



Bikeway-Walkway Staff Report:

Transportation Work/Tasking:

- ***Draper Mountain Trail System:*** This new trail system is still being planned and alternative construction methods are being evaluated. The folks in Pulaski County are interested in looking at ways to connect this new trail system to the existing New River Trail and other resources.
- ***Trails in Floyd:*** The committee is scheduled to meet with the Town of Floyd to evaluate potential partnerships for implementing bicycle and pedestrian improvements in their community.
- ***Radford Transit Committee:*** March 3rd the Radford Transit Committee met to discuss next steps in the overall process of implementing a transit system. The final report has been released on the DRPT website for the public to view. The report provides a compilation of regional data, highlights the planning process, and explores potential alternatives along with associated costs for the City and University to consider before moving forward with the implementation of the system.

For more information:

http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/activities/Transit_ref_materials.aspx

- ***Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan:*** The PDC has continued to meet with each jurisdictional office throughout the NRV. Meetings are currently in the works for the remainder of the areas and follow-up meetings are expected with each of the Counties. The new plan encourages localities to focus on project implementation in the short, medium, and long-range timeline. This approach will set goals for each locality to move towards incorporating bicycle and pedestrian improvements into the regional transportation network.

Transportation Updates:

- ***Rural Long Range Plan:*** The Consultant has been working the last couple months preparing the visual components of the plan. Once completed the plan will be submitted to VDoT and the PDC for internal review prior to formal review of the Technical Committee. The PDC intends to break out jurisdictional and organizational sections and send to appropriate representatives in order to confirm information presented. VDoT expects each of the PDC's to receive regional endorsement from all member-jurisdictions to confirm the validity of the documents contents.

For more information: <http://virginiadot.org/projects/pdf/NRiverV.pdf>

- ***Attendance of Conference/Workshops:*** In an effort to obtain new knowledge and information amongst the transportation community, Sharp attended the following conferences and events:

- *VAPDC Winter Conference, Highlights and Presentations:*

- Transportation Committee: Much of the meeting was dominated by the creation of an independent VAMPO organization. The VAPDC Transportation Committee was solicited for input on organization structuring and legislative correspondence. The highlight of the meeting was discussion facilitated by Corey Hill, DPRT Chief of Transit and Congestion Management. Mr. Hill has recently become aware of PDC's involvement in statewide planning and would like to host a meeting to develop ways to improve communication and expand the relationship between the two organizations (DRPT and PDC).
- Jim Cheng, Commonwealth's Secretary of Commerce and Trade was the keynote speaker who was energetic about creating new jobs and industry. Mr. Cheng spoke about increasing the "opportunity fund" which allows states to provide leveraging funds for landing large businesses. The Governors initiatives are going to focus on creating more incentives for small businesses who hire and maintain employees, pursuing international business opportunities (49% of new national business market), investigating off-shore drilling to create wind turbine energy facilities, and nontraditional opportunities such as the film industry. Mr. Cheng said that PDC's could play a direct role in researching their respective communities ability to facilitate industry and manufacturing growth beyond technology driven support.
- Steve Walz, Virginia Department of Mines and Mineral Energy Director thanked the PDC's for their support in soliciting applicants for stimulus funding channeled through his department. Mr. Walz said that he looked forward to continuing to work with PDC's in the future.

Guest speakers and visitors also included: Sean Connaughton, Secretary of Transportation; Jeannemarie Davis, Director of the Virginia Liason Office; and Terrie Suit, Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness.