

**Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission**  
**Rural Transportation Technical Committee**  
**January 4, 2012**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), John Egertson (Culpeper County Planning), Brian Higgins (PEC), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Dan Painter (VDOT Culpeper District), Jeff Walker (RRRC)

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

J Egertson called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes from the December 7, 2011 meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by D Painter and a second by R Carr.

There were no comments from the public.

***Regional Project Prioritization Discussion***

Committee members continued their discussion of RLRP project prioritization and the proposed prioritization criteria provided by staff at the December meeting. In follow-up to the December meeting, several committee members provided comments on the proposed criteria, which are summarized below.

J Egertson stated that he provided a revised version of the points system on the proposed criteria that included increasing the values assigned to the *Transportation Access, Safety and Agency and Public Support* categories and decreasing the values assigned to the *Multiple Use, Cost and Ease of Implementation* categories. He also reiterated his concern that county and municipal staff should not be identifying recommendations as that is not their charge from their local Boards and Councils. D Painter responded that VDOT is committed to multi-modal projects and believed that the *Multiple Use* category should be ranked as initially presented in December. P Mauney referenced e-mails from John Cooley (Town of Orange) and Denise Harris (Journey Through Hallowed Ground) asking for more time to consider the process of regional prioritization. D Harris also requested that additional points be added for projects that are within the JTHG National Scenic Byway and JTHG Corridor Management Plan, and also provided reference to additional sources of information for the prioritization discussion. Committee members agreed to continue the discussion of criteria at the February meeting and asked staff to contact D Harris about interest in presenting further information to the RTC at that time.

A longer follow-up discussion focused on the use of prioritization criteria. R Carr asked for clarification about what the end use of the prioritization criteria would be. D Painter responded that VDOT would prefer to use the criteria to rate projects beyond the top three submitted by each jurisdiction and that the prioritization process is to be completed by the RTC as part of the FY'12 Rural Transportation Work program grant funding provided by VDOT TMPD. D Painter was unsure how far along other PDCs are with their prioritization processes at this point.

P Mauney referenced the Rural Work Program task list provided by VDOT, stating that the task asks the RTC to prioritize recommendations from the RLRP into two categories – jurisdiction and region and states that the lists will be used for consideration in developing the draft Six-Year Improvement Program. No specific guidance for prioritizing the projects was provided by VDOT. Would the local priorities submitted by each jurisdiction be sufficient for the prioritization process? D Painter believed that there should be some criteria used to differentiate between projects.

R Carr stated that Fauquier identified its priorities based on local need, rather than as what may rank highest from the RLRP. J Egertson stated that the RTC has been against regional prioritizing from the beginning of the process in 2007 and believed that the top three priorities submitted by each jurisdiction fulfills the prioritization without the use of a set of numbered criteria. R Carr agreed with J Egertson and stated that a prioritization rating system may be of use in the case of available grant funds, but not for Six-Year Improvement Program purposes.

### ***RRRC FY'12 Rural Transportation Work Program items***

P Mauney provided information about two of the upcoming Rural Transportation Work program grant projects to be completed by Regional Commission staff in Spring 2012. The *RRRC Travel Time Corridor Study* is now in its sixth year of data collection and has the capability to provide travel time, start/stop locations and other data for selected corridors in the region. In general, this program has been used to collect baseline data for future comparison of travel times and congested corridors in the region. P Mauney asked that jurisdictions contact him if they have corridors that may benefit from data collection this year and he will report back with preliminary corridors at a future meeting.

P Mauney also referenced a VDOT TMPD request for bicycle and pedestrian recommendations in the region. Regional Commission staff will be compiling a list of local and regional bicycle and pedestrian recommendations, including sources, in the coming months and will submit a draft list to the RTC for review and comment at a future meeting. D Painter indicated that the VDOT District Planners have been working on a similar effort in the past year and will share the data he has collected to avoid duplication of resources.

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

R Carr referenced an ongoing safety study for Route 28 from Prince William County to Route 17 in Fauquier County. A draft of the study should be completed by the end of January and may expand to include future safety studies along Route 17.

D Painter informed the committee that VDOT's on-call consultant will be available for planning-level projects in the coming months and asked for submission of potential project ideas as soon as possible. HNTB has provided these consultant services in the past on projects including the Opal Access Management Study and the ongoing Broadview Avenue study in Warrenton.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.