

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

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on **January 31st, 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 15th 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

**Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
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Minutes of the Meeting
Held on March 21st, 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; Dan Brugh, Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Co. MPO; Kelly Duty, Montgomery County; Hesham Rakha, VTTI; Ray Pethel, VTTI; Dale Huff, Virginia Tech; Patrick Burton, VDOT; James Hurt, City of Radford; Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit; Charlie White, New River Community College; Paul Dellinger, The Roanoke Times.

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

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were addressed to the committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No committee members expressed concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS

Presentation by Virginia Tech Transportation Institute: *Modeling the Addition of Truck Lanes on Traffic Flow in the I-81 Corridor*. Presenter: Hesham Rakha, 231-1500

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business to address

STAFF REPORTS

VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Process:

Patrick indicated to the group that a few items need further clarification from the program headquarters. He also discussed the need to provide required data to the PDC that will establish the foundation of the long range planning activities. Inquiries for data from the PDC to local governments will commence in the coming weeks/month.

I-81 EIS Comments Adopted by Board:

The Planning District Board of Commissioners adopted the EIS comments forwarded by the TAC at the January meeting. The Commission provided one minor modification, the adopted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections for 2006:

Roy Saville of Radford University was elected as Chairman
Joe Powers of Montgomery County was elected Vice-Chairman

Roy and Joe will serve until December 2006. Elections for the 2007 term will be held at the November meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business presented

Chairman Coake set the next TAC meeting for May 16th, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

The meeting schedule for remainder of the year:
May 16, July 18, September 19, November 21

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Coake adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

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 21st, 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.

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

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on May 16th, 2006, at the
New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn
1:30 p.m.

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; Dan Brugh, Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Co. MPO; Ray Pethtel, VTTI; Michael Gray and Patrick Burton, VDOT; James Hurt, City of Radford; Nicole Hair and Barry Helms, Christiansburg; Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit; Shawn Utt, City of Radford; Brad Stipes, PDC Commissioner; Terry Nester, Town of Pulaski; Tim Witten, Blacksburg; Paul Dellinger, The Roanoke Times.

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

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were addressed to the committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No committee members expressed concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS

Currently the Bikeway/Walkway Committee operates as an independent community interest group. The chairman of the committee, Shawn Utt, made a request of the TAC to become a formal sub-committee. The membership accepted the request and decided to structure the committee as a “working group”. The Bikeway/Walkway working group may consist of up to 25 members and deliver recommendations on related projects to the TAC. The committee will continue their work on connecting the Huckleberry Trail to the New River Trail, among several other community trail projects.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business to address

STAFF REPORTS

Safe Routes to School Program:

Abi announced the Safe Routes to School initiative with two work sessions planned for May 30th at the PDC. This program implements transportation improvements within one-half to one mile of elementary and middle schools. Safe Routes to School is supported largely by VDOT Enhancement funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Transportation Process:

Abi presented PowerPoint slides of operational diagrams to indicate transportation agencies and their relationships. The TAC serves as an advisory committee to the Planning District Commissioners. The Commissioners represent the member jurisdictions across the region. The intention of the TAC is to inform the Commissioners of transportation issues then, the Commissioners relay the information to their communities. The TAC desires better flow of information between the Commissioners and their committee. The committee members suggested meeting with representatives from each community to discuss transportation needs on an individual basis to keep informed. Particular emphasis should be on program issues, opposed to specific projects. The TAC will revisit this issue to develop a memorandum for Commissioners and others involved with the committee to fully understand the working relationships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comments are being taken the Highway Safety Plan (program based, not project based)

S.B. 699- a new Senate Bill will require relationships to be determined between VDOT and local land use practices (Zoning, Subdivision, Traffic). The TAC will follow this issue for any important announcements.

Chairman Saville set the next TAC meeting for July 18th, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

The meeting schedule for remainder of the year:
July 18, September 18, November 21

ADJOURNMENT

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

**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.

**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.