

2007 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

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Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Technical Committee meeting held at 103 River Street in the Petersburg Train Station January 11, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Riblett, VDOT; Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; March Altman, Hopewell; Leon Hughes, Prince George County; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie; Felecia Woodruff, VDR&PT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Mike Briddell, City of Petersburg

Others Present: Dama Rice, Annie Mickens, City of Petersburg; Tim Blumenschine, Petersburg National Battlefield; Mike Nannery, City of Colonial Heights; Ray Varney, Ron Svejksky, VDOT; Brian Curtis, Michael Baker, Inc.; Ben Dendy, Itinere; Denny Morris, CPDC.

Vice-Chair Hughes called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 3, 2006

Upon a motion by Mr. Schanzenbacher, seconded by Mr. Riblett and carried, the minutes of the November 3, 2006 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

FORT LEE EXPANSION TRAFFIC STUDY

Mr. Vinsh indicated two items had been identified during the November meeting as remaining for the project consultant to complete. The first item needed was updated cost estimates for projects identified in the Alternatives Report and discussed during the November meeting. Second, updated information was to be prepared on the status of Shop Road Gate in the final report. Mr. Vinsh stated VDOT had requested Fort Lee to provide future traffic projection for Shop Road Gate.

Mr. Curtis indicated Fort Lee plans to use Shop Road Gate as the construction entrance and as the truck entrance after the construction period. He indicated Fort Lee is close to having the traffic projection available for VDOT review.

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Mr. Riblett indicated VDOT would be interested in reviewing future traffic numbers for Shop Road Gate and further consider improvements at this location.

Vinsh indicated the sum of the short-term, intermediate and long-term recommended improvements are approximately \$24 million. Mr. Vinsh this amount did not include the relocation project for Route 36 because this potential project was not included in the recommended improvement lists.

Mr. Vinsh stated Baker would make a summary presentation to the Policy Committee later that afternoon and asked if there were any further comments on the study from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Svejovsky stated that after the presentation to the Policy Committee a final report, including the update cost figures, would be prepared and distributed to the Committee.

Hughes indicated there was a need to acknowledge the methodology used to determine the need for improvements at Shop Gate Road.

Mr. Vinsh mentioned the regional growth management plan is scheduled to begin later this month and would not replicate the Fort Lee Expansion Traffic Study. The growth management plan is a BRAC requirement and will consist of housing, education, employment, social service and transportation components. The Technical Committee would be used as the advisory committee for the transportation component. The focus of the transportation component would include transit and transportation demand management elements. Also, the housing element would develop information on future BRAC related growth and be used to supplement future TAZ level socio-economic forecast. VDOT-Central Office would re-run the Richmond traffic model with projected BRAC growth. The study window for the growth management plan would be the entire Tri-Cities Area.

Ms. Smith made a motion, seconded by Ms. Woodruff and carried, to recommend to the Policy Committee that the Baker report be accepted as complete with the understanding information

on updated project cost estimates and the current status of Shop Gate Road would be included in the final report.

DISCUSSION OF REQUEST FROM VDOT REGARDING ROUTE 460 PRIVATE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACT PROPOSALS

Mr. Vinsh indicated VDOT has requested MPO comments on the 3 preliminary proposals before January 15, 2007. Mr. Vinsh further indicated he had drafted a general comment letter for consideration by the Policy Committee reiterating support by the MPO for Route 460 improvements and a willingness to amend the metropolitan transportation plan to include the Route 460 project should the Commonwealth Transportation Board find this project to be financially feasible. Mr. Vinsh also indicated he had been apprised Prince George County is developing suggestions for route modification and had included general language supporting consideration of additional environmental study in order to consider the merits of modifications proposed by Prince George County.

Mr. Hughes stated the Prince George suggestions for changes include the following:

1. Economic Development - provision for a new intersection and connector road from a point at the new Rt. 460 at the southeastern edge of the Norfolk/Southern Intermodal Facility site across the railroad tracks and existing Route 460 along strip of County owned property across West Quaker Road and into the County industrial area;
2. Preservation of New Bohemia – preserve this community with a more southerly connection of the new Route 460 at I-295;
3. Preservation of northbound access along Route 156 to the City of Hopewell; and
4. Preservation of Land Use – to retain consistency with the County’s comprehensive plan eliminate the proposed interchange at Route 625.

Mr. Hughes added that only one of the three firms appeared to be interested in working with the County regarding how concerns regarding the existing alignment may be modified in accordance with provisions of the PPPTA.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the Secretary of Transportation would be appointing a panel to review comments on the 3 preliminary proposals and instruct VDOT on what to include in a detailed scope of work for the project.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried, a motion was adopted to recommend that the Policy Committee continue its endorsement of the Route 460 project and request consideration for Prince George comments.

STATUS REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH CORRECTIVE ACTIONS CITED IN THE 2005 MPO FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Mr. Vinsh indicated the two corrective items cited were a need to include an evaluation phase on the effectiveness of existing public involvement strategies in the existing MPO public involvement process and to amend the 2026 Transportation Plan with information on a 20 year plan for funding needs for Petersburg Area Transit.

Mr. Vinsh indicated PAT had provided a list of 20 year projected capital funding needs for its operation. Authorization was needed from the MPO to advertise this information for inclusion in the 2026 Transportation Plan as the transit element.

Upon a motion by Mr. Schanzenbacher, seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried, a recommendation was endorsed that the Policy Committee modify its current public involvement process to include an evaluation element and to authorize CPDC staff to advertise the PAT 20-year financial information for public comment.

DISCUSSION OF A SCHEDULE FOR PREPARING NEW CANDIDATE PROJECT LISTINGS FOR FUTURE CMAQ AND RSTP PROJECTS

Mr. Vinsh indicated direction was needed from the Technical Committee membership on this item. Last calendar year, the Policy Committee directed the Technical Committee to develop a new project rating for CMAQ and RSTP candidate projects.

Mr. Vinsh explained that last December request were sent to Technical Committee voting members requesting the submission of candidate CMAQ and RSTP projects for the new rating process. The intent was that VDOT would review the candidate projects, refine the project scopes of work, prepare background information on future traffic, LOS, etc. along with a preliminary planning cost estimate that could be used to rate the priority of the different projects.

Mr. Vinsh further explained only Chesterfield submitted CMAQ and RSTP candidate projects, as requested, by the end of December 2006. Follow up with other voting members indicated uncertainty about the inclusion of projects for a variety of reasons, including projects that had been funded but not constructed because of pending modifications along the Route 36 corridor, uncertainty regarding the submission of candidate projects identified as recommended priority needs by the project consultant in the Fort Lee Expansion Traffic Study and uncertainty in how RSTP funds diverted from the Rt. 1 & Rt. 460 RSTP project to the new Hickory Hill Road RSTP project would be replaced with future RSTP allocations.

Mr. Vinsh indicated that the \$1,500,000 application for the Hickory Hill Road project in State matching funding from the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority had been approved for \$750,000. Mr. Vinsh indicated CPDC staff would be meeting with VDOT staff soon in order to discuss options for making up the shortfall for this \$3,000,000 project.

Mr. Vinsh indicated some direction is needed from the Technical Committee on these issues prior to making a new rating of candidate CMAQ and RSTP projects in Tri-Cities.

Mr. Hughes commented that prior to the Fort Lee Expansion Traffic Study the Technical Committee was informed that Fort Lee had not requested funding for the turn lanes at Sisisky Boulevard and Lee Avenue gates thru its internal budgeting process in order to accommodate BRAC growth. Mr. Hughes indicated the Technical Committee needs to request Fort Lee to program funding in its internal capital improvement budgeting process to help with some of the road improvement needs resulting from planned BRAC growth.

