



NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2009 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; 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; Roy Saville, Radford University.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTESChair Sandy
The November 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 REPRTSSharp

1. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the BWWW Subcommittee continued to move forward with the revision of the BWWWBW plan that was last updated in 2000. Sharp explained that one of the main topics was to shift the policies section to a reference of current design standards and practices and that the committee was in the process of collecting updates for individual long range plans located in the back end of the document. Sharp noted that a list of trails ready for construction was shared with the group that included: Ellett Valley Loop Trail, Floyd Recreational Park Trail, Floyd Industrial Park Trail, New River Trail (Pulaski to Randolph Park, New River Trail (Park to Dublin Elementary), and the Huckleberry Trail (Mall to Recreation Center).

2. Employment Mobility Study Project Update:

Gilmer presented to the group one of eight maps that identified the project study routes and hot spots for “un-official” park and ride lots. The study would be extended to incorporate the proposed intermodal facility in Elliston as well as the section between Glyn Lyn to Rich Creek. Gilmer informed the group that phase one of the studies would be completed at the end of the month and a report would be distributed to the committee members electronically.

The committee discussed the fact that typically park and ride lots are added as a part of interchange improvements and that with increasing commuter interests in the NRV the need to look at the study and implementation of independent project improvements was necessary.

Olsen expressed interest to the group that the study should continue to move forward into a phase two (2) and potential three (3) to begin isolating individual traffic movements as phase one was a very broad study. Phase two (2) and three (3) would help identify traffic flow by compiling origins and destinations, providing more detailed insight on transportation needs in the NRV. Olsen expressed his interest in collaborating the efforts of the MPO and PDC to minimize the duplication of information. The committee members expressed interest adding the additional phasing to the Transportation Work Program under 716.2 for the next fiscal year.

3. SYIP Budget Impacts and Public Hearing Recap:

Sharp informed the group that attached to the minutes there was an additional document attached to the agenda that reflected the Comments for the CTB Public Hearing and how the VDOT draft document reflected funding for FY 09- FY 14. Sharp stated that the TAC had originally identified eight (8) projects of which funding for FY 09 allotted for only three (3). Further more for FY 10 – FY 14 only an additional two (2) were in the project scope and the final three (3) had been removed from the plan. Fiscal year 2009 showed funding for: Route 114 widening (UPC 71586), Route 61 bridge replacement (UPC 76679), and Route 99 widening (UPC 15838). Fiscal Years 2010 through 2014 showed funding for: Route 114 bridge replacement (UPC 50030) and Route 114 widening (UPC 8746). Projects that had been canceled were: Route 114 connector to 460 (UPC 70594), Route 99 widening (UPC 17700), and Route 100 safety improvements (UPC 63710).

Sandy informed the group that he had recently noticed the addition of Route 603 to the plan as it had not been shown before. He noted that all of the funding was federal dollars but some of the group may have an interest in being aware of its addition. Sandy asked Sharp to add Route 603 to the New River Valley SYIP Impacts list and resend, as it was reflected in the support for the Heartland Corridor project in the comments for the hearing.

The group noted that several other projects within the region there were not mentioned in the comments document had seen budget cuts and project cancellations. Grey informed the committee that potentially another four hundred (400) million was on the table for potential cuts and the final document would be released the beginning of February.

4. Work Program FY 2009 – 2010:

Sharp informed the committees that the renewal of the Transportation Work Program was coming up and had a deadline mid-month near the next scheduled meeting. Rundgren and Grey expressed to the group that as long as a draft document was submitted on the deadline date a final document could be submitted after the meeting like last year. The group expressed interest in keeping the next meeting schedule date locked in for March 17th.

Rundgren inquired about potential funding for the next work program. Grey responded that it would be safe to assume that the budget would not differ from the amount it had been locked into in previous years. Additionally Grey added if the program saw some minor setbacks there was other funding available to fund the program to the extent it had been in the past.

Grey informed the committee that by June/July reports from the consultants regarding the Rural Long Range Transportation Plans should be submitted. The need to consolidate the reports and identify resulting project improvements for the New River Valley would need to be included in the work program.

Grey expressed to the committee the continuing need to identify future improvements based on quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Sharp asked the committee if there were other current ideas of items that needed to be added to next year's program. Sandy polled the group and informed Sharp that other than the addition of the next phase for the mobility study and what was just discussed there were none at this time. Sharp informed the committee that the previous plan would be sent out for comment and review for program updates and that a draft for the next fiscal year would follow for their reference.

