

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
January 26, 2017
Minutes

Attendees: Julie Bolthouse (PEC), Salem Bush (Town of Culpeper), Josh Frederick (Orange County), Jim Hoy (Town of Culpeper), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Sam McLearen (Culpeper County), Mark Nesbit (VDOT), Dan Painter (VDOT), Marie Pham (Fauquier County), Alan Saunders (VDOT)

Via Conference Call: David Jackson (Cambridge Systematics)

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

P Mauney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

The agenda was approved as presented. Motion by D Painter, 2nd by J Cooley.

The minutes from the November 3, 2016 meeting were approved as presented. Motion by D Painter, 2nd by J Cooley.

There were no comments from the public.

2025 Virginia Multimodal Transportation Plan Recommendations

David Jackson with Cambridge Systematics presented on the 2025 Virginia Multimodal Transportation Plan (VMTP) process, including the completed Needs Assessment and Recommendations package, currently under review at the PDC and MPO level. Mr. Jackson provided background on the VMTP recommendations, and their relationship with the VTrans 2040 planning process and other statewide transportation initiatives, including Smart Scale. The recommendations were developed based on a list of 800 needs identified in the VMTP Needs Assessment. These needs were consolidated into 170 statewide needs, grouped by VDOT Construction District, Corridors of Statewide Significance and Urban Development Areas, and then separated into three tiers within each VDOT Construction District. In the Culpeper District, there were 10 identified needs – 4 in Tier 1, 4 in Tier 2, and 2 in Tier 3. Needs that impact the Rappahannock-Rapidan region are:

- Tier 1: *US 17/VA 28/US 29 (Warrenton) have safety, congestion, reliability, and mode choice needs (Need C.5)*
- Tier 1: *Within the Culpeper District, there are mode choice needs, including regional and intercity bus service, and rail service reliability, congestion, and access (Need C.4)*
- Tier 2: *US. 29 between Charlottesville and Culpeper has mode choice and safety needs (Need C.8)*
- Tier 2: *US 17 north of Warrenton has redundancy, reliability, and mode choice needs (Need C.7)*
- Tier 3: *I-66 west of Gainesville has safety and redundancy issues (Need C.6)*
- Tier 3: *Urban Development Areas (outside the MPO) in the district have safety, network connectivity, and pedestrian/bicycle access issues (Need C.10)*

Following the Tiered Needs Assessment process, project-level recommendations were sourced in order to highlight critical projects in the next 10 years that will address objectives within the VTrans plan in order to optimize return on investment and consider operational strategies and address demand management first. The recommendations are unfunded pipeline projects and new project ideas that target the tiered needs. The sources for the projects are existing, unfunded Smart Scale projects, regional long range transportation projects (MPO & PDC), and other locally-identified priority projects.

Committee members were asked to review the project recommendation database at <http://www.vtrans2040.com/Pages/Recommendations.aspx> and provide feedback through the survey mechanism at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VMTP2025>.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the Committee webpage: <http://www.rregion.org/trancmte.html>.

Smart Scale Round 2 Discussion

P Mauney reviewed the second round of Smart Scale funding submissions across Virginia and the Culpeper District. Total project submissions rose from 321 in 2016 to 436 in 2017 and the total funding requested rose from \$6.95 billion in 2016 to \$9.25 billion in 2017. Total available funds are projected to be less than 50% of what was available during the first round. In the Culpeper District, the number of projects submitted more than doubled (17 to 35), but the total funding requested was relatively stable (\$310 million in 2016 to \$330 million in 2017).

Project scores were released on January 18th and 9 of the 35 projects in the Culpeper District were recommended for funding. Of these nine, only two – the two projects associated with Broadview Avenue in Warrenton – were from the Rappahannock-Rapidan region. The committee discussed some of the issues with regard to poor project scores and potential solutions moving forward.

M Pham referenced the issue of normalization of scores within each scoring factor and the relative low scores that projects in Fauquier County received as a result. She will be running additional calculations on Fauquier County's projects to see whether there may be reason to push for a review of the normalization process.

P Mauney shared with the Committee his calculations of how each project would score under the four scoring categories. Presently, the Rappahannock-Rapidan region is in category "C." For the 18 projects submitted over the first two rounds of Smart Scale, 2 would receive their highest possible score in category A, 1 would receive its highest score in category C, and 15 would score highest in category D. P Mauney indicated that any request to change the category that the region is scored in must be approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Given that the next application cycle does not open until August 2018, there is time for the Regional Commission to consider requesting such an action to the region's CTB members. There was consensus amongst the Committee members to request that action.

Planning Roundtable

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

J Cooley discussed the Town of Orange's ongoing Main Street Enhancement project and upcoming activities related to the effort.

J Bolthouse referenced PEC's growing involvement in bridge preservation throughout its region and her willingness to present to the committee at an upcoming meeting following PEC's research including the National Bridge Inventory and Statewide Historic Bridges database.

J Frederick indicated that Orange County was reviewing its subdivision ordinance and how that work had spurred a more thorough review of the County's private road ordinance. M Pham stated that Fauquier County is having similar discussions and would be willing to discuss common themes between their jurisdictions' policies.

J Hoy updated two projects in the Town of Culpeper. The Route 229 widening north of the traffic circle is moving along well. The HSIP project on Route 522 is in the design phase at present and it appears that there is not enough funding for the full scope, so the Town is considering options including a smaller scope or completing the engineering for the full scope.

S Bush discussed two of the Town of Culpeper's transportation alternatives applications and ongoing trail connectivity work in the Town. He also referenced the Town's work with consultant on the Downtown planning study, funding through the state UDA planning program. P Mauney indicated that the Town of Warrenton is working on a similar effort through the same program.

Announcements & Other Business

P Mauney asked that local representatives contact him if they have small transportation projects that they would like included on the FY 2018 Rural Transportation Work program. This could be especially useful for projects that local staff may not have adequate resources to complete internally over the next year.

The next Rural Transportation Committee is scheduled for **March 23, 2017**.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.