

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

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on **January 18, 2005**, at the
New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn
1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ron Coake called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Ron Coake, Chairman, Pulaski County; David Clarke, VDOT-Christiansburg; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; J.B. Sutphin, Citizen Rep.; Ken Vittum, Town of Pearisburg.

Others Present: Paul Dellinger, Roanoke Times; Scot Shippee, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Present: Patrick Burton, New River Valley PDC.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

Chairman Coake asked if there were any comments or corrections concerning the minutes of the November meeting. Patrick Burton reported that Jim Hurt had requested a modification of the descriptive text, in the "Election of Officers for 2005" item, concerning his decision to not seek another term as chair. Mr. Hurt had served two consecutive one-year terms as chair.

J.B. Sutphin moved that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion was seconded by Barry Helms and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public addressed the Committee at this time.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No Committee members spoke at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Report

Greyhound Bus Service - Patrick reported that the Planning District Commission had considered the draft resolution forwarded by TAC and decided not to take action at that time.

PDC Legislative Briefing - Patrick reported that the Commission had held a briefing for area legislators prior to the December PDC meeting. Transportation was an element of the session. The transportation message focused on the need to address primary and secondary road funding, I-81 improvements, dedicated rail funding, and the need to ensure adequate investment in the overall transportation system.

Governor's Transportation Initiative - Patrick noted that Governor Warner had proposed a one-time budget increase for transportation program needs. Uses for the proposed funding include: paying off project deficits; additional FRAN note payments; additional funding for the Mass Transit Fund; maintenance activities; and establishment of a rail fund.

Work Program Update

Bicycle/Trail Connection Concept Plan - Patrick indicated that initial public meetings for this project would take place in March. He noted that the purpose of the public meeting effort was to obtain citizen input concerning routes/corridors that could provide connections between the Christiansburg area and the Pulaski area, via Radford.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft FY 2006 Work Program

Patrick discussed the draft transportation planning Work Program for FY 2006. A summary was included in the mailing package for the meeting. The proposed Work Program consisted of four categories of activities: (1) Regional Projects - This category includes projects for rural transit-related planning assistance, follow-up effort for the regional bikeway/walkway connection plan, and transportation enhancement project development and grant-writing technical assistance; (2) General Technical Assistance - For assistance to local governments and unanticipated small studies; (3) Program Development and State Process Assistance - This category provides for development of program/staff capabilities and assisting VDOT with its planning processes; and (4) TAC Activities and Program Administration - This category provides for Transportation Advisory Committee activities and meeting the overall administrative requirements of VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program.

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

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on February 15, 2005, at the
New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn
1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ron Coake called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Ron Coake, Chairman, Pulaski County; Roy Saville, Vice-Chairman, Radford University; David Clarke, VDOT-Christiansburg; John Goad, Town of Pulaski; Michael Gray, VDOT-Salem; Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Dale Huff, Va. Tech; James Hurt, City of Radford; Joe Powers, Montgomery County; Ray Pethel, Va. Tech Trans. Institute; Ken Vittum, Town of Pearisburg.

Others Present: Bethany Stich, Va. Tech Transportation Institute.

Staff Present: Patrick Burton, New River Valley PDC.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Chairman Coake indicated that the January meeting minutes were not available and would be prepared along with the minutes of this meeting. Minutes of the January and February meetings would be included in the mailing for the next TAC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public addressed the Committee at this time.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No Committee members spoke at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Report

Bicycle/Trail Connection Concept Plan - Patrick Burton reviewed the purpose of this effort, which is to identify routes/corridors that could provide connections between the Christiansburg and Pulaski areas, via Radford. The first of a series of public meetings was scheduled for March 3 in the community room at the Radford Public Library. Patrick displayed and discussed a map of Montgomery County, Pulaski County, and Radford, showing each County's adopted bicycle plan routes and other features such as the Huckleberry and New River Trails. The map would be used as a resource for the public meetings.