NEW BUSINESS..... Open Floor
None expressed

ADJOURNMENTChair Sandy
The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:26 p.m.

NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2009 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; 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; Stacy Keith, Virginia Department of Transportation; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Ron Coake, Pulaski County.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS..... Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS Open Floor

1. VDOT's Blueprint – Future Service Reductions:

Sandy asked Sharp to inform the group of a basic overview of the reductions anticipated by VDOT. Sharp said that as many of the committee members may have known, VDOT was holding public meetings regarding these reductions. Amongst them, the line item that seemed to have most of the feedback from public and government agencies was the closure of rest areas. Sharp said that the PDC had drafted a resolution that was in need of the committees review and support before presenting to the Commission.

Sandy informed the group that amongst the other reductions were: the consolidation of and closure of residencies, staff reductions of an additional 1000, mowing, litter and animal clean-up, and a variety of other public service programs.

Coake asked for clarification pertaining to the federal law regulating the privatization of public rest areas. Clarke explained that this was currently a law that was under review and had the potential of being removed in the event other means of keeping the rest areas open could not be found. Further more, Clarke explained that the rest areas were indeed not required by state or federal law to be located along interstate highway systems and that in fact they were amenities provided to the travelers by the state. Clarke and Coake debated the pros and cons regarding traffic using existing restaurants and other local businesses in order to fulfill the same use of the rest areas.

Olsen lead an open discussion based on existing research data for the potential of interchange congestion and the inability of roadway networks to accommodate truck traffic that frequently used the rest areas.

After the open discussion was completed and a variety of committee members spoke on the importance rest areas have to the state, a motion to accept the rest areas resolution with additional clarification of the federal law that mandates truck operators to not exceed eleven (11) hours of continuous travel (statement number four (4) of the document) was seconded and unanimously passed.

Hurt presented Sandy a copy of a letter sent on behalf of the city of Radford that was also in opposition to the rest area closures. Sandy informed the group that Montgomery County also intended on preparing a formal document in response as well.

STAFF REPRTSSharp

1. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the BWWW Subcommittee continued to move forward with the revision of the BWWWBW plan that was last updated in 2000. Sharp said that the Objectives for the Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway System have been completed and that the committee intends to begin revising the existing document one (1) chapter at a time in two (2) week intervals. Sharp explained that this interval would fluctuate depending on the amount of work necessary to update the chapters but the group decided it was a good preliminary goal.

Sharp informed the committee that good news items discussed on the agenda included the finding of suitable parking area for the Ellet Valley Loop Trail. Sharp also informed the committee of the discouraging news regarding the loss of funds for the Floyd County Recreational Park Trail. Sharp explained that Floyd intended to push forward with the trail planning initiatives within the industrial park. Sharp explained further that a Floyd County Trails representative had been in contact with consultants to discuss different costs associated with surface types for the trail.

2. VAPDC Conference Highlights:

Sharp informed the group that a handout had been provided regarding the conference held in January that would inform interested individuals about the trips highlights. Sharp explained if that if there were any questions or additional information was required to feel free and contact him.

3. Transportation Draft Work Program:

Sharp informed the group that this document which had been sent out for electronic review was in need of a formal action from the committee to recommend approval from the Commission. Sandy asked Sharp if there were any significant changes from last years program. Sharp stated that much of the program had remained the same but there was an increase in funding from \$60,000 to \$72,500. Sandy asked Sharp about the increase in the local match and if it would be asked of the localities to cover the additional amount. Sharp

said that he was unaware of the financial planning but per discussion with Rundgren finding the additional funding would not be an issue given the slight increase.

Byrd asked where the additional funding for the program had come from. Gray stated that there was a grant that was divided equally amongst the PDC's for the final Rural Long Range Transportation Planning Program.

Sharp pointed out to the group that much of the changes were located under 716.2 where the organization and expansion of work scope comprised the bulk of changes made to last year's document.

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee voted infamously to recommend approval from the Planning Commission.

4. Transportation Planning Initiatives and Website Overhaul:

Sharp informed the committee that the Planning District Commissions transportation website was undergoing a major overhaul. Pointing out particularly the recent partnership with Virginia Tech to create a web mapping transportation hub, which would be available for residents and visitors to obtain information on transportation planning initiatives and project information. Initially the focus will be on future projects in the region that may be found in the SYIP and comprehensive transportation plan updates. Eventually the goal would be to allow the interface user to select a mode of transportation such as: walking, bicycling, horse back riding, or transit and the map would transpose all relative transportation assets over a base map allowing the user to select different alignments to acquire associated details.

