

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
January 7th, 2009
Minutes

Attendees: Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper Planning), Matthew Bolick (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), Deirdre Clark (RRRC), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), John Egertson – *Vice Chair* (Culpeper County Planning), Sue Hromyak (RRRC), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Chris Mothersead – *Chair* (Town of Warrenton Planning), John Shelburne (VDOT TMPD), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Cathy Zielinski (RRRC)

Guests & Speakers: Bryan Hill (Town of Culpeper Planning)

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

C Mothersead brought the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The agenda was approved as presented.

J Cooley moved, with a second from F Alderman, to approve minutes from the December 3rd meeting. The minutes were approved as is, ayes all.

No members of the public were present.

2009 RTC Officer Elections

C Mothersead asked for nominations for committee members to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. There was some general discussion of the role of the chair and vice-chair amongst committee members.

C Mothersead nominated John Egertson to serve as chair, F Alderman provided a second and J Egertson was confirmed ayes all as Rural Transportation Committee chairman for 2009.

C Mothersead nominated Debbie Kendall to serve as vice-chair, J Cooley provided and second and D Kendall was confirmed ayes all as Rural Transportation Committee vice-chair for 2009.

J Egertson thanked C Mothersead for his 2 years of leadership as chairman of the committee.

Overview of Culpeper County Bicycle Plan

J Egertson presented details of the recently completed Culpeper County Bicycle Master Plan. This plan was produced by consultant HNTB for the County's Parks and Recreation Department for the purposes of developing a countywide bicycle master plan, aiding VDOT and developers in planning for future improvements, enhancing bicycle mobility and safety and promoting tourism in the county.

The finalized study included assessment and prioritization of routes, as well as an implementation schedule and also focused on providing connections with the Town of Culpeper's plan, completed in 2007.

The presentation slides are available at:

http://www.rregion.org/pdf/RLRP/20090107_Culpeper_County_Bicycle_Plan.pdf

Overview of Town of Culpeper Sidewalk, Bikeway and Trails Master Plan Study Effort, and Recent Madison Road TEA-21-Funded Sidewalk Implementation

Bryan Hill, Town of Culpeper planner, presented an overview of the Town of Culpeper's Sidewalk, Bikeway and Trails Master Plan, including information on the goals of connectivity, mobility, safety, tourism and quality of life enhancements. Key elements of the planning process included public input and connections with existing sidewalks and greenway corridors.

Ongoing implementation projects include some low-cost programs, such as installation of bike racks at all municipal buildings and parks, as well as several commercial centers throughout the town. This program is designed as a public-private partnership, similar to the provision of bus stop shelters in certain locations, with the town picking up most of the installation costs for bike racks.

J Walker complimented both localities for completing the referenced studies, commenting that they were each now ready to go having identified and prioritized project needs, were implementation funding to become available. He referenced that apart from recent focus on hoped-for stimulus funding, such monies, given the current economic climate promised to be very difficult to come by; however, not necessarily out of the question, inclusive, for example, of possible reallocation (from a currently inactive area project), if and were the recipient group to ultimately decide in favor of declining its use.

Next, F Alderman presented information and lessons learned over the course of the Town's recent installation of sidewalks and crosswalks along Madison Road south of Germanna Highway. The presentation slides are available at:

http://www.rregion.org/pdf/RLRP/20090107_Culpeper_Town_Sidewalk.pdf

Update on 1/6 VDOT Culpeper District SYIP Public Hearing

M Bolick provided a handout of the *Revised 2009-2014 Draft Six-Year Improvement Program*, as well as a summary of the Public Hearing held at the Culpeper District Auditorium on January 6th, 2009. As it stands presently, projects that are currently underway will complete the phase that they are in now and then be put on hold, with a few exceptions.

In the Rappahannock-Rapidan region, the Opal intersection (Route 15/17/29) and the Route 522 bridge over the Wilson Branch in Rappahannock County remain funded, while the Route 3 widening in eastern Culpeper County and the Route 29/Route 666 intersection at Eastern View High School in Culpeper County have had funding reductions.

J Egertson and J Cooley both stated that the general feeling at the public hearing was that most projects will see significant funding cuts, but that Culpeper County submitted a request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Secretary of Transportation to maintain funding for the Route 29/Route 666 interchange project.

Announcements and Other Business

C Zielinski announced that the Regional Freight Study RFP deadline was on January 8th and that the Commission would review and update the committee on proposals received.

J Walker discussed upcoming Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Studio and Public Listening Tour meetings in conjunction with the Route 29 Corridor Study, including next area TAC and Studio meetings scheduled for Friday, January 23rd at the Culpeper County Library. R Carr and C Mothersead asked about gaining access to the project team portal to view copies of past reports and other study materials. [Note: the project team portal has since been relocated to the VDOT website and has been made open to the public at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/route29>.

J Walker also mentioned an upcoming meeting of the VAPDC Transportation Committee, scheduled for January 30th in Richmond, as well as the VACO Region 7 Transportation Committee, with its connection to the General Assembly's Joint Subcommittee on Land Use (also known as Athey-Vogel Study Committee), regarding which additional background information can be found at: <http://dls.state.va.us/dlut.htm>.

J Cooley announced that the final version of the Impact Fee Guidebook from VDOT had been released and was similarly accessible via the Web at:
<http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/alpha/new/impactfeesguidebookfinal.doc>

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Rural Transportation Committee will be Wednesday, February 4th at 10am* (please note change to earlier time).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.