

**NEW RIVER VALLEY RPO
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2006, 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

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; Michael Gray and Patrick Burton, VDOT; James Hurt, City of Radford; Barry Helms, Christiansburg; Rebecca Martin, Blacksburg Transit; Eric Gentry, Giles County; Lydeana Martin, Floyd County; Ron Coake, Pulaski County; Paul Dellinger, The Roanoke Times.

Staff Present: Abigail Convery and Dave Rundgren, New River Valley PDC.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the May meeting were approved with an amendment to OTHER BUSINESS. The BW-WW Committee elected to meet every other month, a similar schedule to the TAC, rather than on a quarterly basis. Motion was made by Barry Helms. Seconded by Joe Powers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were addressed to the committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No committee members expressed concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

The materials for the transportation process relative to TAC that were presented at the last meeting (i.e. flow chart) will be presented and addressed at the meeting in September.

STAFF REPORTS

BW-WW Committee Report

Abi announced that Nichole Hair, Planner with the Town of Christiansburg was recently appointed to the state Bike Walk VA – Safe Routes to School Committee. She will relay any developments on the state level and any other opportunities concerning the program that may be useful to the Regional BW-WW Committee. Abi was also appointed to the BikeWalk VA board last month. She will bring back any information on Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy that may transpire at the State level.

Safe Routes to School Program:

Abi announced the results of the Safe Routes to School Workshop that Jakob Helmboldt gave on July 10th. She provided a summary of the workshop along with the location that all the presentations given thus far could be downloaded from the PDC website (www.nrvpdc.org). All updates and future events could be found on the site. Additionally, if localities are interested, the PDC can arrange a full day workshop with a certified Safe Routes to School Trainer. Abi is waiting on details from the provider, but will report back to all localities that have expressed interest. The full day workshop will help those communities develop a safe routes program tailored to their specific school. Please see the PDC website for all accompanying materials.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Saville explained that when time permitted, the TAC would have each of the localities give a short presentation on their current comprehensive plans in order to help TAC members better address the regional transportation issues in the future. Montgomery County was the first to present.

Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan

Joe Powers presented to the TAC, the process that they went through to update their current comprehensive plan. Montgomery County looked at population projections and planning and land use statistics to develop the current Village plans. More information on the comprehensive plan can be found at <http://www.montva.com/departments/plan/cpfiles/compplan.php> .

NRV Ride Share

Rebecca Martin with BT Transit gave a talk and presentation on the future of a Ride Share Program for the NRV. Currently, the PDC, BT, VT and the Blacksburg/Christiansburg MPO have been meeting to justify the need for a Ride Share program separate from Roanoke Valley's. Ms. Martin, a previous Ride Share Coordinator has taken lead with the project and has made the case in Richmond that the NRV has the need for a stand-alone ride share position. Her presentation that she gave to DRPT was presented and can be found on the PDC website under this week's TAC materials.

BT has been receiving several calls within the MPO from local businesses for some public transportation. VT is in the process of investigating the potential of a pilot van-pool program for

the surrounding Counties. It is clear that with rising gas costs lower paying positions are becoming harder to fill because of the cost/logistics of transportation in the region. Additionally, for Van service, creative ways to meet match funding are needed. For example, if enough businesses are interested in having vanpooling service, it would be cost-effective to have them contribute to the program as well as the locality.

The TAC committee asked that a recommendation be sent to the PDC Board that the Board would draft a resolution of support for a pilot Ride Share program within the NRV. The recommendation will be presented at the next PDC Board meeting.

Transportation and Land Use Planning Legislation SB699

David Clark and Dave Rundgren presented the most recent information available on how SB699 will be implemented. The legislation is effective July 1, 2007 and will assist with the coordination of state and local transportation planning. The materials presented at the TAC meeting will be available on the PDC website underneath the July 18 TAC meeting materials.

VDOT will spend the next 6 months finalizing the implementation process for SB699 legislation that will establish the framework for VDOT's review and comment period on proposed changes to local comprehensive plans, re-zoning actions and proposed subdivision plats, site plans or plans of development.

A general timeline was established where the State appointed Technical Committee will finish it's initial draft of the implementation process by July 14 and then the Policy Advisory Committee (consisting of the Sec. Of Transportation, VA Counties, VA Assoc. of Commercial Real Estate, Homebuilder Assoc., PDC's, City, VDOT, and others) will hold public meetings that will offer opportunity for public comment. The final regulation will be adopted by the CTB by December 15, 2006. Please see posted letters on website for details.

Highlights of the bill: Localities are required to submit comprehensive plans (CP) and amendments to CP that will SUBSTANTIALLY affect transportation on state-controlled highways to VDOT for review and comment. Traffic impact statements must be submitted to VDOT with all proposed rezonings, site plans, subdivision plats, and subdivision development plans that will SUBSTANTIALLY affect transportation on state-controlled highways to VDOT for comment. Details on plan submittal, required elements of the submittal, review process, data requirements, elements related to non-motorized transportation, and methodology/standard assumptions for all traffic impact statements will be posted on the PDC website at the location referenced earlier.

General concerns and questions of the TAC committee were the following: 1) length of the review process; 2) the \$1000 that would be paid to VDOT and how far the money would go to cover additional work; 3) who would ultimately pay the review fee; 4) who performs the traffic impact analysis; 5) what is considered substantial impact on state roads. This subject will be addressed in more detail at the September TAC meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Saville set the next TAC meeting for Wednesday, September 20th, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

The meeting schedule for remainder of the year:
November 21, 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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