

**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 pending 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 27th 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.

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

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2007 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

Meeting Attendees: Rick Tawney, Town of Pearisburg; Eric Gentry; Giles County; Terry Nester, Town of Pulaski; Ron Clarke, Pulaski County; Garry Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit; Barry Helms, Christiansburg; Dan Brugh, BCM-MPO; David Clarke, VDOT; Alexandra Sommers; Nichole Hair, BWWW & Christiansburg; Joe Powers, Montgomery County; Paul Dellinger, The Roanoke Times; Craig S. Moore, Virginia Tech; James H. Hurt, City of Radford; Bob Beasley, VDOT

PDC Staff Present: Abigail Convery, Keith Holt, Brett Lovell, Adam Markwood, Kevin Byrd, David Rundgren

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Powers welcomed the Committee to the meeting and each member introduced him or herself.

Approval of January Minutes

A Motion was made by Dan Brugh to approve the January meeting minutes, and seconded by Gary Heinline, with unanimous approval by the committee.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Committee Member Concerns

There were no Committee Member concerns.

STAFF REPORTS

Bikeway Walkway Committee Business

The chair of the Bikeway Walkway Subcommittee Nichole Hair provided a brief summary of the ongoing efforts of the committee. There was discussion of a redirection of the Bikeway Walkway's efforts to developing a regionally feasible bike/pedestrian policy guide for localities.

Resolution for Citizen Appointees to BWWW Subcommittee

A motion was made by Brad Buchanan to approve of citizen appointees to the BWWW Subcommittee, seconded by Dave Abraham, with unanimous approval by TAC.

Resolution for Recommendation of redirection of BWWW Subcommittee efforts

A motion was made by Eric Gentry to focus the BWWW subcommittee regional goal on developing bike and pedestrian-friendly policy that will be adopted by each locality. This motion was seconded by Gary Heinline, with unanimous approval by TAC.

NEW BUSINESS

Rural Transportation Work Plan 2007-2008

Abigail Convery discussed recent legislation that includes new requirements for localities. Because these new requirements are not supported with extra funding, the PDC is forced to cut other areas of aid in order to allow for completion of the new requirements. This will translate to less technical consultation by the PDC. Preference will be allotted to ongoing and established projects and programs.

Motion to approve of Draft Work Plan

A motion was made by Ronnie Clark to approve of the Transportation Work Plan, seconded by Gary Heinline, and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Rural Long Range Transportation Plan Presentation

Keith Holt provided a presentation on the RL RTP and the goals of the plan. There were 5 primary goal statements -

- **Goal Statement 1:** Support and improve the economic vitality of the region and provide efficient access to enable global competitiveness, productivity, and support for tourist and recreational activities.
- **Goal Statement 2:** Provide a safe and secure transportation system.
- **Goal Statement 3:** Preserve the existing transportation network and promote efficient system management to ensure accessibility and mobility of the transportation system.
- **Goal Statement 4:** Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system throughout the region across and between modes for people and freight.
- **Goal Statement 5:** Develop regional land use and transportation coordination measures.

Following the presentation, the TAC was divided into four subgroups each tasked with revising the goals, objectives and strategies of the RL RTP as explained in the presentation. Each group allocated twenty minutes for each goal statement and corresponding objectives and strategies, directed by different facilitators for the goals

Note RPO TAC schedule for 2007: **May 15, July 17, September 18, November 20**

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

Meeting Agenda

May 29, 2007 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

Attendance:

Michael Maslaney, Town of Floyd
Bob Beasley, VDOT Hillsville Residency
Joe Powers, Montgomery County
Patrick Burton, VDOT Salem
Michael Gray, VDOT Salem
Ron Coake, Pulaski County
Fritz Streff, NRCC
Alexandra Sommers, VTTI
Paul Dellinger, Roanoke Times
David Clarke, VDOT Christiansburg Residency
Dan Brugh, BCM-MPO
Barry Helms, Christiansburg
Roy Saville, RU

PDC Staff:

Abigail Convery
Keith Holt
Adam Markwood

MINUTES

The March Meeting Minutes were approved by the committee with Michael Gray making a motion of approval and Barry Helms seconding the motion.

