

2004 Policy Committtee Meeting Minutes

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Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held in the Crater Planning District Commission Office at 1964 Wakefield Street in Petersburg, Virginia on January 21, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield; Paul Karnes, Hopewell; Rosalyn Dance, Petersburg; Floyd Brown, Prince George; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Mark Ribblet, VDOT; Denny Morris, CPDC.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Wood, Colonial Heights; Robert Bowman, Dinwiddie;

OTHERS PRESENT: Geri Barefoot, citizen; John McCracken, Chesterfield; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Acting Chair Karnes called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - December 17, 2004

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Reekes and carried, the minutes of the December 1, 2004 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

Ms. Barefoot asked who was the sponsor for the enhancement grant proposal acted upon during he last meeting regarding the Battle of Reams Station in Dinwiddie County.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the question would be researched and a response made.

STATUS REPORT ON 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh indicated VDOT is entering data into the 2026 travel model on projects submitted in December. The travel model will be used to predict travel patterns in the year 2026. Outputs of the travel model will also be used to analyze transportation conformity requirements of the long-range plan. The MPO – Policy Committee will then be requested to authorize staff to advertise

the results of the conformity analysis and draft transportation plan document for public review. A public meeting will be scheduled and final action on the two documents requested before submittal to federal agencies for review.

Mr. Vinsh added that staff was presently working on mapping projects and updating the narrative portions of the document.

Mr. Ribblet ask what was the anticipated date for bringing the two item to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Vinsh indicated he would need 2 weeks following to authorization to advertise the documents for the public meeting. A key date would be the when the conformity finding would be available in relation to the next regular MPO Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Ribblet indicated a need to schedule key dates in this process.

Mr. Vinsh added that VDOT is working on a present-day and future-day Level of Service value for each of the projects in the 2026 listing. This information is needed for the revised environmental justice analysis procedure.

STATUS REPORT ON THE ROUTE 460 LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Mr. Vinsh indicated that the VDOT/Consultant project team has developed several alternative concepts for a new facility along with a concept for improving the existing facility.

Mr. Vinsh also indicated this information would be released by VDOT during the next several weeks and published in the project newsletter.

Mr. Vinsh added that a second series of public meetings would be held during the latter portion of February. The purpose of this series of meetings would be gather public input on the alternative concepts being considered.

Mr. Brown asked if a northern alignment would be shown in the alternatives.

Mr. Vinsh indicated alternatives on the northern and southern sides of Route 460 are being considered.

Mr. Brown asked if the alignments being considered on the north and south side were in close proximity to the existing facility.

Mr. Vinsh indicated that the alternatives varied in terms of distance from the existing facility.

Some alternatives were close and some were considerable distance from the existing facility.

Mr. Brown indicated many of the people that attended the first series of public meetings were not aware of the public comment opportunity.

STATUS REPORT ON THE RICHMOND TO HAMPTON ROADS HIGH SPEED RAIL STUDY

Mr. Vinsh indicated the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation would be scheduling public scoping meetings in the near future on purpose and need for this project. Locations would include the Tri-Cities Area. Mr. Vinsh also indicated draft environmental document on this project as well as the environmental document for the Route 460 highway project would be available during the Fall of 2004.

Ms. Humphrey emphasized the importance of relating local land use perspectives to this project. The localities with the most advantageous locations for passenger rail stations should be supported by all localities.

FY 2005 REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM PROJECT SELECTION

Mr. Vinsh indicated a question was raised on this item during the last meeting on whether or not RSTP funds could be “banked” or “rolled” into future year allocations.

Mr. Vinsh further indicated the question was researched with VDOT and the response is yes, as long as the funds are “allocated within a reasonable amount of time”. Reasonable is interpreted as meaning 2 years.

Mr. Vinsh stated VDOT is requiring a change in the format for allocations involving RSTP and CMAQ programs. The requirement is that allocations are to be made for the first year and tentative allocations for year 2 and year 3. This information must be submitted electronically to VDOT before March 1, 2004.

Mr. Karnes presented a proposal to modify the scope of Route 36 signalization and turn lanes project at the Colonial Corner Shopping Center to include a turn lane project at Jefferson Park and the computer signalization project between I-295 and Temple Avenue. All three projects have previous CMAQ allocations. The proposal involved supplementing existing CMAQ funds allocated to fully fund all three projects using up to \$469,000 in FY 2005 RSTP funds.

Ms. Humphrey expressed appreciation on the use of a graphic to display the project.

A period of discussion followed regarding the zoning of the land area affected by the Colonial Corners project.

Mr. Morris commented on how the improvements would benefit access to Fort Lee.

Upon a motion by Mr. Karnes, seconded by Ms. Humphrey and carried, the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Vinsh indicated this item would be put on the February agenda.

Mr. Vinsh added updated cost estimates for RSTP project #3 has been requested from the City of Petersburg and RSTP project #4 from VDOT.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2004 TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Vinsh indicated the City of Petersburg has made a request to amend the current year work program to include a project to be funded by the FTA Section 5307 program. The \$75,000 project would involve retaining consultant services to study Petersburg Area Transit operations and completing applicable reporting requirements for transit properties located in urban areas over 200,000 in population.

Upon a motion by Ms. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Brown and carried, a motion to amend the current work program to include the \$75,000 operations study for PAT.

REVIEW OF PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN 2004 EXECUTIVE BUDGET REGARDING THE PROGRAMMING OF CONGESTION MITIGATION & AIR QUALITY

Mr. Vinsh indicated the 2004 Executive Budget submitted to the General Assembly by the Governor includes language that would set time limits for CMAQ projects requiring funds be obligated within 24 months of allocation and expended within 48 months of authorization.

