

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

Meeting Agenda

May 29, 2007 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

Attendance:

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

PDC Staff:

Abigail Convery
Keith Holt
Adam Markwood

MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS

Bikeway Walkway Committee Business

Comments on Trails Conference and Norfolk Southern Session

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

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

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

New River Trail Extension News/Update/Discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS

SYIP/ Enhancement Grant Awards

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

Rural Long Range Transportation Plan Process

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

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