

**Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission**  
**Rural Transportation Technical Committee**  
**October 7, 2009**  
**Minutes**

***Attendees:*** Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper Planning), Marshall Barron (VDOT - Culpeper District), Joshua Bateman (Town of Orange Planning), Matthew Bolick (VDOT - Culpeper Residency), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), Debbie Kendall – *Vice-Chair* (Orange County Planning), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Chris Mothersead (Town of Warrenton Planning), Patrick Mulhern (Town of Culpeper Planning), Paul Russell (VDOT – Warrenton Residency), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Cathy Zielinski (RRRC)

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

D Kendall called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

D Kendall welcomed new committee member Patrick Mulhern from the Town of Culpeper.

The agenda was approved as presented after a motion from J Cooley and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from F Alderman.

The minutes from the July 1, 2009 meeting were approved with no changes after a motion from C Mothersead and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from R Carr.

***Discussion on Route 29 Corridor Study***

Committee members discussed the recently released draft recommendations from VDOT's ongoing Route 29 Corridor Study. Several members shared the official comments and responses from their jurisdictions, including Fauquier County and Orange County.

R Carr stated that the ideas presented as part of the corridor-wide recommendations were applicable and should be supported. He indicated that while Fauquier County was in general agreement with those corridor-wide recommendations, the county is against any inclusion of the planning corridor from Route 29 to Interstate 66 in the eastern part of Fauquier County, also known as the Buckland Bypass. R Carr also stated that access management is a necessary inclusion in the report.

The committee also discussed the proposed Center State planning corridor that was shown running from Interstate 64 east of Charlottesville through Orange County and the Town of Orange and to Route 29 near the Town of Culpeper. Responses were mixed on this subject, with D Kendall indicating that Orange County would not support any such corridor. J Bateman stated that he would need to see more information before making a decision based on the Town of Orange's priorities. J Cooley indicated that the Culpeper Board of Supervisors likely would not support sending additional transportation funds to study corridors in the Charlottesville area, given that the county's construction and maintenance budgets have decreased significantly.

General comments from the committee included support for the corridor-wide recommendations and a desire for more explanation of the specific recommendations included, especially with regard to the Center State and Buckland planning corridors.

The committee focused on several key components for its regional response to the draft recommendations. Those components included:

- Recognition of the importance and necessity of the Route 29 Corridor Study and its blueprint phase
- Request for the removal of the Center State and Buckland planning corridors from the final recommendations
- Request for reasoning and justification of the recommendations included in the draft documents
- Request that the study focus on the pursuit of alternative planning strategies for access management and the development of a distributed transportation network, rather than planning for bypasses to the existing corridor
- Express support for the general corridor-wide transportation recommendations
- Express support for the continued treatment of Route 29 as a corridor of statewide significance and as the major regional travel corridor in Planning District Nine
- Request that funding be made available for continued study and planning to improve the existing infrastructure and future planning strategies for Route 29

C Mothersead made a motion with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from J Cooley for staff to draft a letter outlining these requests in response to the Route 29 Corridor Study draft recommendations. P Mauney stated that a draft letter would be sent to the committee via e-mail the next day and asked that responses and comments be provided by Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> to ensure that the Regional Commission could sign off on the response.

#### ***Announcements and Other Business***

P Mauney provided an overview of the recommendations from VDOT's draft Surface Transportation Plan. In the RRRC region, three intersections were included – two in Fauquier County and one in Culpeper County – and several corridors were also included in the draft plan. Preliminary review by RRRC staff did not find any major road projects missing from the draft plan, but staff would seek to clarify how the Surface Transportation Plan is meant to interact with the ongoing Regional Long Range Transportation plan recommendations and provide comment back to VDOT.

M Barron announced that Access Management regulations for commercial entrances on minor arterials will become effective on October 14, 2009. He provided a handout with the minimum spacing standards for commercial entrances, intersections and crossovers. Additional information is available at <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/accessmgt/default.asp>.

#### ***Next Meeting and Adjournment***

The next meeting of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Rural Transportation Committee will be Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Following a motion by F Alderman and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from J Cooley, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.