

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

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2006, 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; Dan Brugh-Blacksburg-Christiansburg-MPO; David Clarke-VDOT Christiansburg Residency; Ron Coake- Pulaski County; Patrick Burton-VDOT Salem; Brad Stipes, Town of Christiansburg.

PDC Staff present: Regional Planners-Abigail Convery and Kevin Byrd.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Minutes were approved by the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates and Final Presentations

Virginia Tech Mobility Project

Kevin Byrd and Alexandra Sommers discussed the results of the VT Mobility project and future projects and initiatives that have developed out of the project. The project evaluated all existing transit services between Roanoke and the New River Valley and assessed how to improve mobility between and within the two Valleys. Unfortunately, there is significant lack of funding to expand recommended services, as well as there are some federal-state policies limit coordination. Stakeholders from the project continue to meet on a monthly basis.

NRV Ride Share Program

Kevin Byrd presented an update on the Ride Share Coordinator position for the NRV. Rideshare program highlights included:

- 1) Services offered

- a. Carpool matching using a computerized database to match individuals schedules and destinations to find a car pool match.
 - b. Information on public transportation and alternative transportation.
 - c. Information on location of park and ride lots.
 - d. A guaranteed ride home service for all participants.
- 2) Focus on Businesses
- a. The expansion to the NRV will focus on working with local businesses to implement a rideshare program within the workplace.
 - b. Staff will be working with major employers in the NRV, including Virginia Tech, EcoStar, Volvo and etc, to tailor a workplace program specific to the needs of that business and to work with that business to sign participants up.
- 3) Marketing
- a. Newly designed brochures and materials that include the New River Valley.
 - b. Press and media. Including newspaper articles and public service announcements over the radio.
 - c. Newly designed website. www.ridesolutions.org. (if your organization is willing, please include a link from your website to the ride solutions website.)
 - d. Placement of road signs advertising the toll free number: 1-866-260-2153

Bikeway Walkway Committee

Abigail Convery brought the request from the NRV Trail – BikeWalk VA Chapter/Pulaski County to have localities appoint citizens to serve on the BWWW Sub-committee. The TAC requested to have Bruce Mahin, NRV Trail president and Pulaski County come to the January TAC meeting to further explain the benefits of this and how it would work.

Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

Abigail Convery outlined the TAC's role, tasks, and timeline for the Rural Long Range Planning Process for this year. The crafting of regional transportation goals and objectives, which will take place in the January meeting, was discussed. Suggestions were made to look at the Six Year Improvement Plan to help guide criteria, determine the 10 worst locations in region for traffic accidents, use Safety Data to develop goals, etc. TAC Representatives are responsible for working with administrators and other decision makers they represent before January, in order to prepare for the January and March meetings where these regional goals will be drafted.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on proposed NS Multimodal Facility in Montgomery

Discussion on the proposed NS Multimodal Facility in Montgomery County was discussed. Patrick Burton brought the TAC's attention to a DRPT presentation that is available off of the VDOT website under the Commonwealth Transportation Board link that discussed the project. After discussion, the TAC elected to abstain from issuing a statement or position at this time concerning the facility.

TAC Elections for next year

Roy Saville- Radford University was elected to Chair the TAC in 2007, with Joe Powers-
Montgomery County as co-chair.

OTHER BUSINESS

A press release was circulated among the members that stated that BALtrans Logistics, a freight forwarding and logistics company based out of Hong Kong signed a business alliance with Alleghany Brokerage Company in Dublin.

ADJOURNMENT

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2007. The meeting was adjourned.