Mr. Altman commented that the process Fort Lee is using for road improvements is the Defense Access Road (DAR) Program. The turn signal project at Jefferson Park and other projects were requested by Fort Lee under the DAR program. Fort Lee needs to be at the table to answer these type questions.

Mr. Vinsh stated he did not know if there were any sources of funds, other than DAR, Fort Lee could request for road improvements.

Mr. Nannery asked for clarification on the status of the 2 CMAQ projects on Route 36.

Mr. Altman stated that Route 36 is the major piece of the BRAC road improvement list and because there has not been any decision on what improvements will happen to Route 36, we are not certain on how the previously planned projects will relate. Peripheral projects like Jefferson Park at Shop Road are stand alone projects that are not directly connected to what improvements are actually made to Route 36 at Sisisky Gate.

Mr. Altman stated Hopewell was willing to work with Prince George to modify the Jefferson Park turn lane project at Route 36 and move it to Jefferson Park at Shop Gate; however, such an agreement would depend on what happens to Route 36. Mr. Altman emphasized Hopewell would not want to see CMAQ funds spent on a turn lane at Jefferson Park and then later see it demolished to make way for a 3rd eastbound lane on Route 36 at a later time.

Mr. Altman also commented on the need for a comprehensive approach to making decisions on which projects need to be implemented, and funding secured and scheduled for construction. Fort Lee needs to be involved in these discussions.

Ms. Smith asked if the Hickory Hill Road project was the first BRAC related project.

Mr. Vinsh indicated that it is the first BRAC project proposed for implementation.

Mr. Hughes asked if there was a scheduling mechanism for the BRAC related road

improvement projects.

Mr. Vinsh commented the Growth Management Plan may offer a scheduling mechanism for road improvement projects. However, the parties involved must discuss the issues and determine how to get the funding for the most critical projects first.

Mr. Altman indicated we need to have the list of recommended improvement projects linked to the timing of facility construction on-base and a better understanding of which base functions would benefit by the timing of the selected road improvements. As transportation improvements will likely be implemented over a period of time, depending on funding, we would not want to see the last needed project implemented first and the first needed project implemented last.

Mr. Vinsh stated the Hickory Hill project has been correctly selected as the first project.

Mr. Curtis indicated the first piece being built is called Log University and is located just inside the gate at Hickory Hill Road.

Mr. Altman indicated that is good for Hickory Hill but we are looking at a number of other projects further out in years. We need a construction schedule from Fort Lee in order to have a better basis for understanding how the additional transportation projects should be scheduled. The improvement option selected and construction schedule for the project at Temple Avenue is critical to this discussion.

Mr. Schanzenbacher indicated the information provided thus far has been piecemeal.

Mr. Schanzenbacher also indicated there are other projects in the region deserving consideration in terms of funding.

Mr. Altman agreed and commented that at this time we don't even have the recommended Fort Lee projects in request format or priority order. We need to consider the Fort Lee projects along side of the other potential projects in the region. The Policy Committee will have the final say.

Mr. Vinsh asked if all potential projects should be placed on a list or only selected projects.

Mr. Nannery suggested that instead of working from the "inside out" we should consider working from the "outside in". Let Fort Lee make its improvements at the gates and we do the improvements on the approaches to the gates and things may come together.

Mr. Altman indicated if Fort Lee would provide information as part of the discussion, we may not need to consider certain projects.

Ms. Smith indicated Fort Lee should be treated as a locality and present a case for candidate CMAQ and RSTP project funding consideration alongside other projects in the region.

Ms. Woodruff suggested sending Fort Lee a letter requesting what source(s) of funding it anticipated for the various projects.

Mr. Altman agreed that Fort Lee should come forward with requests for consideration of CMAQ and RSTP funding for intersection and roadway projects.

After a period of further discussion, the consensus of the membership was that a request be made to Fort Lee as follows: 1) participate in Technical Committee discussions on a regular basis; 2) prepare requests for candidate project consideration under CMAQ and RSTP for the February meeting; and, 3) provide information on the timing of construction activities on base in relation to transportation improvements projects recommended in the Baker report.

Mr. Hughes reiterated earlier comments that there are other needs in the community beyond Fort Lee.

Mr. Schanzenbacher indicated we need to get on the same page.

Mr. Nannery asked about the timing of the new CMAQ and RSTP ratings.

Mr. Riblett indicated that March or April would be the time frame for getting new projects into the next Six-Year Improvement Program and that updated CMAQ and RSTP revenue projections should be coming from VDOT in the near future.

Mr. Vinsh added VDOT would need some time to prepare background information on the candidate projects for the rating process.

Mr. Altman commented that the cost estimates from the Baker study can be used as “place holders” for the ratings and we should try to get Fort Lee involved in the rating process.

Mr. Vinsh commented that he did not know if Fort Lee intended to make request for transportation project funding under the primary program to VDOT or to the MPO for RSTP and CMAQ. Mr. Vinsh indicated he would contact Fort Lee regarding this agenda item.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006-2008 TIP TO INCLUDE RT. 646 (MIDDLE ROAD) IMPROVEMENTS IN PRINCE GEORGE

Mr. Vinsh indicated resolutions have been prepared for Policy Committee consideration of the

items.

Mr. Svejkovsky provided background on this request involving intersection improvements at Rt. 646 and Rt. 156.

REVIEW OF A PROPOSED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2006- 2008 TIP TO INCLUDE PROVISION FOR SAFETY AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROEJECTS IN THE VDOT RICHMOND CONSTRUCTION DISTRICT

Mr. Riblett provided background on this request involving general provision for 9 safety and operational improvement project categories to be implemented by VDOT in the Richmond Construction District.

Mr. Hughes asked who selects locations these project types.

Mr. Riblett stated these projects are selected by traffic engineering.

REVIEW OF A PROPOSAL BY VDOT TO MODIFY THE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF ROUTE 613 IN DINWIDDIE COUNTY WITHIN THE MPO STUDY AREA BOUNDARY

Mr. Svejkovsky indicated VDOT is requesting MPO action to reclassify Route 613 from a Rural Minor Collector to a Rural Major Collector, thereby making this facility eligible for federal-aid funds.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Woodruff and carried, a motion to recommend Policy Committee approval of the 3 resolutions requested by VDOT was adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.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 February 2, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Liz McAdory, (alternate) VDOT; March Altman, Hopewell; Leon Hughes, Prince George County; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Felecia Woodruff, DR&PT; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Mike Briddell, City of Petersburg

Others Present: Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; Tim Blumenschine, Petersburg National Battlefield; John Royster, Larry Constantine, Fort Lee; Mike Nannery, City of Colonial Heights; Marvin Tart, Lamont Benjamin, Sam Hayes, VDOT; Denny Morris, CPDC.

Chairman Altman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 11, 2007

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried, the minutes of the January 11, 2007 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

DISCUSSION OF NEW CANDIDATE PROJECT LISTINGS FOR FUTURE CMAQ AND RSTP PROJECT SELECTION

Mr. Vinsh indicated stated candidate projects had been submitted by Chesterfield, Fort Lee, Colonial Heights and Prince George were reviewed.

Mr. Vinsh further indicated the project lists would be combined and sent to VDOT. VDOT would prepare background information, including a current cost estimate and V/C for each project. After the project background information is prepared, booklets containing rating sheets for RSTP projects and CMAQ projects would be distributed to MPO – Technical Committee voting members for the ratings.

Mr. Vinsh indicated direction was needed on how to treat existing projects that have received some previous allocation or no previous allocation.

Ms. Smith requested that only the new Chesterfield projects be considered for the 2007 rating.

Mr. Nannery indicated Colonial Heights would prefer existing projects be rating along with new projects.

Ms Smith asked if we are in a situation where we only have enough funds to complete projects already started.

Mr. Schanzenbacher indicated projects with some allocation should be completed before new projects are started.

