

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
July 1st, 2009
Minutes

Attendees: Joshua Bateman (Town of Orange Planning), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), Deirdre Clark (RRRC), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), John Egertson – *Chair* (Culpeper County Planning), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Chris Mothersead (Town of Warrenton Planning), Ray Parks (RRCSB-AAA), Paul Russell (VDOT – Warrenton Residency), John Shelburne (VDOT TMPD), Jeff Walker (RRRC)

Guests & Speakers: Joe Springer (Parsons)

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

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

J Walker advised that agenda item #3 would be brief, given that the Route 29 leadership forum scheduled for June 30th had been postponed. The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes were approved with no changes after a motion from C Mothersead and a 2nd from J Cooley.

Presentation on PD9 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan

Joe Springer from Parsons Transportation gave an update on the Regional Long Range Transportation plan. A plan document and technical report, both in draft form, were handed out and previously disseminated via e-mail to the committee members.

According to Mr. Springer, there are ongoing discussions between Parsons and VDOT regarding the layout and template for the RLRP documents. Mr. Springer asked for the committee to provide feedback on the text included in the plan document and for comments on the graphics and photos included in the template. If comments could be sent to Mr. Springer by July 17th, they will be included in a revised document to be presented at the VAPDC summer conference at the end of the month. The technical report will not need to be reviewed on the same timeframe. Comments on the technical report can be submitted until September.

J Walker asked about the goals for the RLRP and whether they included local adoption. J Springer stated that there had not been much discussion on that front, but that it is hoped that the RLRPs will be adopted by the individual PDCs, with local adoption up to each PDC's jurisdictions. J Egertson stated that the Rural Transportation Committee should review the RLRP documents and make a recommendation to the PDC, but did not feel that this would be a document that would need local action.

C Mothersead stated that the committee was started to function as a regional coordination group to establish long range goals and a strategic plan, and that the RLRP documents would also replace the previously-used Small Urban area plans for some of the larger towns. As such, the need to have it adopted by the PDC makes sense.

The committee held a general discussion of the plan document and asked Mr. Springer to include photographs that more accurately represented the Rappahannock-Rapidan region. J Cooley indicated that some of the recommendations appear to end at county boundaries, and asked that those be reviewed to increase the regional appropriateness of the report.

Route 29 Corridor Study Update

Mr. Springer discussed the decision to postpone the Route 29 Corridor Leadership Forum that had been scheduled for June 30th. The number of confirmed attendees for the meeting did not meet the needs for the committee to gather in Nelson County. Instead, the consultant team will be looking to have a meeting with local elected officials and state delegates, along with members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board in the near future, while the leadership forum may be rescheduled for September 2nd.

Currently, the consultant team is working on the inclusion of write-ups and recommendations for a number of key items in the report, including the state legislated Access Management requirements and their effects on the Route 29 corridor, specific projects in the Charlottesville/Albemarle/Greene County area, as well as common solutions that could be applied to the Buckland bypass area in Prince William and Fauquier counties.

Announcements and Other Business

J Walker apprised the committee that funding is currently available, with no local match requirement, for the Safe Routes to School program. This program would allow implementation of some pedestrian-friendly facilities near schools, among other possibilities.

J Walker discussed the expected extension to SAFETEA-LU, as well as Rural Transportation Planning organization legislation being advanced by Representative Walz of Minnesota that would give rural planning organizations, such as RRRC and the committee, an opportunity to access funding sources similar to Metropolitan Planning organizations.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Rural Transportation Committee will be Wednesday, August 7th at 10am.

Following a motion by J Cooley and a 2nd from C Mothersead, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.