State Transportation Planning Grant Pilot Program - Patrick reported that a one-time competitive grant program had been announced by VDOT in late January. The funds are available to PDCs and MPOs for projects which fall under one or more of the following categories: (1) consideration of special transportation needs of unique sectors of the community; (2) local transportation planning for alternative modes based on the identification of needs; (3) linking transportation and land use (e.g., local comprehensive plans, access management); and (4) prioritization of local or regional transportation plan recommendations developed based on needs.

Matching funds are not required, but are encouraged. Resolutions of support are required from PDCs/MPOs. The deadline to apply, using VDOT's standard application form, is March 11. An e-mail notice was sent to committee members at the end of January. Two grant pilot proposals emerged as a result. Patrick indicated that these two proposals will be discussed under "New Business."

Draft FY 2006 Work Program

Patrick distributed a revised summary of the draft Work Program for FY 2006. He explained the details and project activities that had been added to the "New River Valley Regional Projects" item. Patrick then asked that the modified draft Work Program for FY 2006 be approved by the Committee.

Michael Gray moved that the modified draft FY 2006 rural transportation planning Work Program be approved as presented and forwarded to the Planning District Commission for consideration. The motion was seconded by Roy Saville and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Pilot Proposal: Bikeway/Walkway Planning (Village Transportation Links)

Joe Powers introduced this proposal which is aimed at development of bicycle and pedestrian facility plans for Montgomery County's six village communities, as designated in the County's

new Comprehensive Plan. A one-page summary of the proposal was distributed to Committee members in attendance. The six village communities are: Belview, Elliston and Lafayette, Plum Creek, Prices Fork, Riner, and Shawsville. The proposed effort would build on the foundation of the new Comprehensive Plan and develop detailed alternative transportation plans for bikeways, sidewalks, and trails. The plans will seek to link residential neighborhoods, businesses, and community facilities, such that a completed network would make each village more livable. The process will include consideration of regional links/connections. The effort would include establishment of a citizen advisory committee to oversee development of the Village Transportation Links (VITL) Plans. The County Comprehensive Plan will be modified to incorporate the completed VITL Plans. The funding amount requested is \$72,000. The County would provide significant match in terms of staff time on the effort. The requested grant funds would provide for consultant assistance. The County requested that the PDC endorse the application and serve as applicant. The County was also seeking an endorsement from the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery (BCM) MPO.

Grant Pilot Proposal: Regional Public Mobility Project

Ray Pethtel discussed this proposal which focuses on improving mobility in the New River and Roanoke Valleys. The effort would be led by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) and would include documenting the region's existing public and private transportation resources and needs. The overall vision for the effort is the development of a regional public transportation plan that would integrate and coordinate the transportation services provided by the region's public and human service agencies. The funding amount requested is \$100,000. VTTI will provide significant staff time as match. VTTI requested that the PDC endorse the application and serve as applicant. VTTI was also seeking endorsements from the Roanoke Valley PDC, the BCM MPO, and the Roanoke Valley MPO.

Chairman Coake indicated that an action/recommendation from the Committee was needed to send these two proposals to the Commission. He then asked for a motion concerning the proposals.

James Hurt moved that the Committee approve the "Village Transportation Links" and "Regional Public Mobility" proposals and forward them to the Planning District Commission for consideration. The motion was seconded by Gary Heinline and carried.

Rural Additions/Subdivision Street Development Ordinances

Joe Powers noted that Montgomery County had received a letter from VDOT citing a need for the County to revise its subdivision street development ordinance in order to be consistent with the Commonwealth's Subdivision Street Requirements. David Clarke confirmed that several counties in the region had received such letters. If a county is not in compliance by this spring/summer, then that county would not be allowed to use any of its secondary system funds for rural additions.

Joe mentioned that a program representative from VDOT's central office had offered to provide technical assistance to counties concerning appropriate ordinance changes. Joe suggested that the PDC offer to hold a forum/session on the issue and invite the VDOT program representative to come speak to, and answer questions from, county staff from the NRV region.

Patrick Burton agreed that such a meeting was something the PDC could help out with. David Clarke said that he would contact the program representative at VDOT's central office to identify some potential dates that he could participate in such a session.

