

2001 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Transportation Technical Committee meeting held in the Crater Commission Offices at 1964 Wakefield Street in Petersburg, Virginia on January 11, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Kuthy, Prince George; Guy Scheid, Dinwiddie; Mike Briddell, Petersburg; Herbert Pegram, VDOT, Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; Vickie Minetree, Colonial Heights; Joyce Goode, PAT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

MEMBERS ABSENT: March Altman, Hopewell;

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Spence, Laura Franklin, Richard Caywood, VDOT.

Chairman Scheid called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – August 28, 2000

Upon a motion by Mr. Briddell, seconded by Mr. Pegram and carried, the minutes of the August 28, 2000 meeting were approved.

REVIEW OF YEAR 2023 DRAFT LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh stated that the month of January was being used to make corrections or additions to the draft 2023 document and to request authorization to advertise for public comment. Mr. Vinsh added that the annual public meeting would be scheduled in the Colonial Heights Municipal Building on an evening in February.

Mr. Vinsh commented on the content in selected topics covered in the narrative. The topics covered included demographic trends, present day and future potential congestion, and the mapping of area transportation facilities.

Mr. Vinsh stated that roadway segments with a vehicle to capacity ratio greater than 1 are shown as congested. Mr. Vinsh also stated if a congested segment is listed for improvement in the 2023 financially constrained plan where the existing vehicle lane capacity is to be increased, an analysis of transportation demand reduction alternatives is required in conjunction with the regionally adopted Congestion Management System.

Mr. Vinsh stated that the Transit Development Program is still under development with Petersburg Area Transit. The feasibility of constructing a downtown transfer center is under study. This major capital project would include relocation of the existing transfer area and some modifications to the existing

route structure.

Ms. Spence distributed some summary information on the conformity findings for the 2023 long-range plan and explained how the findings indicate that the area passes the required air quality tests. Ms. Spence provided copies of the technical report documenting the conformity process for distribution during the public involvement process.

Ms. Spence explained the difficulties in passing the conformity test this year and some credits, such as bus replacement, had to be used to get the favorable results.

Mr. Kuthy asked what caused the problem?

Ms. Spence that the most of the difficulty was caused by growth.

Mr. Briddell asked if the new rules for bus emissions were a factor in this analysis.

Ms. Spence stated bus emissions credits from the new rule were used in the analysis.

Mr. Vinsh asked which Tri-Cities jurisdictions are included in the “modeled area” for the conformity analysis?

Ms. Spence stated all of the transportation study area is included in the modeled area.

After a period of further discussion, Mr. Vinsh reviewed the required financial constraint element of the 2023 draft document.

Mr. Vinsh further commented on the 2023 project listing previously reviewed by the Technical Committee and the Policy Committee. Mr. Vinsh added that some changes needed to be made to the listing and map for Chesterfield County secondary projects.

Mr. Kuthy commented on some recent changes to the Prince George County Secondary Roads Plan.

Mr. Vinsh asked for information on the project changes for inclusion in the 2023 plan.

After a period of further discussion, Mr. Vinsh made reference to the planning factors addressed in the draft plan. Mr. Vinsh asked for comments on the draft narrative at this time.

Mr. Vinsh also mentioned that profile maps were included in the appendices for an environmental overview and a minority impact overview by project by 1990 census tract.

Mr. Vinsh commented that copies of the draft 2023 long-range plan and conformity analysis would be

sent to the public libraries in February after authorization was received from the Policy Committee.

Ms. Minetree mentioned that the street address of the Colonial Heights Municipal Building had changed to 201 James Avenue.

Upon a motion by Mr. Kuthy, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried, a motion was adopted to recommend MPO authorization to advertise the draft 2023 long-range plan for public review.

STATUS REPORTS ON THE SOUTHEAST AND ROUTE 460 HIGH-SPEED RAIL STUDIES

Mr. Vinsh made reference to previous correspondence and two project reports sent last December to Technical Committee members regarding the Southeast High Speed Rail Study. Mr. Vinsh emphasized the importance for local officials to be aware of potential impacts for existing at-grade crossings and industrial development opportunities.

Mr. Caywood commented on the dilemma building a crossing over one of the proposed routes today knowing that there is a possibility that the crossing may have to be closed in the future.

Mr. Vinsh also commented on the Route 460 High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study. Mr. Vinsh stated that the Virginia Department of Rail and Transportation is scheduled to sign a contract with a consultant this week to complete a \$300,000 study of the high-speed rail potential of this corridor between Norfolk and Richmond.

Mr. Scheid stated that Dinwiddie County does not view this project as a benefit for the County. Mr. Scheid further stated that industrial development investments may be negatively impacted by this project and local plans to use an abandoned rail right-of-way for the recreational purposes jeopardized.

REVIEW OF REQUEST FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO AMEND THE FYs 2000-2002 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Vinsh presented information received from VDOT in December 2000 requesting an amendment to the FYs 2000-2002 TIP for the Prince George portion of the Route 460 Location and Environmental Studies project in the amount of \$1,200,000 for PE during FY 1999-2000.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pegram, seconded by Mr. Kuthy and carried, a motion was approved to recommend Policy Committee endorsement of the proposed amendment.

REVIEW OF REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF PETERSBURG TO AMEND THE FY 2000-2002 TIP

Mr. Briddell stated that the City of Petersburg is requesting this amendment to allow needed transit capital projects to advance. Mr. Briddell further stated that the Project Consultant is working with the

City on final acceptance of the Transit Development Program Update and plans for a Downtown Development Center. Mr. Briddell added that some route changes will probably be proposed and a public hearing will be held next month.