Mr. Altman indicated we need to put all the projects on the table before the rating and offer each jurisdiction an opportunity to consider prioritizing its list.

Mr. Vinsh indicated he would send the individual locality lists and request concurrence prior to sending information for the ratings.

Mr. Hughes indicated Prince George had a new sidewalk project for CMAQ consideration.

Mr. Vinsh asked for a scope for the project for the 2007 rating.

Mr. Vinsh asked about the status of the Defense Access Road (DAR) grant application.

Mr. Royster indicated the Fort Lee application involves 6 or 7 projects. Mr. Royster also provided a site plan map indicated planned improvements on Fort Lee by fiscal year of construction.

Mr. Constantine emphasized the importance of coordinating project plans as the DAR application includes Hickory Hill and Shop Road Gate.

Regarding the Hickory Hill Road project, Mr. Morris indicated a \$1,500,000 grant had been requested; however, a \$750,000 grant award has been received from the Virginia National Military Defense Industrial Authority. Provision has been made for shifting \$2,500,000 in RSTP funding from the Rt. 1 and Rt. 460 project in Dinwiddie to make a total of \$3,250,000 now available for this high priority project.

Mr. Morris further stated preliminary discussions with VDOT – Richmond District indicated an acceptable level of service could be obtained with a reduced project scope for the reduced amount of project funding available. The preliminary project scope now involves converting one EB Route 460 travel lane into a combination left lane and thru lane, signal modification, construction of an additional travel lane on Hickory Hill for .3 mile from Route 460, additional turn lanes on Hickory Hill and the addition of a 3rd travel several hundred feet from the new Mahone Avenue Gate to be constructed by Fort Lee.

Mr. Morris stressed the importance of knowing the timing of the DAR decision making process.

Mr. Morris further indicated the next round of funding requests under the Virginia National Military Defense Industrial Authority must be submitted before April 1, 2007. Therefore, a decision needs to be made now on what will be the next project for this State application process.

Mr. Hayes commented district staff is ready to begin PE work on the Hickory Hill project. This project is in the VDOT system but is not yet opened to charges.

Mr. Morris indicated that as soon as the CPDC gets an invoice from VDOT for reimbursement

on work completed on this project, CPDC can invoice the grantor up to \$750,000 on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Morris asked if the \$3,250,000 number is good for Hickory Hill, then what would be the #2 priority project to be submitted for round two of the application cycle for the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority process. Shop Road Gate appeared to be the next BRAC project needed.

Mr. Vinsh indicated provision has been made for shifting \$270,000 in RSTP funding from the Rt. 1 & Rt. 460 project in Dinwiddie for the signal at Shop Road Gate. The traffic warrants for the signal and other improvements at Shop Road Gate & Jefferson Park Road are under review by VDOT-Richmond District.

Mr. Constantine indicated the estimate for the turn lane improvements at Shop Gate is \$705,000.

Mr. Morris emphasized the importance of confirming the cost for the Hickory Hill project and getting a decision on the warrant regarding Shop Road Gate because the next application for State funding was due April 1, 2007.

After a period of further discussion, the consensus was that Shop Road Gate would be the next priority project for the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority.

OVERVIEW OF THE CRATER GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Morris reviewed a handout describing the scope of work to be followed by the consultant retained by the CPDC along with an organizational structure for this BRAC required project.

Mr. Morris explained that the MPO – Technical Committee would focus on the transportation element of the project. The project will included consideration of potential transit and transportation demand management options and the rerunning of the Richmond traffic model with Fort Lee growth.

DISCUSSION OF THE UPDATE OF THE 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO INCLUDE SELECTED PROJECT IDENTIFIED IN THE FORT LEE EXPANSION TRAFFIC STUDY

Mr. Vinsh stated emphasis is being focused on provision for amendments to make the 2026 Plan compliant with new federal transportation planning requirements under SAFETEA-LU before July 2007. Transportation plans and programs cannot be amended after this date unless SAFETEA-LU compliant.

Mr. Vinsh also stated that none of the recommended projects from the Fort Lee Expansion Traffic Study are currently in the 2026 Transportation Plan or the FY 2006 – 2008 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Vinsh added that efforts will be continued to find funding sources for these projects and amendments to the Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program would be recommended as soon as possible.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 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 March 2, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Felecia Woodruff, DR&PT; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Mark Riblett, VDOT; March Altman, Hopewell; Leon Hughes, Prince George County; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit;

Others Present: Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; Tim Blumenschine, Petersburg National Battlefield; Larry Constantine, Fort Lee; Ron Svejkovsky, Laurie Henley, Jim Ponticello, Lamont Benjamin, VDOT; Jameson Auten, Richmond Ridefinders; Richard Lockwood, VHB Inc.; Russell Archambault, RKG Associates, Inc.

Chairman Altman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – February 2, 2007

Upon a motion by Mr. Bassett, seconded by Mr. Briddell and carried, the minutes of the February 2, 2007 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comments

DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATE PROJECT LISTINGS FOR 2007 CMAQ AND RSTP SELECTION

Mr. Vinsh made reference a list of 27 candidate projects attached to the agenda package and asked for Technical Committee endorsement that this included all the projects for the 2007 rating submitted by Chesterfield, Fort Lee, Colonial Heights and Prince George.

Mr. Vinsh indicated that, unless the locality requested otherwise, previously identified CMAQ

and RSTP projects that had not received any allocations were also included on the 2007 rating list. The assumption is that a project with some previous allocation would either continue to receive allocation(s) until fully funded or be capped at a selected level for CMAQ and/or RSTP funding.

Mr. Vinsh further indicated that as soon as VDOT completed preparing project background information, including current cost estimates, voting Technical Committee members would receive CMAQ and RSTP booklets for the 2007 rating.

Mr. Svejksky indicated the remaining background information needed included the location of the proposed new Prince George sidewalk project and accident information for projects proposed by Colonial Heights.

Mr. Svejksky also indicated project cost information would include a note indicating the date of the estimate.

Mr. Ponticello indicated projects receiving CMAQ funding must show an air quality emission benefit.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the emissions reduction requirement was understood and that the MPO would be relying on VDOT to make this analysis.

Mr. Riblett commented that in order for projects to appear in the final Six-Year Improvement Program update, project information needs to be entered into the MPO module by April 26, 2007.

After a period of discussion it was the consensus of the Technical Committee membership that the list of 27 projects was complete for the 2007 rating process.

Mr. Vinsh indicated he would relay information regarding the 2007 rating process to MPO – Policy Committee members.

DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSED SECOND GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (CPDC) TO THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY

Mr. Vinsh indicated the Shop Road Gate & Jefferson Park Road project from the Fort Lee Expansion Traffic Study is the proposed project for the second and final grant application cycle under this State program. Efforts by

Fort Lee and VDOT to define the scope and estimate the cost for this project are continuing. State applications for funding under this program are due before the end of March 2007, including letters of support from area local governments.

Mr. Riblett stated the current questions regarding the scope for the Shop Road Gate project relate to the type and volume of trucks that will be using this gate during and after the construction period. The second item in need of clarification is whether or not there is sufficient current storage capacity for SB traffic on Jefferson Park making right turns onto Shop Road Gate.

Mr. Riblett also stated VDOT has determined that traffic warrants for a signal at this location have been met.