Other Business

Chairman Coake indicated that, since the Committee had met two months in a row, the next meeting date would be determined at a later time. He stated that staff would send out a notice prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Coake adjourned the meeting.

Barry Helms moved that the draft FY 2006 rural transportation planning Work Program be approved as presented and forwarded to the Planning District Commission for consideration. The motion was seconded by J.B. Sutphin and carried.

Other Business

Chairman Coake set the next TAC meeting for March 15, 2005, 1:30 p.m., at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Coake adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on May 17, 2005, at the
New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn
1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronnie Coake called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Ronnie Coake, Chairman, Pulaski County; Patrick Burton- VDOT-Salem District; Michael Gray- VDOT-Salem District; Keri Vass, Town of Pulaski; Barry Helms, Christiansburg; Dail Stancill, VDOT Christiansburg; Michael Saunders, VDOT Christiansburg; Roy Saville, Radford University; Joe Powers, Montgomery County; Kelly Duty, Montgomery County; Gary Heinline, PAT; James Hurt, Radford; Ken Vittum, Pearisburg; and Ray Pathtel, Virginia Tech.

Staff Present: David Rundgren and James Martin, New River Valley PDC

APPROVAL OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the January and February meetings were approved as distributed

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public addressed the committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No committee members expressed concerns.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Staff Reports

A. Bicycle/Trail Connections Concept Plan Project

Mr. Rundgren reviewed the mapping which had been utilized at the three public input sessions to gain information on the most desired points to be connected and the routes to

make the connections. He reported that 77 people had attended the sessions held in Radford, Christiansburg, and Dublin. He reviewed the alternatives of connecting Blacksburg/Christiansburg area with the Radford/Fairlawn areas and west to the New River Trail. The Crab Creek corridor was the preferred corridor from Blacksburg/Christiansburg to Radford/Fairlawn (72 votes). Utilizing the old rail road trestle into Fairlawn was preferred over the Radford trail along the New River (52 to 33). The Route 11 Corridor was the preferred route to Dublin, while the Route 11 Corridor and the Route 76 Bikeway were virtually even (38 to 43). An interconnection between Dublin and Newbern was considered important (61). The results were discussed and it was agreed that the focus for FY 2006 should be on the Crab Creek Corridor connection.

B. Enhancement Grant Tentative Awards

List of Tentative Enhancement Grant (March 7, 2005), was presented. The list will be confirmed later this month by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The projects include approximately \$1,000,000 in the New River Valley, however the awards are contingent upon the federal authorization and appropriation. Ray Pethtel noted that a bill introduced in Senate yesterday may affect this funding.

C. State Transportation Planning Grant Pilot Program

Two grants were funded through this program, NRV-RV Public Mobility Project and Village Transportation Links in Montgomery County, both effective July 1, 2005. The Commission will be working with VDOT and the Sub-grantees to move toward implementation of the projects.

D. Rural Additions/ Subdivision Street Development Ordinances

The committee discussed the issues surrounding the review of ordinances and the funding of additions. There was a consensus that the time limit is too short to allow amendments and that the criteria need to be evaluated. The Committee desires to work on this issue for the and arrive at some conclusion in the next 180 days.

E. VTRANS

Mr. Rundgren reported on the VTRANS program seeking to identify multi-modal corridors across the state. They have asked each of the Planning District Commissions to participate in the process. The Planning District Commission identified and submitted the I-81 Corridor, the Route 100 Corridor, the 460 Corridor and the Route 8 Corridor for consideration. The Committee reviewed the justifications for each of the Corridors and made suggested changes.

It was noted that there will be a meeting in Richmond to discuss criteria and the Major Investment Corridors next week.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Park and Ride

Type of transportation services targeting the Christiansburg and Salem corridor.

B. Radford Special Transportation Study

This is a carry over project.

C. Memorial Bridge

Completion of the Memorial Bridge Project will occur sometime in June-July, 2005. Dail Stancil confirmed it to be July.

