

**Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
of the
New River Valley Planning District Commission**

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on May 16th, 2006, at the
New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn
1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Saville called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Roy Saville, Chairman, Radford University, Joe Powers, Vice-Chairman, Montgomery Co.; David Clarke, VDOT-Christiansburg; Dan Brugh, Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Co. MPO; Ray Pethtel, VTTI; Michael Gray and Patrick Burton, VDOT; James Hurt, City of Radford; Nicole Hair and Barry Helms, Christiansburg; Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit; Shawn Utt, City of Radford; Brad Stipes, PDC Commissioner; Terry Nester, Town of Pulaski; Tim Witten, Blacksburg; Paul Dellinger, The Roanoke Times.

Staff Present: Abigail Convery and Kevin Byrd, New River Valley PDC.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were addressed to the committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No committee members expressed concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS

Currently the Bikeway/Walkway Committee operates as an independent community interest group. The chairman of the committee, Shawn Utt, made a request of the TAC to become a formal sub-committee. The membership accepted the request and decided to structure the committee as a “working group”. The Bikeway/Walkway working group may consist of up to 25 members and deliver recommendations on related projects to the TAC. The committee will continue their work on connecting the Huckleberry Trail to the New River Trail, among several other community trail projects.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business to address

STAFF REPORTS

Safe Routes to School Program:

Abi announced the Safe Routes to School initiative with two work sessions planned for May 30th at the PDC. This program implements transportation improvements within one-half to one mile of elementary and middle schools. Safe Routes to School is supported largely by VDOT Enhancement funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Transportation Process:

Abi presented PowerPoint slides of operational diagrams to indicate transportation agencies and their relationships. The TAC serves as an advisory committee to the Planning District Commissioners. The Commissioners represent the member jurisdictions across the region. The intention of the TAC is to inform the Commissioners of transportation issues then, the Commissioners relay the information to their communities. The TAC desires better flow of information between the Commissioners and their committee. The committee members suggested meeting with representatives from each community to discuss transportation needs on an individual basis to keep informed. Particular emphasis should be on program issues, opposed to specific projects. The TAC will revisit this issue to develop a memorandum for Commissioners and others involved with the committee to fully understand the working relationships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comments are being taken the Highway Safety Plan (program based, not project based)

S.B. 699- a new Senate Bill will require relationships to be determined between VDOT and local land use practices (Zoning, Subdivision, Traffic). The TAC will follow this issue for any important announcements.

Chairman Saville set the next TAC meeting for July 18th, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

The meeting schedule for remainder of the year:
July 18, September 18, November 21

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Saville adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.