

# 2006 Policy Committtee Meeting Minutes

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Minutes of the March 9, 2006 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held at 4:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Train Station located at 103 River Street in Petersburg.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Milton Martin, Hopewell; Floyd Brown, Prince George; Annie Mickens, Petersburg, John McCracken (alternate) Chesterfield; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Mark Riblett; VDOT Denny Morris, CPDC

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bobby Bowman, Dinwiddie; John Wood, Colonial Heights;

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Unwanna Dabney; FHWA; Ron Svejkovsky, VDOT; March Altman, Hopewell; Joe Vinsh, CPDC;

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – December 8, 2005**

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

**CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD**

No comments

**STATUS REPORTS ON THE RICHMOND TO HAMPTON ROADS AND SOUTHEAST HIGH SPEED PASSENGER RAIL STUDIES**

Mr. Vinsh indicated the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDR&PT) is planning a spring 2006 release the draft Tier I Environmental Impact Statement and

alternatives analysis for the passenger rail service between Main Street Station in Richmond and Hampton Roads.

Mr. Vinsh briefly reviewed alternatives under consideration for the peninsula (northern) route and the Route 460 (southern) route. Mr. Vinsh also indicated capital cost and environmental impacts for the portion of the Richmond to Hampton Roads project are being assigned to the SEHSR corridor study. VDR&PT and its project consultant maintain the traffic model used to forecast ridership by alternative includes trips that would be generated in South Hampton Roads and Tri-Cities areas.

Mr. Vinsh distributed information and indicated NCDOT and VDR&PT would conduct a series of public meetings regarding federal authorization recently received by the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor sponsors to extend the study corridor for the Tier II Environmental Impact Statement from Burgess in Dinwiddie County to Main Street Station in the City of Richmond. This study effort will analyze alternative alignments for high-speed passenger train service and alternative station locations in the Tri-Cities.

## STATUS REPORT ON THE RECONCILIATION OF MPO AND VDOT CMAQ ALLOCATION RECORDS

Mr. Vinsh indicated MPO and VDOT information on CMAQ project allocations for the time period FY 1993 through FY 2006 has been assembled for comparison and progress on reconciling differences in the records is being made.

Mr. Riblett commented that confirmation has been received from VDOT Programming Division on the records for the 4 critical CMAQ projects.

Mr. Martin asked if this means construction will occur soon on these projects.

Mr. Riblett indicated reconciliation is no longer an issue holding up construction for these projects.

## REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY CMAQ AND RSTP PROJECTIONS FOR THE YEARS FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2012

Mr. Vinsh distributed projected information provided by VDOT based on the SAFETEA-LU legislation adopted by Congress last calendar year. RSTP funds available for MPO project allocation increased annually from approximately \$1.6 million annually to \$2.1 million. In addition, the projected CMAQ funding level increased annually from approximately \$350,000 to \$900,000.

Mr. Vinsh distributed a handout showing estimated unallocated RSTP and CMAQ funds for fiscal years 2006 through 2008. Mr. Vinsh indicated Policy Committee action on any additional allocations would be needed during the April 13 meeting and that the Technical Committee would be providing its recommendations.

Mr. Morris stated there would be no Executive Committee meeting of the Crater PDC during the month of April. However the MPO – Policy Committee would meeting on April 13th.

## REVIEW OF STAFF-LEVEL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS RECENTLY PROCESSED

Mr. Vinsh and Mr. Riblett identified 4 projects that received obligation funding under the current TIP in the Richmond District. These projects involved traffic records, safety and traffic operations. Also, 6 projects are proposed to receive obligation funding in the pending FY 2006 – FY 2008 TIP. These projects involve traffic operations, safety and preventative maintenance in the Tri-Cities Area.

Mr. Riblett indicated these projects are maintenance oriented. Projects need to be identified in the TIP if federal funds are obligated and expended in the area for the various maintenance activities.

Mr. Vinsh commented efforts are being made to develop the draft FY 2006 – FY 2008 TIP. The narrative has been updated, VDOT is providing the highway element and PAT is providing the transit element. These 3 files will need to be merged. The draft FY 2006 – 2008 TIP information and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the projects listed in the documents will be advertised for public review in the near future. Policy Committee action on the FY 2006 – FY 2008 TIP is anticipated to occur during its April 13 meeting. The Technical Committee will be reviewing available project obligation information during its March 17 meeting.

