

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Rural Transportation Technical Committee
January 25, 2018
Minutes

Attendees: Joe Costello (RRRC), Ben Davison (VDOT), Kobina Gaituah (VDOT), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Marie Pham (Fauquier County, *CHAIR*), Charles Rapp (Town of Culpeper)

Call to Order

M Pham called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes from the November 30, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

Smart Scale Projects Discussion

Committee members discussed the upcoming third round of Smart Scale, referencing potential local projects that may be submitted. Projects will likely be submitted from Fauquier County, the Town of Culpeper, and potentially from Orange County and Culpeper County based on discussions locally and with VDOT District and Residency staff. VDOT will be holding individual meetings with towns and counties to discuss potential projects prior to the opening of the Smart Scale portal on March 1st.

Committee members also briefly discussed the existing Smart Scale criteria and issues related to economic development projects and confidentiality.

Montpelier Transportation Presentation

J Costello presented on ongoing work by the Regional Commission regarding transportation at Montpelier. The work is being done through the Rural Transportation Work program and focuses on external and internal transportation impacts that may arise from economic activities identified in the 2015 assessment of economic opportunities at Montpelier completed by Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development.

To date, RRRC has reviewed various data sets including traffic counts, crash history, and level of service on the road network outside Montpelier, as well as trail locations, potential sites for increased use at Montpelier in the future in an effort to identify conflict points for multimodal transportation and pros and cons of enhancing specific areas of the property.

J Costello then shared visualizations of the property from Sketch Up to reflect the effect of potential enhancements and improvements related to road improvements, parking, and increased pedestrian activity. The goal of the plan is to provide Montpelier with information and concepts to help enhance multimodal activity, connect with the existing external transportation networks, and maintain its commitment to preservation while encouraging context sensitive opportunities round in the 2015 Virginia Tech plan.

Committee members provided feedback on parking lot sizing and spacing and the overall plan development process.

Transportation Legislation

P Mauney provided a handout of transportation legislation that has been introduced in the General Assembly session. There are several bills at various stages of committee and sub-committee review regarding Smart Scale, transportation funding generally, and transportation policy. At present, most of the bills have not advanced through committee deliberations.

M Pham referenced concern with HB 72/SB 207 which would make projects on regional networks as well as projects with costs less than \$10 million ineligible for High Priority Project funding. M Pham also stated concern with SB 147 which would make travel time reliability a required factor for Smart Scale review.

P Mauney noted SJ32, and a recent Daily Progress article on the subject of a study of an Eastern Bypass around Charlottesville, and also noted that similar efforts were met with resistance in the past. SB 583 is notable as identifying the entire Interstate 81 corridor (by reference to Planning Districts along the interstate) as an area where an additional 2.1% tax on fuels would be used to fund the Western Virginia Transportation Fund. Should such an effort advance, the precedent would be in place for areas outside Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads to levy additional taxes to help fund Smart Scale projects.

Discussion ensued amongst committee members and P Mauney indicated he would follow up on the status of HB 72/SB 207 and HB 1455 specifically.

Other Business

P Mauney referenced the upcoming FY 2019 Rural Transportation Work Program and asked for local staff to contact the Regional Commission with potential projects and/or activities that would benefit from Regional Commission participation or analysis. Regional projects will include the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan update and ongoing Long Range Plan update, and Commission staff may be able to assist with more localized plans.

M Pham mentioned that there will be a public hearing on March 22nd for the Warrenton Park and Ride Lot project, and that Fauquier County had received positive response to its Transportation Alternatives and Revenue Sharing applications for Waterloo Bridge.

VDOT will host a right-of-way workshop on March 22nd in Culpeper.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

The next Rural Transportation Committee is scheduled for **March 22, 2018**.