

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
November 5, 2015
Minutes

Attendees: John Egertson (Culpeper County), Denise Harris (Town of Warrenton), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Mark Nesbit (VDOT), Dan Painter (VDOT), Marie Scheetz (Fauquier County), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Thomas Wysong (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.

The minutes from the August 6, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

There were no comments from the public.

HB2 Application Follow-up

P Mauney discussed the HB2 application process, including a review of projects submitted statewide (321 projects overall) and a focus on the 17 projects submitted in the Culpeper District. Four projects – two in Fauquier County, one in Culpeper County, and one in the Town of Warrenton – were submitted in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region.

J Egertson noted that he found the application process and online portal easy to use, especially in comparison to past experiences. M Scheetz stated that the interchange project application was a lot of work pulling together supporting materials and estimates, but that VDOT was helpful throughout the process.

D Painter indicated that efforts were in place to revise the user guides based on feedback from localities, VDOT staff, and other stakeholders. He also discussed the process for project validation between the District and State levels, and the current status of the four projects in the region.

P Mauney identified one issue regarding project eligibility. For the region, eligible locations seemed to be constrained more and more as the process advanced, including an issue with Corridor of Statewide Significance projects needing to be tied to VTrans 2040 identified needs.

D Painter also noted that the region would benefit from a regional economic development strategy, in order to obtain full points on that factor. The committee discussed the various factors, as well as the ability to creatively meet those criteria. For example, RRRC has a regional vision document that may be used to meet the economic development strategy factor for the time being. D Painter also indicated that having a top 10 or top 20 regional list would be beneficial in case a locality cannot develop an application, but would be willing to work with RRRC to submit a project in the future.

Regional Transportation Plan

P Maoney reviewed the RRRC Regional Long Range Transportation Plan, adopted in 2011 after a multi-year process involving the Rural Transportation Committee, VDOT, and a statewide consultant team that designed the final plan document for consistency amongst regions in the state. The RLRP contains 110 corridor recommendations and 105 intersection recommendations based on safety, operational, geometric, and other deficiencies.

The existing document is deficient in several ways:

- Data is 7-8 years old.
- Several projects are completed, in progress, or funded
- New projects and priorities at local level not included in 2011 RLRP
- Funding has changed with HB2/HB1887

P Maoney indicated that RRRC would be open to reviewing and revising the RLRP document as needed based on feedback from the committee. From staff's perspective, the existing document requires some definite adjustments based on the priority project list developed in Fall 2014, as several projects are not included in the 2011 RLRP and/or have had adjustments made in the interim. P Maoney also stated that data sources such as the Culpeper District top 100 safety locations and VTrans 2040 Corridor Improvement Plans may be incorporated into the RLRP revision.

M Nesbit asked about the value of the RLRP. Is it simply a list or is there some mechanism for prioritizing projects? P Maoney indicated that its use varies, but that the HB2 funding requires projects to be listed in the regional plan in order to receive additional points. D Painter stated that he uses the RLRP when VDOT completes intergovernmental reviews for conservation easements or other requests.

J Egertson asked that the RLRP item remain on the agenda for the next meeting, and also indicated that he would prefer that all existing projects remain in the document moving forward, with changes only coming from newly-identified projects and/or adjustments to projects currently listed in the RLRP.

Planning Project Updates/Roundtable

D Painter indicated that VDOT Culpeper District has funding available for corridor studies (block-length to ¼ or ½ mile corridors) utilizing on-call consultants. The corridor studies are meant to feed into potential HB2 applications, dependent upon findings and recommendations.

M Nesbit reiterated the need for identification of projects at a regional level as a secondary method of pushing projects forward as needed.

D Harris rejoined the committee as a representative from the Town of Warrenton, where she was hired as a senior planner. The Town is beginning its comprehensive plan update with a joint meeting between Town Council and Planning Commission this evening.

T Wysong stated that Orange County's Board will amend its Comprehensive Plan to include the Germanna-Wilderness Planning Area as a Designated Growth Area, in order to be eligible for HB2 funds in the next cycle.

M Scheetz discussed Fauquier County's ongoing public outreach on a number of unpaved roads in the County.

Revenue Sharing applications: Culpeper County, Fauquier County

Transportation Alternatives applications: Town of Warrenton

Announcements & Other Business

The VDOT Fall Meeting will be held on Monday, November 23rd at 4:30 pm at Germanna Community College in Culpeper.

The next Rural Transportation Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, January 7, 2016.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.