In addition to the web mapping application the overall site was being updated. Sharp asked for new links and project information from each respective region that needed to be incorporated into the site.

NEW BUSINESS..... Open Floor

1. Christiansburg Bus Survey – Update:

Olsen informed the group that currently a bus survey was being compiled that was to be completed and presented to the Town by May 1st. The primary focus on the survey was on destinations and times. Based on the survey results the top three destinations in Christiansburg desired by potential transit users were CVS, Kroger, and the NRV Mall. The survey received about fifteen hundred (1500) responses which comprised of approximately a 38% response level where twenty five (25) percent is typically excellent.

The next phases of the report will involve breaking the town of Christiansburg into reasonable sections for more detailed planning. Currently Olsen feels that the project will need two to three (2-3) years for budget finalizations and proposed additional routes. The survey provided general feedback that fifty to sixty percent (50-60) of folks would be willing to take the bus. When asked the maximum distance willing to walk to a stop the response was around ten (10) minutes.

Hurt shared with the committee that the City of Radford had just received a technical assistance grant from DRPT that would allow them to evaluate transit. Hurt expressed to the committee that an attempt had been made in the past that had not received achieved the best results and that this grant would allow them to really make a difference in making necessary improvements.

ADJOURNMENTChair Sandy
The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:26 p.m.

NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2009 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Steve Sandy, Montgomery County; James Hurt, City of Radford; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Fritz Streff, New River Community College; Roy Saville, Radford University; Debbie Swetnam, Blacksburg Transit; Dan Brugh, Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery – MPO

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES Chair Sandy
The March meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.....Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen Floor
There were no committee member concerns

STAFF REPORTS.....Sharp

1. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the BWWW Subcommittee took a minor detour away from the focus on the BWWWBW plan that had been completed in 2000. Sharp stated that the committee had provided feedback on chapter two (2) of the document and would continue to submit comments and recommended updates per electronic review.

Sharp informed the committee that Pulaski County had good news that was shared with the Subcommittee regarding progress on the New River Trail from the Town of Pulaski to Dublin Elementary School. Shaw Utt attended the meeting in the morning sharing that the request for proposals for the next phase would be advertised the end of May. Utt also informed the group that the County had obtained signed commitments for the necessary right-of-way and that Rick Boucher’s office was including the trail in an upcoming transportation bill that could allot \$1.7 million in construction funds. In addition to this progress, Utt also shared that the James Hardy facility was willing to contribute by providing: landscaping, crossing structures, or anything that would assist within the proximity of their land.

Sharp informed the committee that he had been approached by a bicycle advocacy group requesting support for a circulating resolution regarding rails with trails. Sharp said that the recommendation of the group was to send out electronically for review with some recommended adjustments for the support of the subcommittee.

2. STIP New River Valley Regional Priority Projects:

Sharp referenced a power point presentation to inform the group of the existing projects that were mentioned for the inclusion of SYIP FY09-FY14 priority list document that had been provided at last years public meetings. Sharp queried the committee for potential projects that should be added to the list and if modifications should be made to the existing priorities.

Brugh recommended to Sharp that the Commission support the Southgate (CRC) interchange construction; the only remaining signalized intersection along Route 460 through the MPO area. Brugh continued by sharing with the committee before the interchange could be relocated a traffic analysis had to be performed as the existing Southgate intersection would be moved east approximately half a mile.

Clarke recommended to Sharp that lower cost, quick to implement projects such as the exit 94 on-ramp reconstruction be added. Clarke continued by adding that projects of lower cost and of significant value could see some favoritism during these difficult financial times.

Sharp stated that he would add these recommendations and present to the Commission for support.

3. VTrans 2035 Program Update:

Sharp informed the group that a regional and local decision making chapter review meeting was held the 26th of May. The main topics on the agenda were the regional values of the designated eleven corridors of statewide significance in an effort to provide a theme or branding for each corridor. The other main component of the session was a detailed corridor needs assessment where each areas representative was asked to rank existing roadways based on the need to: expand capacity, improve efficiency, or enhancement of the existing quality. Sharp informed the group that each of the corridors also included the evaluation of other exiting roadways, railways, airports, and pedestrian accommodations were included as integral parts of each corridor.

Sharp informed the committee that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled in August and would focus on potential project prioritization.

