

2005 Policy Committtee Meeting Minutes

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Minutes of the August 11, 2005 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held in the Crater Planning District Commission Office located at 1964 Wakefield Street in Petersburg at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Wood, Colonial Heights; Milton Martin, Hopewell; Barbara Smith (alternate) Chesterfield, Mark Ribblet; VDOT; Leon Hughes (alternate), Prince George; Denny Morris, CPDC

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobby Bowman, Dinwiddie; Annie Mickens, Petersburg; Ron Reekes, PAT

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Winstead, VDOT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC;

By consensus, Mr. Martin was elected Chair for the meeting of August 11, 2005.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 12, 2005

Upon a motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried, the minutes of the May 12, 2005 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2005 – FY 2007 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Riblett presented information on the need to amend the current TIP to include several federal maintenance funding categories. Mr. Riblett explained the reason for including Surface Transportation Program, National Highway System, Interstate Maintenance and

Intelligent Transportation System funding categories, eventhough no funding amounts are being identified for specific projects, is because this amendment would further indicate the TIP is fiscally constrained. On a district-wide basis, this measure would acknowledge federal funds from these categories are being expended in the Tri-Cities Area.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried, a motion was adopted to amend the FY 2005 – FY 2007 TIP to include the above referenced funding program categories.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2005 – FY 2007 TIP REGARDING THE ROUTE 460 TURN LANE PROJECT (UPC No. 18997) IN PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

Mr. Riblett presented information on the need to amend the current TIP to increase preliminary engineering (PE) and right-of-way (RW) obligation from State Surface Transportation Program sources and change the type of construction (CN) obligation amount for federal fiscal year FY 2005 to equal \$475,000 for PE, \$1,192,000 for right-of-way and \$1,678,000 for construction, as shown on a handout distributed to committee members.

Mr. Wood commented on the need to clarify the differences in the types of construction funds involved and why there is a need to shift construction funds in order to keep the project on schedule.

Mr. Hughes asked about the reference to the report note that Hazard Elimination Safety Funds no longer qualify for this project.

Mr. Riblett indicated he would check with the VDOT Programming Division for answers.

Ms. Smith commented that a change in the benefit to cost ratio maybe the reason the project no longer qualifies for Hazard Elimination Safety Funds and other funding is being substituted by the State.

Mr. Wood stated it was important not to delay the project.

Mr. Vinsh indicated action could be taken on the amendment and an answer to the question could be obtained afterwards.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried, a motion was adopted to approved the proposed amendment and seek an answers to the questions raised on the differences in the types of construction funds being used for this project.

REVIEW OF A PROPOSAL TO STREAMLINE THE CURRENT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGAM (TIP) AMENDMENT PROCESS

Mr. Riblett indicated support from Federal Highway Administration has been received to allow MPO staff to act on the MPO's behalf for administrative only TIP amendments. The current need for the MPO to act on all amendments adds additional review time to the process. The proposed change would only apply to amendments for projects already in a current TIP and the concurrence of locality(ies) affected would be required. Any party to the process would continue to have the option of bringing the proposed amendment to the MPO for consideration.

Mr. Martin indicated that we do want projects to move forward and commented that the MPO would need to be notified if an amendment had been processed since the previous meeting.

Mr. Riblett indicated the Technical and Policy committees would be notified. Proposed amendments involving CMAQ and RSTP funds would need to continue to come to the MPO because the MPO has project selection responsibility for these programs.

Mr. Wood asked for confirmation that the amendment would apply to projects already approved.

Mr. Riblett stated this was correct. The addition of a new project or deletion of an existing would have to come back to the MPO.

Mr. Wood asked for an example of a project that would not have to come back to the MPO if the amendment were approved.

Mr. Riblett stated if the project is already in the TIP and involves non-CMAQ or non-RSTP funding sources, the project would not need to come back to the MPO other than to provide notification the amendment had been processed. Amendments involving CMAQ and RSTP funds would need to continue to come back to the MPO because the amendment would likely affect other projects and other localities within the study area and the MPO has project selection responsibilities for CMAQ and RSTP.