OLD BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS

Bikeway Walkway Committee Business

Comments on Trails Conference and Norfolk Southern Session

During the recent Green Infrastructure and Trails Conference, there was a panel that consisted of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Norfolk Southern, and the Rails to Trails Conservancy to discuss the status of recreational access near or crossing active rails in Virginia. DCR and NS have agreed to partner to develop a process to screen proposed recreational access on or near active rail line. There was a report that was commissioned to evaluate Virginia's potential to develop recreational access on active rail- but the report has never been released by DRPT. Additionally, DCR is waiting to get an opinion by the Attorney General on whether or not VA recreational liability law would indemnify the railroad. This issue has stalled all

movement forward with NS. Currently, there appears to be no political will within DRPT to move this issue forward. Bob Munson with DCR will be preparing a briefing on the overall status and releasing it in the near future.

The proposed NRT extension project has intense interest in this issue because several sections of the trail are proposed to run alongside certain portions of the tracks. Alternative proposed routes potentially can be selected to avoid paralleling the railroad, but in order to connect the Huckleberry Trail and the NRT- the RR will need to be crossed during certain points. Copies of the NRT Feasibility Study were sent out to elected representatives. Once the briefing is received from DCR- local bike groups and localities in the region will be asked to contact our representatives to move this issue forward at the state level.

New River Trail Extension News/Update/Discussion

The Route 114 bridge is a route under serious consideration between Montgomery and Pulaski Counties. The new bridge design currently does not have separated bike and pedestrian facilities on the design due to the location of the water intake facility. There is a 14ft? shoulder. Discussion focused on whether to make a motion to put in a comment to VDOT to request separated pedestrian/bike facilities on 114 bridge. It was tabled until Pulaski County was consulted. The inclusion of that design would hold up the construction of the bridge.

NEW BUSINESS

SYIP/ Enhancement Grant Awards

The New River Valley had enhancement projects funded in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pearisburg, and Pulaski County. The SYIP held 4 million for route 114 Bridge, as well as additional funds for Route 61 bridge, Route 693 Bridge and Rt. 219 Bridge. Acknowledgement letters need to be sent that address those projects.

Rural Long Range Transportation Plan Process

The TAC reviewed the Goals and Objectives developed. Questions asked were the following: 1) Will this be multi-jurisdictional level or just on the region? ; 2) Is there consistency among PDC's? Comments- It will be more effective if it is on a higher scale, finding measurements from objectives will be difficult. Measures will be developed and emailed out. The Public Participation Plan was also reviewed and commented upon. References to TAC will be replaced with PDC. Maps were reviewed.

OTHER BUSINESSCommittee Patrick Burton made a motion for PDC staff to draw up a certificate of appreciation for Trails and Green Infrastructure conference to be give to PDC executive director. The Land Use and Transportation VDOT meeting was being held this Friday in Roanoke. All localities were asked to participate. The meeting adjourned at 2:40. Note RPO TAC schedule for 2007: **July 17, September 18, November 20.**

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

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2007 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

Attendees:

Terry Nester, Town of Pulaski
Jim Hurt, City of Radford
Nichole Hair, Christiansburg
Kim Steika, Community Design Assistance Center
Fritz Streff, NRCC
Patrick Burton, VDOT Salem
David Clarke, VDOT Christiansburg Residency
Roy Saville, RU
Abigail Convery, NRVPCD
Keith Holt, NRVPCD

APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

The may meeting minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None expressed.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

None expressed.

PRESENTATION

Kim Steika with Virginia Tech's Community Design Assistance Center presented the completed Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the City of Radford that was completed this summer.

