

# 2004 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

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**Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Technical Committee meeting held in the Southside Regional Medical Center Rehabilitation Services Building located at 3335 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia on January 5, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Jack Apostolides, VDR&PT; March Altman, Hopewell; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Barbara Smith, Chesterfield County; Hebert Pegram, VDOT; Leon Hughes, Prince George; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Guy Scheid, Dinwiddie; Mike Briddell, Petersburg;

Others Present: Von Tisdale, Jameson Auten Ridefinders; Brian Curtis, Paul Prideaux, Zack Harris, Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

Chairman Altman called the meeting to order.

## APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2003 MINUTES

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Reekes and carried the minutes of the October 6, 2003 meeting were approved.

## STATUS REPORT ON THE 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh stated that the preliminary constrained project list was endorsed by the MPO – Policy Committee on December 17, 2003. Mr. Vinsh further stated CPDC staff is mapping the project locations, completing the environmental justice evaluation using adopted performance measures and updating the narrative in the latter sections of the document.

Mr. Vinsh added VDOT will be preparing the conformity analysis using financially constrained project lists for the Richmond and Tri-Cities MPOs. The results of the conformity analysis would be incorporated into the draft 2026 Transportation Plan and presented to the MPO –

Policy Committee in February.

Mr. Vinsh also stated that comments were received from VDOT and FHWA after the December 17th meeting regarding the inclusion of private/local projects in the Chesterfield project listing without a letter of commitment from the County to finance these projects.

Ms. Smith stated that the county administration is addressing this issue.

Mr. Vinsh stated he needed some direction on this item by the end of the month.

Mr. Vinsh also stated some information for the 2026 Plan has been provided by PAT and will be incorporated into the draft document later this month.

## CMS – EVALUATION OF PRESENT-DAY POTENTIAL CONGESTED SEGMENTS

Mr. Vinsh stated that VDOT has provided the services of its on-call consultant to study 13 segments in the Tri-Cities CMS network found in the 2003 CMS update to be potentially congested. The Michael Baker, Jr. Inc. consulting firm has evaluated these locations and has made recommendations using strategies from the Tri-Cities CMS Operations Plan.

Mr. Curtis of Michael Baker, Jr. Inc. stated the CMS process involves identifying present and future congested links and reviewing strategies to solve the congestion problem before looking at adding single occupancy vehicle capacity. Established performance measures for Tri-Cities V/C ratio where level of service goes from level D to level E. This is considered capacity. Traffic volumes greater than 1.0 over capacity is considered greater than capacity. Parsons Consulting used data from the VDOT SHIPS database during the Spring of 2003 to identify present-day potentially congested segments. The 13 locations identified in this process .

Mr. Curtis of Michael Baker, Jr. Inc. distributed and reviewed the findings of each of the 13 locations with committee members, including recommended strategies for addressing confirmed congestion. (Copy of handouts attached to minutes.)

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**Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Technical Committee meeting held in the Southside Regional Medical Center Rehabilitation Services Building located at 3335 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia on February 2, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Jack Apostolides, VDR&PT; March Altman, Hopewell; Guy Scheid, Dinwiddie; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Barbara Smith, Chesterfield County;

Mike Briddell, Petersburg; Hebert Pegram, VDOT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Leon Hughes, Prince George.

Others Present: Mark Ribblet, VDOT.

Chairman Altman called the meeting to order and reminded committee members to forward any comments to Baker consulting regarding the CMS presentation received during the January meeting.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 5, 2004

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Schanzenbacher and carried, the minutes of the January 5, 2004 meeting were approved.

## STATUS REPORT ON THE 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh stated CPDC staff is working on the narrative update and mapping projects for the environmental justice analysis. VDOT has agreed to provide current and future level of service information for 2026 constrained and vision plan projects.

Mr. Vinsh indicated PAT is in the process of retaining consultant services for the preparation of a continuing operations assessment, including capital and operating needs. Mr. Vinsh added the transit portion of the 2026 Transportation Plan would include available information and be amended at a later time to include recommendations of the PAT continuing operations assessment.

Mr. Vinsh stated VDOT and FHWA have requested assurance from Chesterfield County that funding would be provided for any private/local projects identified 2026 Plan.

Ms. Smith indicated a letter was coming from Chesterfield regarding private/local projects.

Mr. Pegram stated that the 2026 project list must be finalized by February 12th.

A period of discussion followed regarding time constraints of completing public and agency review requirements of the 2026 Plan and conformity documentation by May 16th.

## CONGESTION MITIGATION & AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2005, FY 2006 AND FY 2007

Mr. Vinsh indicated the Policy Committee briefly discussed the merits of a proposal contained

in the 2004 executive budget under the Virginia Secretary of Transportation that would require FY 2005 and subsequent CMAQ funds allocated to be obligated within 24 months and expended within 48 months of obligation. The item is to be brought back for the February 18 meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the Technical Committee may want to make a recommendation on this item.

Mr. Vinsh also indicated VDOT has advised that the MPO needs to proceed with developing FY 2005 CMAQ allocations assuming present eligible localities and submit information prior to March 1, 2004. Mr. Vinsh further indicated that if Prince George and Petersburg are added to the 8-hour nonattainment list in April 2004, CMAQ eligible projects in these localities could be eligible to receive FY 2005 funding.