4. Rural Long Range Plan Program Update:

Sharp informed the committee that he currently had regularly scheduled meetings with VDOT and the Consultant for project updates. Sharp continued by informing the committee that he had been asked to review the priority listing submitted for any revisions. Reasoning for the second passing before the committee was due to the counts not beginning in the NRV until the month of September in an effort to include student traffic. The Committee saw none and it was moved to continue with the original listed priorities.

5. Pulaski Transportation and Land Use Master Plan Project Update:

Sharp informed the committee that the project was currently under review by Rundgren in its draft form. Sharp shared with the committee that the project extension allowed for the inclusion of formal evaluations of existing problematic intersections. Sharp continued by



NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2009 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Steve Sandy, Montgomery County; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Fritz Streff, New River Community College; Debbie Swetnam, Blacksburg Transit; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Tammy Trimble, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Erik Olsen, Blacksburg Transit; Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation; Kevin Byrd, Montgomery County

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS.....Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen Floor
There were no committee member concerns

STAFF REPORTSPDC Staff

1. Rideshare Updates:

Straight informed the Committee that a copy of the most recent quarterly report was enclosed within the packet of information. Straight continued by saying that the total number of names in the database has continued to grow since the last report. The total number of participants was now three hundred sixty nine (369). Straight informed the Committee that the PDC had recently partnered with Virginia Tech to enroll students into the program and had obtained a total of fifty (50) thus far.

Straight also informed the Committee that the PDC had been working with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to compile information for the statewide Transportation Demand Plan (TDM). Straight said that a draft report was scheduled for December of this year and would be broken into statewide and local plans.

Gray asked if the New River Valley Planning District was also working with the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Planning District for this task. Straight said that currently the DRPT grant had the two regions combined.

Gray said that he had heard rumored Lynchburg may also potentially join. Straight said that the possibility had been discussed but ultimately the decision had not been made to move forward.

2. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the BWWW Subcommittee met earlier this morning to discuss the progress of the BWWW-BW Plan and local project updates. Sharp said that the PDC had recently shifted its focus to the mapping components of the plan. Sharp said that the Intern GIS personnel had been contacting each of the localities for any updates in existing and proposed systems. Sharp said that the document would be reviewed in two phases: the first a general overview, and the second would be a compilation of previous comments and finalizing the document.

Sharp informed the committee that Pulaski County was working on a mountain biking network that would be similar to Montgomery Counties Pandapas Pond network. The project is proposed on Draper Mountain and will also connect to the New River Trail in the future. Sharp said that maps had been shared of the potential network in a meeting earlier this month and that volunteers were currently marking alignments in the field. Sharp said that the goal was to have the trail volunteer constructed and maintained and provide a mountain biking resource one the western part of the region.

3. Transportation Staff Report:

VTrans 2035: Sharp informed the committee that on July 9th a public meeting/presentation was held for the VTrans 2035 statewide multimodal transportation plan update. Sharp jokingly noted that comments could also be added online which may have been more easily accessible than Hidden Valley High School in Roanoke for our region. Sharp said that previous meeting outcomes had been posted online for public review. Sharp added that he had added the Route 460 Southgate interchange and I-81's exit 98 projects to the list of project improvements found along corridors of state wide significance. Sharp said that he had done so because other individual projects had been mentioned along these corridors. Sharp also said that he added 460 business/Route 11 that runs parallel to I-81 between Montgomery and Roanoke as a part of the I-81 corridor. Sharp noted that the corridor could support a multimodal connection in lue of the projected freight traffic increased volumes of 80% by 2030.

Sharp said that the next meeting will be scheduled for October/November range and will be for Transportation decision makers to prioritize a projects list for the corridors of statewide significance. Olsen inquired where the meeting would potentially be held. Sharp said that the previous meeting for the Regional Planning forum was held in Charlottesville but could end up in Richmond.

Rural Long Range Plan: Sharp informed the Committee that traffic counts were still on schedule to begin in September to incorporate student traffic. Sharp added that the final report would be broken into two parts; one for the public, and the second a technical document for regional planning. Sharp said a draft of the public document was to be shared with the Virginia Association of Planning District Committee's Transportation Committee. Sharp said that he would share the document with the Committee if he receives a draft for distribution.

Pulaski Transportation and Land Use Master Plan: Sharp said that this report had been completed the last day of June 2009 and uploaded to the transportation website for review. Sharp added that there was a minor error on sheet iii of the upfront document and encouraged individuals whom received a copy to reprint this sheet.

