

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

Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2008 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Steven Sandy, Montgomery County; Tammy Trimble, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Fritz Streff, New River Community College; James Hurt, City of Radford; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Keri Vass, Town of Pulaski; Ronnie Coake, Pulaski County; Patrick Burton, Virginia Department of Transportation; Kevin Byrd, NRVPC; Keith Holt, NRVPC; David Rundgren, NRVPC; Jan Gilbertson, NRVPC.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES.....Chair Sandy
The December meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS..... Open Floor
There were no concerns expressed.

OLD BUSINESS/STAFF COMMITTEE REPORTSStaff

Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates..... Amy Doss
Kevin Byrd gave the update on the BWWW Subcommittee. Kevin noted that the Committee had met earlier that day and were moving forward with their tasks. He gave an update on the Huckleberry Trail in Blacksburg and the New River Trail. He also mentioned the City of Radford's trail. He said that the Committee was going to schedule some field visits to the trails to see how they could better advertise and communicate to the public what the trails offered.

Kevin reminded the TAC Committee that the BWWW Plan update had been postponed so the local governments could review their assets and see how they would be incorporated into a regional vision.

Ride Share Program Keith Holt
Keith presented recent Rideshare Program efforts and accomplishments. He referred to his fourth quarter report that was distributed at the meeting. He highlighted the fact that eight names with an originating address in the NRV were added to the Rideshare database and nine names were added with the NRV as a destination. That brings the total to 72 and 79 respectively. Keith informed the Committee that Friday, May 16th will be declared Clean Commute Day. People are encouraged to use an alternative mode of transportation that day, whether it be walking or biking. Carpooling and mass transit are also encouraged, anything other than single occupancy.

Kevin told the Committee that Keith will have a Rideshare booth set up at an upcoming meeting of the NRV Society for Human Resource Managers in March.

Employment Mobility Study..... Kevin Byrd

Kevin reminded the Committee of this Study's main focus: to identify gaps in rural transportation and find a way to fill those gaps. He mentioned park and ride lots serving as rural bus stops. Work is progressing on identifying travel demand and that three surveys have been or are being created. The surveys target employers, employees, and park and ride lot users. These surveys will be placed on the web for easy access and completion. Kevin noted that he will be making a presentation to the NRV Society of Human Resource Mangers at their March meeting and hopes to spread the word regarding the surveys.

Kevin said he would speak with David Clarke regarding specific areas to target with the surveys and that Tammy Trimble had mentioned advertising the web address for the surveys on local T.V. stations. Steve Sandy noted that the surveys should also be placed at local libraries, especially the ones in rural areas such as the Meadowbrook Library.

Transportation and Housing Alliance Toolkit..... Kevin Byrd

Kevin spoke about the Transportation and Housing Alliance Toolkit which is a grant program managed by the Thomas Jefferson PDC. The NRVPDC was awarded funding to map disability populations, transit facilities, medical facilities, etc. to help improve transit services. There will be essentially three types of maps produced; census maps, geo-coded maps, and proximity maps. The outcome will be a series of maps to help with transit planning and supplement the work on Employment Mobility.

Mobility Manager Grant..... Kevin Byrd

Kevin informed the Committee regarding a new grant application to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation that will fund a Mobility Manager for the New River Valley. This Manager will address transportation needs in the NRV. One vision is to be a one-stop center for information about transit services in the NRV. The position will be housed in the NRVPDC offices and the first year will focus on policy and working with local transit providers. Another long-term goal may be to set up a brokerage system.

NEW BUSINESS.....Kevin Byrd

Kevin reviewed the goals and the timeframe of the Phase 2 Rural Long Range Transportation Planning effort. He referred to the work program timeline in their handouts. He said that things were on schedule and progressing as smoothly as possible. He discussed the SPS data review process. He said that meetings have taken place with each locality and lists have been compiled regarding their concerns on traffic congestion, etc. The lists were distributed at the meeting. There was discussion regarding the accuracy of the data presented, how it affected future results, and the ranking of hotspots.