Mr. Vinsh emphasized the importance of finalizing the scope and cost estimate for the Shop Road Gate project before the meeting of the MPO - Policy Committee and the Crater Planning District Commission on March 8, 2007 in order for the State application can be authorized for submission.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND FY 2006 – 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE HICKORY HILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Vinsh explained the proposed scope for the Hickory Hill Road project is to modify the signal at County Drive and make the existing inside eastbound thru lane a combination thru lane and left turn lane; add an additional eastbound travel lane on Hickory Hill Road for one-third of a mile from County Drive; add turn lanes off Hickory Hill Road, as determined by the design process and, add an additional travel lane several hundred feet from the Mahone Gate to be reconstructed by Fort Lee. Additional turn lanes would be designed for Hickory Hill Road, as needed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Briddell, seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried, a recommendation was made by the Technical Committee that the 2026 Transportation Plan and the FY 2006 – FY 2008 TIP be amended to include the Hickory Hill Road project was adopted.

DISCUSSION OF FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE FORT LEE EXPANSION TRAFFIC STUDY

Mr. Vinsh commented on funding opportunities for additional project needs identified in the

Fort Lee Expansion Traffic Study appear limited at this time. None of the projects are currently identified in the Six-Year Improvement Program. Additional information will be gathered on this topic with the Crater Growth Management Plan.

Mr. Vinsh further commented on a potential strategy to get Fort Lee related projects into the existing Transportation Plan is to take out some existing projects that do not appear to be moving forward. As an example, Mr. Vinsh commented the 2026 Transportation Plan includes \$58,000,000 for the I/85/I-95/Rt. 460 interchange reconstruction project in Petersburg. This project may be able to be substituted with the interchange project at Temple and Sisisky. At this time, there is no activity on the I-85/I-95/Rt. 460 project.

Mr. Vinsh stated he would explore this idea further and get an interpretation on the feasibility of this concept if there was Technical Committee consensus this was something that should be explored.

Mr. Hughes asked if the \$58,000,000 could be used for the Rives Road interchange project on I-95.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the same concept would apply to switching any project comparable in funding category as long as cost and air quality conformity requirements were satisfied.

Mr. Altman indicated he would want to know how local elected officials view this approach, but saw advantage to getting a smaller project accomplished in the near term compared to a more remote possibility of getting a larger project accomplished over a longer term.

Mr. Vinsh indicated he would discuss this item with the Policy Committee next week.

STATUS REPORT ON THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF THE CRATER GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Vinsh introduced Richard Lockwood of VHB Inc. and Russell Archambault of RKG Associates, Inc. Mr. Archambault provided an overview of the Management Plan scope of work and indicated the study was scheduled to be completed by October 2007. Mr. Lockwood focused on transportation elements of this study process.

Mr. Lockwood stated the transportation element would include a strategic overview of recommendations in the Baker Study regarding improvements and then look at the new traffic model run results with Fort Lee growth based on input from the housing element of the management plan and preliminary 2031 socio-economic data.

Mr. Lockwood also indicated the transportation element will include a public process, review of

commuting patterns, review of potential transit and transportation demand management alternatives for reducing roadway demand.

Mr. Lockwood stated the region needs strategic planning and a layout of all needs related to Fort Lee expansion.

Mr. Archambault then conducted a focus interview with the Technical Committee membership by targeting questions relating to community perceptions regarding Fort Lee expansion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately noon.

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 April 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Felecia Woodruff, DR&PT; Mark Riblett, VDOT; March Altman, Hopewell; Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; Leon Hughes, Prince George County; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie; Mike Briddell, City of Petersburg.

Others Present: Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; Tim Blumenschine, Petersburg National Battlefield; Diana Parker, Sierra Club; Greg White, Fort Lee; Ron Svejkovsky, Laurie Henley, Lamont Benjamin, VDOT;

Chairman Altman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – March 2, 2007

No action was taken on the minutes because at the beginning of the meeting a quorum was not present. Action items were voted on after either Ms. Smith or Mr. Hughes arrived.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

Ms. Parker distributed copies of a newsletter published by Falls of the James Group Sierra Club. Ms. Parker commented the Sierra Club is interested in the Route 460 PPTA and the SEHSR projects.

REVIEW OF 2007 CMAQ AND RSTP PROJECT RATING RESULTS

Mr. Vinsh stated 4 complete and 1 partial rating booklets had been received from Technical

Committee voting members. The 3 agency voting members abstained.

Mr. Vinsh mentioned some the members indicated they had difficulty in rating potential projects they were not as familiar with as projects located in their jurisdictions.

Ms. Smith stated the CMAQ criteria need to be reevaluated and the difference in available project accident information available needs to also be addressed.

Mr. Vinsh commented the Policy Committee meets on April 12 to take action on new CMAQ and RSTP allocations and on the need to move ahead with the process in order to get new projects into the next VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program update.

Mr. Vinsh suggested the Technical Committee authorize staff to make recommendations for CMAQ and RSTP allocations, depending on the outcome of the ratings.

Mr. Svejovsky emphasized previous committee discussions regarding the need to make existing projects with some allocations whole and then used the ratings for allocating funds to new projects.

Ms. Smith asked about the level of additional allocations given the need to fully fund projects with some allocation.

Mr. Vinsh indicated projects at Hickory Hill, Shop Gate Road & Jefferson Park and the pending split intersection project at Temple & Oaklawn have committed RSTP funding through FY 2008 and some of FY 2009. However, FY 2008 CMAQ allocations will be mostly determined by the 2007 rating process.

Mr. Vinsh commented that the MPO has some obligation to the Rt. 1 and Rt. 460 project in Dinwiddie. VDOT and the County are still working on a scope for this project.

Mr. Svejovsky mentioned that May 9 has been scheduled for the Hickory Hill scoping meeting.

Ms. Rice mentioned several citizens on Hickory Hill Road have specific design questions regarding this project.

Mr. Svejovsky stated these type questions can be answered after the design process commences.

Mr. Altman stated the Hopewell City Council recently decided to fund intersection improvements at Colonial Corners with local funds and has suggested CMAQ and RSTP funds previously allocated to this project be used for improvements at the Oaklawn and Jefferson

Park Road intersection.

Mr. Svejksky indicated no CMAQ or RSTP funds have been expended on the Colonial Corners project.

Mr. Altman also mentioned progress is being made on the Hummel Road project.

Mr. Vinsh stated that the 3rd priority on the Baker intermediate project list was a second left turn lane from NB Jefferson Park Road to WB Oaklawn and asked if this was a potential use for funds presently allocated to Colonial Corners.

Mr. Altman indicated it would be appropriate to combine this proposed project with the existing CMAQ project at the same intersection for a right turn lane from EB Oaklawn to SB Jefferson Park Road and make it one project.

Mr. Svejksky suggested averaging the scores that are received prior to the Policy Committee meeting on April 12.

Mr. Altman suggested that the criteria used to rate candidate CMAQ & RSTP projects should be reviewed later this calendar year.

After a period of further discussion the consensus of the committee was to authorize staff to recommend allocations to the Policy Committee for projects with previous funding and then use the results of the ratings for allocations to priority projects using the most recent cost estimates provided by VDOT.

STATUS REPORT ON THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF THE CRATER GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Vinsh briefly commented that approximately 170 persons attended the public meeting held in late March. The consultant presented an overview of the project scope and responded to questions from citizens. Another public meeting will be scheduled later in the project which is scheduled to be completed by this October.

Mr. Vinsh commented on the need to get the output of the housing element from the Crater Growth Management Plan in order to supplement TAZ level preliminary 2031 socio-economic forecast with Fort Lee expansion information. VDOT will use the 2031 socio-economic data to rerun the Richmond Traffic model to provide updated traffic forecast to include planned expansion at Fort Lee for the 2031 Transportation Plan update.

STATUS REPORT ON 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN REVISION AND CONSIDERATION FOR FURTHER AMENDMENT RELATED TO RECOMMENDED FORT LEE EXPANSION

Mr. Vinsh commented that the draft revised 2026 Transportation Plan narrative needs to be completed by the May Policy Committee meeting in order for staff to receive authorization to advertise the document for public comment in May and receive action during the June 2007 meeting.