Gray encouraged the Committee to review the document although he had not had a chance to review it thoroughly. Byrd followed up an e-mail by reinforcing what he had shared previously with Sharp saying that he particularly enjoyed the problematic intersection plans. Byrd said that the graphics made it very easy to identify problems and see potential solutions. Sharp thanked Gray and Byrd for their comments and asked if there were any questions (there were none).

VDOT Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements: Sharp informed the Committee that the Commission had been contacted by VDOT to provide GIS layers and Census Block Data for the region. Sharp said that VDOT would be working closely with the Localities to utilize existing data and classify the roadway networks.

VDOT Access Management Regulations: Sharp pointed out that although this was a previous discussion item he wanted to make sure the Committee was aware that these new regulations would go into effect October 2009r

4. Transportation Upcoming Meetings and Conferences:

Sharp reminded the Committee that the FY 2011 Transportation Enhancement Funds Application Workshop was scheduled for tomorrow (Wednesday July 22nd) in Wytheville, VA. Sharp said that he would be scheduling a meeting with Mr. Dana Martin for the regional applicants to meet and discuss projects with in October.

Sharp reminded the Committee that a tentative agenda for the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) Transportation Committee was scheduled to meet Thursday July 30th at Virginia Beach. Sharp said that among the items on the agenda were a draft report of the RLRP Plan and a VTrans 2035 intermodal planning and investment updates. Sharp said that he would inform the Committee of outcomes and share any useful information.

NEW BUSINESS Open Floor

1. Rails with Trail Resolution:

Sharp introduced to the Committee a draft form of the rails with trails resolution that was recommended for review/approval to pass onto the TAC prior to submitting to the Commission. Sharp said this may be the first time some had seen this resolution that had been slightly modified from the requested version in an effort to support freight enhancements and accommodate multimodal transportation planning. Sharp informed the Committee that Virginia had recently passed a bill into law (HB 2088) the encouraged the development of recreational trails with rail expansion projects. Sharp continued by stating that the BWWW Committee had shown support to encourage moving this resolution forwards to support the expansion of rail projects and provide regional connectivity through a multimodal approach.

Sharp reminded the Committee that the Norfolk Southern Heartland Corridor and Crescent Corridor intersect in the New River Valley. As the resolution would pertain to our region the resolution would support multimodal corridor planning in parallel with these two projects. Olsen asked if a study had been performed in the NRV that would incorporate transit. Sharp said that a study of that nature had not been presented to his knowledge thus far. Sharp added that outside of the resolution presented for review he was aware of a connection that had been discussed between Roanoke and Montgomery Counties but no planning had occurred.

Sharp informed the Committee that he was looking for action on the resolution to recommend for approval of the Commission or table for further review.

Olsen motioned to table the resolution and was seconded by Gray. The Committee voted to table the resolution for further review. Sharp said he would send out supporting information, the original resolution, and the current draft form for electronic review and feedback.

ADJOURNMENTChair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:11 p.m.

showing the committee examples of the intersection plans and added that the report also formally evaluated future traffic increase as attributed to future land use plans.

6. Federal Transit Administration Grant Partnership update:

Sharp informed the committee that Virginia Tech and the Commission were pursuing a grant with a tight deadline but were unable to complete due to various limitations. Sharp informed the group that the primary contact for the GIS project intends on expanding the relationship established with the PDC through partnerships in grant writing and student working experiences in the future.

7. Manual and Regulations updates:

Sharp informed the committee that there were several manual and policy updates that they should be aware of including: Virginia Secondary Streets Acceptance Requirements (Effective July 2009), Virginia Access Management Regulations and Standards (Effective October 2009), and DCR Water Quality Regulations (Effective July 2010).

Sandy asked Clarke in regards to the Secondary Streets Approval if the submittal process would still be similar. Clarke Responded that the roadways that were desired to be submitted for VDOT maintenance would remain the same as John Jones would still be the contact. Sharp informed the committee that the Commission was preparing a response pertaining to the effects on rural transportation as it would adversely be impacted by the new code.

Sharp informed the committee that a Stormwater charette had recently been held at the Fairlawn office where the new spreadsheet was demonstrated through a group activity. Sharp warned the committee that the new spreadsheet should only be utilized to achieve the calculated water quality factor. The drainage quantities should still be calculated separately. Sharp continued to say that traditional erosion and sediment control planning would greatly be impacted through the utilization of environmental site design techniques to reduce impervious cover.

Sandy asked about the impact the new regulations would have for new development and some common elements that may be seen more frequently. Sharp responded by stating that most of the runoff reduction is still achievable by installing bioretention basins but aggregate surface course parking areas to allow filtration could also become rather common. Sharp continued that rain water cisterns may also become more common to reduce impervious runoff and provide primary water source for toilets.

The committee discussed the potential problems that could face the region with enforcing the new criteria and how to update the regulations in the localities.

8. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funds):

Sharp shared with the committee some of the highlights of Secretary Homer's presentation to the House Appropriations Committee. Sharp said that the national transportation investment was \$47.9 billion which was approximately 6.1% of the overall stimulus package and a significant percentage increase as opposed to the federal budget. Sharp continued by sharing with the committee that of the \$466 billion worth of projects submitted on the Public

Participation website \$194 billion (41.6% of the total) were transportation related. Of the funding distributed the only big win for the New River Valley was the inclusion of the \$15.7 million Route 61 bridge inclusion in the structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges allocation of \$116.1 million.

NEW BUSINESS Open Floor

1. Christiansburg Bus Survey – Update:

Brugh informed the group that currently the budget for the expansion of transit services had not been approved but was on the agenda for this evening (May 19). Brugh continued that most of the information could be found online regarding the new routes and stopping locations.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.



NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2009 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Steve Sandy, Montgomery County; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Erik Olsen, Blacksburg Transit; Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES.....Chair Sandy
The July meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS..... Open Floor

1. Re-formalization of the Technical Transportation Committee:

The Committee moved into open discussion and requested Sharp to work with the Committee Chairperson to establish some formal structure. During this process it was moved to establish jurisdictional representation from the region and officially appoint voting and non-voting members. The Committee requested that during this time frame Sharp should take a close look at the current meeting date and location to maximize participation.

STAFF REPORTS.....PDC Staff

1. PDC Announcement of New Executive Director:

Sharp informed the Committee that Mr. Kevin Byrd accepted the position of Executive Director. Sharp continued by saying that Mr. Byrd would be joining the Commission tomorrow on the 16th to get up to speed with Rundgren and take over full responsibility the first of October.

2. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the BWWW Subcommittee met earlier in the morning to discuss the progress of the BWWW-BW Plan and local project updates. Sharp passed around a draft copy of the initial chapter and some examples of the new mapping. Sharp also passed around a regional map and asked for feedback for additional items that needed to be added.

3. Transportation Staff Report:

RLRP: Sharp informed the committee that he had included an updated schedule in the packet of information provided. The committee currently still met every first Monday of each month for progress updates. Sharp said that a draft of the public document was shared at the VAPDC conference and passed around the draft for a sneak peak. Sharp pointed out that he had

commented to the consultant and VDoT at the VAPDC conference that the recommendations for project improvements should also have plan views prepared.

Gray asked if the plan views Sharp recommended would be similar to the Central Pulaski Transportation intersection improvement plans. Sharp confirmed and told the committee that the consultant had also recommended a visual web based application for public use once the report was finalized. Sharp said that he and the other PDC's agreed that this would be a useful tool when discussing last month's progress update.

Sharp said that the committee could expect to see some results from the counts and level-of-service analysis by the first of October. Once the traffic information was finalized the consultant would be working with the Commission to prepare the technical document and then pull information to populate the public document.

Risk Based Prioritization of Corridors Vulnerable to Development: Sharp informed the Committee that he had recently attended a workshop that highlighted this GIS based methodology prepared by the University of Virginia (UVA). Sharp said that the tool could be a considerable way to measure future land uses and values. Sharp said that typically the studies are performed on a regional basis to analyze primary corridors. Sharp said that the PDC was going to evaluate a small section of U. S. Route 460 in Giles County and share the results with the region to determine its applicability.

VAPDC Transportation Program Highlights: Sharp shared with the Committee that this year's summer conference had excellent presentations and urged the members to check out the provided link to take a more detailed look. Sharp said that on the transportation side updates were provided for the VTrans 2035 plan by Deputy Secretary of Transportation Ralph Davis, DRPT update by Director Chip Badger, Port of Virginia Update by Senior Deputy Executive Director Jeff Keever, and a Route 29 Corridor Study update from Consultant Engineer Joe Springer.

