

**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 UpdatesKevin 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 StudyKevin 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 Committees 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.