

2005 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

July 1
November 4

Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Technical Committee meeting held at 3335 South Crater Road in the Southside Regional Hospital (Crater Road location) on July 1, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Mike Briddell, Petersburg; Leon Hughes, Prince George; Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Mark Riblett, VDOT; March Altman, Hopewell; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Jack Apostolides, VDR&PT; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Guy Scheid, Dinwiddie;

Others Present: Unwana Bellinger, FHWA; Laurie Henley, Ray Varney, VDOT; Brandon Yandel, Morgan Allen, (VPI student interns assigned to Prince George County).

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 6, 2005

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Schanzenbacher and carried, the minutes of the May 6, 2005 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

There were no comments presented by citizens.

REPORT ON VTRANS 2025

Mr. Vinsh briefly commented CPDC staff attended a May 20 statewide meeting conducted by the Secretary of Transportation's Office in Richmond. Current focus of VTRANS 2025 includes the identification of projects of statewide significance and a method for ranking projects. Planning district representatives were asked to identify potential statewide transportation improvement projects. Emphasis was placed on projects that serve statewide needs had a multi-modal component. The CPDC staff identified the I-95 corridor, including transit service currently being operated between downtown Richmond and downtown Petersburg. The CPDC staff also identified the Route 460 corridor and the Norfolk/Southern Intermodal facility in

Prince George.

During the meeting a representative from the Virginia Port Authority identified the privately owned port facilities at City Point in Hopewell and the James River channel as statewide transportation facility.

Mr. Vinsh also commented CPDC staff attended the June 17 Richmond Transportation Summit sponsored by Richmond Regional PDC, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and other organizations in the Richmond Area. The conference included a series of presentations on the need for increased transportation funding to meet increasing maintenance and construction needs. Mr. Vinsh mentioned that there were no other attendees from the Tri-Cities.

Mr. Hughes stated it is important for representatives from this area be in attendance in these forums to have a voice at the table. Mr. Hughes further stated he felt the area needs to pursue strategies that lead to this area having a presence at future meetings of this nature.

Mr. Riblett stated June Summit was intended as a "Kick-Off" session to raise awareness for increased transportation funding. Later this year, another session will likely be held.

Mr. Riblett added that the content of most of the presentations may be found on the website for the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Smith commented the Richmond Summit was sponsored by the Richmond PDC and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Therefore, the focus was on its membership.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2005 – 2007 TIP TO INCLUDE MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Mr. Riblett stated there was a need to amend the current TIP to include the 4 maintenance programs to show these use of federal funds. The Programming Division and FHWA have agreed to demonstrate financial reconciliation for these amendments at the State TIP level instead of at the metropolitan TIP level because the funds are used county-wide or district-wide. The 4 district-wide maintenance areas are preventative maintenance for Interstate, STP, Bridge and NHS.

Mr. Riblett added there is a need to add these maintenance projects to the FY 2005 – FY 2007 TIP.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Schanzenbacher and carried, a motion to recommend the Policy Committee amend the current TIP to include the 4 areas of

maintenance programs was adopted.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2005 – FY 2007 TIP TO INCLUDE UPC #72883 (Route 36 – VSU Sidewalks)

Mr. Riblett stated there was a need to amend the current TIP to add PE to FY 2005.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Briddell and carried, action to recommend the Policy Committee amend the current TIP to include PE for FY 2005 for project UPC#72883 (Route 36 – VSU Sidewalk Project at Hickory, River, Granger and E. River Rd.) was adopted.

Mr. Riblett stated there was also a need to amend the current TIP to include STP and HES construction funding for FY 2005 to the Route 626 (Woodpecker Road) turn lane project UPC #58687.

Mr. Schanzenbacher asked if funds were available for this project?

