

**Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission**  
**Rural Transportation Technical Committee**  
**February 1, 2012**  
**Minutes**

***Attendees:*** Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), John Cooley (Town of Orange Planning), John Egertson (Culpeper County Planning), Denise Harris (Journey Through Hallowed Ground), Brian Higgins (PEC), Sue Hromyak (RRRC Commuter Services), Debbie Kendall (Town of Gordonsville Planning), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Gregg Zody (Orange County Planning)

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

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

The agenda was approved as presented following a motion by G Zody and a second by J Cooley.

The minutes from the January 4, 2011 meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by J Egertson and a second by J Cooley.

There were no comments from the public.

***Regional Project Prioritization Discussion***

Committee members continued their discussion of RLRP project prioritization. D Harris presented information from the 2011 FHWA Livability Guidebook, which includes strategies and indicators as part of a supporting platform that can be used to facilitate regional project prioritization. She also referenced the 2008 Journey Through Hallowed Ground Corridor Management Plan, specifically discussing chapter 6 of that document, which focuses on Roadway Safety, Wayfinding and Enhancement.

J Cooley reiterated his stance that, as planners, the committee can discuss these projects and prioritize them locally, but do not have the authority, either via MPO status or otherwise, to move further than that. He strongly supports using some criteria to supplement and support grant proposals, but does not support using criteria for SYIP/STIP use, as it may erode local control of project prioritization and identification. J Walker agreed with that stance, indicating that there had not been political direction from the state to move forward with that sort of project ranking on a regional level. J Walker also indicated that he felt the RTC was moving along at a pace that matched the inclination from the Regional Commission board.

D Kendall stated that the RTC had done what it set out to do by identifying the top projects from local jurisdictions.

P Mauney discussed the upcoming February 8<sup>th</sup> VDOT Planning workshop in Richmond. VDOT Central Office staff had asked for each PDC and MPO to provide a list of regional priorities to be used in development of the Six-Year Improvement program. RRRC staff received this request following the January RTC meeting and held discussions with the RTC co-chairs in the interim to develop a list of regional projects. The draft list included any project listed on the FY 2012-2017 Six-Year Improvement Program, as well as additional projects identified by local jurisdictions as priorities through the ongoing discussions from September 2011 to the present. RTC members

received a draft of the regional project list with the agenda for this meeting and were asked to review and edit by February 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

S Hromyak provided an update on several ongoing issues relating to the Regional Commission's Commuter Services program. DRPT has initiated the SuperNOVA Transit Study (<http://www.supernovatransitvision.com>) and will be holding public information meetings in Warrenton on February 15<sup>th</sup> and Fredericksburg on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

The commuter bus that departs daily from Culpeper and Warrenton to Arlington and Washington, D.C. has been taken over by Academy Bus Company. The transition was fairly seamless once Academy was aware of the route logistics and there may be opportunity for expansion of the service in the future, with a potential shuttle to the Vienna Metro Station referenced.

D Harris brought Virginia House Bill 1248 to the committee's attention. This is the transportation bill that has now moved out of the House and will be taken up by the Senate at the end of February. Details are available at:  
<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB1248>

B Higgins announced that Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle*, would be speaking in Leesburg on March 14<sup>th</sup> and Charlottesville on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The events are sponsored by Piedmont Environmental Council.  
<http://www.pecva.com/index.php/our-mission/communities/440-pec-welcomes-best-selling-author-richard-louv>

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. following a motion by J Cooley and second by G Zody.