Update/Discussion on the RRRC 2007 VDOT Multi-Modal Grant Proposals

Mr. Walker introduced the topic by stating the three multi-modal applications submitted to VDOT pertaining to the RRRC region have been advanced to the next round with detailed scopes of work on these proposals due in Richmond by April 13 in order to be eligible for further consideration.

Mr. Schwartz discussed the proposed Route 29 Corridor Study that is to analyze the corridor from the Madison/Greene County line to Gainesville. The study is to focus on design based treatments for heavily congested areas of Route 29 particularly where local and regional/through traffic are in potential conflict. The study has been strongly endorsed by members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, several members of which, as proposed, would in turn participate on and help guide the efforts of a Rt. 29 study steering committee. Broad and open public participation is anticipated with adoption of the plan by local jurisdictions identified as a main goal.

Mr. Carr, Mothersead and Schenck reviewed the proposed Town of Warrenton – Fauquier County bicycle/pedestrian application, targeting the filling of currently existing gaps in sidewalk and trail segments, toward completion of an eventual loop trail around Warrenton, with linkages to forthcoming Warrenton Aquatic Center, and Fauquier County Central Region park facility, among other destinations and points of interest. In addition, the study, as proposed, would also include provisions for signage and result in the development of detailed map of existing segments and identified gaps.

Mr. Collins stated that the Town of Orange's proposal (in cooperation with Orange County) is to examine multi-modal, alternative transportation solutions along the Route 15 Corridor, possibly as an alternative to widening. There is a desire to expand the original focus of the study to include the portions of the Route 20 corridor in the town and county as well.

Briefing on Area Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Including RRRC Commuter Services – Rideshare, Area Park and Ride and Related Topics

Ms. Snead's presentation on TDM and RRRC Commuter Services included a discussion of area population growth, the 2005 RRRC – Northern Virginia HOV System Western Feeder Market Study, description and current usage of ride-matching services, Guaranteed Ride Home Program, map of commuters served by zip code, area park and ride lot locations and usage, results of a recent survey regarding the park and ride lots, and possible future initiatives (e.g., new park and ride lots, shuttle services and commuter buses).

Ms. Snead added that commuter buses have been utilized in the past in the RRRC region, but for various reasons (cost, lack of riders, etc.) have failed.

Ms. Hromyak stated the databases of commuter service entities across the Commonwealth would soon be integrated allowing for area residents to be linked with commuters driving south toward Charlottesville and east to Fredericksburg areas.

Mr. Barron suggested the local rezoning process as a possible means of developing new park and ride lots where needed, to the extent that proffered parcels could be adapted and were suitable for that use. Commercial developers, for example, might designate a portion of the parking lots serving their developments as park and ride lots.

Next Set of Draft Maps, Preliminary Data and Phase I Deliverables Review

Mr. Conti presented an updated table and map of the region's transportation priorities including the Orange County and Town of Orange projects that were presented to the RTC by the jurisdictions in March. Mr. Mauney presented the next set of maps relating to the Phase I Deliverables including location of aviation and water and sewer facilities across the R-R Region, as well as significant regional transportation projects as identified in the state's Six-Year Improvement Plan.

Several members of the committee suggested potential sources of additional information with regard to water and sewer service areas. Mr. Carr and Collins volunteered to assist staff in the further refinement of maps as far as growth areas, and quantifying/qualifying transportation projects identified as regional priorities.

Announcements and Other Business

Mr. Walker mentioned that staff had recently participated at the request of VDOT by giving a presentation on PD9's approach toward development of a Regional Long Range Transportation Plan at the March 21 VDOT Transportation Workshop in Charlottesville.

Mr. Giometti reminded attendees that the next meeting of the RTC would take place on May 2 at the VDOT Culpeper District Auditorium and be immediately followed at 4:00pm by the VDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Forum for the RRRC Region. RTC members were asked to help spread the word regarding the Bike Forum to interested parties in their respective jurisdictions.

In addition to presentations on area airport needs and developments, the committee once again identified the subject of transportation impact fee assessment as a possible topic for future discussion.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on May 2, 2007 at 2:30pm at the VDOT Culpeper District Auditorium. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50.