

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

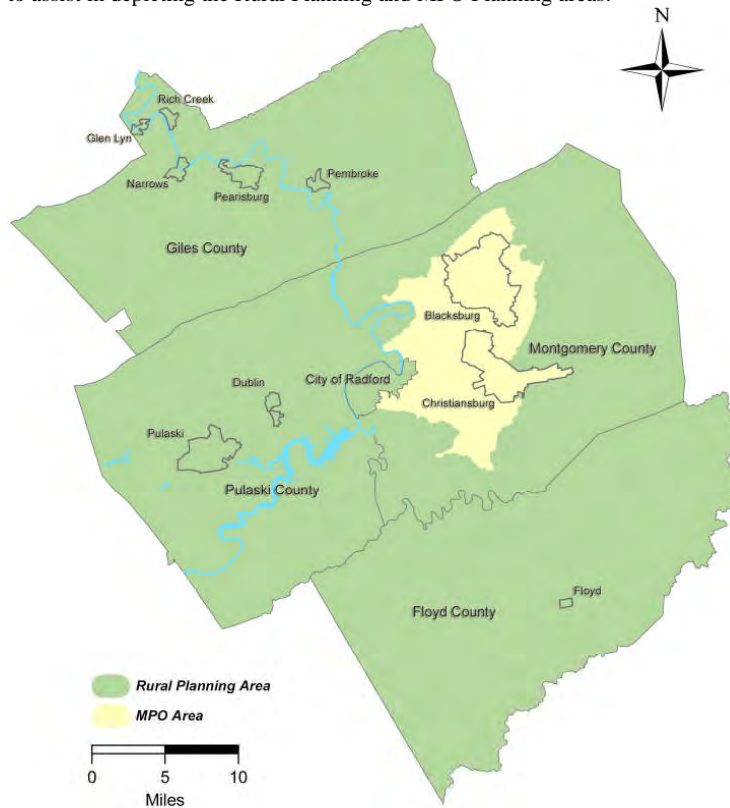
1. Radford Transit Update:

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

