



NEW RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2011 1:30 p.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Erik Olsen, James Hurt, Dan Brugh, Karen Drake, Barry Helms, Fritz Streff, Roy Saville, Debby Freed, Tammy Trimble, Michael Gray, Kevin Byrd

GUESTS PRESENT: Ray Pethtel, I-81 Coalition; Tara Hensley, Blacksburg Transit; Kim Thurlow, NRVPDC; Carol Davis, NRVPDC

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Sandy, Shawn Utt, Lydeana Martin, Richard McCoy, Howard Spencer, Buddy Cast, Rick Tawney, Bill Parker, Bill Pedigo, Gary Heinline, Josh Baker, David Clarke

CALL TO ORDER..... Vice Chair Olsen
The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES..... Vice Chair Olsen
On a motion by Helms and second by Hurt; the March 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. Transportation Challenges in Southwest Virginia:

Special guest Ray Pethtel shared some of his previous experiences as VDOT Commissioner and Commonwealth Transportation Board Chairperson. Ray also led a group discussion on developing local transportation priorities. The discussion provided TAC members insights on transportation language – how safety and congestion is interpreted differently at a local and statewide level. Techniques for gaining momentum on projects included: promoting projects through Boards, meeting with legislators, and putting up local match.

Ray also informed the TAC about the I-81 Coalition, future benefits for communities and states located along the corridor, and potential role of PDCs in the future. The Coalition is currently broken into three principal areas: Freight Movement and Infrastructure, Environmental, and Local Governments Committee.

STAFF REPORTS.....PDC Staff

1. *Regional Bikeway-Walkway Subcommittee Update:*

- The Bikeway-Walkway Committee shared local project updates and discussed the remaining elements of the Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan. Additional major items discussed included tentative Enhancement Grant announcements, DCR's Mater Plan for the New River Trail – anticipated to begin in the July/August, and a Greenway tour in Luray Virginia.
- Bike Virginia 2011 currently has about 1500 participants registered for the event. Sharp told the committee to mark their calendars for June 24 – 29.

2. *Transportation Staff Report:*

May 12th-13th Hawksbill Greenway Tour, Luray, Virginia:

- Sponsored by the New River/Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area, and the Virginia Department of Forestry
- Guided tour of the 2 – mile ADA accessible pathway
- Highlighted permeable parking lot designs, Class A trout stream, water fountains for people and animals, integration of non-native species plants for education, integration of park and ride lots, and planning with State Agencies.

May 6th SHAKA Project, Hotel Roanoke:

- Relatively young group (active for 2 years)
- Theme: “Provocative Conversations. Profound Change.”
- Facilitated a discussion on Transportation
- Interested in promoting and educating alternative transportation resources.
- Perspectives from non-transportation field related professionals – outside perspective was beneficial
- More to come as the group continues to evolve...

April 28th Regional Transit Stakeholder Committee Meeting:

- Discussed potential advantages and disadvantages of organizational alternatives.
- Decided that any future organization model would need to include all funding partners.
- Individual stakeholder interviews will be scheduled in the coming weeks – as materials are completed.

April 21st RLRP Meeting with VDOT/Consultant:

- PDC requested the following:
 1. Develop a well defined process for planning – programming.
 2. Make the Public Document more intuitive.
 3. Provide detailed field analysis of deficiencies and more information on proposed recommendations.
 4. Alternative transportation was not addressed with the same resources as highways – need for improvement in subsequent plans.
- VDOT agreed to comply with the following:
 5. Provide detailed field analysis of deficiencies.
 6. Work with the PDC to develop additional information for recommendations.

April 21st Commission Meeting, Selection of Top 3 Regional Priorities:

- Selected the following top three priorities:
 1. Route 114 widening from Route 460 Business to Radford Army Ammunition Plant
 2. I-81 Interchanges
 3. Route 100 Widening between Pulaski and Giles County.

April 5th Sustainable Communities Group Meeting:

- Discussed project timeline
- First 12 months everyone will work as a group – then break into 9 planning groups.
- Website will have areas for each committee to post updates.
- Regional Summit will be held to kick-off project.
- Project Staff hired/introduced to the TAC:
 - Kim Thurlow, Project Coordinator
 - Carol Davis, Community Outreach Facilitator

March 25th DRPT Multimodal and Public Space Design Guidelines:

- Renaissance Consulting Firm leading project
- 2-yr anticipated project duration
- Project Goals:
 - Create a statewide resource
 - Identify integrated design approaches to support multimodal mobility
 - Develop guidelines to help optimize investments
 - Florida and California – only states to provide Transit Oriented Development Guidelines
- In the early stages of developing the plan framework
- Next Meeting is June 15th in Charlottesville

SB 1462:

- Requires the CTB to re-examine three sets of land use regulations:
 - Secondary Street Acceptance
 - Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA)
 - Access Management – family subdivision entrances
- Directs VDOT to review and adopt any appropriate revisions prior to January 1, 2012.
- VDOT will accept comments through May 31, 2011
- A Public Hearing will be held to receive comment on proposed changes.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Committee

1. *Blacksburg Transit Development Plan is nearing completion. Information may be shared in September.*

ADJOURNMENT.....Vice Chair Olsen

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:27 p.m.