Mr. Vinsh commented on the portions of the 2026 narrative being revised and new elements being added, including transportation safety, security and environmental resource agency consultation.

Mr. Vinsh then commented on the human service agency transportation coordination requirement of SAFETEA-LU and distributed information on a May workshop scheduled by VDR&PT in Richmond for PDC 15 and PDC 19. Mr. Vinsh indicated the CPDC staff would be relying on VDR&PT to be the lead agency for developing the human service coordination plan for the Tri-Cities and that this item is not required to be completed by June 30, 2007.

Mr. Vinsh commented that based on previous discussions at the Policy Committee regarding Fort Lee projects not currently listed in the 2026 financially constrained Transportation Plan, adjustments are to be made to include as many of the Fort Lee expansion projects recommended by the Baker Study as can be justified by shifting funding from the I-85/I-95/Rt.460 interchange improvement project and the regional primary fund balance entries. This action would allow potential project allocations by the Commonwealth Transportation Board for Fort Lee expansion related roadway and intersection improvements.

Mr. Vinsh also commented on the need to modify the constrained project list for the revised 2026 Transportation Plan to include the Route 460 new location alignment as presently endorsed by the Commonwealth Transportation Board even though the Route 460 PPTA Independent Review Panel has neither made any recommendations nor has the Route 460 PPTA process been concluded.

Mr. Altman asked what implications would this have for the area and how would this project be funded.

Mr. Vinsh stated there was some concern because the Tri-Cities MPO has expressed support for the project alignment modification suggested by Prince George. A decision on whether or not the State supports the modification has not been made. Therefore, the MPO would need to include the alignment presently selected by the Commonwealth Transportation Board on the revised 2026 revised project list and consider an amendment at a later time if the State decides to accept the Prince George alignment modification.

Mr. Vinsh stated that Rt. 460 PPTA would be listed as the funding source for this project.

After a period of further discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Policy Committee endorsement of the shifting of funds from the I-85/I-95/Rt.460 project and

the regional primary fund balance for eligible Fort Lee expansion related projects and to include the Route 460 new location alignment selected by the Commonwealth Transportation Board into the revised 2026 Transportation Plan financially constrained project list.

REVIEW OF ROADWAY FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP

Mr. Svejkovsky made reference to a preliminary functional classification map for the Tri-Cities Area and indicated committee members will need to review and endorse a more detailed version of this map.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006 – 2008 TIP TO INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS TO LAMORE DRIVE AND 4 STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Mr. Svejkovsky commented the need to process the project to reconstruct Lamore Drive (UPC10874).

Upon a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried, a motion was endorsed to recommend the Lamore Drive amendment.

Mr. Svejkovsky then commented on the need to process amendments to add the following 4 statewide maintenance and safety projects: (UPC77586), (UPC77583), (UPC77584) and (UPC77585).

Upon a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried, a motion was endorsed to recommend the following 4 statewide maintenance and safety projects: (UPC77586), (UPC77583), (UPC77584) and (UPC77585) for amendment to the current TIP.

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CURRENT TIP SINCE THE MARCH 2007 MEETING

Mr. Vinsh reported a staff adjustment to the RSTP transportation supplemental funding project for Crater PDC (UPC72904).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately noon.

Minutes of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Technical Committee meeting held at 3335 South Crater Road in the Southside Regional Medical Center on May 4, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie; Mike Briddell, Petersburg; Felecia Woodruff,

DR&PT; Liz McAdory (alternate), VDOT; Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Leon Hughes, Prince George County; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit; March Altman, Hopewell.

Others Present: Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; Tim Blumenschine, Petersburg National Battlefield; John Royster, Fort Lee; Jim Ponticello, Laurie Henley, Lamont Benjamin, VDOT; Mark Wittkofski, DR&PT

Ms. Smith agreed to Chair the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – March 2, 2007

No action was taken on the minutes because at the beginning of the meeting a quorum was not present. Action items were voted on after Ms. Smith and Mr. Hughes arrived.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 4, 2007

Upon a motion by Mr. Briddell, seconded by Ms. Woodruff and carried, the minutes of the May 4, 2007 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comment

REVIEW OF CMAQ AND RSTP PROJECT ALLOCATIONS

Mr. Vinsh reviewed proposed FY 2007 CMAQ allocations for \$745,928 (80% federal share) for projects with some prior CMAQ allocation as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>UPC#</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ozone Alert	N/A	8,000
Route 36 & Jefferson Park Rd.	19003	8,000
Route 36 Colonial Corners	59118	31,200
Route 1 Sherwood to Temple Ave.	N/A	265,600
VSU Sidewalks	72883	142,200
Route 630 & Route 460	N/A	144,600
Prince George Sidewalks	80457	144,800
Unallocated Balance	70722	1,528

Mr. Vinsh reviewed proposed FY 2008 CMAQ allocations for \$1,308,485(80% federal share)

for projects with some prior CMAQ allocation as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>UPC#</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ozone Alert	N/A	8,000
Route 630 & Route 460	82849	126,644
Petersburg Downtown Signal	77537	220,000
Hummel Ross Rd. & Route 10	12955	160,985
Prince George Sidewalks	80457	4,000
Unallocated Balance	70722	788,856

Mr. Vinsh reviewed proposed FY 2007 RSTP allocations for \$2,159,704(100% federal share & State Share) for projects with either some prior RSTP allocation or Fort Lee expansion related as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>UPC#</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Route 1 & Route 460	73268	150,000
MPO Supplemental Planning	72904	72,765
Hickory Hill Improvements	84728	1,181,000
Shop Gate & Jefferson Park Rd.	T4820	230,000
Unallocated Balance	70725	525,939

Mr. Vinsh reviewed proposed FY 2008 RSTP allocations for \$2,121,579(100% federal share & State Share) for projects with either some prior RSTP allocation or Fort Lee expansion related as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>UPC#</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Route 1 & Route 460	73268	150,000
MPO Supplemental Planning	72904	72,765
Hickory Hill Improvements	84728	1,319,000
Temple Ave. & Oaklawn Blvd.	T4820	400,000
Unallocated Balance	70725	279,814

Mr. Vinsh reviewed proposed FY 2009 RSTP allocations for \$2,143,323(100% federal share & State Share) for projects with either some prior RSTP allocation or Fort Lee expansion related as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>UPC#</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Route 1 & Route 460	73268	150,000
MPO Supplemental Planning	72904	72,765
Temple Ave. & Oaklawn Blvd.	T4820	1,600,000
Unallocated Balance	70725	320,558

Mr. Vinsh indicated questions had been raised regarding the eligibility of the proposed River Rd & Temple Avenue CMAQ project. This project rated the highest of all CMAQ candidate projects in the 2007 rating; however, it was not understood at the time of the ratings that the facility would be closed to the general public. Mr. Vinsh added that FHWA has been contacted and requested to determine if CMAQ funds can be used for a facility that will be closed to the general public.

Mr. Royster indicated funding for the Temple Avenue and River Road improvement project is being requested by Fort Lee for funding from the Defense Access Road (DAR) Program.

After a period of discussion, it was agreed the allocations proposed would be recommended to the MPO – Policy Committee. It was further agreed that each locality would be prepared to discuss 2 projects at the June meeting in order to better understand how unallocated balances could be allocated to projects.

REVIEW OF DRAFT 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN REVISION AND THE ROUTE 460 PPTA SOLICITATION

Mr. Vinsh indicated the draft document had recently been posted on the MPO website and authorization would be requested during the May meeting from the MPO – Policy Committee to advertise the document for public comment.

Mr. Vinsh further indicated the revisions addressed SAFETEA-LU requirements, inclusion of Fort Lee expansion related projects and the Route 460 relocation project.

