

*Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission*  
Rural Transportation Technical Committee  
Minutes of September 3, 2008

*Attendees:* Marshall Barron (VDOT, Culpeper District); Matthew Bolick (VDOT, Culpeper County); Rick Carr (Fauquier County, Planning Director); John Cooley (Planner, Culpeper County); John Egertson (Culpeper County, Planning Director); Sue Hromyak (RRRC); Patrick Mauney (RRRC); Greg McGowan (Transit Manager, VRT); Chris Mothersead (*Chairman*, Director of Planning, Town of Warrenton); Harriet Parcels (RRRC); Ray Parks (RRCSB); Paul Russell (VDOT); John Shelburne (VDOT-TMPD); Jeff Walker (RRRC); Cathy Zielinski (RRRC).

*Guest Speaker:* Mike Socha, Virginia Regional Transit

Guests from the public: Doug Crain, representative of Lake of the Woods, Orange County

I. Welcome, Agenda, Minutes and Matters from the Public

Mr. Mothersead, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made and seconded and the agenda was approved. Mr. Mothersead recognized Mr. Doug Crain, representing the Lake of the Woods homeowners association, who came to learn about the public outreach efforts for the Long Range Transportation Plan and hear about VRT's transit development plan.

II. Discussion of Public Involvement in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Chairman Mothersead moved discussion of the public involvement efforts on the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan forward to the first agenda item while awaiting the arrival of guest speakers from VRT. Mr. Mothersead said that the region would begin its public outreach efforts in October and noted that Mrs. Parcels had prepared a brief report on public involvement strategies that had been sent to all committee members. Mr. Mothersead asked Mrs. Parcels to lead the discussion. Mrs. Parcels said that VDOT's public affairs office, in conjunction with RRRC, had prepared a public information handout, the purpose of which is to provide the media and others with general background about the long range transportation planning process that is underway and provide a timeline of expected milestones. Based on the timeline, the PD9 region is scheduled to hold public information meetings in October. Mrs. Parcels said that the intent of the meetings is to give the public a general overview of the transportation planning process, present goals developed for the region and provide some charts and maps of demographic and transportation trends in the region that provide the framework for the planning process. Mrs. Parcels said that other means to involve the public being considered by RRRC include an expanded section on the RRRC website where an interactive survey can be posted to solicit public input, articles in the RRRC newsletter and materials placed in local libraries. She said that she envisioned October meetings in each of the five counties and that the meetings would be paired with other transportation hearings already taking place in each county, if possible. The Committee then discussed possible dates and locations in October or early November that would work for the meetings. Mr. Mothersead stated that the Town of Warrenton Planning Commission meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month but that the town and Fauquier County might want to sponsor a joint hearing. Mr. Carr said that the Fauquier County Planning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month and that the hearing could

take place after the meeting. In October, this would be October 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Egertson said that he would check the calendar of the county planning commission to see if a similar arrangement could be made in Culpeper County. Mr. Egertson also offered that Culpeper might be able to host a large regional meeting in Spring 2009, perhaps at Germanna Community College, when the Draft LRTP is presented to the public. Marshall Barron suggested that a hotlink could be established between the county websites and the RRRC website where information on the transportation plan would be posted. Chris Mothersead and Rick Carr suggested that an information packet be put together to accompany the packet prepared by VDOT to provide information about the process and the role of various entities, such as RRRC and the Transportation Technical Committee. Marshall Barron suggested that the on-call consultant could help with some of the presentations, perhaps through development of a power point presentation that would accompany more specific information about the region presented by RRRC staff and the hosting county. Public announcements will need to be placed in local newspapers and key stakeholder groups advised of the meetings.

### III. Presentation on VRT Transit Development Plan-Michael Socha, VRT General Manager, and Greg McGowan, VRT Transit Manager

Mr. Mothersead welcomed Michael Socha, General Manager of VRT and Greg McGowan, VRT Transit Manager (and a member of the committee) to give a presentation to the committee about the Transportation Development Plan recently completed by VRT. Mr. Socha handed out packets of information to the committee, containing a just completed Executive Summary of the VRT "Six-Year Transit Development Plan (2008-2013)" and other information. Mr. Socha gave a brief history of VRT, noting that it has three divisions, located in Purcellville (headquarters), Staunton and Culpeper. He said that ridership has increased from 100,000 to 800,000 rides this year on the system, with strong ridership gains in the town of Culpeper and Culpeper County as well as other parts of the region. He said that Phase II of the new maintenance facility in Culpeper will open shortly and that VRT may be able to offer office space for the call center that will be supported by other organizations as part of the Coordinated Human Services Mobility plan. The Commonwealth asked VRT and other transportation providers to develop a six-year development plan which has just been completed, with the help of DMJM consultant. The transit expansion plans are presented in short-term (1-2 years), mid-term (3-4 years) and long-term (5-6 year) increments. Mr. Socha noted some highlights of future expansion plans for this region: peak period express service from Warrenton to Manassas; peak period express service from Warrenton to Herndon/Reston; fixed-route Warrenton-Culpeper service; service between Culpeper and Charlottesville; peak period service between Culpeper and Manassas; fixed route service on Route 229 and U.S. 29 and Culpeper-Frederickburg service; peak period service between Town of Orange, Gordonsville and Frederickburg; mid-day Gordonsville-Wilderness service and expanded Orange-Charlottesville service. Finally, Mr. Socha talked about new partnerships that VRT is pursuing with Inova Hospital in Fauquier and others. Mr. McGowan talked about the growth in ridership in Culpeper and the new transit facility in the town. He said that a new partnership had started in 2008 with Jaunt service in Charlottesville and that he is looking at ways to create a Culpeper to Charlottesville service. Mr. Mothersead thanked both presenters for an informative presentation.

### IV. Announcements and Other Business

--8/7/2008,VDOT Webinar: Mrs. Parcels said that RRRC staff had participated in a webinar organized by VDOT and their on-call consultant concerning a new management website that will enable the PDCs, VDOT and the consultant to share information with one

another on the development of the Long Range Transportation Plans in each PDC and to send comments and edits to chapters once they are written.

--Update on the Regional Freight Study: Mr. Walker said that RRRC had decided to revise the Scope of Work on the regional freight study as RRRC has the in-house capability to conduct many aspects of the study and will shortly issue an RFP for a consultant to help with specific aspects of the study.

--Update on Second New Freedom grant application: Mrs. Zielinski said that RRRC had been approved for funding under the New Freedom grants to establish a part-time mobility manager and create better coordination among the region's many human service transportation providers and VRT and had applied for a second round of funding that, if approved, would add to the regional effort and enable the hiring of a full-time mobility manager.

--Update on RFP for new commuter bus between PD9 and Warrenton: Mrs. Hromyak said that Commuter Services has received increased calls from residents of the region seeking ridesharing/carpooling services, especially with the increased cost of gasoline. She said that Commuter Services is completing an RFP to establish an express commuter bus between Warrenton and Northern Virginia/Washington D.C. If this is successful, they will seek to add an additional bus in the future.

--Update on Route 29 Corridor Study: Mr. Walker said that a contract will shortly be signed with a consultant to conduct the Route 29 Corridor Study and expand upon the prior studies of the corridor that have already been done.

--Update on Evacuation Procedure meeting: Mr. Walker said that there had been a good meeting with Mr. Henderson regarding evacuation planning for the region, for which Route 29 will be a major corridor.

--Update on VTran 2025 procedure: Mr. Walker said that Virginia will hold a summit in November to which public officials and others throughout the state will be invited to discuss the VTran 2025 planning update.

Chairman Mothersead adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.