## STATUS REPORT ON I-95 & TEMPLE AVENUE NORTHBOUND RAMP, RIVER ROAD AND SELECTED CMAQ PROJECTS

Mr. Riblett indicated the field inspection for the I-95 & Temple Avenue NB Ramp went well yesterday and the right-of-way plans are being reviewed by FHWA. We are still on schedule for a November 2006 advertisement with a 16-month construction period beginning in spring 2007.

Mr. Martin asked if this project was fully funded.

Mr. Riblett indicated this project is fully funded.

Mr. Riblett report construction on the River Road project in Hopewell is 23% complete and on

schedule. The drainage work on the eastern portion of the project is nearly complete at this time and work on the footers for the creek crossing will begin next week. The project is on target for completion by October 2006.

Mr. Riblett indicated work on the Rt. 10 Hummel Ross traffic signal project is proceeding as a VDOT project. Location and Design is currently working on construction plans. The survey and PE work has been completed. A project completion schedule is currently being updated. There is a possibility some right-of-way may be needed. The need for additional right-of-way is being evaluated.

Mr. Martin asked if there was a general project completion date.

Mr. Riblett indicated he did not have a firm answer to the question at this time. Mr. Riblett further indicated, potentially, the end of 2007 may be a target completion date, but no commitment could be made at this time.

Mr. Riblett also indicated the Jefferson Park, the Rt. 36 computer signal system and the Colonial Heights project on Rt. 1 Westover to Windsor turn lane project all have the same status. These projects are identified as city administered projects without agreements in place at this time for these projects to proceed.

Mr. Riblett added the Route 36 computer signal project may be delayed in order to see what happens at Fort Lee.

Mr. Martin asked if there was any link between the Route 36 project and the Sisisky Gate RSTP turn land project.

Mr. Morris indicated discussions are on-going on the needs of Fort Lee regarding Sisisky Gate and Shop Road.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Dabney indicated the report on the 2005 federal certification findings should be available for review during the April meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

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Minutes of the April 13, 2006 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held at 4:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Train Station located at 103 River Street in Petersburg.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Milton Martin, Hopewell; Annie Mickens, Petersburg, John Wood, Colonial Heights; John McCracken (alternate) Chesterfield; Mark Riblett; VDOT; Mike Briddell, (alternate) PAT; Joe Vinsh (alternate), CPDC

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Floyd Brown, Prince George; Bobby Bowman, Dinwiddie;

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Laurie Henley, Jim Ponticello, Ron Svejovsky, VDOT.

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order AT 4:30 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – March 9, 2006**

Upon a motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Mickens and carried, the minutes of the March 9, 2006 meeting were approved.

#### **CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD**

No comments

#### **CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER FY 2007 AND FY 2008 CMAQ AND RSTP ALLOCATIONS**

Mr. Vinsh made reference to the CMAQ and RSTP worksheets and indicated VDOT has provided updated project cost and revenue estimates. Mr. Vinsh further indicated the Technical Committee has recommended projects with prior allocation be fully funded before new projects are initiated. Mr. Vinsh also mentioned reconciliation of MPO and VDOT project allocation records are continuing. Active projects with prior allocation were reviewed individually. Allocations and one transfer were endorsed as follows:

##### **CMAQ – Additional Allocations for FY 2007 (04/13/06)**

- UPC19003 W. Churchill & Jefferson Park RTL 8,000
- UPC59118 Rt. 36 Colonial Corner Turn Lanes 31,200
- UPCN/A Rt. 1 Sherwood to Temple Signal Coordination 13,600
- UPC72883 VSU Sidewalks Woodpecker – East River Rd. 142,202
- UPC80457 2,000' Sidewalk Rt. 106 From: Redwood Lane  
To: Jefferson Park Rd. (Pending Estimate)

##### **CMAQ – Additional Allocations for FY 2008 (04/13/06)**

- UPC77537 Downtown Traffic Signal Optimization 220,000

##### **CMAQ – Transfer 04/13/06**

- From: UPC50016 Rt. 10 @ Enon Church Rd. 157,835  
To: UPC50113 Rt. 722 Halloway Avenue Sidewalk – Section 3

## RSTP – Additional Allocations for FY 2006 - 2008 (04/13/06)

- No Action

Mr. Vinsh suggested any remaining funds be held in contingency until reconciliation has been completed.