NEW BUSINESS Open Floor

1. VA 2035 Surface Transportation Plan:

Sharp shared with the Committee the map for the draft Statewide Mobility System (SMS). The Committee moved to have Sharp send out the document for electronic review and provide any responses by October 9 on behalf of the Commission. Sharp recommended to the Committee that based on his review two separate plans should be developed: one for moving goods and the second for moving people as each of these plans would have very significant differences in developing priorities. For instance, Sharp explained the movement of goods would focus on the development of multi-modal freight shipment through the development of intermodal facilities that accommodate all applicable modes of shipping (rail, truck, aviation, and barge). Where as the movement of people would also focus on multi-modal planning to develop integration of transit, park and ride, regional corridors, bikeways and walkways, and other viable means of transportation. The Committee recommended that Sharp provide this concept to the other members when he distributed the map for a final review.

2. *VDoT Access Management Regulations:*

Sharp informed the Committee that he had identified in the Staff Report that was included in the packet of information; two major changes based off of the draft review. Sharp said that final comments were due on October 14th and urged comments be submitted quickly.

3. *Rails with Trail Resolution:*

Gray moved to table the resolution to the next meeting so that committee members would have sufficient time to provide feedback. The motioned carried.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Sandy

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



NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2009 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Steve Sandy, Montgomery County; Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg; Erik Olsen, Blacksburg Transit; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Fritz Streff, New River Community College; Kevin Byrd, NRVPDC; Tammy Trimble, VTTI; Dan Brugh, BCM-MPO; Ann Angart, NRCA; Jim Hurt, City of Radford; Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit; Debbie Swetnam, Blacksburg Transit

CALL TO ORDER.....Chair Sandy
The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES.....Chair 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 Committee member concerns

NEW BUSINESS Open Floor

1. Radford Transit Study Plan Update:

Hurt informed the Committee that progress of this study had been progressing along nicely. Recently the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) had shared a presentation with the City Council regarding the different types of funding available, sample draft routes, and the abundance of positive impacts a transit system brings to a community. Hurt said that it was the intent of the committee to work with the consultant and DRPT to complete the study and present a draft of a potential plan to the City Council in December.

2. Blacksburg Transit Expanded Services Update:

Olsen provided the Committee an overview report of the new services that were to be provided to the Town of Christiansburg. Olsen said that there were going to be two new fixed routes as well as a “Go Anywhere” route that can be reserved 24 hrs in advance. The first fixed route is called the “Shopper Express” which runs along Route 460 Business and Peppers Ferry Road looping into the various shopping districts in fifteen (15) minute intervals. The second fixed route is called “The Explorer” that is designed to provide alternative transportation service to the downtown Christiansburg area. This route will connect local citizens to grocery stores, light commercial areas, government centers, the library, the Free Clinic, and

recreational areas in thirty (30) minute intervals. Olsen shared with the Committee that folks can ride fare free through the first of the year while the operational routes were still being finalized. Olsen also had graphics that depicted the appearance of the new buses that had been purchased for the new service. Olsen asked the Committee to do their part in advocating ridership on this new service.

Sandy and Helms inquired about some missing major points of interest along “The Explorer” route. Olsen said that typically two minute diversions were acceptable along each proposed fixed route. Olsen continued that there could still be some shifting in the proposed route if it could be determined an alternative route would be preferred.

3. *Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements:*

Sharp informed the Committee that Montgomery County had recently hosted a workshop and invited several folks to participate in a question/answer session with VDoT. Sharp said that two things popped out to him that he had not noticed before: the Subdivision Street Design Guidance Manual will have an Appendix B1 for projects that would need to comply with the new Street Acceptance Requirements (not grandfathered in under previous law). The second was that Local Governments were going to have to be aware of the impacts a proposed development would have on adjacent properties. A particular area of interest is the ability of the current developer to select the location of a roadway that will have to be connected by the adjacent owner if they should choose to develop. Under the new requirements VDoT will only be reviewing to see if the proposed roadway will meet new criteria.

4. *SYIP 2010 – 2015 Regional Priorities Projects Document:*

Sharp informed the Committee that the Commission had received a notice from VDoT regarding an upcoming Public Hearing soliciting comment on the revised Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) working draft for fiscal year 2010-2015. Sharp explained that a copy of the comments provided were included in the packet of information. Sharp said that each year the Commission provides a list of priority projects and advocates for specific projects of regional and statewide significance.

Clarke and Brugh pointed out the Public Hearing scheduled in Richmond was actually a revision to the current SYIP and not a draft for FY 2011-2016. Sharp apologized for interpreting the notice incorrectly and said that the Committee members should look through the current list carefully and propose recommendations for the next comment period. Sharp said that this was important so that the Commission could advocate for projects that were of regional and local concern.

