

Minutes of the Rural Technical Committee meeting held on Friday, April 27, 2007 in the Waverly Residency Conference Room, Waverly, Virginia.

Members Present: Brian Thrower, Emporia; Christina Greene, Dinwiddie; Linwood Pope, Greensville; Leon Hughes, Prince George; Rhonda Mack, Surry; Joe Lomax, Franklin Residency, VDOT; Ray Varney, Petersburg Residency, VDOT; Bill Richardson, Mac Nablett, Waverly Residency, VDOT; Ray Hunt, Hampton Roads District, VDOT; Ron Svejksky, Richmond District, VDOT; Victor Liu, Joe Vinsh, Mark Bittner, CPDC.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leon Hughes at 10:05 a.m. and he welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Organizational Issues

Chairman Hughes stated that the Committee should take care of two organizational issues before the discussion of regular business. The first one is the voting representatives. He further explained that the Committee meeting is open to the public and welcomed all interested parties. However, when a decision needs to be made, there has to be a set rule for voting.

Mr. Hughes cited the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) model by designating votes to localities and agencies, not to staff members. He further suggested to appropriate one vote each to the following jurisdictions or agencies: six local jurisdictions (City of Emporia, Counties of Dinwiddie, Greensville, Prince George, Surry and Sussex); three VDOT Residency Offices (Franklin, Petersburg and Waverly), and Crater Planning District Commission. This is a total of ten votes. Mr. Hughes pointed out that it would be better to have an odd number, not ten votes like the one we contemplate now.

After more discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hunt, second by Mr. Vinsh and carried that there are ten votes in the Committee, the required quorum is six, and in case of a tie vote, the Chairman will have a tie breaker vote.

The second issue is the election of vice-chair. Mr. Joe Lomax was nominated and unanimously elected as vice-chairman. Mr. Hunt suggested that Committee officers may be rotated among jurisdictions in the future. Mr. Lomax replied that he is not seeking Chairmanship for next year.

Report on Inventories and Data Collection

Victor Liu reported that he had interviewed the planning staff of all six jurisdictions in January. A copy of the notes taken at the meeting was distributed to the committee members.

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The purpose of those meetings was to collect maps and data of land use and transportation for future transportation needs. Eight areas questions were discussed at each meeting. They were related to high growth area and future activity centers, land use, freight generators, transit services, aviation facilities, six year improvement programs, and local transportation problems. Mr. Liu asked the committee members to review the notes relative to his/her respective jurisdiction. He also indicated that the data collected at the meeting has been used in formulating the rural transportation map.

Mr. Thrower of Emporia commented that the City of Emporia's Comprehensive Plan will not be ready until Spring, 2008.

The definition of High Growth Area (HGA) was questioned. Ron Svejksorsky answered that there is no definition provided in the project guideline. It is up to each locality to define the HGA.

Victor Liu stated that HGA needs to be defined for rural transportation purpose. Mr. Hughes stated that it still presents problems for Prince George because the HGA is normally referring to the urbanized portion of the County. To avoid the confusion, Mr. Hughes suggested using a new term "Rural Growth Area" for RLRP.

Review of Draft Rural Transportation Map

Mr. Bittner displayed the Rural Transportation map and cautioned that all features may not be identified correctly on the map. He asked committee members to examine his/her respective locality for corrections.

Several corrections of the map were conducted.

Review of Draft Goals and Objectives

Victor Liu reported that a copy of draft goals and objectives was sent to all committee members. The goal statements follow VDOT's guidelines. It addresses the following five areas: mobility, safety, environmental quality, economic development, and system management. The objective statement is derived from transportation sections of localities' comprehensive plans. It is an attempt to set a base for discussion and formulating objectives for RLRP. Mr. Hughes concurred that certain objectives as drafted are too general. He suggested that more specific measurements and/or action statements are needed. Mr. Hughes asked the committee if they wanted to work on them now or if they needed more time to review them. Mr. Hunt presented a list of goals,

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objectives, and performance criteria the 2025 State Highway Plan and suggested to use them as a model. Mr. Hughes asked committee members to review both draft and state documents and e-mail suggestions to Victor Liu by May 11, 2007.

Public Involvement Process

Ron Svejksky stated that one of the Phase I work activities is to develop a public involvement process. It informs the citizens about the development of RLRP.

After a long discussion, the following procedures were agreed upon by the Committee:

- (1) At the beginning of the project, the Resident Administrator and local staff will inform the Board and the Council about the RLRP program.
- (2) During the project we will use public media such as the newspaper and web site to inform citizens about the development and progress of the RLRP.
- (3) After the completion of RLRP, the plan will be submitted to Crater PDC for adoption.

Mr. Hughes commented that is a preliminary process. We will revisit the procedures again at the next meeting.

RLRP Phase II Program

A copy of Phase II Scope of Work was handed out to committee members. Victor Liu stated that Phase I Work Program, data collection will be completed by the end of June. We will move into Phase II activities beginning in July to analyze and identify the issues.

No further questions were asked about the RLRP program.

Other Rural Transportation Issues

Mr. Vinsh reported that on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is sponsoring a workshop on the development of a regional coordinated Human Services Mobility (CHSM) Plan which takes into consideration the needs of elderly, low-income and disabled populations. The Plan's

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provisions are designed to ensure the coordination of human service transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs. The Plan will include a summary of currently available human service transportation in the region, identification of service gaps, and proposed ways to meet the transit needs of elderly, low-income, and disabled residents of the region. To develop a usable plan, it is important that residents, social services agencies, transit providers and citizens share their experience and needs. Mr. Vinsh said that he would attend the workshop in Richmond.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2007 in the Waverly Residency Conference Room.

Adjournment

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