

NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2010 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Sandy, Vice Chairperson Roy Saville, Jim Hurt, Dan Brugh, Rick Tawney, Barry Helms, Fritz Streff, Erik Olsen, Gary Heinline, Josh Baker, Tammy Trimble, Michael Gray, David Clarke

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron Coake, Dan Campbell, Howard Spencer, Buddy Cast, Karen Drake, Bill Parker, Bill Pedigo, Korene Thompson, Mike Dunn, Ann Angert, Bob Beasley

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. Committee Chair and Vice Chair Elections:

Heinline motioned to reappoint the existing Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Calendar Year 2010. Chairperson Steve Sandy from Montgomery County and Vice Chairperson Roy Saville from Radford University accepted the nomination. Helms seconded the motion which the committee passed unanimously.

2. Radford Transit Study Plan Update:

Sharp informed the Committee that on January 6th the City of Radford hosted a meeting with the consultant and potential stakeholders to discuss the compilation of surveys and review: refined recommended routes, service frequencies, and funding scenarios. Based on the survey feedback obtained from the City and University over eighty eight percent (88%) of folks said they would support a new transit service and sixty five percent (65%) said they would use a system if provided. The Committee is anxiously awaiting a final report from DRPT and the consultant engineering firm that summarizes their findings and proposes recommendations. Next steps are to present the information to City council on Monday January 25th for consideration to apply for FY 2011 funding.

Byrd asked the Committee if a letter of support for regional public transit would be appropriate to send to the City in lue of the upcoming decision. The Committee discussed their support and Helms made a motion recommending that Sharp prepare a draft and send to the Chairperson for his signature on behalf of the Committee. The motion was seconded by Olsen which carried unanimously.

3. *Rural Long-Range Plan Technical Document Phase 1 Review:*

Sharp informed the Committee that he had recently received the first portion of the Technical Document which he had sent out for electronic review and comment. Sharp said that this document was scheduled to be in draft form by the end of February or beginning of March. Sharp said that the document was broken into four chapters: Introduction, Study Approach and Analysis Methods, Transportation Data Analysis, and Transportation Deficiencies and Recommendations. Sharp said that the Consultant Engineering firm had recently received the remainder of traffic information to perform the detailed analysis. Sharp informed the Committee that he was looking for some feedback on the current document by February 5th, 2010.

STAFF REPORTS.....PDC Staff

1. *Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:*

Sharp informed the Committee that the Bikeway-Walkway Committee had been had met earlier in the morning and had also elected a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The new Chairperson was Jamie R. MacLean and the Vice Chairperson is Kim Steika. Major topics of the meeting included local trail project and activity updates, a look at typical easement language for trails, and evaluation of new policy statements to be incorporated into the Regions Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan.

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 February. After VDoT had the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed recommendations each of the PDC's would then have six (6) weeks to review the technical document. Sharp continued by re-acknowledging that a thirty five (35) to forty (40) page document that could be shared with the public would be compiled upon completing the Technical version.

TAC's Important Role in Transportation Planning: Sharp shared with the committee a draft flow chart that could be used to depict the role the Technical Advisory Committee plays in the "bigger picture" of things. The Committee felt that the document was a good draft but could use a couple tweaks that more directly showed the relationships with Department of Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and Department of Aviation. Further more how the PDC integrated with local governments and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Sharp said that he would work on specific areas of the flow chart to improve the areas recommended and continue to accept additional suggestions electronically.

Chairperson Sandy asked Sharp if he could prepare a letter that could be sent to each of the Committee Members that defined the role of TAC. This letter could contain a

revised flow chart that could provide a visual graphic of this role and the importance of their participation. Sharp accepted and said that he would work on preparing a draft for his review.