After a period of further discussion, especially the Route 460 relocation project, a motion was made by Mr. Briddell, seconded by Ms. McAdory and carried that the 2026 Transportation Plan Revision be recommended for advertisement showing Fort Lee projects as being financially constrained and the Route 460 relocation project for PE only.

REVIEW OF ROADWAY FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP

Mr. Vinsh made reference to a updated functional classification map for the Tri-Cities Area prepared by VDOT and attached to the agenda.

Ms. McAdory indicated Technical Committee action was not required and that a local government can follow an amendment process with VDOT should there be a need to modify the new functional classification map.

STATUS REPORT ON THE SOUTHEAST HIGH-SPEED RAIL (SEHSR) PROJECT

Mr. Wittkofski presented information indicating the Federal Railroad Administration has indicated a willingness to consider using the Burgess Connector alignment between Main Street Station in Richmond and Burgess in Dinwiddie.

Mr. Wittkofski further indicated environmental field work for the segment of the SEHSR project is now in progress.

He also requested information from Petersburg and Colonial Heights on future traffic flows in the vicinity of the SEHSR corridor.

REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 2008 TRI-CITIES AREA UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UTPWP)

Mr. Vinsh made reference to this annual document and indicated the narrative had been updated to reflect current transportation planning needs and issues in the study area.

Upon a motion by Mr. Briddell, seconded by Ms. Woodruff and carried, the FY 2008 UTPWP was recommended for MPO – Policy Committee endorsement.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006 – 2008 TIP TO INCLUDE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING FOR THE ROUTE 460 NEW LOCATION PROJECT (UPC 84272 AND UPC 56638)

Mr. Vinsh indicated VDOT has requested amendment to the current TIP to include this project for PE.

Upon a motion by Ms. McAdory, seconded by Mr. Briddell and carried, it was recommended that the MPO – Policy Committee endorse this proposed amendment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 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

Medical Center on June 1, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie; Mike Briddell, City of Petersburg; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit.

Others Present: Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; John Royster, Fort Lee; Lamont Benjamin, VDOT;

Chairman Altman called the meeting to order at approximately 10:20 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – March 2, 2007 and May 4, 2007

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Schanzenbacher and carried the minutes of the March 2nd and May 4th meetings were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comment

STATUS REPORT ON THE 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN REVISION

Mr. Vinsh indicated the draft document has been advertised for public comment, posted on the MPO website and copies provided the public libraries in the Tri-Cities, as per the adopted Public Participation Plan. Also, stakeholder letters have been sent to freight shippers, human service agencies and environmental resource agencies requesting comment and advising them of the revisions being proposed to make the document compliant with metropolitan transportation planning provisions of SAFETEA-LU.

Mr. Riblett indicated on May 29, FHWA made an assessment regarding the level of MPO compliance with applicable planning provisions contained in SAFETEA-LU. The results of this assessment were satisfactory. However, during the assessment a significant issue was raised regarding the inclusion of the Route 460 PPTA project in the 2026 Transportation Plan Revision for construction at this time. FHWA indicated additional clarification and guidance would be provided on this item.

STATUS REPORT ON THE ROUTE 460 PPTA

Mr. Vinsh indicated on May 23, 2007 the Route 460 Independent Review Panel recommended to the Commonwealth Transportation Board that all 3 concessionaires substantially satisfied PPTA requirements under State requirements and that all 3 proposals should be advanced to the detailed proposal stage pursuant to the Virginia Public Private Transportation Act of 1995.

Mr. Riblett suggested the MPO may want to take two actions at the June 14 meeting regarding the 2026 Transportation Plan Revision. The first action would be to separate the Route 460 project from other projects. This action would assure that the Tri-Cities would have a SAFETEA-LU compliant plan. The second action would be to amend the first action by adding the Route 460 project.

STATUS REPORT ON THE CRATER GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Vinsh stated input was needed from the housing sub-consultant working on this project on where, at the TAZ level, would off-base Fort Lee expansion related population was forecasted to reside. This information would then be used by CPDC staff to update the preliminary 2031 socio-economic forecast. The 2031 forecast would need to be adopted by the MPO during August meeting for use by VDOT to rerun the Richmond traffic model.

Mr. Vinsh distributed the 2006 jurisdiction level population forecast and commented Fort Lee expansion has been considered in this new population forecast series prepared by the Virginia Employment Commission.

Mr. Vinsh suggested the July meeting be cancelled and that individual meetings be held between CPDC staff and local representatives on the 2031 update forecast and project listing.

Mr. Vinsh also indicated a meeting had recently been held by the transportation sub-consultant working on the Crater Growth Management Plan with PAT and Richmond Ridefinders to discuss transit and transportation demand management options.

After a period discussion, several members indicated a desire for information on the jurisdiction of origin for PAT ridership for routes outside of Petersburg.

Mr. Vinsh indicated he would forward this request to PAT.

After a brief period of discussion, it was the consensus that the July meeting would be cancelled and individual meetings would be held to discuss the 2031 forecast and project listing.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006 – 2008 TIP REGARDING THE

FERNDALE ROAD PROJECT IN DINWIDDIE

Mr. Riblett indicated VDOT is recommending that PE be added for this project to the current TIP.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried, the Technical Committee voted to recommend this amendment for action by the Policy Committee on June 14.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 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 Medical Center on August 17, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; March Altman, Hopewell; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie; Leon Hughes, Prince George, Ron Svejkovsky, VDOT; Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Leon Hughes, Prince George, Mike Briddell, City of Petersburg; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit.

Others Present: Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; Jim Ponticello, VDOT;

Mr. Schanzenbacher acted as Chair for the meeting until Mr. Altman arrived. Mr. Schanzenbacher called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 1, 2007

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Bassett and carried the minutes of the June 1st was approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comment

REPORT ON THE 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLAN REVISION CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

Mr. Ponticello distributed summary information on the results of the conformity analysis of the 2026 Transportation Plan Revision, including the Route 460 PPTA project. Mr. Ponticello

explained the process followed for this analysis and indicated applicable tests for NOx and VOC did not exceed budgeted levels.

Mr. Ponticello also indicated the U.S. EPA designated the Richmond Area as an attainment area under the 8 hr. ozone standard on June 8, 2007.

Mr. Ponticello explained that the MPO – Policy Committee has authorized the draft conformity analysis of the 2026 Transportation Plan Revision to approve the document for public advertisement.

Upon a motion by Mr. Schanzenbacher, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried, the draft document was authorized for public advertisement.

Mr. Vinsh stated the draft conformity analysis would be added to the MPO website and hardcopies would be sent to public libraries in the Tri-Cities prior to sending the public notices to local newspapers for advertisement.

REPORT ON FUNDING FOR FORT LEE EXPANSION TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Mr. Vinsh distributed a summary profile of the Fort Lee expansion projects adopted by the MPO in the 2026 Transportation Revision. The profile indicates funding has been secured and UPC numbers established for Shop Gate, Hickory Hill, Rt. 36 & Rt. 144 intersection and a project for the construction of an additional eastbound travel lane between Siskiy Gate and Jefferson Park Road.

Mr. Vinsh mentioned that the CTB has recently approved \$5 million for improvement needs in the Route 36 and Route 144 corridors related to Fort Lee expansion. Mr. Vinsh also mentioned Fort Lee had requested funding from the Defense Access Road Program for several projects that had been endorsed by the MPO. In summary, Mr. Vinsh indicated funding for approximately one-half of the \$20 million needed for the 18 transportation projects endorsed by the MPO as needed for Fort Lee expansion.

REPORT ON STAFF-LEVEL AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2006-2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Svejovsky identified the projects and briefly commented that 10 staff-level amendments were processed during the months of May, June and July.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE PRELIMINARY 2031 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh commented on the draft 2031 project list and identified several proposed facilities in need of further information. These facilities were as follows: North/South facility between Chesterfield and Dinwiddie; the Route 36 Corridor and the proposed I-95 interchange improvement projects at Southpark Boulevard and at Rives Road.

