

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

Minutes of the Meeting  
Held on **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006**, at the  
New River Valley Competitiveness Center  
Fairlawn  
1:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Chairman Coake called the meeting to order.

**Members Present:**

Roy Saville, Co-Chairman, Radford University;  
David Clarke, VDOT-Christiansburg;  
Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg;  
Joe Powers, Montgomery County;  
Leo Rutledge, VDOT;  
Bill Pedigo, Town of Pulaski;  
Ray Pethtel, VTTI;  
Dale Huff, Virginia Tech;  
Patrick Burton, VDOT;  
Kelly Duty, Montgomery County;  
James Hurt, City of Radford;  
Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit;  
Charlie White, New River Community College;  
Ken Vittum, Town of Pearisburg;  
Mark McCaskill, RVARC;  
Matt Miller, RVARC;  
Paul Dellinger, The Roanoke Times.

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

**Members Not Present:**

Angela Wright, Town of Pembroke  
Aric Bopp, NRV Economic Development Alliance  
Bill Parker, Town of Dublin  
Bill Pedigo, Town of Pulaski  
Bob Beasley VA Dept. of Transportation  
Buddy Kast, Town of Narrows  
Chris Lawrence/Brandal Harvey, Town of Blacksburg  
Craig Whittaker/Chris McKlarney, Giles County  
Dan Brugh, Blacksburg/Christiansburg-MPO  
George Nester, Floyd County

Gregory Tatem, Norfolk Southern  
Howard Spencer, Town of Glyn Lyn  
Lydeanna Martin, Floyd County  
Mayor Darlene French/Gary Eaton, Town of Rich Creek  
Nick Glenn, NRV Airport Commission  
Rebecca Martin, Blacksburg Transit  
Rick Lewis, Town of Floyd  
Walter Pribble, VDOT

## **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as distributed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were addressed to the committee.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS**

No committee members expressed concerns.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Comments on November 15<sup>th</sup> TAC Memo:  
No comments from the membership

## **STAFF REPORTS**

VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Process:

The agenda packet included a letter to David Rundgren from Marsha Fiol, State Transportation Engineer-VDOT, detailing the funding and new initiatives for the FY-07 Rural Transportation Planning Program. One significant program initiative kicking-off this year will be the development of a Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan. The upcoming fiscal year work will focus on the first phase (Goals and Data Collection) of a four phase planning process. See the letter with project schedule attached for more detail on the activities for phase 1.

Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Summary Report:

Abigail met with the Department of Conservation and Recreation in January and they have agreed to present the project (connector trail between the Huckleberry and New River Trail) to Norfolk and Southern Railway. A feasibility report for the project will be released in the coming months. Regional trail conference planning is moving forward with funding anticipated from the Department of Forestry. This conference will target

trail users, local governments, citizen groups, and trail-based businesses in Southwest Virginia.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### NRVPDC Work Program 2007-08:

The agenda packet includes a draft of the work program for FY07-08. The work program proposes to increase activities associated with the Bikeway/Walkway projects. Also, 40% of the budget will be shifted to focus on the Long-Range Transportation initiative from VDOT.

### VDOT I-81 Tier 1 EIS Comments:

A brief outline of the discussion on 11 draft comments for the Tier 1 EIS is as follows. The toll diversion study placed too much emphasis on Route 11, more work should be done on impacts to Route 114 and Prices Fork. The group does not “reject” tolling, rather “opposes” tolling until more information is developed in regards to tolling methods. Salem and Botetourt County are also highly concerned about toll diversions. I-81 is probably best financed through a variety of methods, not simply tolling. A needs based assessment for safety improvements should be complete prior to significant investment of overall improvements to I-81. When utilizing ITS communication technology, VDOT should try to implement vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-roadside methods. When construction occurs, consideration should be given to accounting for community infrastructure in the right-of-way (install casings). The narrative portion of the EIS concerning environmental justice lacks discussion where the majority of impact will be, south of Roanoke. Sound wall should only be used when other mitigation options are exhausted. Exit 114 needs a park and ride facility. The PDC staff will review a previously conducted park and ride study to provide more information for comments.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Elections will be held next meeting

Chairman Coake set the next TAC meeting for March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

The meeting schedule for remainder of the year:

**March 21, May 16, July 18, September 18, November 21**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Coake adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.