Kevin encouraged each locality to fill out the form in their packets regarding transportation issues and to label them accordingly. The NRV is only allowed to identify 25 hotspots which

will receive funds for further engineering studies. It will be difficult to choose only 25 areas where help is needed. Each hotspot is based on a weighted system. Dave Rundgren encouraged the committee to develop a criteria list for evaluating a hotspot. If a site is chosen based on a set criteria then everyone can agree on the hotspots chosen. Patrick Burton also encouraged the Committee to develop a list with even more hotspots than allowed in case the places they have chosen have already received funding for a study.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

Kevin announced that Gary Heinline’s organization, Pulaski Area Transit, was a recipient of the 2008 Federal Transit Administration’s Annual Award for Success in Enhancing Ridership. Gary Heinline could not attend the meeting today but Kevin asked the Committee to congratulate him when they did see him.

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

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2008 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Steven Sandy, Montgomery County; James Hurt, City of Radford; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Keri Vass, Town of Pulaski; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Patrick Burton, Virginia Department of Transportation; Kevin Byrd, NRVPC; David Rundgren, NRVPC; Jan Gilbertson, NRVPC.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTESChair Sandy
The February meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS Open Floor
There were no concerns expressed.

OLD BUINESS/STAFF COMMITTEE REPORTSStaff

Regional BWW Subcommittee Updates Kevin Byrd
Kevin informed the Committee that at the BWW meeting earlier that day presentations were given by Dennis Anderson on the Trails for Floyd project and Ben Brown presented information on the Mountain Lake Conservancy. Both organizations are advancing their initiatives and the presentations were very enlightening. He noted that the Mountain Lake Conservancy used to be called the Wildnerness Conservancy. They changed their name as their initiatives changed. Kevin stated that the BWW Committee continues to work on updating the regional trails map. He also told the Committee that he was working on getting the minutes on the Transportation website and if anyone wanted minutes from the BWW Committee he could forward those to them.

Employment Mobility Study Kevin Byrd
The employment mobility survey is now on the internet and can be accessed via the Planning District Commission's website. Kevin briefly went over the survey and entertained questions. It was suggested that a flyer be made to advertise the survey in local offices across the New River Valley. He said there was not a firm deadline but the end of August would probably be the cut off date for survey implementation. Mr. Hurt noted that most people work toward deadlines so it would be good to state one on the flyer.

Mobility Manager Grant Kevin Byrd
Kevin stated that he has not heard from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) on the status of this grant. He noted that he amended the scope of work to meet their needs but has not heard back from them. He doesn't expect to hear from them until June.

NEW BUSINESS..... Kevin Byrd

Review of Crash Data for Phase 2 of Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

The PDC reviewed the crash data for the New River Valley. He referred to the maps handed out at the meeting pointing out the significant numbers of crashes in the Dublin and Fairlawn areas. He noted the problem spots are the areas on Route 114 going toward Route 11 and on Route 100 near exit 98 off of the interstate. There was discussion on the criteria for making it into the database. The accident data provides a lot of information in helping to identify the hotspots for the New River Valley.

Begin review/identification of potential transit corridors

Kevin had met previously with Gary Heinline of Pulaski Transit and with Becky Martin of Blacksburg Transit to discuss their objectives for the future. Mr. Heinline was looking into getting transit services from Pulaski to Christiansburg to the retail destinations. This way he can serve the Fairlawn/Dublin area along the route. He will take it one segment at a time until he reaches Christiansburg. Ms. Martin is working with Christiansburg to see how they can partner to serve both areas. A survey is expected to be distributed in the Fall of 2008 to capture the needs of the residents. Mr. Helms noted that a transportation planner should be on board soon to work with Ms. Martin on this issue. Mr. Hurt mentioned that Radford University's transit services are limited to the college area and that the University's main focus now was on pedestrian safety.

