

**Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission**  
**Rural Transportation Technical Committee**  
**March 7, 2012**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** John Cooley (Town of Orange Planning), John Egertson (Culpeper County Planning), Brian Higgins (PEC), Dan Holmes (PEC), Debbie Kendall (Town of Gordonsville Planning), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Dan Painter (VDOT Culpeper District), Gregg Zody (Orange County Planning)

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

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

The agenda was approved as presented following a motion by G Zody and a second by D Kendall.

The minutes from the February 1, 2012 meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by D Kendall and a second by G Zody.

There were no comments from the public.

***VDOT Planning Meeting Report***

P Mauney provided the committee with a review of the February 8<sup>th</sup> VDOT Planning workshop in Richmond. The most relevant topics of discussion at the meeting were the FY 2013-18 Six-Year Improvement Program development underway at VDOT and the Interstate 95 Vision Plan and tolling program application in development at VDOT in Richmond.

Regarding the SYIP, P Mauney reported that the list of regional project recommendations had been forwarded to VDOT Transportation and Mobility Planning Division staff following the discussion at the February RTC meeting. There was no specific discussion of these regional recommendations at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and it was the general consensus that this request for regional projects was one additional method for VDOT to gather potential projects for inclusion on the FY 2013-18 SYIP. Regional Commission staff will continue to follow up with the SYIP development and VDOT has provided a timeline reminiscent of past years for the development and adoption of the SYIP:

- April 2012: Draft SYIP presented to Commonwealth Transportation Board and financial information for Final SYIP available
- May 2012: SYIP Public Hearings and Adjustments for final financial information and comments
- June 2012: CTB Adoption of FY2013-2018 SYIP

P Mauney also discussed the Interstate 95 Corridor Improvement project. VDOT is currently developing a proposal to begin tolling portions of Interstate 95 via the FHWA's Interstate System Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Pilot Program. As of September 2011, FHWA had granted

conditional provisional approval to VDOT's request and VDOT now must provide the following for the final application:

- Vision for the future of I-95
- Environmental Scoping Analysis
- Consultation with Planning Organizations
- Identification of short-term improvements to be funded by tolling revenues
- Explanation of how tolling will support new capacity
- Structure and location of toll collection points
- Facility Management Plan

The preliminary schedule includes outreach meetings with PDCs and MPOs in June with a final submission slated for the end of Summer 2012.

More information is available at:

[http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/i-95\\_corridor\\_improvement.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/i-95_corridor_improvement.asp)

The committee held a brief discussion of the potential impacts of traffic diverting off of I-95 to avoid tolling facilities and other construction related disruptions. A request was made for RRRC staff to compare traffic counts on Route 15 in Louisa and Orange counties with regard to the Walmart distribution facility in Louisa County prior to the next RTC meeting.

#### ***FY'12 Rural Work Program: Bicycle & Pedestrian Recommendations***

As part of the Regional Commission's FY'12 Rural Transportation Work program, VDOT has requested that each region compile a list of local and regional bicycle and pedestrian recommendations. These lists will be used by VDOT to strengthen the bicycle and pedestrian element of the next Surface Transportation Plan and provide an inventory of which jurisdictions have bicycle/pedestrian plans.

P Mauney provided committee members with an inventory table of the regional bicycle and pedestrian plans, including references in local comprehensive plans, as well as stand alone bicycle and pedestrian plans. Committee members were asked to review this table and provide additional feedback regarding local recommendations and priorities.

D Holmes asked about a pilot program that PEC had worked on regarding a rental bike facility in the Remington area and its potential inclusion. P Mauney stated that if the Town of Remington (or Fauquier County) would like to submit the information, then the program could be included.

G Zody asked about integrated regional links beyond county boundaries. P Mauney referenced the 2006 Regional Bicycle Plan, developed by Regional Commission staff, that provided some general guidelines for regional linkages. J Egerton stated that the Culpeper County Bicycle Plan incorporated links to Fauquier County, but that other counties did not have plans in place to coordinate regional links at the present time.

#### ***Draft FY'13 RRRC Rural Transportation Work Program***

P Mauney discussed the draft FY'13 Rural Transportation Work program developed by the Regional Commission in coordination with VDOT Central office and Culpeper District staff. This funding provides the Commission the opportunity to staff the Rural Transportation Committee, coordinate and work with VDOT on statewide and regional data collection and

planning initiatives, as well as develop regionally significant programs such as the Living Towns workshops and the Travel Time Corridor study.

One item that was included in the FY'13 proposal is a partial carry-over from the FY'12 program. This project is an inventory of secondary SYIP projects proposed by each jurisdiction and would consist of VDOT District staff, RRRC staff and jurisdiction representatives visiting and reviewing proposed projects in each jurisdiction for applicability and need. D Painter indicated that this had been done at several of the other VDOT districts and resulted in improved communication and coordination for updating each jurisdiction's secondary SYIP projects. P Mauney and D Painter will coordinate with local representatives to schedule these inventories in the upcoming months. J Egertson indicated that an early Fall timeline would work best for Culpeper County as they are wrapping up their secondary SYIP submission at the present time.

The committee voted to approve the draft FY'13 Rural Transportation Work program following a motion by J Cooley and a second by G Zody.

### ***Announcements & Other Business***

D Holmes brought up a question about the 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan, specifically in regards to project #12 in Orange County and the possibility of the future four-laning of Route 20 in Orange County. As currently laid out Orange County's Comprehensive plan, the county does not support the four-laning of any portion of Route 20 or Route 15. G Zody and P Mauney stated that they would review the comments submitted by Orange County regarding the RLRP to verify that no requested change was omitted from the RLRP and would follow up at a future meeting with further information.

D Painter indicated that VDOT was currently accepting project requests to be cycled through its on-call consultant. These requests can be for safety-related planning studies, turn lane improvements and now have the potential to be moved through both the planning and preliminary engineering phases, in order to provide better opportunity for construction funding through grants and other revenue sources. Committee members were asked to send requests via email to [Daniel.painter@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:Daniel.painter@vdot.virginia.gov) as soon as possible.

P Mauney referenced a recent email regarding the VTrans 2035 interim update. The consultant has scheduled the final regional forum for the update on March 29, 2012 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at several locations throughout the state. Full details will follow and RRRC staff will pass along specific location information when received.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. following a motion by J Cooley and second by D Holmes.