Sharp also took this time of the meeting to provide feedback of information obtained during the survey that was sent out to each of the Bikeway-Walkway and Technical Advisory Committee Members. Sharp said that for each of the following questions he would offer the following response/observations:

Survey Question 1: Currently the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meets bi-monthly on the third Tuesday of: January, March, May, July, September, and November at 1:30 pm. Is this meeting time and day convenient for you? *Conclusion: Sharp said that according to the feedback provided the current schedule best fit the typical year activities regarding regional programs, funding opportunities, and statewide planning. Sharp received positive feedback that the current bi-monthly schedule and 1:30 pm afternoon timeslot received favorable responses from the majority of members.*

Survey Question 2: Currently the Transportation Advisory Committee meets at the Planning District Commission office in Fairlawn. Is this location convenient? Would you like to see the meeting location changed occasionally to be at different locations throughout the region? *Conclusion: Sharp said that based on the feedback provided the current location met the needs for the largest portion of participation; however a change in location perhaps once a year to visit new project locations or accommodate participants with greater traveling distances would be welcomed.*

Survey Question 3: Would you like to see the Committee meetings host more guest speakers? If so how frequently would you enjoy having someone join the discussion? *Conclusion: Sharp said that most of the members felt speakers should only invited if they were going to discuss new regional initiatives, changes in state, federal law, or professionals in specific fields of interest to the committee as a whole. Sharp said that all speakers would be cleared with the committee chairperson for conformity to regional interests prior to the invitation.*

Survey Question 4: Do you have any recommendations that may improve the Committee participant's experience? *Conclusion: Sharp said that there were a few topics of interest that had been mentioned as potential discussion points for the committee. In addition the Commission would continue to direct its efforts to provide a regional forum for discussing transportation improvements for the region.*

Survey Question 5: Do you have any agenda items or topics of interest that would be appealing to Committee participants? *Conclusion: Sharp said that a couple of ideas were shared and that the Commission would continue to work diligently to communicate topics of major importance and relevance to the region.*

RIDE Solutions Update: Sharp directed the committee to the color printed quarterly report that was provided in the packet of information. Sharp highlighted the report stating that they had added 1 new workplace partner, 4 new businesses were contacted, and 17 new names had been added to the database bringing the grand total to 469.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

1. 2010 Tentative Meeting Schedule:

- March 16th
- July 20th
- November 16th
- May 18th
- September 21st

2. Safe Routes to School:

Sharp shared with the Committee that based off of recent online training and feedback from local applicant’s; now was the time to begin working with schools for the grant opportunity. Sharp informed the Committee that he had provided a link to the Safe Routes to School website that offered a training course to get a program up on the ground and running. Sharp said that the training could be completed in 30-60 minutes a day in one week. Concluding that it was a great way to learn about the program as your schedule would allow and that the PDC would be willing to provide time to assist in pursuing this grant opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy

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

NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2010 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Sandy, Jim Hurt, Dan Brugh, Karen Drake, Barry Helms, Fritz Streff, Erik Olsen, Gary Heinline, Josh Baker, Michael Gray

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairperson Roy Saville, Ron Coake, Dan Campbell, Richard McCoy, Howard Spencer, Buddy Cast, Rick Tawney, Bill Parker, Bill Pedigo, Korene Thompson, Mike Dunn, Tammy Trimble, Ann Angert, David Clarke, Bob Beasley

CALL TO ORDER..... Chair Sandy
The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES Chair Sandy
Motioned by Heinline and Seconded by Olsen, the January meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS Open Floor

1. Sandy inquired about the Planning District Commission Budget, in particular if there were any cuts on the horizon. Byrd responded that the PDC was receiving a cut in state funds of approximately 15%. Sandy asked if the cut would impact the funding for transportation. Byrd said that the Rural Work Program would not be impacted by the reduction in state funding and that it would be consistent with last year.

