

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
May 5, 2016
Minutes

Attendees: Julie Bolthouse (PEC), Salem Bush (Town of Culpeper), Josh Frederick (Orange County), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Mark Nesbit (VDOT), Wells Nevill (Fauquier County), Dan Painter (VDOT), Marie Pham (Fauquier County)

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

P Mauney called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

The agenda was approved as presented. Motion by M Pham, 2nd by D Painter.

The minutes from the March 3, 2016 meeting were approved as presented. Motion by M Pham, 2nd by S Bush.

There were no comments from the public.

Regional Truck Traffic Discussion

W Nevill requested that the committee begin a discussion of regional truck traffic based on his experience with increases in truck traffic in Fauquier County and, specifically, on Route 17. Trucks often utilize Route 17 as a cut through from Interstate 81 to Interstate 95, and vice versa, and sometimes use alternate routes in the region to avoid congestion in the Interstate 95 corridor and Northern Virginia.

W Nevill remarked that Fauquier County has been proactive in addressing the issue on Route 17 north of Interstate 66 (between Delaplane and Paris) with lower speed limits. The corridor between Warrenton and Marshall is also frequently cited by citizens and there is a need to balance safety and movement of traffic and goods in the corridor. The Route 17 corridor, along with the Route 55 corridor, also sees a large number of logging trucks. W Nevill indicated that education and outreach should go beyond Board of Supervisor meetings. M Nesbit agreed and noted the tie-in with ongoing outreach regarding the Interstate 66 truck rest area.

The committee briefly discussed the issue and other routes in the region that have similar issues with truck traffic, including Routes 15 and 20 in Orange County. The topic will remain on the agenda for the next meeting with D Painter to present VDOT traffic data regarding trucks in the region and P Mauney providing an overview of the 2010 RRRC Freight Study as background for new committee members.

Regional Long Range Plan Update

P Mauney reviewed the ongoing Regional Long Range Plan update process, and discussed methods of updating the identified operational deficiency projects within the adopted plan to incorporate new data and to better align with the House Bill 2 funding programs. The projects in the adopted plan were sourced from VDOT's Statewide Planning System (SPS) and Statewide Mobility System (SMS) database and from locally identified hot spots and used a 2035 horizon

year for level of service projections. Regional Commission staff obtained updated data to include 2045 horizon year level of service projections.

P Mauney presented a series of maps showing the following information:

- Identified operational and capacity deficiency projects in the adopted RLRP
- Forecast Year 2035 Level of Service map (adopted RLRP)
- Forecast Year 2045 Level of Service map
- Forecast Year 2045 LOS D, E, or F locations
- Corridors with new LOS deficiencies based on comparison of RLRP and Forecast Year 2045

The comparison of 2035 to 2045 level of service produced 22 “new” level of service deficient corridors in the region. The committee held a brief discussion on how to determine recommendations for those specific areas. VDOT can provide additional information specific to the locations, as necessary.

The committee will continue to discuss the RLRP update at future meetings.

Six-Year Improvement Program/House Bill 2 Updates

P Mauney discussed the April public hearing conducted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in Culpeper, and the follow-up to that meeting. The discussion about allocating some High-Priority Program funding to each construction district (“Step 3”) continues at the CTB level, but it appears to have support amongst a majority of the board members. Both Culpeper and Fauquier counties spoke at the public hearing in support of Step 3.

M Pham reported that Fauquier County was informed by VDOT that the Warrenton interchange project would likely be funded, but potentially at a lower amount than requested. The lower funding amount would enable an interchange at the intersection, but would have Route 15/17/29 as the underpass, rather than the overpass, and would also likely remove additional project features such as a park and ride lot and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The CTB will meet again in May and will likely vote on the SYIP at its June meeting.

D Painter indicated that, for the upcoming application period, jurisdictions must notify VDOT of proposed HB2 submissions by August 15th in order to receive a guarantee of VDOT assistance with the application. This policy is aimed at spreading out application submissions and workload on VDOT staff during the application period.

W Nevill asked if it would be possible to compare Six-Year Improvement Program funding allocations from year to year for the region to see what the net effects of HB2 were on transportation project funding. P Mauney indicated that he could provide that information at the next meeting, depending upon CTB approval of the FY 2017-2022 Six-Year Improvement Program in June.

Planning Roundtable

Committee members provided brief updates on local planning and transportation activities.

D Painter referenced a potential policy change by the Commonwealth Transportation Board regarding signal installations on Corridors of Statewide Significance. The change might be adopted at the June meeting.

J Bolthouse discussed the extension of Virginia Railway Express to Haymarket and the possibility of a railyard in Fauquier County. J Bolthouse also asked about another round of studies on the Buckland Bypass, initiated by Prince William County.

J Frederick stated that the Orange County Planning Commission was looking at an overlay district in Barboursville to better address the alignment issues on Routes 20 and 33.

Announcements & Other Business

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.