Upon a motion by Ms. Mickens, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried, the above allocations and transfer were endorsed with the understanding CMAQ funds be allocated, pending a revised project cost estimate, to fully fund the sidewalk project on Rt. 106 in Prince George (UPC#80457) and any remaining CMAQ or RSTP funds be held in contingency.

## STATUS REPORT ON ROUTE 460 IMPROVEMENT STUDY

Mr. Vinsh distributed copies of a handout used by VDOT representatives during a public meeting conducted on March 30, 2006 by the Prince George Board of Supervisors regarding the status of the Route 460 Improvement Study. Mr. Vinsh indicated the handout summarized the status of the project in terms of the Public Partnership Transportation Act provision for private entities to submit proposals to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to construct a new 4-lane divided highway facility between I-295 in Prince George and Route 58 in Suffolk. The project schedule indicated proposals are due to be submitted to VDOT by June 14, 2006 for evaluation on financial feasibility. The VDOT representative explained to about 200 concerned citizens that VDOT has received some general questions from one or two private companies regarding the solicitation to date.

## REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT FY 2006 – 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

Mr. Vinsh stated no public comments had been received by the CPDC staff on either document.

## CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSING THE FY 2006 – 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

Mr. Vinsh indicated Technical Committee members reviewed the draft TIP as 3 separate files and its air quality conformity analysis during its meeting on April 7, 2006. The MPO – Technical Committee recommended MPO – Policy Committee endorsement.

Mr. Apostolides commented that some of the cost estimates for transit projects will need to be revised, but the transit projects identified would not change.

Upon a motion by Ms. Mickens, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried, the FY 2006 – 2008 TIP

and air quality conformity report were endorsed.

## REPORT ON FORT LEE TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY

Mr. Vinsh indicated VDOT – Richmond District has received authorization from VDOT – Central to use an on-call consultant for a Traffic Impact Study of BRAC build-up of Fort Lee. This study would include an assessment of the potential need to relocate a portion of Route 36 and improvements at all the Fort Lee gates, including a potential new gate at River Road.

Mr. Riblett emphasized the need for timely input of data on changes anticipated at Fort Lee in order for traffic impact study recommendations to be developed for consideration. Mr. Riblett reviewed portions of the project scope and indicated the study was anticipated to be completed in August 2006.

Ms. Mickens expressed concern about the potential relocation of Route 36 on the community.

Mr. Vinsh mentioned that on April 20, 2006 Fort Lee would be hosting a public scoping meeting on the Environmental Impact Statement being prepared on the BRAC changes at Fort Lee. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Union Train Station.

## STATUS REPORT ON THE METROPOLITAN RICHMOND AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MRAQC)

Mr. Martin reported that the Committee met on April 6th and authorized an update of the memorandum of understanding for coordination between transportation and air quality plans and programs in the Richmond Ozone Nonattainment Area. The committee also reviewed a proposal by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to seek reclassification of the area from non- attainment to maintenance. Monitored data for 3 previous years show the Richmond Area is within national ozone standards. The reclassification proposal contains provision for measures to assure the area will remain within applicable standards including provision that Prince George, Petersburg and the eastern portion of Charles City be included in the requirement for reformulated gas sales, Stage II vapor recovery, outdoor burning controls burning restrictions during ozone season and reasonably available control technologies for selected off-road vehicle use.

Mr. Vinsh added that comments on the proposed reclassification are due to the VDEQ by April 27, 2006 and the next MRAQC meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2006.

## CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSMENT OF FY 2007 UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM (UTPWP)

Mr. Vinsh distributed copies of the proposed FY 2007 work program and indicated the

Technical committee reviewed this item earlier this month and recommended Policy Committee endorsement.

Mr. Vinsh commented that the focus for next year planning activities will be the update of the 2026 Transportation Plan consistent with SAFETEA-LU requirements.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Mickens and carried, the FY 2007 UTPWP was endorsed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25 p.m.

