

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
September 7, 2011
Minutes

Attendees: Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), Denise Harris (Journey Through Hallowed Ground), Debbie Kendall (Town of Gordonsville Planning), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Dan Painter (VDOT Culpeper District), Sarah Sitterle (Town of Warrenton Planning), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Gregg Zody (Orange County Planning)

Guests: Michelle Edwards (RRRC), Karen Kilby (VDOT Culpeper District)

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

J Walker called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

J Walker announced that the chair and vice-chair positions on the committee were recently vacated and asked that an item be added to the agenda to discuss nominations of a chair and vice-chair. The modified agenda was approved ayes all.

J Walker introduced Michelle Edwards, Environmental Planner II with the Regional Commission.

The minutes from the June 1, 2011 meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by G Zody and a second by D Kendall.

There were no comments from the public.

VDOT FY'13 Revenue Sharing Program

Karen Kilby presented information regarding the VDOT Revenue Sharing program. This program allows localities to request up to \$10 million in state allocations to fund road projects with local funds matching the requested state allocation. In FY 2012, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved over \$103 million toward the Revenue Sharing program.

Projects submitted for the Revenue Sharing program must be included in the Six-Year Improvement Plan or the locality Capital Improvements Plan and must be initiated within two years of funding.

FY 2013 requests require that a *Detailed Designation of Funds Form* be submitted electronically to Greg Banks at VDOT Culpeper District by **November 1, 2011**. Subsequently, a hard-copy application, resolution and supporting documentation must be submitted by **December 1, 2011** to be considered.

J Cooley indicated that Culpeper County has had success with this program and stated that it puts the localities in the position of working for projects, rather than relying solely on the state for project funding. He also suggested working with VDOT from the beginning on project cost estimates. R Carr agreed, stating that Fauquier had likewise achieved positive results from the program.

K Kilby also indicated that she will be retiring in September and that Greg Banks and Tracy Elliot would be the contacts at the Culpeper District for grant programs. At the state level, Julie Brown is the temporary director at the Local Assistance Division.

Opal Access Management Study

R Carr presented the recently completed phase I of the Opal Access Management Study. This project was put in place in response to the Opal interchange and its effects on the existing intersection at Route 15/29 and Route 17. Phase I included a review of the existing land use in the Opal service district and modeling of various options for the existing intersection and service district, including a rear access option that the steering committee chose to move forward as part of the land use analysis for the service district.

The land use portion of the study included development of a proposed land use plan for the service district, with recommendations applying to new development. The Complete Streets model was used for the rear access roads, to provide access for pedestrian and bicycle activity and mixed with neo-traditional, compact commercial areas in the plans for the service district.

The county will now move to phase II of the project, which includes amending the current Opal Service District plan.

J Walker asked about how the VDOT on-call funding opportunity presented itself. R Carr stated there was no deadline for the on-call consulting requests, but that VDOT committed the funding due to the deterioration of the level of service at the Opal intersection. D Painter provided additional information for the on-call funding and said that the Town of Warrenton study on Broadview Avenue was also a result of the program. There is a \$200,000 maximum for the on-call planning projects and HNTB is the consultant assigned to this region.

VDOT Project Prioritization

D Painter discussed ongoing efforts at VDOT to identify projects that may be able to be added to the Six-Year Improvement Program project list, in preparation for the upcoming SYIP meetings in the Fall. In the Culpeper District, this meeting will be November 3rd at Germanna Community College in Culpeper. D Painter requests that jurisdictions have an idea of projects that may be able to be added to the SYIP list at the next RTC meeting.

This effort will also run concurrently with the prioritization of projects from the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. VDOT Transportation and Mobility Planning Division has requested that each rural transportation committee/PDC identify the top three priorities for each jurisdiction in the RLRP document, as well as the top three regional priorities during FY 2012.

Announcements and Other Business

RTC members discussed nominations of a chair and vice-chair. R Carr indicated that he felt J Egertson and D Kendall would be good candidates for the positions. Committee members decided that they would gauge interest from any other committee members and hold nominations and a vote at the October meeting.

D Painter referenced federal funding for TIGER III grants. A pre-application will be due in early October and a full application, with budget details, due near the end of October. VDOT is willing to partner on these efforts for any interested jurisdiction.

D Harris announced that Journey Through Hallowed Ground received \$1.6 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for implementation of its wayfinding and signage program.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. after a motion by J Cooley and a second by D Painter.