NEW BUSINESS..... Open Floor

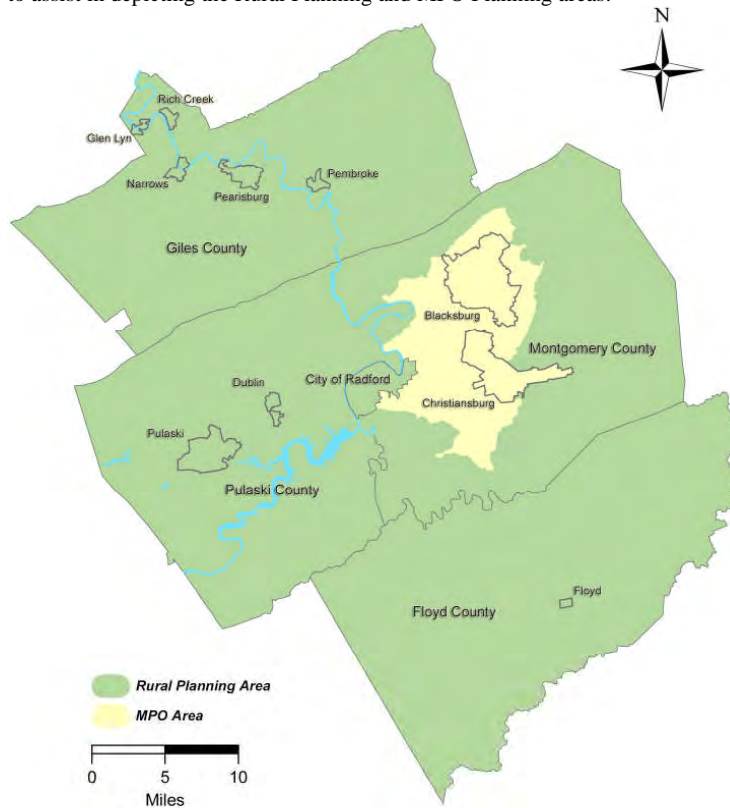
1. Radford Transit Update:

March 3rd the Radford Transit Committee met to discuss next steps in the overall process of implementing a transit system. The final report has been released on the DRPT website for the public to view. The report provides a compilation of regional data, highlights the planning process, and explores potential alternatives along with associated costs for the City and University to consider before moving forward with the implementation of the system.

For more information: http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/activities/Transit_ref_materials.aspx

2. *Fiscal Year 2011 Rural Transportation Work Program:*

Sharp introduced the Work Program Draft to the Committee explaining the general purpose and areas within the NRV that benefit. Sharp provided the following graphic to assist in depicting the Rural Planning and MPO Planning areas:



The budget for the 2011 Rural Transportation Work Program will remain consistent with the previous year's allocation. The annual work program is \$72,500 where as 80% is SPR (State Planning and Research) and the remainder 20% is the local match. Sharp said that a portion of the program would comprise of assistance to VDOT for statewide planning assistance. The other portion would allow for staffing and technical assistance for jurisdictions located in the rural planning area (green area in the above image).

The two special studies included in the draft were: Montgomery County rural transportation corridor study, and a potential partnership with the MPO to evaluate the mobility between Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Fairlawn, and Radford. In addition to these two great projects the PDC would also have some available resources to provide assistance to localities for grant writing and planning assistance pertaining to

improving transportation. Sharp informed the Committee that an official vote on the program would not be required until the next regularly scheduled meeting in May. This would allow some time for additional thought for program ideas and scope revisions.

3. *Rural Long-Range Plan Technical Document Phase 1 Review:*

Sharp informed the Committee that the second portion of the plan would be made available for a preliminary 2-week review for PDC's and VDOT prior to releasing to Technical Committee for formal review. Sharp said that the PDC would be breaking up the document and soliciting feedback on specific portions of the document from appropriate stakeholders. Sharp said that a major portion of the plan was to receive local support/endorsement of the plan to validate it's accuracy at the state level. Sharp said that by breaking up the document it should make the review process easier than siphoning through the entire document. The Committee agreed.

STAFF REPORTS PDC Staff

1. *TAC Membership:*

Sharp informed the Committee that communication had become much better since soliciting for membership and acquiring updated contact information. Sharp also pointed out that the new minutes had a section verifying member attendance or absence for accountability amongst colleagues.

2. *Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:*

Sharp informed the Committee that the Bikeway-Walkway Committee met earlier and hosted special guests from the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission to explore bicycle friendly communities. Sharp said that the presentation may have sparked some interest amongst some of the participants at the meeting and some local communities may have an interest in exploring the official designation.

Sharp informed the Committee that meetings with each jurisdiction in the Region were nearing completion. Sharp said he still needed to meet with Blacksburg, Narrows, Pembroke, Dublin, and Floyd. Sharp provided a graphic that depicted the benefit of the local meetings in updating the PDC's database. Sharp said that the meetings had been very beneficial for him to understand local goals and objectives. Ultimately Sharp expressed that each community measured goals based on their local needs and the PDC, if asked, wanted to help find opportunities to get projects off paper and onto the ground.