Other Business

Chairman Coake set the next TAC meeting for July 19, 2005, 1:30 P.M., at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Coake adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on July 19, 2005, at the
New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn
1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Co-Chairman Ray Saville called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Roy Saville, Co-Chairman, Radford University; Patrick Burton-VDOT-Salem District; Kelly Duty, Montgomery County; James Hurt, Radford; J.B. Sutphin, Citizen Rep.; David Clarke-VDOT; Charlie White-NRVCC; Paul Dellinger-Roanoke Times

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

APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the May meetings were approved as distributed. Jim Hurt approved, Charlie White seconded it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public addressed the committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No committee members expressed concerns.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on VTRANS 2025 meeting

Patrick Burton reported on the May VTRANS meeting in Richmond. PDC's across the state were invited to attend a discussion group/brainstorming session on VTRANS's long range plan. The VTRANS plan identifies significant transportation corridors (such as I-81, I-95, I-77, etc.) to use as a starting point for area improvements. The plan includes detail about rail, service and traffic corridors across the state. An intermodal planning branch within VDOT has been established. Dr. Mary Lynn Tischer has been named director of the Commonwealth's Multimodal Transportation Planning Office. VTRANS

was well received when presented to the General Assembly but its fate beyond the current administration it is a bit cloudier. The meeting identified additional detail but not too much more than that. A summary of the meeting is pending.

Dave Rundgren added that each of the PDC's were asked to look at their own corridors. The New River Valley PDC had submitted the Rt.100 and Rt.8 as traffic corridors as well as all rail corridors to VDOT for consideration.

The Rt.8 corridor from Floyd up to I-81 may miss the multimode corridor (of train-freight/major highway), but it does provide an important link locally for future bikeway-walkway plans (Riner is a town slated for Montgomery Co. "Village" projects) as well as the beginning of the "Crooked Trail" (This music trail begins in Floyd). All of these corridors were submitted to VTRANS, no further answer about how it was received.

Staff Reports

Dave Rundgren introduced Abigail Convery as the new transportation planner at the NRVPDC, filling Patrick Burton's old position. All Reports were presented by Dave Rundgren with the exception of the Subdivision and Rural Addition Fund (see below)

A. Transportation Enhancement Grant (T-21)

The commonwealth transportation board finalized the enhancement grant list as drafted and the New River Valley stayed in it received closed to \$1,000,000.

The next round of enhancement grant applications is due November 1, 2005. There are applicant workshops being held between now through August. The two closest workshops are in Bedford and Wytheville on August 23 and 24th (respectively).

B. Transportation Planning Grant Pilot Program (RTPGP)

Montgomery County, through the NRVPDC had its proposal for the Village Transportation Links (VITL) accepted. It will plan for bikeway-walkways (BW-WW) in "Villages" such as Price's Fork and update the BW-WW plan for Montgomery Co.

Ray Pethel at Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) also received a grant through the NRVPDC to evaluate and recommend improvements to existing public transportation sources for the New River Valley and Roanoke Planning Districts.

Both of these projects have their contracts in review now. The New River Valley area received funding for 2 out of the 8 projects submitted.

Also the Radford Transportation Planning Grant will have its funding extended to look at turning movements and traffic patterns for the new memorial bridge that was constructed.

C. Eastern Montgomery Public Transportation Needs Assessment

This program focused on people with lower incomes that had transportation needs (senior citizens, workers, students, etc.). The project turned out to be a bit difficult and the recommendations from it have been rolled over to the VTTI project mentioned earlier to try to build on what was learned. Approximately 50% of the transportation need was for work and the other 50% was divided up between shopping and other social service needs. When looking at commuting patterns spatially, the transportation needs were approximately divided in half, between the Salem/Roanoke and the Christiansburg/Blacksburg areas. Issues remain with curb-to-curb service and fixed routes. Overall, the study documents that there is a need for public transportation and people are willing to pay for it.

D. Bikeway-Walkway Plan

The connection piece from the Huckleberry Trail in Blacksburg to Radford will be the next focus of the BW-WW plan this year. Specifically there appeared to be the most support for the 114 corridor and NRVPCD will be working to get the details of this section of the trail worked out.

