

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee

May 2, 2012

MINUTES

Attendees: Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), John Cooley (Town of Orange Planning), Debbie Kendall (Town of Gordonsville Planning) Patrick Mulhern (Town of Culpeper Planning), Dan Painter (VDOT Culpeper District), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Gregg Zody (Orange County Planning)

1. D. Kendall called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
2. The Agenda was approved as presented following a motion by J. Cooley and second by D. Painter.
3. The minutes from April 4, 2012 were approved following a motion by J. Cooley and second by G. Zody.
4. As requested at the April meeting, D. Painter discussed the Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS) presentation he made to the Fauquier County Transportation Committee. This can be found on the RRRC website at .

D. Painter explained that in 2009 legislation created the concept of a Statewide Corridors of Significance. The CTB charged VDOT Intermodal Planning to do a comprehensive review of statewide needs and have two Corridor Master Plans (CMP) each year beginning 2012. The corridors would be all inclusive, rail, freight, car/vanpools, transit and adjacent roads.

Projects identified as a priority in the CMP will be considered priorities for funding by the CTB if the plan has been adopted into the Comprehensive Plan of the locality where the project is located.

The CoSS will not be constrained by local, district, regional or modal plans with the leading importance to carry long distance traffic. The goal is to preserve the capacity and operating efficiency of the CoSS--not particular requests for new access points, stoplights, etc.

Corridors of interest to PD9 include:

Route 17 – Alternative Route to I95 and freight corridor
Strategies - Bealeton Area Plan converts Rt. 17 to “Main Street” – would require a limited-access Bealeton connector to be constructed South of Bealeton and back onto Rt. 29

Route 29 – Commuter route, connecting NOVA to South (Lynchburg/Danville), cultural and tourism area access

Strategies – New interchanges (like Rt. 29 and Rt. 666 in Culpeper and Opal Service Area with parallel roads and bridges over Rt. 29)
Improve safety by addressing high crash rate areas, improve park and ride lot capacity, increase freight rail and passenger rail capacities

J. Walker inquired of the status of the Rt. 29 Corridor Study. His thoughts were it went to the CTB and several resolutions were passed but no further action or mention of the study. Is it still in the steering committee and moving forward? He would like an official update.

Discussion ensued on VRE expansion possibilities.

I66 – Major 4-6 lane corridor, link between I81 and D.C.
Needs improvement/expansion of Park and Ride lots
Dulles airport access

Strategies – Extend VRE and Metrorail, increase transit options and capacity, improve access to Dulles, improve express bus service

D. Kendall asked if a regional rail plan was needed. J. Walker responded that there have been two components – one 7 – 8 years ago before VRE put a cost on /Fauquier joining and the other is the RRRC Freight Study in 2010 with participation from Norfolk Southern. If local Boards and Councils would like, RRRC would pursue a regional study.

5. Draft FY2013–2018 Six-Year Improvement Program

D. Painter referenced the Public Hearing in Richmond today (May 2) at 6:00 p.m.

D. Kendall asked about Relocation and Construction entrance off of Route 20 to Montpelier being on the list when it was completed several years ago. J. Walker asked D. Painter to keep us updated on the removal list.

6. Announcements – J. Walker mentioned the just released 2010 Census adjustments which included New Baltimore, Vint Hill and Warrenton as an urbanized area. The topic will be discussed at the upcoming RRRC CAO meeting.

Rick Carr will be retiring July 30, 2012.

It was agreed to move the July 4, 2012 meeting to July 11th, due to the holiday.

7. Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.