3. *Transportation Staff Report:*

VAPDC Winter Conference Highlights:

- Corey Hill, DRPT Chief of Transit and Congestion Management; would like to host a meeting with VAPDC Transportation Committee to develop ways to improve communication and expand relationship between organizations.
- Jim Cheng, Commonwealth's Secretary of Commerce and Trade; PDC's can play a direct role in researching their Communities ability to facilitate industry and manufacturing growth.
- Steve Walz, Director of the Virginia Department of Mines and Mineral Energy; appreciated PDC's assistance on recent ARRA competitive grant funds



NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2010 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Sandy, Ron Coake, Lydeana Martin, Jim Hurt, Dan Brugh, Karen Drake, Barry Helms, Mike Dunn, Debbie Swetnam, David Clarke, Michael Gray, David Kiser

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard McCoy, Howard Spencer, Buddy Cast, Rick Tawney, Bill Parker, Bill Pedigo, Fritz Streff, Gary Heinline, Josh Baker, Tammy Trimble

CALL TO ORDER.....Chair Sandy
The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES.....Chair Sandy
Motioned by Heinline and Seconded by Olsen, the January meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS Open Floor

1. VDOT Consolidations and Operational Changes:

Clarke shared with the committee that nothing major had developed over the last couple months. Predominantly the organization was still shifting roles and responsibilities of various personnel as a result of the consolidations of local offices. Clarke indicated that there may be more to share with the group in the coming months.

2. Rural Long-Range Plan Technical Document Phase 1 Review:

Sharp reviewed with the Committee the recommendations package that was provided by the Consultant. Sharp introduced the different materials provided and covered how they were intended to be used. Sharp asked the Committee to answer the following questions for this initial review: (1) Is this plan heading in a useful direction, (2) What aspects would you like to see improved, (3) Do the recommendations flow concurrently with local ideas and opinions, (4) Where does the plan need to be in order to gain local endorsement? Sharp indicated to the Committee that following this review comments would be provided to the Consultant and incorporated into the plan. The next step for the plan is for the Consultant to present the draft document that is intended for public comment and integration into the statewide plan.

1. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the Bikeway-Walkway Committee met at their regularly scheduled meeting in April hosting special guests from the Blacksburg Corridor Committee. The group was provided an update on Blacksburg’s Bicycle Survey that is evaluating the predominantly used routes within the Town in order to develop a bicycle network and safety improvements schedule.

Sharp said that the July meeting may yield an opportunity for a social meeting with the Bikeway Committee from the Roanoke Valley. Sharp said that the meeting was tentatively scheduled for late July or early August and would be a great opportunity to share progress on local projects and new ideas.

The Committee discussed a variety of local trail project updates that included the Huckleberry development to the North of Blacksburg and South into Christiansburg, Hokie Trails, Montgomery Counties Coal Miners Heritage Park, Downtown Christiansburg, Floyd and Pearisburg revitalizations, and progress of the Draper Mountain Biking Network.

The Regional Bikeway Walkway Blueway Plan was steadily progressing with the primary goal of updating the regional database almost complete. Sharp said that the mapping component was nearing completion and corresponding data tables that would indicate new features such as difficulty, ADA accessibility, Latitude and Longitude for access points, and general slope ratings. Sharp said that the narrative had most of the data updated but needed some fine tuning.

Transportation Enhancement Awards were announced and the NRV proved to benefit quite significantly. Recipients included: The Huckleberry Trail, Floyd Heritage Pathways, Christiansburg Revitalization, Pearisburg Revitalization, and Rich Creek Downtown Revitalization. Sharp reminded the committee of policy changes for FY 13 funding would limit applicants to existing projects only. Gray also reminded the committee that future applications would also be refined to core transportation improvements such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

2. Transportation Staff Report:

VAPDC Transportation Committee meeting with DRPT:

- June 15th the VAPDC hosted a meeting with DRPT in Richmond to discuss forecasted state initiatives and relationship building to improve communication and processes between agencies. Major topics shared with the group included DRPT’s development of stakeholder guidelines to assist in planning and sustaining different public transportation modes. The introduction of Transit Development Plans (TDP) – a six year plan providing existing service assessment and future funding needs (Blacksburg in FY 2011). Also, DRPT recently completed a study that identifies areas in VA that have characteristics that support public transportation.