Establish criteria for regional hotspots

Kevin informed the Committee that 20 hotspots in the New River Valley need to be identified for safety and 23 for congestion. Kevin noted that a significant hurdle in this identification process was that there is not a set of criteria on which to judge these hotspots. He needed the Committee's input. Mr. Hurt suggested using crash summary data as part of the selection process. He said to look for damages and the degree of severity of the crash. He also noted that traffic volume is a good indicator as well. Mr. Rundgren said it would be helpful to look at the network in terms of function for hotspots, such as economic development in a certain area. Mr. Clarke then pointed out that one hotspot could potentially be on both lists. It was mentioned that congestion could also be related to land use and the number of site plans and building permits could be accessed to help identify a hotspot. Kevin reiterated to the Committee the list of criteria they had developed. Criteria for identifying a hotspot would include looking at crash summary data, the network function of an area, land use, and population growth was added by Mr. Sandy.

Approve Transportation Work Program for FY 2009

Kevin provided the Work Program for FY 2009 noting that a draft resolution was included in the handouts for consideration by the Committee. There will be three subcategories and Kevin briefly covered the work elements under each category. The Committee unanimously approved the Resolution of Support for the FY 2009 Transportation Planning Work Program.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

David Clarke announced that this year the Final 6 year plan hearings will be held in Bristol and Stanton. There will not be one in Salem this year.

Kevin announced that the BWWWW Committee will be meeting May 20 at the New River Community College site in Christiansburg. The Committee will be in the field reviewing the Huckleberry Trail Extension project.

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

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2008 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Steven Sandy, Montgomery County; James Hurt, City of Radford; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Dan Brugh, Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery MPO; Tammy Trimble, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Patrick Burton, Virginia Department of Transportation; Debbie Swetnam, Blacksburg Transit; Joe Springer, Parsons Transportation Group; Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit; Kevin Byrd, NRVPC; David Rundgren, NRVPC; Jan Gilbertson, NRVPC; Andrew Gilmer, NRVPC.

APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTESChair Sandy
The March meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS Open Floor
There were no concerns expressed.

OLD BUINESS/STAFF COMMITTEE REPORTSStaff

Regional BWW Subcommittee Updates Kevin Byrd
Kevin informed the Committee that the BWW Committee met at the New River Community College Mall Site earlier in the day to discuss the Huckleberry Trail Extension Project. Kevin Conner, a landscape architect with Gay and Neel, Inc, shared a design presentation and led a field visit. The Committee is moving forward with its tasks and everyone is invited to attend their meetings. The next meeting for the BWW TAC committee is July 15th at 8:30 a.m. Kevin mentioned that there would be a silent bike ride in honor of Fess Green, the Radford University professor and trail advocate on May 21st. On June 7th at 11:00 a.m. the Town of Pulaski will dedicate the New River Trail Extension.

Employment Mobility Study Kevin Byrd
Kevin reported that the Planning District Commission is in full-swing with data collection administering two surveys to assess demand, the Employee Transportation Survey and a Park and Ride Lot Survey. Both surveys can be found on the PDC website www.nrvdc.org and anyone working or living in the New River Valley region is encouraged to complete a survey. Currently there are close to 400 responses to the Employee Survey and nearly 100 Park and Ride Lot Surveys complete. The PDC is making strides to distribute the survey to as diverse a

population as possible. There have been two articles in the region's newspaper concerning mobility across the region.

Transportation and Housing Alliance ToolkitKevin Byrd

The THA project provides funding to the PDC to perform extensive mapping exercises pertaining to disadvantaged populations such as low-to-moderate income, disabled, and minorities. The PDC is working with the regional Disability Services Board to review map products and provide input on desired mapping tools for their agencies and clients. The end products will be in three categories, Census Demographics, Geo-coded Advocacy Maps, and Proximity Maps to illustrate the potential population capture by existing transit providers.

Andrew Gilmer is providing significant mapping support and has completed over one-half of the map products.