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Minutes of the June 29, 2006 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held at 4:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Train Station located at 103 River Street in Petersburg.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Annie Mickens, Petersburg, John Wood, Colonial Heights; Floyd Brown, Prince George; Mark Riblett; VDOT; Denny Morris, Crater PDC;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield; Bobby Bowman, Dinwiddie; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit;

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Jones, Sussex County; March Altman, Hopewell; Jerry Skalsky, Prince George; Melissa Miesnik, John Miesnik, Fort Lee Credit Union; Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; Chuck Kostro, Tom Pelnik, Ron Svejkovsky, VDOT

Vice-Chair Mickens called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – April 13, 2006**

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried, the minutes of the April 13, 2006 meeting were approved.

**CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD**

No comments

**REVIEW OF SELECTED PROVISIONS OF THE VIRGINIA PUBLIC-PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1995 AND STATUS REPORT ON THE ROUTE 460 SOLICITATION**

Mr. Riblett introduced Mr. Pelnik and Mr. Kostro from the VDOT Central Office and briefly explained their roles regarding the Route 460 project solicitation.

Mr. Kostro distributed a handout and provided an overview of provisions of the Public-Private Partnership Act (PPTA) of 1995, including information on the revised schedule pertaining to the Route 460 solicitation. Specific steps in the solicitation process were explained. The new proposal submittal due date for Route 460 solicitation is September 14, 2006.

Ms. Rice asked if there was a list of properties that would be taken by the southern route?

Mr. Kostro indicated this level of detail would come at a later stage of project development.

Ms. Rice asked if the environmental process considered the impact of bypassing Petersburg?

Mr. Kostro indicated traffic studies were part of the environmental review process.

Mr. Brown asked if the project considered the impact of truck traffic in the New Bohemia vicinity of Prince George County?

Mr. Kostro indicated the southern alternative is the selected alignment and VDOT is required to comply with the federal environmental review process. Mr. Kostro further indicated the alignment could be adjusted slightly but must remain within the approved study corridor.

Mr. Morris asked how much latitude does the PPTA allow a private firm to perform its own traffic analysis within the approved project corridor?

Mr. Kostro indicated private firms typically perform their own traffic flow studies as toll structures are considered.

Mr. Skalsky asked about the potential connection of Route 460 to Route 226 in Dinwiddie.

Mr. Morris indicated the General Assembly established funding for a study of Route 460 improvements with termini at Rt. 58 near Bowers Hill in Suffolk and I-295 in Prince George. Funding to study the portion from Rt. 460 in Prince George to a Dinwiddie connection was not provided by the State and left up to the localities to consider.

STATUS REPORT ON THE FORT LEE TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY

Mr. Riblett stated the project consultant, Michael Baker, Inc., has received traffic counts from VDOT, collected additional traffic count information and looked at current signal timings. Approximately, 95% of the work on existing conditions has been completed. Projections for off-based residential development have been received from Fort Lee. Currently, local comments on off-base patterns for residential development have been requested. The next step in the process is a draft report expected by the end of July with a final report by the end of September.

Ms. Rice asked if any of the neighborhoods impacted by the traffic increases would be consulted.

Mr. Riblett indicated no provision has been made for the traffic consultant to meet with neighborhoods impacted by anticipated traffic increases because of BRAC. Mr. Riblett explained the current work is to determine where traffic improvements are needed due to anticipated Fort Lee expansion. A future step in project development would be to study the environmental impact of any recommended transportation improvements at the Fort Lee gates and the Route 36 corridor.

#### REPORT ON AMENDMENTS PROCESSED BY THE CPDC STAFF FOR PROJECTS CONTAINED IN THE FY 2006-2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SINCE THE APRIL 13, 2006 MEETING

Mr. Riblett and Mr. Svejkovsky briefly identified several minor projects amendments processed by CPDC staff since April 13, 2006.

#### REVIEW OF PROJECT SCHEDULE ADJUSTEMENTS IN CURRENT SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM RESULTING FROM RECEONT ACTIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Mr. Riblett and Mr. Svejkovsky distributed information and commented on a handout indicating revised schedule for selected projects in the Richmond District.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Mickens indicated a suggestion had been made that action on this item be deferred until the August meeting in order to allow appointment of Policy Committee members from all jurisdictions.