Mr. Riblett further stated frequent obligation related TIP amendments are being caused by the change since last October that the TIP is now considered an obligation document rather than an allocation document. Project accounting and fiscal constrain are being incorporated into the TIP document.

Mr. Martin stated the MPO has the option of acting on this item or requesting staff to bring this item back at the next meeting in written form.

Mr. Wood indicated he thought the proposal should be adopted and suggested this item be brought back during the next meeting along with written explanation for the benefit of members not present.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried, a motion was adopted to defer action on the proposed amendment and provide documentation on the proposal for the membership to consider during the next meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Upon a motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried, Mr. Martin was nominated and elected Chair.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried, a motion was adopted to defer election of a Vice-Chair until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Minutes of the September 8, 2005 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held in the Crater Planning District Commission Office located at 1964 Wakefield Street in Petersburg at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Mickens, Petersburg; Bob Smith, Hopewell (alternate); John Wood, Colonial Heights; Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield; Mark Ribblet; VDOT; Floyd Brown, Prince George; Denny Morris, CPDC

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobby Bowman, Dinwiddie; Ron Reekes, PAT

OTHERS PRESENT: Jack Apostolides, VDR&PT; Chris Winstead, Laurie Henley, Kristin Mazur, VDOT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC;

Vice-Chair Mickens called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – August 11, 2005

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Smith and carried, the minutes of the August 11, 2005 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

ROUTE 460 SAFETY PROJECT AT WEST QUAKER ROAD (UPC #18997)

Mr. Riblett responded to questions raised during the August meeting regarding reasons why the Route 460 safety project at West Quaker Road (UPC #18997) was no longer eligible for Hazard Elimination Safety funds and why there was a need to shift construction funds.

Mr. Riblett stated this project will be advertised again because the one bid received was over the estimated project cost by at least 25%. The Department is hoping that lower bids will be received with a second advertising. Mr. Riblett further indicated this project was no longer eligible for Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) funds because there had been a change in the benefit to cost ratio for this project. Previously expended HES funds could remain on the project, but additional HES expenditures must come from a different federal source of funds in order to remain in compliance. In addition, advanced construction funds were used for this project. Advanced construction funds are sometimes allocated from the next fiscal year to a project as an attempt to meet expected higher construction cost. This was the reasons for a shifting of construction funds as indicated in the notes to the amendment approved during the August meeting.

REVIEW OF PROPOSAL TO STREAMLINE THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Riblett stated a proposed TIP amendment process has been developed by the State and FHWA to help streamline the current process.

Mr. Riblett explained the amendment process would permit the CPDC staff, with the concurrence of local government(s) impacted, to process amendments for existing projects involving changes for the following: 1) project allocation/obligation amounts for project phases

by fiscal year; 2) minor changes in description and termini; splitting an entry by phase that is already in the TIP; and, 4) no adjustments would be done if the amendment would impact the travel demand model, the MPO public involvement process, the Transportation Plan or air quality conformity. Mr. Riblett added that by allowing the CPDC staff to process minor amendments, project schedules should not be delayed because of a need to wait for a meeting date.

Mr. Riblett added that this process would not prevent any proposed amendment from being placed on an agenda if desired by a locality or the CPDC staff. He further stated the Richmond MPO has endorsed an amendment process and added a provision that a report be made during the next MPO meetings regarding any amendments processed under this new procedure.

Mr. Apostolides added this process would also apply to transit projects and other MPOs in the State are adopting similar measures.

Mr. Morris added the importance of bringing amendments for funding changes on RSTP and CMAQ funded projects.

Mr. Riblett indicated this provision could be added to the proposed amendment process.

After a brief period of further discussion, Mr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Ms. Humphrey and carried; a motion was approved to adopt the TIP amendment process described by Mr. Riblett.

SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING

As other business item, Mr. Vinsh stated the Commonwealth Transportation Board will be conducting a public meeting between 4 and 7 p.m. at the Petersburg Train Station on October 17, 2005. The purpose of this meeting will be to solicit public input on interstate and primary roadway needs. A briefing for public officials will begin at 2:30 p.m.

PASSENGER RAIL STUDIES IN THE TRI-CITIES AREA

As other business item, Mr. Vinsh distributed information regarding current passenger rail studies in the Tri-Cities Area and the need to continue to monitor the development of these study efforts.

FEDERAL CERTIFICATION OF THE MPO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS IN

THE TRI-CITIES AREA

As other business item, Mr. Vinsh stated the MPO will sponsor a public meeting on November 4, 2005 between 4 and 7 p.m. at 3335 South Crater Road in the Southside Regional Medical Center for the purpose of soliciting public input on how well the MPO plans are programs are addressing transportation needs in the Tri-Cities Area. The actual federal certification review will be conducted between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. with the Technical Committee on November 4, 2005.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately, 6: 15 p.m.

Minutes of the October 13, 2005 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held in the Crater Planning District Commission Office located at 1964 Wakefield Street in Petersburg at 5:30 p. m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Mickens, Petersburg; Milton Martin, Hopewell ; John Wood, Colonial Heights; Bobby Bowman, Dinwiddie; Mark Ribblet; VDOT; Floyd Brown, Prince George; Denny Morris, CPDC

MEMBERS ABSENT: Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield; Ron Reekes, PAT

OTHERS PRESENT: Jack Apostolides, VDR&PT; Chris Winstead, VDOT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC;

Chairman Milton Martin called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 8, 2005

Upon a motion by Ms Mickens, seconded by Mr. Brown carried, the minutes of the September 8, 2005 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

REVIEW OF PROPOSED UPDATED PROCEDURES FOR AIR QUALITY PLANNING IN THE RICHMOND OZONE NONATTAINMENT AREA

Mr. Vinsh made reference to an attachment to the agenda packet and stated the Environmental Division of VDOT from the Central Office has provided an update of the existing

agreement for air quality planning and transportation planning coordination in the Richmond Area. The changes reflect the addition of Petersburg and Prince George to the nonattainment area under the 8 hour ozone standard. The changes also include modifications to reflect changes in the voting structure for the Lead Planning Organization for the Richmond Ozone Nonattainment Area. New members for this organization have been appointed by the Governor; however, the group has not met for some time. A reorganization meeting for this group has been scheduled for November 3rd. The changes also include updated information on planning assumptions and the change in nonattainment classification.

Mr. Vinsh added that favorable air quality data have been collected over the past 3 years and the State may request the U.S. EPA to reclassify Richmond to attainment status.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Bowman and carried, the proposed updated procedures were approved.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE ROUTE 36 & ROUTE 144 INTERCHANGE

Mr. Vinsh indicated Mr. Morris will speak more on this item later this evening during the Crater Commission meeting.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the leadership at Fort Lee has indicated improvement at this interchange is the most important transportation improvement needed in order for the base to meet its expanded mission under the BRAC recommendations. VDOT is working to have project cost estimates prepared before the first of November.

Mr. Vinsh also mentioned this project is listed in the 2026 Transportation Plan as a vision project.

Mr. Morris added the Governor's BRAC working group will be meeting on October 31st.

Mr. Martin stated there is a connection between this project and the next agenda item.

DISCUSSION OF TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY PROJECTS IN THE TRI-CITIES AREA AND THE OCTOBER 17, 2005 PUBLIC MEETING ON THE FY 2007 - 2012 SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE FOR THE RICHMOND DISTRICT

Mr. Martin indicated the Route 36 & Route 144 project was very significant for our community.

Vinsh suggested the Policy Committee consider endorsing a list of priority transportation improvement projects for the Tri-Cities Area. Mr. Vinsh indicated he has been asked for a list

of projects similar in format to the lists that have been endorsed by the Richmond MPO and the Hampton Roads MPO. Previously, the Tri-Cities MPO has endorsed only the Route 460 project as a regional priority.