Mobility Manager GrantKevin Byrd

The PDC was recently awarded funds by the Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) to embark on a Mobility Manager Pilot Project. The initial scope of the project is to identify barriers between human service transportation providers and determining methods to address efficiency in the delivery of their services to multiple clients. The scope of this project will be discussed in more detail this summer with work to begin in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS.....Kevin Byrd

Introduction of Consultant and Roles in RL RTP process

Kevin introduced Joe Springer with the Parsons Transportation Group. He will be the consultant in the RL RTP process. Mr. Springer reviewed his role in this process and emphasized the need for public involvement in the meetings. He suggested that two public meetings be held. It could even be a tag-along meeting for convenience. He suggested they be held in July or August. He noted it would be a working document and will build upon it as the process continues. He recommended adding 5 additional hotspots to the criteria list in case those have already been chosen as a STARS project.

Review criteria for regional hotspots

In March the TAC decided to utilize criteria to weight projects to assist in the decision making process. The TAC recommended using three criteria, crash frequency, land use changes, and importance to the regional network. A point system was established within the criteria and assigned to each project previously provided by local governments.

Review of Crash Data for Phase 2 of Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

The committee reviewed the crash incident data that was distributed on the potential list of congestion and safety hotspots.

Compile List of hotspots; 23 congestion, 20 safety

Kevin discussed the 23 congestion and 20 safety hotspots presented to the Committee. The hotspots were ranked according to the criteria agreed upon by the Committee at the last meeting. It was suggested the hotspots be ranked according to total and that a date be written on the sheet for future updates to the list. Kevin said he would do that and redistribute the list. Mr. Sandy

asked that the list be sent to Pulaski, Giles, and Floyd counties to receive their feedback since they were not represented at today's meeting. It was also suggested to leave the MPO projects out of the list so it does not get confusing.

Mr. Springer further discussed the need for the two public meetings. The meeting should be held in the name of the TAC. Mr. Sandy suggested having the meetings coincide with the TAC meetings or the NRVPC meetings all located here at the Competitiveness Center. It was suggested the first meeting be held July 24th from 4 to 7 p.m. to involve the PDC commissioners.

Mr. Springer noted that data collection would begin in September when schools were in session to get an accurate count of vehicles.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

It was announced that Governor Kaine will hold a Town hall meeting on June 4th 6:00 p.m., at Radford University.

Gary Heinline announced that Pulaski Area Transit will be hosting a golf tournament on June 11th at the Draper Valley Golf Club.

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

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2008 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Roy Saville, Radford University; James Hurt, City of Radford; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Dan Brugh, Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery MPO; Tammy Trimble, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Ron Coake, Pulaski County; Craig Moore, Virginia Tech; Kevin Byrd, NRVPC; David Rundgren, NRVPC; Jan Gilbertson, NRVPC.

APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES Vice Chair Saville
The May meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS Open Floor
There were no concerns expressed.

OLD BUINESS/STAFF COMMITTEE REPORTSStaff

Regional BWW Subcommittee UpdatesKevin Byrd
The regional Bikeway-Walkway (BWW) Committee met this morning and received a presentation by Mark Hufeisen, Manager of the New River Trail State Park. Mark shared trail construction advice and discussed trail ownership options, such as one option Pulaski County is pursuing for the New River Trail Extension from the Town of Pulaski to Randolph Park. In this case the County is handling the construction then plans to turn the trail over to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for ownership and maintenance. The Committee also discussed its role in updating the New River Valley Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan. The Plan was last updated in 2000 and the Committee will be dedicating time at each meeting to revise the document. David Clarke pointed out that each locality needs to look at their bikeway pedestrian plans and make sure they are integrated into road construction projects. It is each locality's responsibility to make sure their plans are integrated into the six-year plan. Kevin said he would send a memo to each locality to remind them of their responsibility.