Mr. Vinsh also added that clarification of the scope for the Route 1 Corridor project in Dinwiddie was needed.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the financial forecast for the 2031 Plan was not available at this time. Mr. Vinsh added that the MPO – Policy Committee would be made aware that the financial forecast for the 2031 Transportation Plan may preclude all projects currently considered financially constrained in the 2026 Transportation Plan Revision from being listed as constrained because the new financial forecast may not be as optimistic as the 2026 financial forecast. CPDC staff will need guidance on the prioritization of interstate and primary projects.

REPORT ON STATUS OF 2031 SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORECAST

Mr. Vinsh distributed available preliminary on the 2031 forecast with Fort Lee expansion. Mr. Vinsh added that the Crater Growth Plan consultant, RKG, Inc. is to provide estimated employment growth by jurisdiction related to Fort Lee expansion.

A brief period of general discussion of the topic followed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

By consensus, Mr. Altman was re-elected Chair and Ms. Smith was elected Vice-Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 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 Medical Center on September 7, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; March Altman, Hopewell; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie; Ron Svejkovsky, VDOT (alternate); Mike Briddell, City of Petersburg; Joe Vinsh,

CPDC.

Members Absent: Leon Hughes, Prince George, George Schanzenbacher, City of Colonial Heights; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit.

Others Present: Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; Jim Ponticello, VDOT; John Royster, Fort Lee;

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – August 17, 2007

Upon a motion by Mr. Briddell, seconded by Mr. Bassett and carried the minutes of the June 1st was approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comment

REPORT ON FUNDING FOR FORT LEE EXPANSION TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Mr. Vinsh indicated the signalization project at Shop Road Gate and Jefferson Park is being implemented. The Hickory Hill Road improvement project is in project scoping. The proposed split intersection project at Rt. 144 and Rt. 36 is being reviewed operationally by VDOT-Richmond District.

Mr. Svejksky added that the estimates are coming in from the designer and a TIP amendment for the split intersection project will be ready for MPO action soon.

Mr. Vinsh mentioned that the State has requested Fort Lee to consider submitting additional Fort Lee expansion project applications for Defense Access Road Program funding.

Mr. Vinsh also mentioned the next priority project is the addition of an eastbound lane between Sisisky Gate and Jefferson Park. This project is considered to be regional significant and will need to be included in the next air quality conformity analysis. Funding for this project is likely to be included in the \$5 million approved last June by the Commonwealth Transportation Board for BRAC related improvements in the Rt. 36 and Rt. 144 corridors.

Mr. Altman asked how the eastbound lane project and the split intersection project would be connected.

Mr. Svejksky stated the concept being pursued would to connect the two projects and pending CMAQ projects along the Rt. 36 corridor.

The consensus of the discussion was that packaging the projects along the corridor was viewed as being desirable.

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE 2031 SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORECAST

Mr. Vinsh explained that RKG, Inc., the Crater Growth Management Consultant, has been conducting meetings with the various taskforce groups (i.e. housing, child care, education etc.) and has indicated expectations on the amount of off-base growth has reduced from previous levels. The current estimate for direct off-base households to be added because of Fort Lee expansion is about 1,700 compared with 3,100 assumed at the time the Baker, Inc. Traffic Impact Study was made. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to revising the preliminary 2031 forecast accordingly.

Mr. Vinsh indicated RKG, Inc. has provided employment growth factor related to Fort Lee expansion for each locality by year from 2006 thru 2050. Mr. Vinsh further indicated the off-base 2031 employment forecast has been adjusted using information provided by RKG, Inc. Potential changes in the planning assumptions regarding the amount and distribution of off-base housing units, households and population is pending.

Mr. Briddell asked where did RKG, Inc. get the new estimates?

Mr. Vinsh indicated his understanding is that RKG, Inc. has gotten these numbers fairly recently from Fort Lee. Fort Lee is not expecting as much off-base development has expected during the Spring of 2006.

Mr. Altman indicated the military people are coming and the employment is coming. The question is how many of the civilian employees will relocate here.

Mr. Vinsh stated he would be working with RKG, Inc. in the next few weeks on the numbers and assumptions on the amount and distribution of additional off-base households will need to be made for the 2031 forecast in order for VDOT to run the traffic model with Fort Lee expansion.

Mr. Royster indicated some of the jobs may be filled by people already residing in this area instead of new people relocating to this area. The amount of traffic at the gates will not change because the number of jobs at Fort Lee will not change. It is just that the location of the people may change.

Mr. Briddell stated the traffic impact will be there regardless of how many new people relocate to the area.

Mr. Vinsh stated there is a need to provide VDOT traffic modeler with information on how many new households are going to be built in the transportation study area at the TAZ because of Fort Lee expansion.

Mr. Altman stated traffic and new people to the region are different things.

Mr. Svejksky stated there are 2 pieces to the model where do they work and where do they live.

Mr. Altman indicated he did not think the Growth Management Plan would obligate the MPO to change the 2031 forecast.

Mr. Vinsh stated he would be meeting with RKG, Inc. soon to review the numbers and would bring back the information to the Technical Committee.

Mr. Altman stated that traffic impact from new households created is one thing but jobs created are another thing.

The number of jobs being created is the same; therefore, the amount of new traffic at the gates is the same regardless if the new Fort Lee employees relocate to this area or are already living in this area and holding other jobs.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2031 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh stated we have not received the 2031 financial forecast for VDOT and do not have the 2031 socio-economic forecast endorsed for a traffic model run with Fort Lee expansion.

Mr. Vinsh requested further discussion on regional priorities for interstate and primary projects.

Mr. Vinsh explained that the preliminary 2031 interstate project list included improvement for the Rives Road and the Southpark Boulevard interchanges on I-95. Mr. Vinsh further explained there is a need to establish a priority order for these projects because it is likely the 2031 interstate revenue forecast will not show sufficient funding for both projects to be considered financially constrained.

Mr. Briddell indicated we already have priority projects.

Mr. Vinsh stated we have regional priorities for RSTP and CMAQ projects. Urban and secondary priorities are taken directly from local comprehensive plans and a local review process.

Mr. Svejksky stated that information on regional priorities for interstate and primary projects

are what is most commonly sought during public meetings on the update of the Six-Year Improvement Program.

Mr. Vinsh indicated he did not have preliminary scope for either the Rives Road project or the Southpark Blvd. project on I-95. VDOT needs to have a preliminary scope in order to prepare a cost estimate.

Mr. Briddell stated a cloverleaf was desired at Rives and I-95.

Mr. Svejkovsky stated he had also heard another variation at Rives Road was to double the bridge and move the ramps to a different location.

Mr. Vinsh stated Colonial Heights has been asked to provide a scope for a potential project at Southpark Boulevard.

Mr. Svejkovsky indicated the City of Colonial Heights wants to be sure the interchange will accommodate future commercial development.

The consensus of the membership was that improving the interchange at Rives Road would be considered more of a regional priority project than a potential project at the Southpark interchange that would primarily serve local commercial development.

Regarding primary project priorities, Mr. Vinsh indicated the 3 facilities in need of discussion were Route 460, Rt. 36 and the proposed North/South Freeway between Chesterfield and Dinwiddie.

Mr. Bassett indicated a meeting has been recently held at the staff level between Dinwiddie and Chesterfield on the North/South Freeway proposal. He further indicated the next step was for him to take this proposal to the Dinwiddie Planning Commission for consideration.

Regarding the existing Route 460 corridor in Petersburg and Prince George, both localities are still including improvement in this corridor on their priority list.

