

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
February 2, 2011
Minutes [DRAFT]

Attendees: Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper Planning), Joshua Bateman (Town of Orange Planning), Todd Benson (Piedmont Environmental Council), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), John Egertson – *Chair* (Culpeper County Planning), Denise Harris (Journey Through Hallowed Ground), Dan Holmes (Piedmont Environmental Council), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Chuck Proctor (VDOT Culpeper District), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Gregg Zody (Orange County Planning)

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

J Egertson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Gregg Zody was welcomed to the committee. Mr. Zody is the new Director of Planning and Zoning for Orange County.

Regional Long Range Transportation Plan Update

J Walker provided a chronology of the Regional Long Range Transportation Planning (RLRP) process to date. At the February 2010 public meeting, in addition to a number of substantive specific comments, a series of more general but important questions were received, concerning the methodology, format, and overall aims of the VDOT consultant-led planning process (requested from the consultant for incorporation into the draft narrative.) The PDCs were informed that VDOT Transportation and Mobility Planning Division (TMPD) would be subsequently conferring with selected members of the CTB in 2010 to respond, providing clarification on such matters before continuing with the planning effort: among other questions, whether the document was intended to be a vision- or project-based planning instrument, and whether it was to be cost-constrained in its identification of area project-based priorities.

No word was received on the status of these discussions until late December 2010, when VDOT TMPD reported that agreement had been reached and that the VDOT-contracted consultant could proceed with incorporation of earlier submitted comments and presentation to the committee of a finalized draft.

An announcement to that effect was sent out to committee members, along with a request that the RTC be reconvened at a meeting to be held on February 2, 2011, for the purpose of reviewing earlier assembled comments that had been compiled by the VDOT consultant into a so-called “recommendations matrix” consisting of input received on and since the date of the February 2010 public meeting.

C Proctor from VDOT District Office shared that the primary purpose of the RLRP document is to identify area projects of priority interest across the region for potential implement in the event funding were to be made available. The document is modeled on a similar plan document required of the states Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and is more or less a “hybrid” vision plan/project list derived primarily from those outputted from various VDOT databases. He indicated that inclusion in the RLRP does not mean a project is necessarily in line for funding; merely that it has been identified as an area priority.

The committee raised several issues regarding the RLRP process/earlier draft document:

- T Benson asked whether this was an RRRC plan or a VDOT plan for the region. J Walker indicated that the framing of the plan, in terms of its required format, methodology, and content had been provided by VDOT-consultant Parsons Engineering, which also prepared and retains the electronic copy of the document. C. Proctor referenced that upon finalization by the PDCs, however, said plans would ideally be kept up by each region as living documents/current inventories of area project priorities.
- T Benson and D Holmes spoke about the relationship of the RLRP to other VDOT plans, including the Route 29 Corridor Study and VTrans 2035, as well as local jurisdictional comprehensive plans. J Bateman indicated that while the project locations and recommendations included in the RLRP document had in some cases been assembled from other plans and sources, the project list for each jurisdiction had for the most part been outputs from VDOT databases. C Proctor stated that other VDOT studies have similarly relied on data and content from VDOT databases, as well.

The RLRP document is intended primarily to be a list of potential road improvement projects, in unranked order of overall importance. Listed projects might ultimately feed into the Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP), but would not override each jurisdiction's SYIP priority list.

RTC members had an extended discussion regarding how best to ensure each locality, upon restart of the process, had sufficient opportunity to review and further comment, as applicable, on identified projects for that jurisdiction, and verify that any and all earlier-submitted comments were now satisfactorily included in the "recommendations matrix," for pending inclusion in the draft plan document, final review by the localities, and ultimate submittal to members of the Regional Commission.

J Bateman stated that the most important step would be to verify that the correct projects are in the Plan Document. J Egertson agreed, requesting that committee members each take necessary steps to confirm that the content included for their locality in the consultant's "recommendations matrix" accurately reflect the project priorities for his/her jurisdiction.

RTC members asked if RRRC staff could compile any additional edits requested by each jurisdiction for single submittal to VDOT and Parsons for inclusion in the draft plan. J Walker indicated that RRRC would be able to do so, provided each jurisdiction completes its review in a timely fashion. As such, the committee set the following timeline for proposed completion of the RLRP process:

- **By March 2:** Jurisdictions complete final review of the consultant-assembled "recommendations matrix" and forward to RRRC in advance of the upcoming next March 2 RTC meeting. RRRC staff will then compile any additional edits and submit to VDOT and Parsons.
- Upon return receipt from the consultant (two week's hence(?)) of updated draft incorporating sum total of "recommendations matrix" content and any additional edits, draft will thereupon be circulated to each jurisdiction for a final review and reporting back to RRRC by committee members, if at all possible, by the April 6 meeting.
- **April 6** RTC Meeting: Review of finalized draft plan document
- **April 27th:** Tentative submittal to Regional Commission for review.

2011 RRRC Travel Time Corridor Study

P Mauney spoke to the committee about the ongoing RRRC Travel Time Corridor Study program. 2011 is the fifth year of the program and, to date, RRRC has collected baseline travel time data for approximately 150 miles of primary road corridors in the region. The committee was asked to contact RRRC staff with any requests for corridors to be included in the 2011 study, which is slated to be completed in April 2011.

Announcements and Other Business

J Walker asked that committee members, in similar fashion, let RRRC staff know of any requested projects or planning-related assistance for inclusion in the upcoming FY 2012 Rural Transportation Planning Work Plan. In past years, the Commission has used this work program to assist jurisdictions with everything from Enhancement Grant-funded initiatives (grant writing and grants administration), bicycle and pedestrian facility planning, rail studies, Transportation Demand Management projects, the RRRC Living Towns Annual Planning Workshop series (currently in its 9th year), as well as other rural transportation planning of local and regional import.

The next meeting of the RTC was set for March 2, 2011, to be held at the regularly scheduled time of 10 a.m. at the Regional Commission offices.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. after a motion by F Alderman and second by J Bateman.