The next BWW Committee meeting will be held on September 16th at 8:30 a.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

Employment Mobility Study..... Kevin Byrd
Data collection for the Employment Mobility Study continues and approximately 450 surveys have been completed on-line and another 100 in hard copy format. Data collection will end in August and until that time the Planning District Commission is contacting employers for their participation in the study. Most recently several local employers have partnered with the PDC to distribute electronic or hard copies of the survey to their employees. These include Radford University, New River Community College, Wolverine Advanced Materials, Main Street Radford, Echostar, and Xaloy. Kevin noted that there were a lot of Blacksburg and Christiansburg responses regarding the demand from rural to urban centers. The final report is due in November and will include maps.

Mobility Manager Grant Kevin Byrd
The PDC was recently awarded funds by the Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) to embark on a Mobility Manager Pilot Project. The initial scope of the project is to identify barriers between human service transportation providers and determine methods to address efficiency in the delivery of their services to multiple clients. The scope of this project will be discussed on July 24th with Neil Sherman of DRPT. Funds will probably be distributed in October and the PDC will launch the project in November. The Mobility Manager will be a PDC employee.

NEW BUSINESS..... Kevin Byrd

Review regional hotspots

A regional hotspot list was distributed based on the criteria developed by the TAC. Kevin reviewed the hotspot map previously distributed to the Committee. The map highlighted congestion points, safety points and segments. Dave Rundgren then reviewed the criteria and the process of acquiring points for each hotspot. Kevin asked that the Committee continue to send him hotspot areas in case some of the ones chosen were already being pursued by the STARS program.

Review Regional Growth Area Map

Kevin reviewed the water, sewer and growth area map presented to the Committee. The map represents areas of potential future development. The light gray areas are the potential growth areas and the dark gray represents the Towns. It was noted that there needs to be a distinction in the legend between the two shades of gray.

Discuss Public Meeting July 24th 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Competitiveness Center

Kevin reminded the Committee of the public meeting on July 24, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Competitiveness Center for the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan. The meeting will be an “open house” set-up with large maps available for review including the 43 transportation hotspots, a map of crash incidents, projected growth areas, and existing water and sewer infrastructure. The PDC Commissioners normally meet at this time but cancelled their meeting to attend this public meeting. Kevin encouraged the Committee to attend the meeting as well and said he hopes for a large attendance.

Discuss RLRP report outline

Kevin reviewed the Summary and Technical report outline for the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan. He noted that the Consultant’s focus would be on the hotspots. The resulting data will be very thorough and beneficial to all local governments and they will have access to the results. Kevin reported that the TAC will be reviewing the chapters of the Plan and commenting on them throughout the entire process. Phase I has been completed and Phase II is wrapping up and the PDC will be starting Phase III in the near future.

Discussion of 2007 Performance Report to be compiled by Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment

The Multimodal Planning Office has been working with representatives from the VAPDC and transportation agencies to determine appropriate performance measures for an annual report. It will be a web-based report that will be completed by December 2008. The measures fall into the categories of transportation indicators; safety and security; maintenance and preservation; and mobility, accessibility, and connectivity. Kevin reported that these measures should be reported by jurisdiction to be most beneficial.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-RPO-TAC schedule for 2008. September 16; November 18.

ADJOURNMENT..... Vice Chair Saville

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2008 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Roy Saville, Radford University; James Hurt, City of Radford; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Tammy Trimble, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Fritz Streff, New River Community College; Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation; Erik Olsen, Blacksburg Transit; Debbie Swetnam; Blacksburg Transit; Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit; Steve Sandy, Montgomery County; Craig Quinn, Town of Pulaski; Christy Straight, NRVPC; Kevin Byrd, NRVPC; David Rundgren, NRVPC; Jan Gilbertson, NRVPC.

APPROVAL OF JULY MEETING MINUTESChair Sandy
The July meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS Open Floor
There were no concerns expressed.