Mr. Vinsh distributed a handout indicating the regional transportation priority projects for the Hampton Roads MPO and the Richmond MPO.

Mr. Vinsh suggested the MPO endorse a list of regional priority projects and present the list during the Six-Year Improvement Program Update Public Meeting for the Richmond District on October 17th. Mr. Vinsh further suggested the list of projects include the following projects:

- 1) I – 95 and Route 144 Southbound Ramp
- 2) Route 144 & Route 36 Interchange Improvement
- 3) Route 460 Improvements
- 4) Petersburg Area Transit Multi-Modal Center
- 5) Rives Road Interchange at I-95
- 6) High-Speed Passenger Rail Service , Using Existing Rail Corridors in Tri-Cities

Mr. Wood commented on the I-95 & Route 144 northbound ramp project and the potential for remaining funds being available for PE work on the potential southbound ramp project.

Mr. Bowman asked for the status of the RSTP project in Dinwiddie on Route 1 that was delayed in favor of the Route 36 turn lane projects at Fort Lee.

Mr. Vinsh referred to the RSTP worksheet and stated the funds allocated on March 10, 2005 for this project were 1,631,000 for FY 2007 and 1,827,000 for FY 2008. Mr. Vinsh added that this amounts equaled the estimated project cost.

Mr. Martin stated the total allocations needed are there, but not until FY 2008 and provided the cost estimate does not change.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the VDOT District Office has looked at the scope of this project and may need to discuss the scope with the County.

Mr. Wood asked for information about the format for the meeting.

Mr. Winstead stated from 2:30 to 4:00, there will be an informal meeting between State and local officials to discuss candidate projects. Between 4:00 and 6:00 there will be an open-house where citizens can ask questions about transportation plans and programs. Beginning at 6:00, there will be the official public hearing and speakers will be limited to 3 minute presentations.

Following a brief period of further discussion, it was the consensus of the Policy Committee

that the Chair would present the regional priority projects discussed and other local government representatives would comment on individual projects for the meeting on October 17th.

FEDERAL CERTIFICATION OF THE MPO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS IN THE TRI-CITIES AREA

Mr. Vinsh stated that FHWA and FTA will be meeting with the Technical Committee on November 4th to review how well the Tri-Cities MPO satisfies applicable transportation planning regulations. A public meeting will be held on November 4, 2005, between 4 and 7 p. m. at 3335 South Crater Road in the Southside Regional Medical Center to receive comments from citizens on how well MPO plans are programs are addressing transportation needs in the Tri-Cities Area. The FHWA will present preliminary findings of the certification review to the Policy Committee during its meeting on November 4th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately, 6: 15 p.m.

Minutes of the December 8, 2005 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held in the Walnut Hill Elementary School located at 300 South Boulevard in Petersburg at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Milton Martin, Hopewell; Floyd Brown, Prince George; Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Mark Riblett; VDOT Denny Morris, CPDC

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobby Bowman, Dinwiddie; John Wood, Colonial Heights; Annie Mickens, Petersburg

OTHERS PRESENT: Unwanna Bellinger Dabney; FHWA; John Seward, Surry County; Joe Vinsh, CPDC;

Chairman Milton Martin called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 13, 2005

Upon a motion by Ms. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Brown carried, the minutes of the October 13, 2005 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

REVIEW OF CITIZEN COMMENTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 3, 2005 PUBLIC MEETING ON TRANSPORTATION PLANS AND PROGRAMS IN THE TRI-CITIES AREA

Mr. Vinsh stated the MPO advertised and conducted the public meeting at the Medical Center located at 3335 South Crater Road. The purpose of the meeting was to receive citizen comments on how transportation plans and programs are addressing transportation needs in the Tri-Cities Area. This meeting was conducted in conjunction with the 2005 Federal Certification Review. The meeting was attended by about 25 members of the Oak Street A.M.E Zion Church located adjacent to property proposed for development by Petersburg for a multi-modal center. All comments received were focused on the construction aspect of the Petersburg Multi-Modal Center. Concerns were expressed regarding the adequacy of provision for temporary parking, crosswalk, noise and vibration impacts.