Mr. Morris indicated the August meeting would be held on the 10th at 4:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Train Station.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

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Minutes of the August 10, 2006 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held at 4:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Train Station located at 103 River Street in Petersburg.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Mickens, Petersburg, John Wood, Colonial Heights; Barbara Smith (Chesterfield alternate); Mark Riblett; VDOT; Denny Morris, Crater PDC;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobby Bowman, Dinwiddie; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit;

OTHERS PRESENT: March Altman, Hopewell; Mike Nannery, Colonial Heights; Laurie Henley, Ron Svejkovsky, VDOT; Felecia Woodruff, VDR&PT

Vice-Chair Mickens called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 29, 2006

Upon a motion by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried, the minutes of the June 29, 2006 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

Review and Discussion of the Federal Findings of the November 2005 Certification Review of the Transportation Planning Process in the Tri-Cities

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

Election of Officers

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

Review of Available Information on the Schedule for the Update of the 2026 Transportation Plan

Mr. Vinsh indicated work had commenced on the Transportation Plan update. At this time it is not certain if the next Richmond and Tri-Cities transportation plan updates would continue to

use the TEA-21 guidelines or transition to the SAFETEA-LU guidelines. Mr. Vinsh further indicated that regardless of which format followed, new socio-economic forecast at the taz level for the transportation study area would be needed near the beginning of the update.

Mr. Riblett commented that the last plan update was adopted in March 2004. Therefore, the target for the update under TEA-21 is March 2007. The passage of SAFETEA-LU provides an additional year for the update schedule which would mean the spring of 2008 as the next update due date. After the spring of 2008, the 2026 Transportation Plan would lapse and project advancement would be affected. After July 2007, any regionally significant projects that the MPO may want to add to the transportation plan must be from an adopted SAFETEA-LU compliant transportation plan. Mr. Riblett suggested that if we don't need to adopt a new plan by the spring of 2007; however, we do need to plan for a completion date as soon after July 1, 2007 as possible using the SAFETEA-LU guidelines. Any plan amendments after July 1, 2007 must come from a SAFETEA-LU compliant plan and TIP.

Mr. Morris asked if the amendment was required to be financially constrained.

Mr. Riblett indicated yes and added project amendments that were not regionally significant could be added if an air quality analysis were not needed.

Mr. Morris asked how would recommendations from the Fort Lee Traffic Study fit into this time frame?

Mr. Riblett indicated financially constrained improvement recommendations could be amended until June 2007 under the existing 2026 Transportation Plan.

Mr. Riblett further indicated that if July 1, 2007 should be the target date for the next plan update his office would be working with the VDOT Central Office to develop a 2031 plan update schedule.

Mr. Vinsh asked if the July 1, 2007 completion date included the conformity work?

Mr. Riblett indicated that it does.

Mr. Vinsh asked how long would VDOT need to complete the conformity analysis on the draft 2031 plan?

Ms. Henley indicated it would take about 2 months.

Mr. Vinsh stated that the draft plan update would need to be ready in April 2007 in order to have the conformity work completed for plan adopted in June 2007.

Mr. Riblett indicated he would be working with his Central Office to develop a schedule.

Mr. Vinsh added SAFETEA-LU includes a number of new requirements for a plan updates.

Mr. Vinsh distributed a handout comparing preliminary transportation study area 2031 population forecast with official State population forecast. Mr. Vinsh indicated State regulations require population forecast for the transportation study area not to exceed the State jurisdiction level forecast. Mr. Vinsh further indicated he would be meeting on an individual basis with local government representatives to discuss the adjustments needed prior to the September MPO – Policy Committee meeting. Adjustments are needed to comply with the official State forecast and adjustments needed to accommodate Fort Lee expansion. Mr. Vinsh also stated information has been submitted to the Virginia Employment Commission requesting consideration to amend official State 2030 forecast to accommodate Fort Lee expansion.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

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Minutes of the September 14, 2006 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held at 4:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Train Station located at 103 River Street in Petersburg.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doretha Moody, Dinwiddie; Mike Briddell (alternate) Petersburg; Mark Riblett; VDOT; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; March Altman (alternate) Hopewell; Denny Morris, Crater PDC;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Wood, Colonial Heights; Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield; Floyd Brown, Prince George;

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dama Rice, Petersburg; Bob Kirby, David Shockley, Petersburg National Battlefield Park; Unwanna Dabney, FHWA; Ron Svejksky, VDOT; Felecia Woodruff, VDR&PT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC

Secretary Joe Vinsh called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and served as Chair for the meeting.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – August 10, 2006

Upon a motion by Mr. Altman, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried, the minutes of the August 10, 2006 meeting were approved.

## CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

### Review and Discussion of the Federal Findings of the November 2005 Certification Review of the Transportation Planning Process in the Tri-Cities

Ms. Dabney distributed copies of the transmittal letter and reviewed summary findings contained in the federal certification report. Two corrective measures and 8 recommendations were cited.

The corrective measures included a need for the MPO and Petersburg Area Transit to complete the update of the transit element of the Transportation Plan before March 2007 and a need for the MPO to update its existing public involvement procedures to include the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the public involvement process before December 2006.

The recommendations cited included the following 8 items: (1) incorporating operations and maintenance of transportation facilities considerations into the next transportation plan update; (2) include safety and security considerations in the future transportation plan updates; (3) include the results of the transit development plan in the Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program; (4) include freight considerations into the metropolitan planning process; (5) continue holding MPO meetings in accessible sites until such time the CPDC building can be retrofitted to meet ADA requirements; (6) document compliance with annual self-certification requirements; (7) maintain website on a regular basis to include dates, times and location of MPO meetings; and (8) document public outreach efforts as documentation of public involvement practices in the region.

Mr. Vinsh asked if the time limit of March 2007 stated for completion of the transit related corrective measure would be sufficient.

Ms. Woodruff and Mr. Reekes agreed the amount time provided would be sufficient.

## Election of Officers

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

## REVIEW OF DRAFT PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE MPO

Mr. Vinsh indicated he had used SAFETEA-LU guidance to prepare a draft Participation Plan

and was requesting authorization to advertise the document for public review for the required 45-day period.

Mr. Vinsh further indicated the Participation Plan included 3 parts. The first part describes existing measures to be used by the MPO to solicit public participation in the development of metropolitan transportation plans and programs. The second part describes how comments received would be considered by the MPO. The third part outlines an approach for consulting with environmental agencies regarding a comparison of future transportation plan updates with other planning activities within the Tri-Cities Area.

Mr. Vinsh commented that two changes made in the description of existing measures included mention of the required 30-day public review period for significant transportation plans and programs and the inclusion of a periodic review of the effectiveness of existing public involvement procedures.

Upon a motion by Mr. Altman, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried, the CPDC staff was authorized to advertise the draft Participation Plan for public comment.

Ms. Dabney indicated FHWA would provide comments on the draft document.

## TRI-CITIES AREA CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS – DISCUSSION OF INTERIM REPORT ON FORT LEE EXPANSION TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY

Mr. Vinsh stated the project consultant had identified transportation deficiencies anticipated from Fort Lee expansion plan in terms of links, unsignalized and signalized intersections and approaches to intersections.

Mr. Riblett indicated the report on alternatives to address the deficiencies should be available for distribution and review prior to the October 6, 2006 Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Riblett added the consultants would make recommendations on which alternatives provide the greatest benefit for the amount of expenditure.

Mr. Vinsh added efforts would be made to develop a strategy for the improvements for the Route 36 corridor and the gates associated with Fort Lee.

Mr. Morris stated certain federal funding sources are potentially available for BRAC related transportation improvements; however, these funds could only be accessed at the request of Fort Lee.

Mr. Morris added that the improvement priorities must reflect the needs of Fort Lee.

Ms. Rice commented that the project consultants did not include accident information in the report from the cities.

Mr. Altman indicated the problem of uniformity of city accident data and State accident data has also been encountered in other projects.

Ms. Rice also commented on a recent announcement that effective October 1st Sisisky Gate would be closed for a one-year period while a new entrance is constructed at this location.

## REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2006 – 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Vinsh stated VDOT has requested 2 amendments to the current TIP requiring MPO action.

Mr. Vinsh further stated the amendments involve the inclusion and authorization of preliminary and construction under FY 2006 for a CMAQ sidewalk project near Route 634 in Prince George County and authorization for preliminary engineering work during FY 2006 for the Route 1 CMAQ signalization project in Colonial Heights. Both projects received allocations after the FY 2006 – 2008 TIP was approved by the MPO in March 2006.

Upon a motion by Mr. Altman seconded by Mr. Briddell and carried, a motion to approve the two amendments was adopted.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:20 p.m.

