

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

Attendees: John Cooley (Town of Orange Planning), Susan Eddy (Fauquier County Planning), John Egertson (Culpeper County Planning), Brian Higgins (PEC), Debbie Kendall (Town of Gordonsville Planning), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Patrick Mulhern (Town of Culpeper Planning), Dan Painter (VDOT Culpeper District), Jeff Walker (RRRC)

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

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

The agenda was approved as presented following a motion by D Painter and second by J Cooley.

The minutes from the November 2, 2011 meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by J Cooley and a second by D Painter.

There were no comments from the public.

Regional Project Prioritization Discussion

Committee members discussed the project priorities for their jurisdictions. Culpeper County, Fauquier County and the towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville and Orange provided their top transportation project priorities at the meeting. Staff will follow up with the remaining counties and towns prior to the implementation of any regional prioritization process.

The Committee also directed RRRC and VDOT staff to generate a regional list of projects for future discussions. RRRC staff will contact any jurisdictions that have not provided their project lists and VDOT will provide planning level cost estimates, if not available from the jurisdictions.

D Painter spoke about prioritizing the projects on the regional level. He explained that VDOT District offices are attempting to develop the prioritized lists for non-MPO regions in order to have a better idea of project status. Developing the regional priority list would enable VDOT staff to devote time to moving projects along, as time permits, as well as to have an idea of projects that are supported by localities and may be eligible for future grant funding (such as the USDOT TIGER grants, etc.).

P Mauney provided a handout of project prioritization criteria that was developed after reviewing several prioritization methodologies used by other PDCs in Virginia. The draft criteria provided to the RTC was based primarily on the methodology used by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission. Committee members were asked to review these criteria and provide comments back by December 23rd, 2011 for continued discussion at the January 4, 2012 RTC meeting.

Committee members then had an extended discussion regarding concerns of using an absolute prioritization criteria and how that may skew the ratings in favor of large projects. J Cooley voiced concern that the regional priority list could end up in Richmond and take the place of local priorities. J Egertson stated similar concerns and that he is not comfortable with the RTC being

the arbiter of the regional priority list. P Mulhern stated that the use of ranking criteria is a positive step, but that they can also be manipulated to favor individual projects over others. Other issues raised included the comparisons of PDC/RTC functions with MPO policy committees and how the RTC does not have the same financial incentive or formal appointments as MPO committees.

J Walker requested an opportunity to follow up with other PDC/MPO directors on the implications of utilizing a project prioritization process and also stated that the final list would have to be supplemental to any and all local efforts and Six-Year Improvement Plan priorities.

Announcements and Other Business

D Painter provided copies of the recently released VDOT State Bicycle Policy Plan and provided some background about its development and use by VDOT in the planning process. Committee members commented that it may be useful in ongoing comprehensive planning activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. after a motion by J Cooley and a second by D Painter.