

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
Minutes of October 1, 2008

Attendees: Matthew Bolick (VDOT, Culpeper County; Rick; John Egertson (Culpeper County, Planning Director; Sue Hromyak (RRRC); Patrick Mauney (RRRC); Greg Chris Mothersead (*Chairman*, Director of Planning, Town of Warrenton); Harriet Parcels (RRRC); Ray Parks (RRCSB); John Shelburne (VDOT-TMPD); Cathy Zielinski (RRRC).

Guest Speaker: Ann Whitham, MPO Program Coordinator, Thomas Jefferson PDC

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. He noted that an update had been made in advance of the meeting that added a new announcement under Announcements and Other Business. With that change noted, he asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made and seconded and the agenda was approved. Mr. Mothersead asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.

II. Guest Speaker: Ann Whitham, MPO Program Coordinator, Thomas Jefferson PDC

Chairman Mothersead introduced guest speaker, Ann Whitham, MPO Coordinator at Thomas Jefferson PDC, who made a presentation about the public involvement program for the UnJAM 2025 and 2035 transportation plans in the PD10 region. Ms. Whitham said that the UnJAM planning process unified for the first time the MPO and the rural transportation planning processes. UnJAM stands for Unified Jefferson Area Mobility. Ms. Whitham said that the 2025 planning process was comprehensive and involved extensive public involvement, with one or two meetings and formal hearings in each of the region's six counties. The 2035 update will not be as extensive and began with one big regional kick-off meeting on May 10, 2008, a Regional Summit at Monticello High School. The kick-off meeting featured a prominent speaker, Dr. Reid Ewing from the National Center for Smart Growth, which helped boost attendance at the meeting. Ms. Whitham shared with the committee one of the large workbooks, containing charts and maps of transportation information, that the PDC used at the summit for citizens to review and mark-up with their ideas and recommendations. The PDC created a new website for the UnJAM transportation planning process with the easy to remember www.unjam.org domain name that was linked to the PD10 main website and a reciprocal link from the main website to the UnJAM site. Each of the county websites in the region also has a link to the UnJAM website.

The PDC ran an online survey of questions asking citizens of the region about their current travel patterns and desire for transportation choices in the future. They also mailed out cards to the PDC's extensive mailing list reminding people of their opportunity to provide input to the process and the PDC issued numerous news releases to alert the local media to the public involvement process and milestones along the way. Chairman Mothersead thanked Ms. Whitham for her informative presentation.

III. Long Range Transportation Plan: Public Meetings Scheduled in October

The committee held a brief discussion of the schedule of public information meetings planned for the PD9 region, beginning with a public information meeting in Culpeper County, in conjunction with the Culpeper County Planning Commission, on October 8, 2008. The Committee suggested to Mrs. Parcels that the Commission's website address be placed on ads for future meetings and on materials distributed at the meetings. Mrs. Parcels said that she was working on a short survey about PD9 citizens' travel patterns and desires for travel options in the future, similar to what was done in PD10. This survey will be placed on the RRRRC website and distributed in hard copy at the public information meetings. Mr. Mothersead suggested that the Commission might draft an article about the public information meetings and send it to the local press to make them aware of the meetings and try to get them to attend.

III. Long Range Transportation Plan Deliverable: Draft Chapter on Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Mrs. Parcels distributed a draft chapter on Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities to the committee and reviewed the major contents of the chapter. The chapter presents the language supporting bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the county and town comprehensive plans, support for these facilities in state and federal transportation legislation, and the master plans for bicycle and pedestrian facilities that have been developed by the Town of Culpeper, Culpeper County and Fauquier County.

IV. Announcements and Other Business

--9/8/2008, Public Meeting on the Update of Culpeper County Comprehensive Plan: Mrs. Parcels stated that she had attended the September 8 public outreach meeting by the Town of Culpeper to seek public input on the update of the town's comprehensive plan. She noted that the charette format that was used was effective and provided an excellent means to involve the attendees in the planning process.

--Update on the Regional Freight Study: Mr. Walker said that the Commission is in the process of preparing an RFP on the Regional Freight Study which will be put out to bid in the near future.

--Update on New Freedom grant application: Mrs. Zielinski said that the New Freedom grant that RRRRC had received will provide funding to establish a part-time mobility manager and a call center to provide a central location for calls by citizens seeking transportation. Mrs. Zielinski also stated that the Commission has applied to DRPT for funding to prepare a Transportation Demand Management Plan. The plan will be prepared internally, without the services of a consultant. The draft plan is due at DRPT by February 1, 2009.

--Update on RFP for new commuter bus between PD9 and Warrenton: Mrs. Hromyak said that Commuter Services has posted an RFP to establish an express commuter bus between Warrenton and Northern Virginia/Washington D.C. on the eVA website with a deadline of October 17 for submission of bids.

--Update on Route 29 Corridor Study: Mr. Barron was not in attendance and this item was deferred to a future meeting.

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