Upcoming Grant Announcements:

- The Department of Urban Housing and Department of Transportation are

combining planning grant funding dollars to create Community Challenge and TIGER II planning grants. The new national grant is intended to break down silos that generally distribute funding to separate programs by allowing a combination of funding to be utilized for developing sustainable communities. Sharp informed the Committee of an upcoming webinar that would provide some additional guidance on the program and that there may be an excellent opportunity for a regional program.

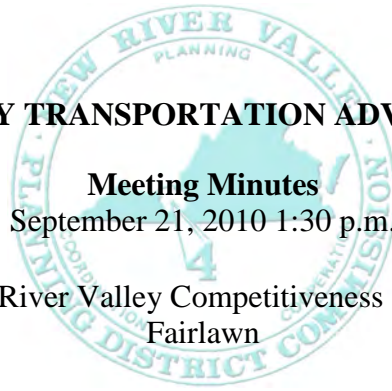
OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

1. 2010 Tentative Meeting Schedule:

- July/August – TBD with RLRP Consultant
- September 21st
- November 16th

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.



NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2010 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Sandy, Dan Brugh, Adam Carpenetti, David Clarke, David Kiser, Erik Olsen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roy Saville, Ron Coake, Dan Campbell, Richard McCoy, James Hurt, Howard Spencer, Buddy Cast, Rick Tawney, Bill Parker, Bill Pedigo, Fritz Streff, Gary Heinline, Josh Baker, Tammy Trimble

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS..... Open Floor

1. TAC Offsite Meeting Participation:

Olsen asked the Committee if conference or web conferencing had been thought of recently in order to increase participation. Olsen also recommended potential meeting location changes or joint meeting opportunities similar to the recent Bikeway Walkway Committee meeting in Elliston. Byrd informed the group that conference calling technology was still not available at the Competitiveness Center but it was in the works.

Sharp also noted that communication was also improving amongst members and many had informed him that they were unable to make it to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS Open Floor

1. Rural Long-Range Plan:

Sharp reviewed the existing comments draft package and updated schedule with the Committee. Levels of concern were brought forth and discussed in an open floor session regarding the level and timing of local endorsement for the plan. Sharp was asked to find out more information regarding the value and future use of the plan as it would be applied to obtain funding for projects.

STAFF REPORTS.....PDC Staff

1. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the Bikeway-Walkway Committee had met earlier that morning and also in August for a joint meeting with the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission. The Committee had been shown the draft Bikeway Walkway Blueway Maps and how they were intended to be used. The committee goal was to receive a draft of the plan prior to the end of the year.

Sharp informed the committee that the Commonwealth Transportation Board Representative would be traveling down to the New River Valley on the 18th of October to meet with interested applicants of the Transportation Enhancement Program. Sharp said that there were currently two meeting times available and solicited the group for potential applicants to follow up with.

The New River and Roanoke Valley joint Bikeway Walkway meeting/social was extremely successful. The meeting was hosted at the Montgomery County Park shelter adjacent to the new fire station in Elliston. Sharp said that he estimated 40 participants from mixed disciplines attended and that the event may become annual based on its success.

2. Rural Work Program Tasks in Progress:

- Montgomery County Route 11/460 Corridor Special Study: Evaluating the Shawsville section of the 11/460 corridor for potential policy and planning guidance that incorporates access management, bicycle/pedestrian accommodations, local land use planning, and hazard mitigation strategies.
- Radford Transit: Technical planning assistance for the preparation of a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the University and City, and a Request for Proposal for a new service operator.
- Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Update: Attendance of public meetings to obtain feedback on local transportation system deficiencies. Inclusion of comments in local and statewide planning efforts.
- Sustainable Communities Grant Writing: Preparation of the Transportation element through work with MPO and local transit provider.

3. Reduction of congestion Through Access Management:

A short video on Access Management applications was shared with the Committee.

