



**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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>
- July 20<sup>th</sup>
- November 16<sup>th</sup>
- May 18<sup>th</sup>
- September 21<sup>st</sup>

*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.