Ms. Smith stated the Programming Division has indicated the project cost estimate may be lower than the allocation. However, the project has not gone thru the bid process and the County does not want to reduce the amount of funds allocated at the present time.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Briddell and carried, a recommendation that the Policy Committee not reduce the amount of funds currently allocated to UPC #58657 at this time was adopted.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2005 – FY 2007 TIP TO UPC #18997 (West Quaker Road turn lane in Prince George)

Mr. Riblett indicated the current schedule includes preliminary engineering and right-of-way during FY 2006 and construction for FY 2006. The proposal is the move construction to FY 2005.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Altman and carried, a recommendation was made for Policy Committee action that construction be moved to FY 2005.

Mr. Vinsh distributed a list of highway projects currently under consideration for the vicinity of I-295 and Rt. 460 in Prince George. Mr. Vinsh indicated an assessment of the project list was needed to determine which projects, if any, would need conformity review and public comment prior to being considered for amendment to the 2026 Transportation Plan.

Mr. Hughes asked if there was going to be a study of this area to determine what improvements are going to be made, especially since a proposed project to provide a northbound lane from the Industrial Park to I-295 has recently been suggested by the County.

Mr. Varney stated a traffic impact study was completed as part of the Intermodal Facility project primarily on the traffic signal at Route 630 & Route 460. This study produced recommendations for improvements in this corridor. Most of the improvements have been made, with the exception of the left turn lane at Route 630 westbound onto Rt. 460. Currently, efforts are being made to provide a grade separation at the tracks to take care of this problem.

Mr. Altman made reference to the proposal for interstate access a quarter mile from the Route 460 interchange and asked if a study was going to be undertaken for the area as a whole.

Mr. Vinsh added that, unless new funds were made available, some existing Constrained Plan projects would need to be moved to the Vision Plan in order to maintain the financial constrained provision of the 2026 Transportation Plan.

Mr. Riblett commented that a process was developed in concert with FHWA when the Temple Avenue & I-95 interchange improvements were being considered. This process has been adopted by the Richmond VDOT District for similar requests.

Mr. Riblett distributed information on 8 policy points FHWA requires be address for proposed projects of this nature. Prior to addressing the policy points with a study effort, a determination needs to be made if the project meets certain basic criteria. The critical factors are spacing and financing.

Mr. Riblett then reviewed the 8 policy factors and indicated this work could be accomplished by district staff or by on-call consultant.

Mr. Hughes indicated the County currently has a comprehensive plan update process that is looking at the big picture in this vicinity.

Mr. Riblett indicated this could be a good topic to discuss at the next meeting of the Transportation Subcommittee meeting of the County's Comprehensive Plan development process.

Mr. Altman emphasized the importance of gaining an overall perspective on future needs in this growing portion of the region and that incorporating this discussion into the comprehensive planning process would be prudent.

Mr. Vinsh indicated input from the County and VDOT was needed regarding the amount and

sources of funds, including any private/local funds, that may be available for the projects on the list and if these funds were additional to funds identified in the 2026 Transportation Plan. Also, input from VDOT was needed on any air quality considerations for the projects listed.

Mr. Varney indicated the grade separation project and the CMAQ project are right on top of each other.

Mr. Varney further indicated VDOT has received a resolution from the Board to add the 7.5 million bridge separation project to the Secondary 6-Year Plan.

Mr. Varney commented he has received direction to maximize use of federal funds for projects coming thru his office.

Mr. Varney added the Norfolk/Southern Traffic Impact Study indicates the Rives Road interchange at I-95 will fail in the year 2018 because there is no space for a left turn lane on the bridge for traffic southbound on I-95. The future development of the hospital and the Intermodal center will increase traffic on Rives Road to the point where the widening of Rives Road to 4 lanes will need consideration.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE PDC STAFF TO PROCESS TIP AMENDMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE MPO FOR FINANCIAL ONLY AMENDMENTS

Mr. Riblett presented a recommendation that would authorize the CPDC staff to administratively process TIP amendments that involve changes in cost estimates for projects already identified. With the TIP changing from an allocation to an obligation document, the number of TIP amendments has increased significantly. The majority of these amendments are changes resulting from revisions in project cost estimates. The proposal being discussed within VDOT and with the MPOs is that if a TIP amendment is proposed for an existing project and the locality is comfortable with the amendment that the Policy Committees allow staff to process amendment without taking it to the committees. The CPDC staff would confer with and get agreement from the localities affected before processing amendments for projects already listed in the TIP. If the CPDC staff or a locality prefers the proposed amendment go thru the regular amendment process, then the option to use the existing process would be followed.