4. Transportation Staff Report:

Dates of interests that were announced:

- MPO Public Meeting Wednesday, September 29th from 4-6 pm
- Tools of the Trade Conference in Williamsburg September 22-24
- Governors Transportation Conference in Roanoke, December 8-10

Secretary of Transportation Visit:

- Brugh informed the Committee that the Secretary had visited briefly at the beginning of the month. The Secretary mentioned to the group that he was going to be working on improving communications with the MPO's, PDC's and RPO's across the Commonwealth. Particular areas of concern included the recording of SYIP public meeting input and recommended project listings from each

community. Brugh said that he hoped the Secretary would deliver on some of the issues that were discussed because they would have a positive impact for communicating local needs in the future.

Legislation of Interest:

- Senate Bill 3743 for inclusion in new surface transportation legislation. The Bill proposes the working arrangement between state agencies and rural planning organizations be formalized at the State level and responsibilities increased from consultation to cooperation for recommended projects.

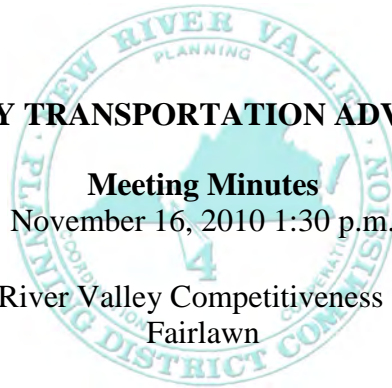
OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

1. 2010 Tentative Meeting Schedule:

- November 16th

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:36 p.m.



NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2010 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Roy Saville, Ronald Coake, James Hurt, Dan Brugh, Adam Carpenetti, Fritz Streff, Erik Olsen, Gary Heinline, Tammy Trimble, Michael Gray, David Clarke

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairperson Steve Sandy, Dan Campbell, Richard McCoy, Howard Spencer, Buddy Cast, Rick Tawney, Bill Parker, Bill Pedigo, Josh Baker

CALL TO ORDER..... Vice Chair Saville
The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES..... Vice Chair Saville
On a motion by E. Olsen and seconded by G. Heinline, the September meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Open Floor
There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS..... Open Floor

1. TAC Offsite Meeting Participation:

Sharp followed up on the September meeting request to look at providing meeting conferencing. Sharp said that the PDC was looking at potential equipment to provide the service in the future.

NEW BUSINESS Open Floor

1. Resolution of Appreciation:

On a motion by G. Heinline and seconded by R. Saville the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to present a Resolution of Appreciation to retiring committee member Ronald Coake. The committee acknowledged the dedication and work of the Committee Representative and former Committee Chairperson, R. Coake and sincerely gives their best wishes in all future endeavors.

STAFF REPORTS.....PDC Staff

1. Regional BWWW Subcommittee Updates:

Sharp informed the Committee that the Bikeway-Walkway Committee had met earlier that morning to discuss the draft Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan. Copies of the draft

document were available for TAC representatives at the meeting. Sharp said that the committee worked for nearly the full allotted hour to refine the objectives of the plan. The work session for the committee was very constructive and will allow the objectives to feature potential solutions to specific challenges in the region.

Sharp said that comments for the draft document would be submitted by December 10th. The mapping and tables portion of the plan would be submitted for review in mid December and a final draft plan would be reviewed at the January 2011 meeting.

Sharp also shared that local project updates were given for the Christiansburg Huckleberry Trail extension and the Virginia Tech Multimodal Facility. The Huckleberry Trail Bridge over Route 114 was being advertised for design and with a successful Transportation Enhancement Application the trail extension into Christiansburg would be completed. The Virginia Tech Multimodal Facility was in the conceptual design phase. Two public meetings were scheduled: December 1st from 5:15 to 6:30 pm at the Blacksburg Police Department. Individuals wishing to participate were encouraged to attend.

2. *Route 61 and Route 114 Bridge Placement Update:*

- Sharp shared with the committee that a stakeholder meeting with representatives from VDOT on Monday, November 15th at the PDC office in Fairlawn. Sharp said that the Route 61 project had been awarded and construction was scheduled to begin in spring 2011. Sharp said that the Route 114 Bridge was scheduled to be bid for construction in December and the award is anticipated for January 2011. Construction for the bridge would begin in the spring of 2011 on the bridge over the New River first, and the bridge over the railroad second. Construction may not occur simultaneously in order to maintain access for a resident located between the structures. Sharp said that the committee discussed the use of an informal boat access near the west structure over the New River.

