

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
October 2, 2013
Minutes

Attendees: Julie Bolthouse (Piedmont Environmental Council), David Holtzmann (Piedmont Environmental Council), Sue Hromyak (RRRC), Debbie Kendall (Town of Gordonsville), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Dan Painter (VDOT Culpeper District), Chris Pettit (Fauquier County), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Gregg Zody (Orange County)

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

D Kendall 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 Painter.

The minutes from the August 7th meeting were approved ayes all following a motion by D Painter and a second by G Zody.

There were no comments from the public.

New Baltimore Service District Planning Update

C Pettit presented an overview of Fauquier County's current work in the New Baltimore Service District. The New Baltimore area has been studied several times previously, with concern about grade-separated interchanges noted in past studies. The current effort began as a transportation-only study with county staff and a committee comprised of service district residents and land-owners tasked with developing transportation recommendations.

Recommendations were taken to the public earlier in 2013, but were received with reservations about the long-range visioning and lack of public input. Fauquier County staff then sought to incorporate educational outreach and additional public involvement in the planning process. Additional public meetings in mid-September produced good data and a desire to incorporate land use into the study, in support of the transportation recommendations. The county also utilized an online survey as a means for gathering public feedback with good success.

Presently, county staff are incorporating new feedback and revising the recommendations to potentially include additional multimodal bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure and inter-district connectivity with minimal impact. January 2014 is the target date for a new draft to be available for community review and input.

J Bolthouse indicated that the original committee included more than 30 participants with a smaller group of committed attendees. In her opinion, a lack of momentum hurt the process, but the county has done a good job of including the public from the beginning of the study.

G Zody asked about how the county disseminated information and who served as the public 'face' of the plan. C Pettit indicated that there was significant outreach to local business and homeowners associations in the service district with varying levels of success and that local media was helpful in sharing the study information. The county's community development department was the main point of contact for questions from the public.

P Mauney asked about how Route 29 was handled in the current draft plan. C Pettit indicated that all options were being explored, with the potential for additional signalized intersections on Route 29, along with the possibility for roundabouts on some of the secondary support roads. The intersection with Vint Hill Road/Route 215 was also discussed, with continuous green or 'Green-T' intersections being studied.

Transportation Demand Management

S Hromyak provided an update regarding Park and Ride lots in the region. VDOT recently released its statewide Park & Ride lot website to the public (<http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/parkride/home.asp>) which incorporates all formal park & ride lots into an interactive google map with zip code or city search available. P Mauney and S Hromyak briefly ran through the park & ride lot website for committee member review.

D Painter also discussed a recent meeting between RRRC/Commuter Services staff and VDOT Culpeper District staff. VDOT's Commissioner has identified park & ride lot improvements and expansion as a part of VDOT's 2013-2014 Business Plan and several areas were identified in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region for potential improvement. Existing lots with potential for upgrades include:

Remington – additional paved spaces
Markham – addition of lights
Brandy Station – additional paved spaces
Warrenton – additional paved spaces

There are also several locations within VDOT right of way, or lots owned by VDOT, that may be utilized as new park & ride locations:

Madison County – Route 29 & Route 687
Rappahannock County – Route 211 & Viewtown Road
Fauquier County – Route 17 and Balls Mills Road

None of these improvement projects or new park & ride developments are funded at present, but remain in the planning stage. Committee members are encouraged to discuss at the local level and contact S Hromyak or D Painter with additional input.

Planning Project Roundtable

P Mauney provided an overview of regional transportation news since the August meeting:

- Culpeper District has a new CTB member, Allison DeTuncq of Albemarle County.
- Proposed Spotsylvania Bypass with terminus near Route 3/Route 20 through Culpeper and Orange counties

G Zody gave an update of Orange County's ongoing comprehensive plan updates. There is a public hearing on October 22nd for the Board to review.

D Holtzmann referenced the potential return of the Clevengers Corner development in Culpeper County.

C Pettit indicated that Fauquier County is looking at an update to the demographic chapter of its comprehensive plan and is also exploring the development of a more comprehensive transportation model for its nine service districts.

D Kendall stated that the Town of Gordonsville has asked Orange County to add the roundabout upgrades at each end of High Street to the county's Six-Year Improvement program. The Town will also be formalizing its first sister city relationship with Thoré-la-Rochette, France.

Announcements & Other Business

RRRC will have its annual meeting on Thursday, October 17th at Stonefire Station in Barboursville. John Martin with Southeastern Institute of Research will be the keynote speaker.

VDOT's Fall Transportation meeting for the Culpeper District will be Monday, November 18th at 6pm at the Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.