Mr. Altman asked for a list on what has been done.

Mr. Riblett indicated a summary of actions taken could be provided to the Technical and Policy committees.

Mr. Riblett indicated this proposal is being looked at as a trial process in Richmond, Northern

VA and Hampton Roads. Mr. Riblett also indicated he would request Tri-Cities be included among the MPOs for this modified process for TIP amendments.

Ms. Smith asked if action by the Technical Committee is being requested on this proposed change to the TIP amendment process.

Mr. Riblett indicated yes and this change should streamline the MPO process.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Briddell and carried, a motion to recommend Policy Committee endorsement to authorize CPDC staff, with concurrence from affected localities, to process TIP amendments involving cost estimate changes for projects already listed in the TIP.

RECONCILIATION OF CMAQ AND RSTP PROJECTS

Mr. Riblett stated the reconciling of MPO and VDOT worksheets regarding CMAQ and RSTP funding has been delayed. The Programming Division of VDOT will be working on the reconciliation of CMAQ and RSTP projects after the reconciliation of FY 2004 – FY 2005 projects have been addressed and the 6-Year Program Update is completed.

Mr. Riblett distributed a chart indicating expiration dates for CMAQ funds and information on the interpretation by the Programming Division regarding expiration dates for the expenditure of CMAQ funds. The Programming Division indicates the time restriction is to be applied on a project basis and not a project phase basis.

Mr. Riblett explained the Richmond MPO is seeking a different interpretation to allow time restriction to apply to a project phase (PE, RW, or CN) instead of the entire project which may take longer than time permitted under the new requirement to complete.

After a period of extensive discussion on the merits of applying the time restrictions on a project phase basis rather than a project basis, the consensus of the committee membership was that the State regulation should be interpreted to mean using project phase and not project basis in applying CMAQ funding time restrictions.

REPORT OF AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY FINDINGS

Laurie Henley stated the recently completed conformity review for the 2026 LRP and FY 2005 – FY 2007 TIP has been federally approved under the 8-hour standard. An additional review of these documents is being initiated to take into consideration 2 amendments in the Richmond

MPO. The Tri-Cities MPO has no projects to be included or updated in the amendments to these documents. Therefore, no action by the Tri-Cities MPO is needed for conformity at this time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After a brief period of discussion, the consensus of the committee membership was that the current officers serve another year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Technical Committee meeting held at 3335 South Crater Road in the Southside Regional Hospital (Crater Road location) on November 4, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jack Apostolides, DR&PT; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Mark Riblett, VDOT; Mike Briddell, Petersburg; March Altman, Hopewell; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Leon Hughes, Prince George; Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; Guy Scheid, Dinwiddie;

Others Present: Laurie Henley, Jim Ponticello, VDOT; Mike Nannery, Colonial Heights; Ken Myers, Unwanna Bellinger Dabney, Brian Betlyon, Ivan Rucker, FHWA; Pat Kampf, FTA.

Chairman Altman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 7, 2005

Upon a motion by Mr. Reekes, seconded by Mr. Schanzenbacher and carried, the minutes of the October 7, 2005 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

Mr. Vinsh summarized comments made by citizens who attended the November 3, 2005 public meeting advertised on transportation plans and programs in the Tri-Cities.

Mr. Vinsh commented about 25 citizens attended the public meeting to address potential impacts of the PAT Multi-Modal Center on the operation of a Church facility on an adjoining

land parcel. Mr. Vinsh further indicated about 4 points were made by citizens regarding potential noise, parking and vibration impacts. Mr. Vinsh stated he would work with PAT staff to prepare a response to a representative of the citizen group within the next 2 weeks.

Mr. Vinsh further commented that while citizens did respond to the advertised public meeting with attendance and comments, the comments provided were limited to the potential construction impacts of one project.