PRESENTATION
Rideshare Update Christy Straight

Christy informed the Committee that Ride Solutions continues to recruit workplace partners, to provide reports on results and analysis of participation, and is working on promotional efforts. Christy has been meeting with current workplace partners such as New River Community College, Virginia Tech, Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, and Echostar. She had a successful campaign at Virginia Tech to recruit carpoolers as she had 54 registrations within the first 2 days and she will participate in Active Commute day on September 17th on the Tech campus. It will also focus on alternative transportation such as biking and walking. Christy also participated in New Student Days at the New River Valley Community College Dublin and Mall sites and received several questions and distributed a few applications. She also met with Echostar's new HR staff and provided them with them information about the program and promotional copies. At Carilion NRV Medical Hospital she participated in an education session on-site. Christy has also made contacts with Radford University, the Town of Blacksburg, and local schools. The Ride Solutions website (Ridesolutions.org) now includes a location map of commuters and has an RSS feed for carpoolers needing a match.

Some statistics of Ride Solutions include a membership of 239 people at the end of June and 322 at the end of August which is a 26% increase and shows a total of 702 people for the entire

program. The match rate for NRV commuters as of June was 54%. Inquiries have spiked with the gas increase with 98 in April, 35 in June, and 15 in August. As Christy stated earlier she plans to participate in Active Commute day at Virginia Tech and she will have a booth at the New River Valley Job Fair on October 21st. She will have a chance to talk to job seekers and the opportunity to network with the employers participating in the event. She will continue to contact local businesses and agencies for workplace partnerships and in the next few months she will contact local industry, larger businesses, hospitals, and local governments.

There was discussion on the need for a map of park and ride locations, informal and formal, and Kevin said that would be part of the Employment Mobility Study and the Long Range Transportation Plan. There is a lot of demand at the exit 114/Rt 8 location and not enough space and that needs to be addressed in planning documents.

OLD BUSINESS/STAFF COMMITTEE REPORTSStaff

Regional BWWW Subcommittee UpdatesKevin Byrd

The regional Bikeway-Walkway (BWWW) Committee met this morning and focused their attention on updating the Regional BWWW Plan. The committee started by reviewing the planning process. Based on the planning process in the plan, the committee is in the process of program evaluation and reassessment of community vision. The committee discussed regional connections that were identified in the previous plan and contributed new connections envisioned or developed since the 2000 plan. The committee finished their meeting reviewing the plan vision and objectives. Several positive comments were provided to expand the plan vision to be multimodal and focus on connections between communities.

The next BWWW Committee meeting will be held on November 18th at 8:30 a.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

Employment Mobility Study UpdateKevin Byrd

The Employment Mobility Study is still collecting data from both its online and hardcopy transportation surveys. Data collection is scheduled to end on October 31. To date, 744 responses have been collected from the online survey alone. Over 100 additional hardcopy surveys have also been collected from residents all over the New River Valley. Overall, Radford University, Virginia Tech, and New River Community Services are among the most represented employers.

The months of November and December will be devoted to data entry and analysis. Survey data will be used to evaluate the need for a regional transportation system. Blacksburg Transit, Pulaski Area Transit, and Community Transit, will come together during this time to compile recommendations concerning potential routes, suggested scheduling options, vehicle type, and cost. The final report will be due in January.

Central Pulaski Land Use and Transportation UpdateKevin Byrd

The review of the land use and transportation network in the Central Pulaski County area is underway and VDOT's Multimodal Planning Grant Program is providing funding for this effort. The consultants for this project are Anderson and Associates and Draper Aden Associates. A couple of new corridors are being discussed while improvements to existing corridors such as Rt.

100 and Bob White Blvd. are also receiving significant attention. The Exit 101 north connector is a top priority to relieve traffic congestion on Rt. 100 and ultimately Bagging Plant Road based on the newly established Veteran's Cemetery on the Radford Army Ammunition Plant site in Dublin. Kevin introduced a diverging diamond interchange concept proposed to improve Exit 98 in Dublin. The diverging diamond is also called a continuous left and it was a very safe interchange. Kevin informed the Committee the final report will include recommendations on land use controls such as zoning and subdivision that will assist in implementation of the plan. A final report is expected in January.