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Minutes of the October 12, 2006 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held at 4:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Train Station located at 103 River Street in Petersburg.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Annie Mickens, Petersburg; Doretha Moody, Dinwiddie; Floyd Brown, Prince George; Ken Emerson, Hopewell; Mark Riblett; VDOT; Denny Morris, Crater PDC;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Wood, Colonial Heights; Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dama Rice, Petersburg; David Shockley, Petersburg National Battlefield Park; Ron Svejovsky, VDOT; Felecia Woodruff, VDR&PT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC

Vice-Chair Mickens called the meeting to order.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 14, 2006

Mr. Vinsh stated corrections to the minutes were needed to indicate the minutes attached the agenda packet distributed were from the September 14 meeting and not the June 22 meeting as stated and he served as Chair for the September 14 meeting.

Upon a motion by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brown and carried, the minutes of the September 14 meeting were approved.

## CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

## STATUS REPORT ON U.S. ROUTE 460 IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Vinsh distributed information on the Route 460 PPTA from the VDOT Route 460 website. Mr. Vinsh also indicated detailed proposals from 3 vendors were available on the website and that local comments on the proposals were due by December 13, 2006.

Mr. Vinsh stated that the MPO would be expected to amend the 2026 Transportation Plan if the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) determined if any of the PPTA proposals were feasible. All of the PPTA Route 460 proposals include provision for tolling, a source of funding for transportation improvement not currently listed in the 2026 financially constrained Plan.

Mr. Morris commented the proposals submitted are conceptual in nature and that final proposal (s) are dependent on a determination by the CTB on feasibility.

## STATUS REPORT ON THE FORT LEE EXPANSION TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY

Mr. Vinsh stated the consultant has completed the draft Alternatives Report to address the

deficiencies cited in the July Interim Report for facilities impacted by Fort Lee expansion. Mr. Vinsh further stated Fort Lee is presently reviewing the Alternatives Report for any major omissions. Mr. Vinsh indicated there are 2 roadway and 17 intersection improvements included in the Alternatives Report. In addition, some of the improvements have options for consideration.

Mr. Vinsh further stated a technical meeting of interested parties would probably be held in a

couple of weeks in order to develop a general consensus on a priority list of projects and coordinated strategies for pursuing project funding.

Mr. Emerson commented that a new interchange at I-295 and River Road could help divert some Fort Lee traffic from the existing Route 36 interchange at I-295.

Mr. Vinsh commented that he was not aware of any recent discussions regarding the concept of an interchange at I-295 and River Road.

Mr. Emerson asked when would be an appropriate time to initiate discussion of this potential project.

Mr. Vinsh stated VDOT will be conducting the annual public meeting on the next Six Year Improvement Program update on October 24th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Chester Campus of John Tyler Community College for the interstate, primary and urban system along with rail, bikeways, pedestrian and mass transit transportation improvement needs.

#### STATUS REPORT ON THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh stated preparations are being made to amend the 2026 Transportation in March 2007 to include the two correction item cited in the 2005 federal certification review, including the provision of information on a transit development program update from PAT. Mr. Vinsh further stated that a draft Public Participation Plan prepared under SAFETEA-LU requirements is currently under public review. The inclusion of these items in the 2026 amended plan along with project amendments are essential tasks for the MPO to complete in order to maintain certification to receive federal funding.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Mickens transferred the role of Chair to Mr. Vinsh.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Morris, and carried, Ms. Mickens was elected Chair of the Policy Committee. Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried, Mr. Emerson was elected Vice Chair of the Policy Committee.

#### REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2006 – 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENET PROGRAM (TIP) REGARDING UPC#61294 (Right Turn improvements to Route 601 in Dinwiddie County)

Mr. Svejksky indicated the Programming Division of VDOT has requested an amendment be made to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a PE phase to fiscal

year 2006 and obligate \$39,764 for a right turn improvement on Route 601 in Dinwiddie County.

Upon a motion by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Moody and carried, a motion was approved to amend the FY 2006 – 2008 TIP to include the Route 601 turn lane project as requested by VDOT.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.

