

Minutes of the Rural Technical Committee meeting held on Thursday, January 25, 2007 in the Greenville County Administration Building Planning Department Conference Room.

Members Present: Walter Johnson, VDOT; Mac Neblett, Bill Richardson, VDOT Waverly Residency; Ray Varney, VDOT, Petersburg Residency; Mark Riblett, Ron Svejkovsky, VDOT, Richmond District; Eric Stringfield, Ray Hunt, VDOT, Hampton Roads District; Elroy Bentick, Department of Rail and Public Transportation; Mark Bassett, Christine Greene, Dinwiddie County; Leon Hughes, Prince George County; Brian Thrower, City of Emporia; Rhonda, Mack, Surry County; Lin Pope, Greenville County; Andre Greene, Sussex County; Victor Liu, Joe Vinsh, Mark Bittner; CPDC.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Vinsh. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everybody to introduce themselves.

Overview of Regional Long Range Plan (RLRP)

Mr. Svejkovsky gave reasons and benefits why we should develop a RLRP. He said there is a need to fill the gaps, formalize the planning process in rural areas and small urban areas. Additional reasons for developing a RLRP are:

- Majority of state maintained roads are in rural areas
- Many of these roads have high crash rates
- Rural areas have fewer transportation options
- High through freight volumes
- Rural areas are experiencing increasing land development outside of urban areas
- Continue to face transportation funding shortfalls

Mr. Svejkovsky stated also that RLRPs will provide the following benefits to the rural communities:

- Provide insight on land use impacts on the transportation system – and vice versa
- Provide technical analysis and justification for potential projects, studies, and comprehensive plans
- Provide localities potential zoning or corridor overlay tools
- Help improve connections to transit stations, airports and ports
- Help identify transit, freight, bicycle and pedestrian needs; operational improvements; evacuation needs; future right of way needs; and potential local setback requirements
- Serve as a tool for Resident Administrators and Counties to identify priorities
- Identify primary and secondary roadway recommendations and provide input on the interstate system (county and region-wide)

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Mr. Svejkovsky stated that the development of RLRPs call for four phases. The four phases for this initiative are:

- Phase I – Goals and Data Collection
- Phase II – Analysis and Problem Identification
- Phase III – Public Outreach and Recommendation Development
- Phase IV – Public Endorsement and Regional Adoption

Phase I Schedule

Victor Liu reported that the tasks of Phase I are data collection and goals and objectives (G&O) development. On data collection, Victor Liu had visited most of the local jurisdictions. He indicated that he is reviewing all localities' comprehensive plans for future growth areas, projected population, economic development, and land use information, etc. Mr. Liu thanked the committee members for collecting the information for him.

On G & O development, Mr. Liu said that all comprehensive plans contain G & O statement of transportation. He plans to use those statements and follow state guidelines in developing one for Crater.

RTC Organization

Mr. Leon Hughes of Prince George was nominated and elected as Chairman of RTC. It was also agreed that RTC will meet quarterly on the fourth Friday of the first month of the quarter.

Regarding the next meeting location, Ms. Mack suggested to change to a more central location. She stated that it took her more than an hour travel time from Surry Courthouse to get to the meeting. After some discussion, it was decided that the next RTC meeting would be held in Waverly's Residency Conference Room in Waverly, Virginia. The next meeting date is April 27, 2007.

Public Transit-Human Services

Mr. Vinsh announced that DRPT will be holding nine coordinated planning transportation forums this spring regarding requirements from the 2005 Federal Transit Administration Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA).

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The Forum for Crater PDC has been scheduled for April 4, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The purpose of the Forum is to meet the new federal requirement for a "locally developed public transit-human services coordination plan" which must be developed in cooperation with public, private, non-profit transportation, human service providers and public participation in each locality. Mr. Vinsh encouraged RTC members to attend the Forum.

Other Rural Transportation Issues

Mr. Hughes stated that he welcomed the RLRP planning process. From his recent experience and looking for funding sources, it always helps to have a plan and prioritizing of local transportation needs.

Other rural transportation issues mentioned for discussion were the recently passed 527-Traffic Impact Analysis requirements, Route 17 Corridor Plan in Isle of Wight County, and the Route 13 Access Management Plan.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 27, 2007 in the VDOT Waverly Residency Conference Room.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.