Rural Long Range Plan UpdateKevin Byrd
On July 24th the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) hosted a public input meeting on the Rural Long Range Plan. During the meeting the public was invited to comment on map products created to date and provide thoughts toward transportation projects needed in the region. One particular map product received attention; the map of "transportation deficiencies" across the region. Kevin presented a list of the public comments to the Committee to review. The list is comprised of intersections needing improvements, dangerous roadway segments and several other system projects. Kevin noted that approximately 14 people attended the meeting including VDOT representatives who answered questions and Kevin thanked them for their participation.

Kevin then reviewed a transit expansion map with the Committee. The map showed the rural shuttle system, the transit expansion, and the transit expansion areas. It was noted that the Christiansburg Transit expansion needed to be added to the map. Mr. Saville commented that their needs to be a loop between Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Radford.

NEW BUSINESS.....Kevin Byrd

Rural Long Range Plan Phase 3 Kick-off

Kevin said Phase III will be dealing with analysis of system deficiencies. Our region is in the first grouping in the state. Road counts are being collected and should be compiled shortly.

Six Year Improvement Plan Comments

Kevin presented the Committee with the Comments for the Six-Year Plan last year and noted the budget will not allow for expansion of projects, but rather decreasing projects may be needed. It was suggested that everything remain on the list, including the Route 114 bridge that is currently being funded.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

VDOT Transportation Enhancement Workshop – October-NRVPDC

Applications for funding via the Transportation Enhancement Program are due to VDOT by November 1st. Prior to the application deadline the Planning District Commission will be hosting Mr. Dana Martin of the Commonwealth Transportation Board to discuss project applications. Mr. Martin will tentatively be at the PDC on October 21st and will be available for 30 minute project meetings individually. Please contact Kevin if you wish to meet with Mr. Martin.

VDOT SYIP Hearings

It was noted that there would be a special public official briefing and a public open house format. These hearings will not be held this year until late November or December.

VTRANS 2035 Public Input

This meeting was originally scheduled for November 18th but has since been cancelled.

Erik Olsen a planner with Blacksburg Transit discussed a transit survey being conducted in the Town of Christiansburg. It consists of 22 questions and will take approximately 6 minutes to complete the survey. He is working with Nichole Hair from the Town of Christiansburg to make sure all citizens receive a survey. The final report is anticipated to be completed in February.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-RPO-TAC schedule for 2008. November 18. Elections will be held.

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy
The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:42 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2008 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Dan Brugh, Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery MPO; Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation; Tammy Trimble, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Steve Sandy, Montgomery County; Kevin Byrd, Montgomery County; Debbie Swetnam, Blacksburg Transit; Erik Olsen, Blacksburg Transit; James Hurt, City of Radford; David Clark, Virginia Department of Transportation.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTESChair Sandy
The September meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS Open Floor
There were no concerns expressed.

PRESENTATION
Rideshare Update & TDM Briefing.....Christy Straight

Christy informed the committee that Ridesolutions finished the third quarter with no reduction in the membership, despite falling gas prices. There are currently 325 members in the New River Valley with a 66% match rate. Virginia Tech signed on as a workplace partner in August. Since joining, 113 individuals have signed up with a match rate of 85%. Montgomery County Schools has also recently joined as a workplace partner. No information is currently available on membership or match rate.

Christy also discussed the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Transportation Demand Management plan. We will be seeking input from user groups and localities for this plan. A draft is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of February. There will be one public input meeting to be held by VT's advisory committee.

There was a question of costs to employers to become a workplace partner with Ridesolutions. Christy indicated that the assistance and services provided are at no cost to the employer.

OLD BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS.....Staff

Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates

Regina Elsner

The regional BWWW subcommittee met this morning with three primary issues on their agenda. The first was to bring some attention and thought for further discussion of a potential bike trail from Roanoke to Blacksburg utilizing the Norfolk Southern corridor. More discussion and negotiation would be required for this project to move forward.

