

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

**Meeting Minutes**

January 16, 2007 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center  
Fairlawn

**Attendees:**

Alexandra Sommers- Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Fritz Streff- New River Community College; Rick Tawney- Town of Pearisburg; Joe Powers- Montgomery County; Roy Saville- Radford University; David Clarke-VDOT Christiansburg Residency; Ron Coake- Pulaski County; Craig Moore- Virginia Tech; Barry Helms- Christiansburg; Shawn Utt- Pulaski County; Jim Hurt-City of Radford; Michael Gray-VDOT Salem; Bruce Mahin- NRVTrails – Bikewalk Virginia; Lydeana Martin- Floyd County.

PDC Staff present: Abigail Convery and Adam Markwood.

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve minutes was made by Joe Powers and seconded by Fritz Streff. Minutes were approved by the Committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS**

There were none.

**OLD BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS**

*Project Updates and Final Presentations*

**Radford Main Street Project Presentation**

Jim Hurt discussed Radford's receipt and use of a transportation planning grant, which provided funding for a congestion management study of the main street corridor in Radford. The congestion study evaluated the current traffic situation on Main Street and provided recommendations of how to address an increase of future traffic along the corridor. Additionally, the City purchased the software used in the analysis which would allow for future in-house studies of traffic management within the City.

**Bikeway Walkway Committee Business**

Shawn Utt and Bruce Mahin requested that localities have the authority to appoint citizens to serve on the BW/WW subcommittee. It was presented that citizen inclusion on the

subcommittee will increase awareness of the project and decrease the workload on staff. Jim Hurt raised the concern that localities will have skepticism of and potentially be resistant to such an appointment without a written explanation of the role and length of term of the appointee. A discussion ensued that resulted in the BW/WW subcommittee representatives agreeing to several conditions prior to TAC approval of these citizen appointments.

*Motion to allow citizen appointments on BW/WW subcommittee*

A motion was made by Shawn Utt (current Chair of the BWWW committee) to request that local jurisdictions appoint citizen representatives to serve on the Bikeway/Walkway sub-committee appending acceptance of a summary letter outlining the role of the BWWW committee, the role of the appointed citizen representatives serving on the committee, and the term of appointment of the citizen appointees, as drafted by the current BW/WW committee. The motion was seconded by Barry Helms of Christiansburg and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Shawn Utt would draft the summary letter and send to TAC staff to send out to the committee next week. The practicality and need of public participation in BW/WW subcommittee meetings was also discussed. It was agreed upon that the meetings will be public forums and input from citizens not appointed to the committee will be accounted for and addressed. Additionally, Bruce Mahin agreed to send localities lists of potential appointees that localities may select for their appointments.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Rural Long Range Transportation Plan**

Abigail Convery provided background information to help TAC representatives prepare to draft the regional goals, objectives and measures of the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan. It was decided that a separate workshop would be scheduled on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the PDC would be held to draft the regional goals and objectives. Representatives were given pages 5-6 in the RLRT Guidebook that describe the upcoming process as well as the Quick Reference sheet developed by VDOT for the 2025 Strategic Highway Plan (available on website).

In preparation of the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan for the New River Valley, the PDC has set an IMPORTANT informational gathering meeting with the local representative on the technical committee, the VDOT Project Manager, and Residency Administrator(s). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and document local area concerns with the transportation system. Each locality has been asked to bring their most recent transportation plans, studies, and any other related transportation work that would be of interest to a long-range transportation plan for the region. TAC Representatives are encouraged to look at the list of data products within the Guidebook for guidance on the types of information the PDC would wish to supplement in drafting the long range transportation plan. Discussion will focus on high growth areas within each locality, transportation data needs and other transportation concerns expressed by the localities. The Virginia Department of Transportation will use the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan's as the foundation for identifying system priorities for the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) and will provide additional data for local SYIP, therefore it is critical that we document and identify all of our regional transportation needs.

The informational gathering meeting for each locality has been set for January 23.

10:00 City of Radford

11:00 Pulaski County/Dublin/Pulaski

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Giles/Glen Lyn/Rich Creek/Narrows/Pearisburg/Pembroke

2:30 Montgomery County/MPO

3:30 Town of Floyd

Concerns were raised by Joe Powers questioning the validity and usefulness of population projections provided by VEC, which dictate allocation of VDOT resources to jurisdictions. It was decided that another source such as Weldon Cooper might be a more accurate representation of the growth this area will receive. All projections used for the plan will be from the same source.

#### Discussion of Statewide Highway Plan

David Clarke discussed the statewide highway plan in the context of fund allocation to primary and secondary roads. Joe Powers addressed the insufficiencies of the plan to provide funding for less used but important collector roads that are not classified as primary roads. Michael Gray pointed out that localities should not use the plan to try to reclassify roads in the system. The state is limited to a certain # of miles of roads in each classification and the process to reclassify a road is lengthy and difficult. The rural long-range transportation plan could identify roads that have characteristics for reclassification. And therefore, could be used to support a later reclassification application if the locality desired, but the plan should not be drafted expressly for that purpose.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2007. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jim Hurt and was seconded by Barry Helms. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.