Regarding the Route 36 corridor, Mr. Vinsh indicated, based on previous discussions related to Fort Lee expansion projects, efforts are being made to coordinate various improvement projects along this corridor by possibly merging multi-projects into a single project.

STAFF-LEVEL AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2006-2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Svejkovsky reported that a staff-level amendment was processed during the month of

August for UPC 72883, the VSU Sidewalk project, to release \$18,167 for preliminary engineering, delete previous right-of-way obligations and obligate \$108,083 in FY 2008 CM funds.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006 - 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Vinsh indicated VDOT is proposing an amendment to the current TIP to add UPC 85623 to improve the southbound off-ramp on I-95 at Temple Avenue.

Upon a motion by Mr. Briddell, seconded by Mr. Bassett and carried a motion was adopted to recommend to the MPO – Policy Committee that the current TIP be amended to include this project.

REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON A PROPOSED ADDENDUM PROCESS FOR THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Svejkovsky stated that under SAFETEA-LU the Transportation Improvement Program is required to be longer than 3 years. Therefore, VDOT is proposing to review the Six-Year Program and identify projects likely to need funds beyond the 3 year period and include these projects as an amendment to the existing TIP during the next one or two month period.

Mr. Svejkovsky further stated this is probably the most efficient way to accomplish this task administratively and FHWA has endorsed this concept.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 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 Medical Center on October 5, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Barbara Smith, Chesterfield; March Altman, Hopewell; Christiana Greene, Dinwiddie (alternate); Ron Svejkovsky, VDOT (alternate); Mike Briddell, City of Petersburg; Leon Hughes, Prince George, George Schanzenbacher, City of Colonial Heights; Ron Reekes, Petersburg Area Transit.
Joe Vinsh, CPDC.

Members Absent: Mike Briddell, City of Petersburg;

Others Present: Dama Rice, City of Petersburg; Lamont Benjamin, VDOT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 7, 2007

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Reekes and carried, the minutes of the September 7, 2007 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN INFORMATION PERIOD

No comment

REPORT of Preliminary 2031 Socio-Economic Forecast

Mr. Vinsh distributed and reviewed summary information on three 2031 socio-economic forecasts for the MPO study area. The forecasts included the CPDC's staff 2031 forecast with an employment growth adjustment factor developed by RKG, Inc.; a CPDC PDC staff 2031 forecast without Fort Lee expansion and a 2031 forecast prepared by RKG, Inc.

Mr. Vinsh indicated the forecast prepared by RKG, Inc. will be used by VDOT for a special run of the 2026 traffic model. The output from this effort will be used for the Crater Growth Management Plan. The 2031 forecast prepared by Crater PDC staff will be used along with similar input from the Richmond PDC staff at a later time for the 2031 Transportation Plan update.

After a period of discussion, Ms. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reekes and carried, to forward a recommendation to the Policy Committee that the Technical Committee recommends endorsement of the forecasts presented.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2031 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Vinsh stated the 2031 financial forecast from VDOT has not been received. CPDC staff will be focusing on updating the socio-economic tables and narrative for the 2031 document.

Mr. Vinsh indicated input had been received from Dinwiddie to include the north/south new facility project extending from Chesterfield and connecting in Dinwiddie County near the vicinity of I-85.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006 - 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE ROUTE 1 CMAQ PROJECT IN COLONIAL HEIGHTS (UPC 77600)

Mr. Vinsh and Mr. Svejkovsky indicated a need to allocate 100% federal funds instead of 80% of the total project cost for the Route 1 signalization project and the Petersburg downtown signal project. CMAQ transit projects and "signal only" projects are funded at a 100% federal level.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried, a motion was adopted to recommend additional federal allocations be made to the 2 referenced projects from unallocated FY 2008 funds in the amounts of \$65,000 for UPC 77537 and 66,400 for UPC 77600.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2006 - 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO SHIFT PREVIOUS CMAQ ALLOCATIONS FROM THE COLONIAL CROSSINGS PROJECT (UPC 59118) TO THE HUMMEL ROSS CMAQ PROJECT (UPC 12955)

Mr. Benjamin indicated City of Hopewell has agreed to fund the Colonial Crossings project with local funds and has requested previous funds allocated to this project be shifted to the Hummel Ross Road CMAQ project.

Mr. Altman noted that the current cost estimate may not be the final cost of the Hummel Ross CMAQ project.

Upon a motion by Mr. Altman, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried a motion was adopted to recommend to the MPO – Policy Committee that CMAQ funds previously allocated to the Colonial Crossings CMAQ project be shifted to the Hummel Ross Road CMAQ project.

REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON A PROPOSED ADDENDUM to the FY 2006 – 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Svejkovsky indicated, as explained during the previous meeting, in order to be compliant with SAFETEA-LU the TIP must be a 4-year document. Mr. Svejkovsky distributed a list projects recommended by VDOT to be included in the addendum for a 4th year of the FY 2006 – 2008 Transportation Improvement Program. The projects included 7 secondary, 2 urban and 1 primary.

After a brief period of discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried that approval of the addendum be recommended to the Policy Committee for approval, subject to a review of the route numbers listed for projects in Prince George County.

REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON PROPOSED TRAIL PROJECTS FOR ENHANCEMENT FUNDING IN COLONIAL HEIGHTS AND IN PETERSBURG

Mr. Vinsh stated the City of Colonial Heights is seeking MPO support for \$600,000 in enhancement funding for the western section of the Appomattox River Greenway Trail and the City of Petersburg is seeking \$500,000 for the Appomattox River Heritage Trail project.

Upon a motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Schanzenbacher and carried, a motion to recommend MPO – Policy Committee support for the proposed enhancement grants was approved.

DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL TRANSIT ITEMS REFERED BY THE MPO – POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Reekes provided some financial information for several PAT routes that extend outside of the City of Petersburg, including the Crossings in Hopewell, Southpark in Colonial Heights, Fort Lee in Prince George, Central State Hospital in Dinwiddie and Ettrick in Chesterfield. Mr. Reekes indicated because of a scheduled loss of demonstration funds for these routes and because of a need for PAT to fulfill its local financial share of the downtown Richmond to downtown Petersburg express route, local funds from outside of Petersburg will be needed for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 in order to continue current service levels.

Mr. Reekes also indicated Mayor Mickens brought this item to the attention of the Policy Committee during a previous meeting and the Technical Committee has been charged with making short and long term recommendations on this transit funding item.

Mr. Reekes asked, beyond the GRTC Route, what do the area local governments want to do? Mr. Reekes suggested a subcommittee could be established to work out an approach to local cost sharing.

Mr. Altman stated several Council members in Hopewell had recently express interest in learning more about transit funding needs and opportunities.

Mr. Schanzenbacher indicated the City of Colonial Heights may want to be a part of this discussion, including potential changes in the route structure.

Mr. Reekes stated the potential exists to move the current transit system to regional management.

Mr. Bender stated DR&PT may be of assistance with devising an approach to cost sharing. Mr. Bender suggest either PAT or the MPO send a letter to DR&PT requesting on-call contractor

assistance for short-term needs, such as working out a cost share approach. This may be able to be accomplished within available resources. For longer term needs, such as updating the transit development program, a similar request needs to be made of DR&PT before February 2008 in order to receive consideration for funding after July 1, 2008.

Mr. Hughes asked for information on ridership by jurisdiction for the routes outside of Petersburg.

Mr. Reekes indicated this information is not currently available and would be expensive to collect. He suggested a sample survey could be made. Mr. Reekes indicated GRTC has completed a survey fairly recently of the downtown to downtown route. This survey would be made available to area local governments.

Mr. Reekes offered to send a letter to DR&PT requesting short-term assistance with developing a cost-share approach with local governments regarding transit funding for routes located outside of Petersburg.

Mr. Vinsh stated he would report this discussion item to the Policy Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 A.M.