The subcommittee then turned its focus to the update of the Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan. The objectives discussed and revised at the previous meeting were approved with some additional changes. Policy statements are included in the plan, which were the next item for discussion. It was decided to refer to other organizations and their policy statements regarding biking, walking, and other modes of transportation to ensure the NRV's coordination with those other organizations.

Transportation Enhancement Project Review Meetings with Mr. Dana Martin Regina Elsner
On October 21, 2008, the PDC hosted meeting for area T-21 representatives and Mr. Dana Martin with the VDOT Commonwealth Transportation Board. Each participant was allocated 30-minutes to discuss their new or on-going projects with Mr. Martin. The groups participating in these meetings included; Town of Blacksburg, Town of Christiansburg, Town of Rich Creek, Huckleberry Trail, and Pulaski County.

Michael Gray from VDOT indicated that plans will be reviewed until the end of December and decisions will be made in June 2009.

Employment Mobility Study Update

Jennifer Wilsie & Andrew Gilmer

Jennifer and Andrew gave a brief summary of their preliminary findings from the Employment Mobility Study. They received 900 survey responses; 750 online and 150 hard copies. Tomorrow, November 19, 2008, the major service providers in the area will receive full copies of the data to begin working on formulating some conclusions and recommendations. Responses were received from Virginia Tech and Radford University faculty and staff, as well as Town of Christiansburg, New River Community Action, New River Community College, and the Christiansburg Walmart. Jennifer and Andrew indicated that they worked to diversify the data that was coming in, to ensure that shift workers and other non-university employees were represented.

A final report from this study will be available by the end of January 2009.

Central Pulaski Land Use and Transportation Update

Dave Rundgren

Dave discussed the progress of the Central Pulaski Land Use and Transportation Plan. Multiple land use changes and conditions, including the international status of the airport, the Commerce Park, and residential developments, were taken into account when developing the transportation map of the area. Several new developments are bound to influence the long-term traffic situation in central Pulaski County, including the new Veteran's cemetery and Virginia Tech's membership in the ACC.

Several of the major recommendations from this study included the improvement of Bob White Boulevard to 3 or 4 lanes with a connection over I-81, a mid-Pulaski connector road, development of an exit at mile marked 101 on I-81 to serve an east-west connector and provide

more direct cemetery access, and the redesign of Exit 98. The consultants recommended using a diverging diamond design for Exit 98 as it will improve traffic flow and remain almost entirely in the current right-of-way without interfering with any of the businesses currently located near the interstate.

Also discussed during this plan development, there is a need to increase connectivity of alternative transportation. The primary issue discussed was the extension of the New River Trail through Pulaski County.

NEW BUSINESS.....Regina Elsner

Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

The consultants have the list of hotspots provided from the TAC. A finalized list of exact locations will be determined and traffic counts will begin in early January.

Six Year Improvement Plan Comments

The comments from last year were revised to include the additions made by the Planning District Commission Board and comments from the previous TAC meeting. As of the meeting, no date had been set for the public hearings or the public officials comment hearing. There was some discussion of how to handle the comments in light of the recent budget concerns. There was consensus that it was not a matter if the budget would be cut, but rather by how much and which projects. In light of that, the approval of comments was tabled until there is more information on how the budget will affect projects in the six year plan currently. If necessary, the January meeting could be moved up to accommodate public hearings in later January.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2009

As the calendar year is winding down, a new chair and vice-chair must be elected to serve during CY 2009. Nominations for the position of chair were opened. Current Chair Sandy was nominated and accepted the nomination. Current Vice-Chair Saville was nominated for a second term. Mr. Brugh moved to close the nominations; motion was seconded. The TAC unanimously elected Chair Sandy and Vice-Chair Saville to serve for CY 2009.

ADJOURNMENTChair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:47 p.m.