Mr. Vinsh stated that during its meeting on January 21, the Policy Committee expanded the scope of the Colonial Corners CMAQ project to include the Jefferson Park CMAQ project and the Route 36 corridor computer signalization CMAQ project. FY 2005 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds were combined with existing CMAQ funds on the 3 projects to fully fund all 3 projects based on March 2003 preliminary cost estimates.

Mr. Vinsh indicated just over 1.1 million in FY 2005 funds are available for allocation along with tentative FY 2006 and FY 2007 RSTP funds. VDOT is now requiring 1 year of actual allocation and 2 years of tentative allocations.

Mr. Vinsh stated that the only remaining Tri-Cities CMAQ project now partially funded is the Boulevard turn lane project from Westover to Windsor in Colonial Heights.

Mr. Vinsh asked for input on project allocation recommendations from Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Chesterfield.

Ms. Smith suggested that the CMAQ funds be rotated among the eligible jurisdictions.

Mr. Vinsh stated it was his understanding that there is no State or federal requirement for an evaluation process to set CMAQ priorities. Mr. Vinsh added that there is a requirement that an emissions analysis be made of each project to show the amount of VOC and NOx reduction.

Mr. Vinsh further stated VDOT's environmental staff has indicated a willingness to perform the emissions analysis for CMAQ projects.

Mr. Ribblet stated he would check on the status of these efforts.

Mr. Vinsh stated that a request has been made to the VDOT District Office to provide the latest

cost estimates for existing CMAQ projects. Mr. Vinsh also stated additional CMAQ projects were needed to fulfill the new 3-year allocation requirement.

Mr. Altman stated the first year is the actual allocation and the outer years are subject to changes in cost estimates and funding levels may change.

Mr. Schanzenbacher suggested that remaining funds needed to complete the existing CMAQ project on the Boulevard project be allocated.

Mr. Vinsh stated that additional funds needed to fully fund the 80% federal share of the current total estimated cost for the Boulevard CMAQ project amounted to \$174,324.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Schanzenbacher and carried, the Technical Committee recommended that the Boulevard project receive a FY 2005 allocation of \$174,324; the Ozone Alert Program received a FY 2005 allocation of \$8,000; new CMAQ projects be forwarded to CPDC staff before the end of the week along with any available cost estimate information; and, consideration should be given to rotating future CMAQ funds among eligible jurisdictions at a \$600,000 level over a 2 year period.

## STATUS REPORT ON ROUTE 460 ENVIRONMENTAL & LOCATION STUDIES

Mr. Vinsh briefly reported several conceptual alternatives for a new facility and an alternative for upgrading the existing facility have been developed by the Project Team. February public meetings have been scheduled in Windsor and in Prince George to solicit public comment on the alternatives. The alternatives include alignments north and south of the existing facility.

Mr. Vinsh stated the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is scheduled to be completed during the Fall of 2004 with public meetings in early 2005. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2005 and a Record of Decision anticipated during the Spring of 2006.

Ms. Smith asked if funds were available to construct this project.

Mr. Vinsh stated that this project is only authorized for location and environmental studies.

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

Mr. Vinsh briefly reported the project study team is scheduled to meet later this month to review plans for the public scoping meetings. The purpose and need for the project will be the

subject of the public scoping meetings.

Mr. Vinsh also reported that it is anticipated that the alternatives development and draft environmental impact statement portions of this effort will be completed before the Spring of 2005.

Mr. Vinsh commented that the time frames for the alternatives analysis of the high-speed rail study and the highway location & environmental studies are similar.

## REVIEW OF PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN 2004 EXECUTIVE BUDGET REGARDING THE PROGRAMMING OF CMAQ PROJECTS

Mr. Vinsh stated that during its January meeting the Policy Committee membership were presented with information contained in the 2004 budget prepared under the Virginia Secretary of Transportation that included a provision requiring CMAQ allocations to be obligated within 2 years and expended within 4 years of obligation. The Policy Committee decided to put the item on its next agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Vinsh added that the Technical Committee may want to forward a recommendation on this item.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Briddell and carried, the Technical Committee recommended that the MPO- Policy Committee consider taking action opposing the provision in the 2004 Executive Budget requiring CMAQ allocations be obligated within 2 years and expended within the next 4 year period.

Mr. Pegram abstained from voting on the motion.

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

Mr. Vinsh stated the CPDC and other agencies are preparing documentation requesting Prince George and Petersburg not be designated by the U.S. EPA as nonattainment. The EPA is scheduled to announce designations in April 2004.

## REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON VTrans2025

Mr. Vinsh distributed information on Vtrans2025, a statewide, long-range multi-modal transportation plan under development for the Commonwealth. Mr. Vinsh stated State agency representatives from highway, rail, transit, aviation, and port modes are participating on a

study team to develop this statewide transportation plan.

Mr. Vinsh further stated the Vtrans2025 effort includes a component that would identify and rate major transportation investments using established criteria. The Commonwealth Transportation Board would be the intended user of the rating system.

Mr. Vinsh also indicated the VTrans2025 project team has contacted each Planning District Commission in the Commonwealth to host a public meeting during late Spring or early Summer 2004 regarding VTrans025.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Scheid and carried the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.