

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

Attendees: John Cooley (Town of Orange), Michelle Edwards (RRRC), Brian Higgins (Piedmont Environmental Council), Debbie Kendall (Town of Gordonsville), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Dan Painter (VDOT Culpeper District), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Gregg Zody (Orange County)

Guests: H. Wade 'Winky' Chinault (VDOT Local Assistance Division), Pam Liston (VDOT Local Assistance Division)

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 J Cooley and a second by G Zody.

The minutes from the September 5, 2012 meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by D Painter and a second from J Cooley.

There were no comments from the public.

VDOT Local Assistance Division Update on MAP-21 Legislation

Winky Chinault, Federal Programs Manager with the VDOT Local Assistance Division, and Pam Liston, Transportation Enhancements Manager with VDOT's Local Assistance Division, presented information on changes to state transportation programs resulting from the federal MAP-21 legislation. Several programs, including the Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School and Recreational Trails programs, will be shifting to an all-encompassing Transportation Alternatives program. The full presentation can be accessed at [http://www.rregion.org/pdf/rtc/presentations/201211 TA MPO-PDC Presentation.pdf](http://www.rregion.org/pdf/rtc/presentations/201211%20TA%20MPO-PDC%20Presentation.pdf)

Mr. Chinault provided background information on the new Transportation Alternatives program, including funding declines from SAFETEA-LU (FY2009) allocations to MAP-21 allocations, as well as sub-allocation funding examples for Virginia's portion of the funds.

Eligible activities for the Transportation Alternatives program include:

- Construction, planning and design of non-motorized trail facilities
- Construction, planning and design of systems providing safe routes for non-drivers (inclusive of Safe Routes to School)
- Rails to Trails conversion projects
- Construction of turn-outs, overlooks, scenic viewing areas
- Inventory, control or removal of outdoor advertising
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
- Vegetation management in right-of-way to improve safety, etc.
- Archaeological activities relating to impact of eligible projects

- Environmental mitigation activities to address stormwater management, control and water pollution related to highway construction or runoff, etc.

For the Transportation Enhancement program, these changes combine two historic preservation/rehabilitation categories and make landscaping projects eligible only as part of a larger qualifying project.

VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board have also developed an interim FY14 policy for dispersing funds through the Transportation Alternatives program. For FY14, VDOT will allocate funds to existing projects in the Transportation Enhancement backlog, provided that the project qualifies for the new regulations set forth by MAP-21. Funding for the FY13 Safe Routes to School program remains in place and will be administered based on pre-MAP-21 guidelines.

Throughout 2013, VDOT and the CTB will work to develop a new policy for FY15 once further guidance is available at the federal level. The FY15 policy will incorporate Safe Routes to School into the Transportation Alternatives funding scheme and the SRTS will drop from 100% federal funding to an 80/20 matching program.

Announcements & Other Business

P Mauney and D Painter provided a recap of the November 1 VDOT Multi-Modal Public Information Session held at the Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper. D Painter indicated that turnout was better this year than in 2011 and asked that the Regional Commission plan on providing a display board of RTC and other transportation activities for the 2013 meeting.

P Mauney announced that the Executive Summary and full report from the SuperNOVA Transit Study were available for review on the study website: <http://www.supernovatransitvision.com>

D Painter referenced the upcoming kickoff of Journey Through Hallowed Ground's Living Legacy tree-planting project at Oatlands in Loudoun County.

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