OLD BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS

Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates

Chair Hair summarized the BWWW subcommittee activities for the month. Sandra Tanner with Virginia Tourism presented the trail efforts from Southside Virginia. The organizational structure set up was an interesting model to use for the NRT extension. A non-profit was created whose board consisted of representatives from the localities which was staffed by the PDC. The organization had raised significant funds to move their trails efforts forward in southside. Chair Hair also reported back on the BWWW Policy development. An umbrella and goal statements were drafted to accompany the Long Range Rural Transportation Goals. These goals

and policies are being developed specifically for localities to adopt into their local bike pedestrian plans.

Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

Keith and Abigail presented the revised versions of the documents presented to the TAC back in May. The final version of these documents would be submitted at the end of the year to VDOT.

NEW BUSINESS

Submission of Rural Transportation Grants

Two transportation grants were submitted since the last meeting. One was submitted through the VDOT's rural transportation planning program as a New River Transportation Improvement Study. The proposed project would look at access management issues in Fairlawn, safety recommendations for an intersection in Radford and safety recommendations for a dangerous turn lane in Glen Lyn. The second grant submitted was to the FHWA which would create a green infrastructure plan for the major highway corridors within the New River Valley.

Census Changes and Impacts to Transportation Analyses

The Census Bureau has proposed to change the criteria for the Participant Statistical Areas Program to increase the minimum threshold for block groups. The increase would make the census data less useful and less detailed for planning analysis in rural areas.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

Technology Showcase and a VTTI / Smart Roads Open House from 11 AM - 4PM on Thursday, August 23, 2007.

Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference, Oct.14-16, Williamsburg VA. Transportation and Land Use Track.

Note RPO TAC schedule for 2007: **September 18, November 20.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at ~2:30.

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

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2007 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

Attendees:

Barry Holms, Town of Christiansburg; Dan Brugh, BCM-MPO; David Clarke, VDOT; Keri Vass, Town of Pulaski; Gary Heinline, Pulaski ARCA Transit; Joe Powers, Montgomery County; Roy Saville, RU; Abigail Convery, NRVPC; Kevin Byrd, NRVPC; Michael Walters, NRVPC.

APPROVAL OF JULY MEETING MINUTES

The July meeting minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were expressed.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS

No committee member concerns were expressed.

PRESENTATION

Kevin Byrd, with the New River Valley Planning District, presented the Public Mobility Project that addresses gaps in rural transportation to employment centers. The project consists of five separate components: 1. A *Demand Assessment* that includes employer surveys (identify needs of company and employee commutes) and a park and ride evaluation (who are the users, where are they going?); 2. A *Demand Illustration* which involves the mapping of employee origination points and formal and informal park and ride lots; 3. *Potential Service Providers* involves contracting with existing service provider to evaluate findings and provide transit recommendations; 4. A *Monthly Stakeholder Meetings* which consists of reviewing project tasks and providing insight towards data collection; 5. A *Project Report* that issues recommendations on the transit system, service providers, etc., and includes maps illustrating routes.

OLD BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS

Rural long Range Transportation Plan Update and Summary

Phase 2 of the plan will begin at the end of this year or the beginning of the next. More information will be available regarding this phase during the November TAC meeting, once the video conference call with VDOT is completed.

Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates

The policy draft is currently under review. The subcommittee is working with locality staff in an effort to have the policies adopted by the jurisdictions. Alternative trail routes through the Town of Dublin are currently being reviewed, and several easements are being worked on to gain access to high priority properties. Abi explained that the state of Virginia is working to try and create a process where localities can cross railroad tracks and access right of ways for alternative transportation routes. Essentially, the New River Trail extension is a pilot project for this process.

NEW BUSINESS

Norfolk Southern Crescent Corridor

Abi presented a new I-81 Crescent Corridor proposed by Norfolk Southern. The corridor would essentially run from New Orleans to North Jersey, much of which would parallel Interstate 81. Additional material regarding further information about this project was distributed to those in attendance.