Mr. Vinsh further stated MPO staff coordinated with PAT staff on the preparation of a written response to the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Church addressing each of the concerns expressed during the public meeting.

Mr. Martin commented that communication between the MPO, the Church and PAT regarding the multi-modal center has been established.

REVIEW OF SUMMARY INFORMATION ON CITIZEN COMMENTS FROM NOVEMBER 22, 2005 HENRICO TOWN HALL MEETING SPONSORED BY GOVERNOR ELECT TIM KAINE

Mr. Vinsh reviewed a summary statement prepared by MPO staff of the November 22nd meeting and the letter submitted for the record of this public meeting by the Tri-Cities MPO outlining three regional transportation priority projects, including the Rt. 36 & Rt. 144 interchange improvement, Route 460 improvements and PAT capital and operating needs.

Mr. Vinsh commented Governor Elect Kaine opened the meeting by outlining 3 concepts for transportation during his administration. The first concept is urgency. Transportation is a top-shelf agenda item. The second concept is accountability. VDOT needs to continue to be more accountable in delivering projects on-time and on-budget. The third concept is choices. Non-highway modes, such as transit and passenger rail, need to receive more financial resources and be further developed as alternative mode choices for users of the transportation system.

Mr. Vinsh stated the meeting was then opened up for comments and questions from the floor with the idea of searching for consensus on workable solutions. The meeting was attended by approximately 300 persons and lasted about 1.5 hours. About 28 speakers addressed the crowd. Comments expressed were on the topic of transportation, but very diverse in terms of solutions.

Mr. Vinsh also stated that Governor Elect Kaine's Transition Office sent a written response acknowledging receipt of MPO comments.

A brief period of discussion followed regarding land use and transportation planning.

PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THE 2005 PUBLIC MEETING ON THE FY 2007 – FY 2012 SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE RICHMOND DISTRICT

Ms. Bellinger-Dabney distributed summary information and presented preliminary findings from the November 2005 Federal Certification Review of the transportation planning process in the Tri-Cities Area.

Ms. Bellinger-Dabney indicated overall the current process functions within current Federal regulations and a final report is expected to be available in February 2006.

Key items to be recommended as areas for improvement will include more attention to safety as an element in the planning process and documents, more attention to prioritizing tasks identified in the annual work program, inclusion of the transit element in the long range plan with a 20-year time horizon, placing more emphasis on encouraging local governments to implement recommended bike and pedestrian facility improvements, documentation that Title VI and ADA items identified in the annual self-certification statement are being accomplished, need to update the MPO website more frequently, documentation of citizen involvement activities, revision of public involvement procedures to include periodic evaluation on effectiveness of adopted methods, update agreement on air quality to include accommodation for that portion of the nonattainment area in Prince George County that is outside the MPO planning area and improved integration of the intermodal and freight planning into the transportation planning process.

Ms. Humphrey asked if the Federal review included public involvement received at the local level on transportation projects.

Mr. Riblett commented that the Federal review included a day-long meeting with Technical Committee representatives from each local government in the Tri-Cities.

Ms. Humphrey expressed concern that citizen input at the local level on transportation issues may not be fully considered as citizen input during the Federal certification review of the MPO public involvement process.

Ms. Bellinger-Dabney indicated the Federal review was focused on MPO documents, including meeting minutes.

Mr. Martin commented bikeway and pedestrian facilities are normally considered at the project level.

Mr. Riblett commented the preliminary findings do not indicate recertification is in jeopardy and that, so far, no corrective actions have been identified.

Mr. Brown asked if there was a time limit to fully comply with ADA requirements.

Ms. Bellinger-Dabney stated further discussion on this topic is needed.

Mr. Brown asked if FHWA has a preference on a chair lift vs. an elevator.

Ms. Bellinger-Dabney stated no and, possibly, a change in venue may work.

Mr. Martin indicated the MPO could arrange separate meetings from the Crater PDC.

After a brief period of further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6: 20 p. m.