3. *Rural Work Program Tasks in Progress:*

- Montgomery County Route 11/460 Corridor Special Study: Review for policy and planning recommendations to improve access management, flooding mitigation, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, alternative transportation, and future land use.
- MPO/PDC Regional Public Transportation Organization Model: A study to evaluate long term transit organization structuring as the interest and development of new systems continues to increase. The study will examine four existing models that are active throughout Virginia and the United States. In early December a letter will be mailed out soliciting members for a stakeholder committee to assist in the development of the plan. The study is intended to be completed in early Fall 2011.
- Regional Sustainable Communities Plan: Final contracts and paperwork for HUD is underway. Commitment to the program for transportation from the PDC will be provided in the form of staff time. The element will be added to future Transportation Work Programs as a portion of the local assistance section. The development of working committees for each of the nine program areas is yet to be determined. The TAC may be a good candidate for future participation because it is one of the few formalized regional committees that are currently active.

- Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Update: Attendance of public meetings, preparation of conceptual plans and cost estimates are portions of the technical assistance provided to Floyd through the Work Program. The County is identifying the DSL's or Detailed Study Locations otherwise known as "Hot Spots" that were developed for the Rural Long Range Plan as priority projects. This is intended to develop consistency with local and statewide plans.
- Pulaski Area Transit and Blacksburg Transit TDP's: The PDC met with the DRPT consultant in September to discuss the two plans that are being developed concurrently. The PDC provided previous study information and GIS base mapping information to assist in the development of the plans.
- Radford Transit Technical Assistance: PDC work has been completed. The City and University are working with DRPT to purchase buses, finalize contractual agreements and advertise for a new service operator.

4. *December 16th Secretary of Transportation Roundtable Discussion:*

Five questions were asked for meeting participants to respond to before the meeting to serve as talking points for the meeting. The TAC discussed the questions and provided potential responses to each inquiry. The PDC was instructed to use the information obtained to develop materials for the meeting.

5. *Transportation Staff Report:*

Tools of the Trade Conference in Williamsburg, VA:

- Over 200 participants from across the Nation attended to discuss transportation planning in communities with 200,000 or less.
- Relevant applications/methods that could be utilized in the NRV:
 - Housing + Transportation Index = less than or equal to 45% of total household income
 - Livability is about developing practical solutions
 - Revitalizing Main Street
 - Protecting Natural Resources
 - Providing Choices
 - In rural areas transit services have found success in moving tourists and workers to arts/cultural attractions
 - Charlottesville, VA developed a downtown multimodal transportation hub and transit ridership went up 60%. Over a five year period ridership increase 100% when service was expanded to also be business/community oriented.
- Excellent resource for multimodal planning: Center for Transit Oriented Development: <http://www.cnt.org/tcd/ctod>

Future Passenger Rail in Southwest Virginia:

- A town hall meeting was held in October to discuss extending the passenger rail service south to Roanoke, the New River Valley, North Carolina and Tennessee.
- Service to Roanoke is estimated to cost around \$130 Million in infrastructure. Norfolk Southern has graciously given \$25 Million in awarded Rail Enhancement Funds towards the project.
- The Department of Rail and Public Transportation is conducting a study to determine the feasibility of providing a bus service that may begin in Blacksburg

and tie into the Amtrak passenger rail services in Lynchburg. Operating the bus service would also allow DRPT to analyze demand for the extension of services. DRPT has said that a user will be able to purchase a single one-way ticket that would cover both the bus and train service.

- A potential “Mega Bus” will be making a single stop on route from Knoxville, TN to Washington, DC. Temporary plans show this stop being at the Exit 118 Park and Ride lot located along Interstate 81. This privately owned and operated system will have fluctuating rates ranging anywhere from \$5 to \$35 for a one way trip.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

1. *Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at the Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn. Elections will be held and individuals that are interested in serving as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson should talk with Steve Sandy or Roy Saville.*

ADJOURNMENT.....Chair Sandy

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.