Sharp asked the Committee if there were projects that they should provide written comment for the revision of the existing plan. The Committee recommended that Sharp prepare a draft document to be reviewed electronically to advocate funding for: the Route 114 Bridge Replacement, Route 61 Bridge Replacement, and the Interstate 81 Bridges of the New River. Sharp said that a draft document would be sent out by the end of the week for comment.

STAFF REPORTS.....PDC Staff

1. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the Bikeway-Walkway Committee had been joined by Piscilla Cygielnik who presented the efforts of the New River Bicycle Association seeking funding to enhance a downtown pedestrian crossing and determine established routes for bicycle traffic. Byrd shared with the Committee that some interesting statistics had been obtained through the counts that were being conducted such as the lack of riders wearing a helmet (74%). Sharp said that the presentation if made available would be posted online for reference.

CTB Rep. Visit Recap: Sharp shared with the Committee that the Salem District Commonwealth Transportation Board Representative (CTB): Mr. Martin was very pleased to have spoken with several applicants seeking Transportation Enhancement Funds. Sharp said that Mr. Martin found the meetings very convenient and recommended the concept be shared with other Commissions as other Board members would be appreciative.

Byrd asked Sharp how many applicants were being compiled in the region. Sharp answered that there were seven (7) applications from the group that met with the CTB Representative that were to be submitted and he had heard of two or three others that also intended to submit.

Sandy asked Sharp how competitive the Transportation Enhancement funds were for our region. Sharp responded that the New River Valley was not only competing with regional projects but also the Salem District as a whole. Sharp continued by saying that each CTB Representative is allocated between \$900,000 and \$1,200,000 each year that needs to be disbursed throughout each district. Sharp continued by stating that there were at-large members for urban and rural areas but typically those funds are rarely seen in our region as opposed to those with larger population.

Clarke reminded the Committee that the Salem district included the Counties of: Giles, Pulaski, Montgomery, Floyd, Carroll, Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Roanoke, Craig, Botetourt, and Bedford.

Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Mapping: Sharp passed around sample draft maps that were to be included in the new Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan. Sharp said that the Commission had been working diligently to provide attractive mapping that highlighted existing facilities as well as depict accurate future planning. Sharp continued by saying that the intent of generating quality mapping was to provide the local governments and organizations a helpful tool when seeking funding assistance or guide planning committee's discussions that would accelerate projects from paper to construction. Sharp said that the new plan will also quantify existing and future lengths providing beginning and ending latitude and longitude coordinates for each alignment. In addition to the existing and future bikeway-walkway-blueway planning maps additional mapping would be prepared that depicted: historical, educational, high growth areas, employment centers, and recreational areas. Sharp concluded that it was his goal to meet with each jurisdictional office to discuss existing and future facilities for their respective areas.

Sharp said that the context of the document would be prepared after local meetings so that it would be inclusive of appropriate planning and expectations of the region.

2. Transportation Staff Report:

RLRP Program Update: Sharp informed the Committee that a detailed schedule had been included in the packet of information. Sharp said that the Consultant had intended on providing VDoT a draft of the proposed recommendations the end of November for a thirty (30) day review. Sharp said that following VDoT’s review the Commission would also have thirty (30) days to review and provide comment.

VTrans 2035 Public Comment: Sharp informed the Committee that he just wanted them to be aware that a draft report had been made available online soliciting public comment and encouraged those interested to participate.

SmartWay Update: Sharp directed the committee to some handouts provided in the packet of information that graphically represented the progress to date of the SmartWay system. Sharp said that they looked much better in color (the reports were in black and white) and he would be posting them online for review. Sharp said that ridership continued to increase despite the recent fall in gas price. Sharp also informed the Committee that the system was going to be receiving larger buses that will assist in accommodating the increased ridership.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

1. 2010 Meeting Schedule-Survey Results-January Elections:

Sharp informed the committee that the 2010 meeting schedule will be discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting on January 19th, 2010. Sharp instructed the Committee that the Commission would be sending out letters to its members asking for/confirming membership for the next year. Sharp said that a compiled list of the survey results were included in the packet of information and asked for those who had not completed the survey to please do so. Sharp said that at the next meeting elections would be held to determine a new Chairperson and Co-Chair. Sharp said that answers to some of the questions would be provided at that meeting.

2. Be aware of these grant opportunity deadlines:

- Transportation Enhancement Application: December 1st 2009
- Safe Routes to School Travel Plan: November 27th, 2009
- Safe Routes to School Application: December 28th, 2009

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:24 p.m.