The Six-Year Improvement Plan

The plan is reviewed and updated; hearings regarding the plan will take place on October 24th, 2007. The Route 114 Bridge has been funded and can be removed from the plan's spotlight project. Four-laning the Route 114 Bridge was selected as the new spotlight project for the plan. Upon further review of the plan, recommendations were made by those in attendance when deemed necessary.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transportation Planning Workshop is being held on October 23, 2007.

The next Transportation TAC meeting will be held on December 11th at 1:00 pm. Please note that elections for this committee will be taking place at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.

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

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2007 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

Attendees: Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; Ron Coake, Pulaski County; Keri Vass, Town of Pulaski; Roy Saville, Radford University; Tammy Trimble, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Patrick Burton, Virginia Department of Transportation; Alexandra Summers, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Steve Sandy, Montgomery County; Jim Hurt, City of Radford; Abigail Convery, NRVPC; Dave Rundgren, NRVPC; Kevin Byrd, NRVPC; Keith Holt, NRVPC.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTESChair Saville
September minutes were approved with spelling changes. Dave Rundgren said that while the minutes reflected TAC deemphasizing the Rt.114 Bridge in the submitted Six Year Improvement Plan comments, the PDC Board chose to emphasize that it remains a priority until the bridge is under construction.

PUBLIC COMMENTSOpen Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen Floor

PRESENTATION

NRV RideshareKeith Holt
Keith presented recent Rideshare Program efforts and accomplishments. A copy of his presentation is posted with the minutes from the meeting.

Multimodal Projects and the Transportation and Housing Alliance Toolkit.....Kevin Byrd
Kevin talked about the Pulaski Central Multimodal Planning grant that will evaluate existing traffic conditions and identify future transportation corridors for the central Pulaski/Dublin Area. This study will be done at the same time as the Pulaski Central Comprehensive Planning process. Kevin said that the RFP for transportation planning component of the study was issued on Sunday and the final products of the study will be maps and land use recommendations. Kevin then spoke about the Transportation Housing Alliance Toolkit which is a grant program managed by the Thomas Jefferson PDC. The NRVPC was awarded funding to map disabled populations, transit facilities, medical facilities, etc. to help improve transit planning services. There is a policy component to the grant that will summarize the data collection and make recommendations for improved transit services. The final project, Employment Mobility Planning for the NRV is a program to move along the work from the mobility study with VTTI

and Roanoke to take a closer look at transportation needs with employers and employees in the NRV. There are several public and private stakeholders involved with the project. Currently the project is working with 18 employers. Surveys on transit needs for employers are about 50% complete and the project is working with those employers to develop a survey for their employees on transportation needs.

OLD BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS.....Nichole Hair

Nichole presented the work that has been done to date on the Bike Pedestrian Policy. She requested the TAC to review the work done and to return any comments back to the PDC. Next steps will be to begin taking this work to the elected officials of the localities for their feedback. The BWWW Committee elected Amy Doss with Montgomery County to chair the committee and Nichole Hair would function as Co-Chair in the coming year.

NEW BUSINESS.....Abigail Convery

Presentation on Phase 2 of Rural Long Range Transportation Planning Effort and Role of TAC
Abi went over the detailed work program for the TAC and PDC concerning the Rural Long Range Transportation Planning effort. Details to what is expected and the TAC work schedule can be found posted with the TAC meeting.

Revising Rural Transportation Program 2008

The PDC was requesting a resolution of support/recommendations for amending the TAC work program in order to accommodate the work expected for the rural long range transportation planning effort. After discussion, the recommendation for a resolution of support to the PDC board be made to postpone the update for the BW-WW-BW update until later this year.. FY 2009 work program.

TAC Elections for Chair and Co Chair for 2008

Steve Sandy with Montgomery County will be the new Chair for the TAC committee and Roy Saville with RU will serve as Co-Chair.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDAR- RPO TAC schedule for 2008. January 15; March 18; May 20; July 15; September 16; November 18

ADJOURNMENTChair Saville

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20.