

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
March 3, 2016
Minutes

Attendees: Troy Austin (VDOT), Marshall Barron (VDOT), John Cooley (Town of Orange), John Egertson (Culpeper County), Ali Farhangi (VDOT), Josh Frederick (Orange County), Denise Harris (Town of Warrenton), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Sam McLearen (Culpeper County), Mark Nesbit (VDOT), Marie Pham (Fauquier County), Nathan Umberger (VDOT), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Thomas Wysong (Orange County)

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

J Egertson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The agenda was approved as presented. Motion by D Harris, 2nd by M Pham.

The minutes from the January 7, 2016 meeting were approved as presented. Motion by M Pham, 2nd by D Harris.

There were no comments from the public.

Culpeper District Highway Safety Improvement Program

Nathan Umberger reviewed the VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program. A copy of the presentation can be accessed on the committee webpage at <http://www.rregion.org/trancmte.html>. Mr. Umberger noted that there is funding allocated to the VDOT Culpeper District for safety projects identified through the district's top 100 priority list. Current projects funded include:

- Route 3 & Route 20 (Orange County): Signal relocation and WB turn lane addition
- Route 29 & Route 718 (Culpeper County): R Cut Intersection improvements
- District-wide Signal Upgrades, Rumble Strips, Signage program

In addition, several projects were included as part of the Fall 2015 application period.

- Route 20 & Route 231 (Orange County): Proposed Roundabout Construction
- Route 29 & Route 662 (Madison County): Proposed R Cut installation
- Route 29 (Opal area of Fauquier County): Crossover improvements to include closure, turning conversions
- Route 522 (Town of Culpeper): Road Diet Pedestrian Improvement (Locally Administered)

Mr. Umberger also referenced the availability of locally administered HSIP funding for jurisdictions that maintain their roadways – Town of Culpeper, Town of Orange, and Town of Warrenton within the Rappahannock-Rapidan region.

Regional Long Range Plan Update

P Mauney provided a review of the ongoing Regional Long Range Plan update process, and discussed methods of updating the identified safety projects within the adopted plan to incorporate new data and to better align with the House Bill 2 and HSIP funding programs. The projects in the adopted plan were sourced from VDOT crash data from 2007-2009 and from locally identified hot spots. Regional Commission staff now have access to crash location data from 2010-2015.

P Mauney presented a series of maps showing the following information:

- Identified Intersection & Corridor Safety projects in the adopted RLRP
- Vehicle Crashes with fatalities, 2010-2015
- Vehicle Crashes with ambulatory injuries, 2010-2015
- Density Heat map of crashes with fatalities or ambulatory injuries, 2010-2015
- Density Heat map of all crashes, 2010-2015
- Density Heat map of all crashes & HSIP-identified Potential for Safety Improvement (Top 100)

The House Bill 2 safety criteria scoring is based on a project's ability to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes in total and as a function of vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Thus, the locations identified in the map sets would receive points for safety within the HB2 process.

The committee briefly discussed how to incorporate the new data into the RLRP. P Mauney indicated that he would provide each jurisdiction with a list of its projects in the adopted RLRP for local review within one week. Locality staff are asked to review those project lists and identify any additional intersections or corridors for inclusion in the updated RLRP.

P Mauney will also prepare additional maps for congestion and/or operational deficiencies, based on level of service data from VDOT, for the next committee meeting.

House Bill 2 Updates

The committee discussed the first round of House Bill 2 scores for the four projects submitted from the region. Based on the recommended funding scenario developed by staff from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, VDOT, and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, three of the four projects are recommended for funding. P Mauney indicated that the Commonwealth Transportation Board would have final approval. M Barron stated that there was an expectation that the CTB would clarify its position on the funding recommendations at the March 15th meeting.

D Harris noted that the ongoing discussion of what method to use to fund projects again brings up the urban versus rural debate that occurred last year during the initial HB2 policy development. M Barron also noted the importance of design specifications and cost estimates that go in with each application. Projects that go more than 10 percent over-budget will need to go back through the process.

M Pham asked about the importance of ranking projects within locally adopted Six-Year Improvement Program resolutions. Will a locality be penalized if they apply for a project that is not identified as its top priority?

P Mauney noted that there is an opportunity for the committee to submit comments and/or suggested revisions to the HB2 process, as the CTB looks to make adjustments in advance of the second round in August. The committee may revisit possible comments at its next meeting in May.

Planning Roundtable

Committee members provided brief updates on local planning and transportation activities.

M Nesbit announced that VDOT has named Travis Estes as Acting Residency Administrator in Louisa, but continues to advertise for the permanent RA to have the residency up and running on July 1.

A Farhangi discussed recent field visits by VDOT Traffic Engineering staff to the top 100 safety locations – both segments and intersections. District staff are looking to identify opportunities for low-cost safety improvements, including additional signage and/or road marking changes. A report is expected to generate potential projects for HB2 or HSIP funding, as well.

M Pham indicated that Fauquier County and VDOT are working to re-open the Markham Truck Rest Area off of Interstate 66, but have received some community feedback. A community meeting is planned to gain additional feedback.

Announcements & Other Business

J Egertson referenced the upcoming departure of Jeff Walker, RRRC Executive Director, and thanked Mr. Walker for his many years of service to the region and to the Transportation committee, and indicated that the region would miss his energy and knowledge greatly.

P Mauney stated that he would forward information on a VTrans Needs Assessment webinar scheduled for this afternoon to the committee immediately following the meeting.

The next Rural Transportation Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, May 5, 2016**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.