Depending on time and what is worked out with the new development on the peninsula in Fairlawn, potentially an old RR tressel could bring the trail over to Radford.

From Rt.11 in Fairlawn towards Dublin there are potentially 3 pieces that could be used for a future trail- the old and new section of Rt.11 and a sewer easement.

E. Subdivision and Rural Addition Fund

Presented by David Clarke. According to VDOT code, which will now be enforced, private roads that are not built to VDOT standards will not be covered by VDOT funds. Funds are not being taken away, they will just be unavailable to those roads put in after July 1, 2005. With the exception of family subdivisions. Therefore, many counties will need to change their ordinance language. VDOT is willing to provide local assistance. David had seen a man from VDOT speak in Franklin County, Ken Smith, who has been apart of VDOT for as long time and is very knowledgeable about ordinances. He will try to get him here for the next TAC meeting in September. Dave Rundgren suggested that local planners be invited if he does come.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MPO REPORT

The MPO report was presented by David Clarke. Currently the MPO is working on the vision plan for 2030. Roads within the metro area are the focus of the plan but they are also giving consideration to roads coming in from the rural areas.

The Vision plan is also looking at the connection between Dublin and Blacksburg airports through the smart road, 460 bypass, etc. They are interested in keeping a major highway out of Price's Fork. Where that line will be drawn (VT-Southgate Drive) is vague, but it will need to be drawn. Potential connectors may be at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, which will be needed in about 50 years to connect east-west across the district.

A public comment period on the vision plan was held from 4-7 p.m. at the Montgomery County Govt. Center on July 19th and the MPO TAC will meet on July 21 at 10 a.m.

Other Business

Co-Chairman Saville set the next TAC meeting for September 20, 2005, 1:30 P.M., at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-Chairman Saville adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on September 20, 2005, 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: Michael Gray, VDOT-Salem District; Scot Shippee, Town of Christiansburg; Roy Saville, Co-Chairman, Radford University; Keri Vass, Town of Pulaski; David Clarke, VDOT-Christiansburg; Dan Brugh, BCM-MPO; 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; Paul Dellinger, The Roanoke Times.

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

APPROVAL OF JULY MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the July 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

Subdivision and Rural Addition Funds:

Abi Convery and David Clarke updated the committee on the VDOT meeting held to discuss the changes made for those roads eligible for Rural Addition Funds. The major program change is that all roads must meet VDOT standards to be eligible. Further information can be found at VDOT's website www.virginiadot.org

Radford Main Street Corridor Study:

Contractors are being procured for the project and there were no questions from the committee on this issue.

STAFF REPORTS

VTRANS 2025:

Abi distributed bullet point information summarizing the VTRANS 2025 report. Group discussion focused on the multimodal corridors. Dave Rundgren reviewed the draft map of the Proposed Statewide Multimodal Corridors with particular emphasis to the Route 460 Corridor connecting to the Hampton Roads Port.

Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Summary Report:

Abi distributed the Plan Update for 2005 and highlighted the work being done to connect the New River Trail in Pulaski County to the Huckleberry Trail in Montgomery County.

VDOT Enhancement Program:

Michael Gray informed the committee that this year the project deadline is November 1st and projects can be postmarked on the 1st to meet the deadline. In previous years delivery by the deadline was required. Also, emphasis will be given to wrapping up long-term projects.

NEW BUSINESS

MPO Report:

Dan Brugh presented the committee with the Executive Summary on the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery County 2030 Transportation Plan.

Comments on VDOT 6-yr Improvement Plan:

The committee discussed draft comments provided by the PDC. Comments of high importance this year focused on bridge projects. The committee asked for changes to be made to the TEA-21 section to include recent projects and emphasize how Routes 100 and 114 become alternate routes to Interstates 77 and 81 when delays occur. The committee passed a motion to approve the comments on the 6-yr Improvement Plan with amendments and to be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board on September 27th, 2005 at 2:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Coake set the next TAC meeting for November 15th, 2005, 1:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Coake adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.