Mr. Vinsh commented that the average cost of active CMAQ projects in the Tri-Cities was more that the annual CMAQ allocation the area received from the State. Mr. Vinsh further commented that nearly all CMAQ projects receive multi-year allocations before funding needs are reached.

Ms. Humphrey stated Chesterfield County was aware of this proposal and was opposed to its passage.

After a period of further discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that this item be put on the February agenda for further discussion.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF PRINCE GEORGE AND PETERSBURG BY THE U.S. EPA AS NONATTAINMENT JURISDICTIONS UNDER THE 8-HOUR OZONE

STANDARD

Mr. Vinsh indicated efforts were being made to prepare a submittal to the U.S. EPA opposing the inclusion of these two jurisdictions under the 8-hour standard.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Karnes and carried, a motion was adopted to authorize the Chair to sign correspondence opposing the designation before the end of the comment period provided by the U.S. EPA.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held in the Crater Planning District Commission Office at 1964 Wakefield Street in Petersburg, Virginia on February 18, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Karnes, Hopewell; Rosalyn Dance, Petersburg; Floyd Brown, Prince George; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Walter Johnson, VDOT; Denny Morris, CPDC.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Wood, Colonial Heights; Robert Bowman, Dinwiddie; Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield

OTHERS PRESENT: Jack Apostolides, VDR&PT; Ivan Rucker, FHWA; March Altman, Hopewell; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Chairperson Dance called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 5, 2004

Upon a motion by Mr. Karnes, seconded by Mr. Brown and carried, the minutes of the January 5, 2004 meeting were approved.

STATUS REPORT ON 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh indicated that the revised schedule being used for the 2026 Transportation Plan update calls for the Tri-Cities MPO – Policy Committee to act on the plan update and conformity documents on March 17. A public meeting on the documents has been scheduled for March 16 between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Mr. Vinsh stated the update schedule is very tight and needs to be consistent with the schedule being used by the Richmond MPO.

Mr. Vinsh further indicated that since the December 17th action adopting the Tri-Cities preliminary 2026 project listing, several changes had been made. The Chesterfield private/local project list has been modified to indicate 2 projects as being financially constrained. In Prince George, interchange improvements on Route 36 at Temple Avenue & 6th Street have been shown as a vision project.

Mr. Vinsh requested that the Technical Committee be authorized to review the draft documents and authorized CPDC staff to advertise the documents and conduct a public meeting on March 16.

Upon a motion by Mr. Karnes, seconded by Mr. Brown and carried, action was taken to permit the Technical Committee to authorize CPDC staff to advertise the documents for public review and conduct the public meeting.

ALLOCATION OF ACTUAL FY 2005 AND TENTATIVE FY 2006 AND FY 2007 CMAQ FUNDS

Mr. Vinsh reviewed the Tri-Cities CMAQ worksheet and the funding amounts previously allocated. Mr. Vinsh stated VDOT had provided updated project cost estimates and 4 new projects had recently been identified. Mr. Vinsh also stated VDOT requires CMAQ allocations be made by March 1, 2004 for actual FY 2005, tentative FY 2006 and tentative FY 2007. Mr. Vinsh commented that in April 2004, the U.S. EPA is scheduled to determine if Petersburg and Prince George are classified as nonattainment under the 8-hour standard and become eligible to receive CMAQ funds.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the Technical Committee recommended funding the Ozone Alert Program in the amount of 8,000 and completing the Boulevard CMAQ project in the amount of 174,084 under FY 2005.

Mr. Vinsh also indicated the Technical Committee recommended 600,000 in available CMAQ funds be rotated among eligible localities.

After a period of discussion, Mr. Brown made a motion seconded by Mr. Karnes that any surplus funds remaining after a CMAQ project is completed goes back to the regional CMAQ pot for redistribution to another eligible project.

Mr. Karnes stressed the importance that CMAQ projects show air quality benefit.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Karnes and carried, a motion was adopted to allocate available FY 2005 funds as follows: 8,000 to the Ozone Alert Program, 174,084 to the Colonial Heights Boulevard project, 160,000 to the Matoaca/Woodpecker project and 140,198 to the VSU Sidewalk project between Woodpecker Road and East River Road with projected

funds under FY 2006 and 2007 held in reserve.

ALLOCATION OF ACTUAL FY 2005 AND TENTATIVE FY 2006 & FY 2007 REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS (RSTP)

Mr. Vinsh stated that during the January 21, 2004 meeting FY 2005 RSTP allocations to 3 Hopewell projects amounted to 438,499. Mr. Vinsh further stated the total cost estimate for rights-of-way acquisition; demolition and business relocation cost for the PAT Transfer Facility is 2,682,936.

Mr. Vinsh stated the VDOT cost estimate for the number 4 rated RSTP project, the Route 1 project in Dinwiddie is 3,125,000.

Mr. Reekes presented diagrams and an overview of the project. Mr. Reekes explained that the total project cost estimate is 14,900,00. With the allocation of remaining available FY 2005 and tentative FY 2006 RSTP funds, two-thirds of the total project is identified. Mr. Reekes further explained that the City of Petersburg is working with legislative efforts to request a congressional earmark for the remaining funds.

Mr. Apostolides stated VDR&PT fully supports this project and has provided partial funding.

Upon a motion by Mr. Karnes, seconded by Mr. Brown and carried, a motion was adopted to allocate 2,682,936 in remaining FY 2005 and tentative FY 2006 funds for the PAT project.