Upon a motion by Mr. Kuthy, seconded by Ms. Minetree and carried, a motion was approved to recommend Policy Committee endorsement of the proposed amendment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Transportation Technical Committee meeting held in the Crater Commission Offices at 1964 Wakefield Street in Petersburg, Virginia on April 13, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Guy Scheid, Dinwiddie; Mike Briddell, Petersburg; Herbert Pegram, VDOT, Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; Vickie Minetree, Colonial Heights; Joyce Goode, PAT; March Altman, Hopewell; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

MEMBERS ABSENT: (vacant) Prince George.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jack Apostolides, VDR&PT; Felecia Woodruff, Richmond Ridefinders; Lora Franklin, Sam Hayes, VDOT; Ron Reekes, PAT; Ivan Rucker, FHWA.

Chairman Scheid called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Briddell introduced Ron Reekes, the new General Manager at PAT. Mr. Briddell explained that following a restructuring; Joyce Goode is now the Operations Manager at PAT.

Mr. Vinsh introduced Ivan Rucker from the Richmond office of the FHWA.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 11, 2001

Upon motion by Mr. Altman, seconded by Vicki Minetree and carried, the minutes of the January 11, 2001 meeting were approved.

REVIEW OF FY's 2001 – 2003 DRAFT TIP

Mr. Vinsh stated that during the March 12th MPO meeting, the Technical Committee was delegated the authority to authorize CPDC staff to advertise the draft FY's 2001 – 2003 TIP and the Conformity Analysis for public review. The next MPO meeting is scheduled for May 14th. Approval of the TIP and Conformity document is anticipated for the May 14th meeting.

Mr. Vinsh added that information on transit capital and operating projects were not available for inclusion in the FY's 2001 – 2003 TIP. A financially constrained, multi-year capital and financially, constrained, multi-year operating budget for PAT are needed for inclusion in the 1999 Transit Development Plan Update and the Tri-Cities Area 2023 Transportation Plan.

Mr. Vinsh further added that efforts were being made to have this information available for action by the MPO on May 14th.

Upon a motion by Mr. Briddell, seconded by Mrs. Minetree and carried, a motion to authorize the CPDC staff to advertise the draft FY's 2001–2003 TIP for public review was approved.

1 REVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY ANALYSIS FOR DRAFT FY's 2001-2003 TIP

Ms. Franklin distributed supplemental information related to the most recent conformity analysis completed. Ms. Franklin stated that EPA had questioned the credits taken for pedestrian travel as a transportation-like control measure. The conformity analysis was rerun and credits for bus replacement and signal progression were substituted for the pedestrian travel credit used in the earlier analysis. The conformity analysis demonstrated that the mobile source emissions budgets were not exceeded for VOC or NOx in any of the years tested.

Ms. Woodruff indicated that she wanted more information on the reasons why EPA did not accept the information on VMT reduction for pedestrian travel.

Ms. Franklin stated that the EPA questions were related to the time horizons and the use of national averages instead of a local estimate for VMT reduction and pedestrian travel.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pegram, seconded by Ms. Minetree and carried, a motion was adopted to authorize CPDC staff to advertise the Conformity Analysis for public review.

DISCUSSION OF THE 1999 TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh stated that information had recently been received from PAT on five-year capital and operating budgets; however, this budget information was not acted on by the Petersburg City Council at the time the Transit Development Program update was on the council agenda. Mr. Vinsh added that there is a need to distinguish formula funds and discretionary funds. Also, federal, State and local funding sources need to be identified for consideration of the financial constrain requirement. The information provided by the project consultant contained no operating budget information and included total capital funding line item estimates only. The operating budget information has been developed by the City of Petersburg.

Mr. Vinsh asked Mr. Rucker if a letter from the Petersburg City Manager regarding the operating budget

be used in lieu of action by City Council.

Mr. Rucker indicated that action by City Council would be needed.

Mr. Vinsh asked Mr. Briddell if this item could be put on a Petersburg Council agenda before May 14th.

Mr. Briddell indicated that it could be done.

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Mr. Vinsh indicated that action by the MPO on the transit capital and operating budgets amendments to the TDP update and 2023 Transportation Plan could be accomplished on May 14th just prior to action on the FY's 2001 – 2002 TIP.

Mr. Pegram asked if the TDP update contained budget information.

Mr. Vinsh stated that a multi-year capital budget is shown in Chapter 3 with total funds only by line item; however, the consultant did not include a budget is shown for transit operations.

Mr. Vinsh further indicated that the City of Petersburg is developing information for the multi-year operating budget for PAT. The plan is for this information to be approved by City Council before action is taken by the MPO on May 14th.

Mr. Rucker asked how the public review requirement for the budget information would be handled?

Mr. Pegram expressed concern over the delay that would be involved if the Petersburg City Council had to advertise for another public meeting before acting on the budget information.

Mr. Rucker stated that we have to make sure we have the operational budget information.

Mr. Vinsh stated that he had the budget information from the City at the present time. Action on the budget information would be taken by the City Council before MPO action on May 14th. The budget information would be in the form of an addendum to the TDO Update and 2023 Transportation Plan.

2000 DECENNIAL CENSUS

Mr. Vinsh distributed information of an updated release schedule for census products from the 2000 Census.

Upon a motion by Ms. Minetree, seconded by Mr. Altman and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

