

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
January 9, 2013
Minutes

Attendees: Drew Draper (Fauquier County), Susan Eddy (Fauquier County), John Egertson (Culpeper County), Denise Harris (Journey Through Hallowed Ground), 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)

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 following a motion by G Zody and a second by D Painter.

The minutes from the November 7, 2012 meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by D Kendall and a second by G Zody.

J Egertson welcomed Drew Draper to the committee. Mr. Draper is the new Transportation Planner for Fauquier County.

There were no comments from the public.

VDOT Functional Classification Update

D Painter previously provided information on VDOT's proposed Functional Classification changes via email. VDOT's central office has developed the proposed changes based on FHWA guidelines, including traffic volume changes and lane additions. D Painter also discussed an ongoing conversation about the Route 29 corridor and the potential to designate the entire corridor as a freeway.

D Harris asked about the National Scenic Byway designation on the segment where Routes 15 and 29 are on the same corridor. D Painter stated that that would be considered at the state level.

S Eddy asked about the timeframe for response. D Painter stated that the comments back to Richmond were needed by March and would prefer to have preliminary comments from the jurisdictions in January or February. S Eddy also asked if VDOT was providing any guidance on the review. D Painter stated that there was no specific guidance. D Draper indicated that there was some summary information on VDOT's website, but more general than specific in nature.

J Egertson asked that the topic be left on the agenda for the February meeting.

Six-Year Improvement Program Review

P Mauney provided a handout of the FY 2013-18 Six-Year Improvement Program for the PD9 region to the committee. In 2012, the committee developed a list of projects to be considered for addition to the SYIP, which was presented to VDOT staff, along with recommendations from all PDCs in the state.

Committee members reviewed the projects included on the SYIP and had no initial changes. D Kendall asked about the continued inclusion of the Montpelier entrance project, which has been completed. D Painter indicated that that project was included in a list of completed projects, but not removed from the SYIP because there was some money remaining in the allocation stream.

S Eddy asked if there was a schedule for the FY 2014-19 SYIP. D Painter stated that there was no formal schedule yet, but that it would likely remain similar to previous years with a draft available in March or April and public meetings in May and June.

Announcements & Other Business

P Mauney announced that VDOT had released the draft update for the 2035 Surface Transportation Plan and was asking for comments to be submitted by February 3, 2013. A preliminary review saw that most of the proposed projects in the region were holdovers from previous plans, though there were two projects in Fauquier County that may warrant further review at the county level. These were the six-laning of Routes 15/17/29 from Opal to Warrenton and the proposed four-laning of Route 215 (Vint Hill Road) that remains despite Fauquier County's opposition to such a project.

S Eddy asked about the SuperNOVA Transit Study and if there would be future implementation. D Painter indicated that the study was undertaken by DRPT, but that he had not heard of any specific implementation plans.

D Harris provided updates on three Journey Through Hallowed Ground projects.

- The Wayfinding signage program has gained funding from Loudoun, Prince William and Albemarle counties and will hopefully be completed by this summer.
- The Living Legacy tree planting program is moving forward. VDOT Northern Virginia District, Loudoun and Prince William counties and the Town of Leesburg are all heavily involved and the groundbreaking ceremony occurred at Oatlands Plantation in November.
- There is a potential workshop regarding the National Scenic Byway designation and how that interacts with, and affects, VDOT regulations. Committee members indicated that it may be useful to have a general workshop session to include elected officials in the morning and a technical session in the afternoon. D Harris will keep the committee apprised.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. following a motion by D Painter and a second by G Zody.