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Minutes of the November 9, 2006 Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Committee meeting held at 4:30 p.m. in the Petersburg Train Station located at 103 River Street in Petersburg.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Annie Mickens, Petersburg; Floyd Brown, Prince George; March Altman (alternate) Hopewell; Mark Riblett, VDOT; Ron Reekes, PAT; Denny Morris, Crater PDC;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Wood, Colonial Heights; Renny Humphrey, Chesterfield; Doretha Moody, Dinwiddie;

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dama Rice, Petersburg; David Shockley, Tim Blumenschine, Petersburg National Battlefield Park; Diana Parker, Sierra Club; Ron Svejksky, Tom Hawthorn, VDOT; Felecia Woodruff, VDR&PT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC;

Vice-Chair Mickens called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 12, 2006**

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried, the minutes of the October 12, 2006 meeting were approved.

**CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD**

Ms. Parker announced an upcoming symposium on rail transportation, expressed the support of the Sierra Club for the Appomattox River Trail project and asked the MPO to consider requesting VDR&PT for a study of an alternate route for the Southeast High Speed Rail project that would be located below the battlefield area and would not use the Burgess Connector.

**STATUS REPORT ON THE FORT LEE EXPANSION TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY**

Mr. Vinsh provided background information on the work begun by Baker in April 2006 in conjunction with the congestion management element of the transportation planning process in the Tri-Cities. The interim Baker report provided in September focused on identifying roadway and intersection deficiencies anticipated as a result of scheduled Fort Lee expansion. The alternatives report provided in October identifies improvement projects that would correct anticipated deficiencies. The alternatives were grouped into categories including short-term (present-day), intermediate (2015 with BRAC growth) and long-term (2026 with BRAC growth and previously anticipated growth). Baker recommendations on project priorities were also included in the report. In addition, Baker made a separate analysis, at the request of Fort Lee Garrison Command, on alternatives for improving the connectivity between the portions of the installation located on either side of State Route 36.

Mr. Vinsh indicated Baker made a detailed presentation to the Technical Committee on November 3 on all aspects of the report. VDOT is currently updating the preliminary project cost information and some alternatives include options. The Technical Committee is continuing its review of the Baker analysis. The Technical Committee did recommend improvements to Shop Road Gate and Hickory Hill as the top two improvement needs to be considered for the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority grant application due November 17.

Mr. Vinsh explained, the Technical Committee also recommended the shifting of sufficient RSTP funds from the Route 1 & Route 460 improvement project in Dinwiddie to provide \$1.5 million in matching funds and additional funds needed to complete signal improvement at Hickory Hill Road & County Drive along with improvement to Hickory Hill Road. Also, provision was made to provide funding needed for Shop Gate Road signalization and to replace RSTP FY 2007 and FY 2008 allocations shifted from the Route 1 & Route 460 project with future RSTP allocations.

Ms. Mickens asked for information on the time line for completing the Route 1 project in Dinwiddie.

Mr. Vinsh indicated Dinwiddie County is working with VDOT on developing a scope of work for this project. FY 2007 funds are available now for preliminary engineering and the shift in funds should not impact current preliminary engineering work on the Route 1 & Route 460 project.

Mr. Vinsh also indicated the Technical Committee, as per direction from the Policy Committee, would be making a rating of candidate CMAQ and RSTP projects early next calendar year. Some of the Fort Lee expansion related projects may be considered as candidate projects for future CMAQ and/or RSTP allocation by the MPO. Projects with identified funding sources will be considered for inclusion in the 2026 Transportation Plan as amendments.

Mr. Morris provided background information on the application process being followed for the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority.

Mr. Vinsh commented that the Technical Committee will be considering priorities for the intermediate and long-term projects and making its recommendations to the Policy Committee.

Upon a motion by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brown and carried, the recommendations of the Technical Committee to use needed FY 2007 and FY 2008 RSTP funds from the Route 1 & Route 460 project needed for the Hickory Hill Road and Shop Road Gate improvements were endorsed.

## REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSED FY 2007 – FY 2008 ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLCIATIONS BY PETERSBURG AND PRINCE GEORGE

Mr. Vinsh indicated the City of Petersburg has requested MPO endorsement of an enhancement grant application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for consideration to fund a \$500,000 project for the design, land acquisition, utilities relocations and construction cost for the Appomattox River Heritage Trail. Mr. Vinsh also indicated the County of Prince George has requested MPO endorsement of an enhancement grant application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund a \$68,789 project for the design and construction of gateway signage project. Mr. Vinsh commented that enhancement projects selected for funding by the Commonwealth Transportation Board are included in the metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Altman and carried, a motion was adopt resolutions of support for each project was endorsed by the Policy Committee.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.