Mr. Vinsh also indicated citizen comments received on November 3, 2005 would be summarized and presented during the December 8, 2005 MPO – Policy Committee for consideration.

There were no citizens in attendance for the November 4, 2005 MPO – Technical Committee meeting.

REVIEW OF CMAQ PROGRAM FOR TRI-CITIES AREA

Ms. Henley stated that available prior information on the evaluation of Tri-Cities CMAQ projects had been collected and emission evaluations for other projects listed on the CMAQ worksheet have been completed. The evaluations were made by Chesterfield staff for the Chesterfield projects and by the Central Office staff of VDOT for remaining projects.

Ms. Henley indicated the emission reduction totals for projects evaluated by VDOT were benefit of 9.33 kilograms per day of hydrocarbons and 204.2 kilograms per day for carbon monoxide and 13.2 kilograms per day nitrous oxide.

Mr. Vinsh asked if all candidate projects show an emission reduction.

Ms. Henley indicated some projects received a qualitative analysis, but all showed benefits.

Mr. Vinsh commented that VDOT Central Office is willing to reconcile MPO records and VDOT records on previous allocations for 4 active CMAQ projects in Tri-Cities. However, reconciliation on remaining projects will not be made until after the next Six-Year Improvement Program Update is completed next spring.

Mr. Riblett indicated the projects that have been determined to be “schedule critical” are the Hummel Ross, Jefferson Park and Colonial Corners projects in Hopewell and the Route 1 Windsor to Westover project in Colonial Heights.

Mr. Riblett stated the Programming Division at VDOT has indicated projects with sensitive schedules or issues would be processed, as long a progress is being made.

Mr. Vinsh asked if the Programming Division had indicated when the reconciliation would be made on the 4 projects.

Mr. Riblett did not have specific dates from the Programming Division on when the reconciliation on the 4 projects would be completed. However, he indicated he did not think it would take too long to get the obligation TIP and STIP amendment information prepared.

Mr. Vinsh asked if the MPO would see the obligation information in January of 2006.

Mr. Riblett stated he thought this information would be available earlier than January.

Mr. Riblett added that VDOT representatives are working with all MPOs receiving CMAQ funds regarding the time limits.

Mr. Nannery added that the Six-Year Program had included some Colonial Heights urban funds on the CMAQ project on Route 1. Mr. Nannery indicated now that the City has the Dupuy project, these urban funds should be redirected to the Dupuy project.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the MPO – Policy Committee made FY 05 and FY 06 CMAQ allocations last spring. Mr. Vinsh further indicated that the FY 06 allocations will likely need to be revised because of likely changes in the FY 2005 cost estimates and because of reconciliation.

Mr. Vinsh added that Chesterfield is requesting additional allocation of \$145,882 in CMAQ funds for its sidewalk project at VSU.

Mr. Vinsh stated that he did not see anyway to move ahead on CMAQ allocations until updated cost estimates become available and reconciliation is completed.

STATUS REPORT ON SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh indicated that during its October meeting, the MPO – Policy Committee established 5 priority transportation projects for the Tri-Cities Area. These projects are Route 36 interchange at Route 144, the addition of a Northbound Ramp on I-95 at Temple Avenue, the PAT Multi-Modal Center; improvements to Route 460 and use of the active rail lines in the Tri-Cities Area for passenger rail service between Richmond and Hampton Road.

Mr. Vinsh added the MPO – Policy Committee Chair and the MPO Policy Committee representatives from Petersburg and Colonial Heights made complementary presentations during the October 17th public meeting conducted by VDOT for the Richmond District on the Six-Year Program Update.

Mr. Vinsh also stated the Tri-Cities MPO has been invited to make a presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board on the need for Rt. 36 & Rt. 144 project and Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) recommendations impacting Fort Lee.

TIP ADJUSTMENT UPC #18997 ROUTE 460 SAFETY PROJECT IN PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

Mr. Vinsh stated that an amendment had been processed under newly adopted staff review amendment process for the transfer of construction funds to UPC #18997 from UPC #14767 and UPC #18964.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.