

Minutes of the Crater Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program, Rural Technical Committee meeting held on Friday, August 10, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the Waverly Residence Conference Room, Waverly, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Thrower, Linwood Pope, Rhonda Mack, Leon Hughes, Mark Bassett, Ron Svejksky, Walter Johnson, Mac Neblett, Ray Varney, Bill Richardson, Ray Hunt, Victor Liu, Joe Vinsh, Mark Bittner.

### Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mr. Vinsh. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that Chairman Leon Hughes would be late for the meeting. He also asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### Approval of Agenda and April 27, 2007 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Thrower, second by Ms. Mack and carried that the meeting agenda be approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Mack, second by Mr. Thrower and carried that the minutes of the April 27, 2007 meeting be approved.

### Regional Goals and Objectives

Victor Liu reviewed the proposed goals and objectives (G&O) with the Committee. A list of five goals were identified to address each one of the following areas: mobility, safety, economic development, environmental quality, and efficient system management. Victor Liu explained that they support the corresponding objectives and measures. He stated that the objectives and measures will guide the implementation of the rural transportation plan. Mr. Hughes reminded the Committee that the set of goals and objectives were discussed at the last meeting.

Comments made at the last meeting were that the G & O are too general, not action oriented. Ron Svejksky stated that the redraft addressed early concerns and they are more measurable now.

A question was raised regarding the needs of bikeway and pedestrians in the region. There is no bikeway and not much pedestrian data available. Mr. Hunt said that we need to come up with a way to address the needs of bikeway and pedestrian. He stated that wider paved shoulders is one answer.

After further discussion, the proposed goals & objectives were approved.

Public Involvement Process

Victor Liu reviewed the draft public involvement process with the Committee. It was noted that citizens play an essential role in the development of transportation plans by helping identify community goals and objectives, establishing a common vision, identifying transportation problems and potential solutions, and helping decision-makers set priorities.

Mr. Hunt commented that he is not too much on newspapers. He stated that he prefers to deal with civic and community groups. Mr. Vinsh stated that it is hard to work with civic organizations because they have a specific agenda. A Committee member suggested using radio such as public announcements. Victor Liu expressed the limited resources of public announcements, and press releases. The Website would be the major method of communication. There is no budget for paid announcements or individual notices.

A member suggested that we post our meeting times, date and place on the Website. After a long discussion, the following public involvement process was approved by the Committee.

1. At the beginning, Rural Long Range Plan (RLRP) development, the local Rural Technical Committee (RTC) member and Residency Administration will introduce the program to City Council and the Board of Supervisors. The progress of RLRP will be reported on a quarterly basis.
2. The public will be notified on the progress of RLRP by:
  - sending press release to the media (radio, and newspaper, government access TV channels)
  - using Website notices
  - inviting citizens to view the technical or policy information
3. Before the Plan adoption, public meetings will be held at two locations, and not more than three places.
4. The RLRP is a regional plan and the progress of plan development will be reported to Crater Planning District Commission on a regular basis. The final RLRP will be considered and adopted by the Commission.
5. After the Plan adoption, the local governing bodies will be briefed and asked for their support of RLRP.

### SPS Data Base

Mark Bittner reported that VDOT provided Crater Planning a SPS data base which contains all road segment data of the region. VDOT asked RTC to review the data and make necessary corrections. He distributed a sample page of a road segment. Mr. Hunt commented that he had already worked with the staff of the counties of Greenville, Sussex, and Surry and the City of Emporia. Ron Svejksky commented that the size of data base is very big and he will also work with the rest of the member localities. Mr. Svejksky asked Mark Bittner to send each locality a copy of the disc relevant to its jurisdiction.

### Identify Regional Growth Area

Mark Bittner presented a map of the regional growth area (RGA) for the Crater RLRP to the Committee. The map was developed in Phase I of the RLRP. He commented that if there is any change of RGA it needed to be corrected today before it is submitted to VDOT. The Committee studied the RGA map and made corrections as suggested.

### Identify Growth Corridor

The same procedure of identifying RGA was presented to the Committee for identifying growth corridor. The Committee studied the presented data and made changes as recommended.

### Identifying up to 20 Locations to Conduct Mobility Audit and 20 Locations to Conduct Safety Audit

Mr. Hunt suggested that the major task of Phase II is to identify trouble highway locations for mobility and safety audits. The number of locations to be studied is limited to 20 each for the mobility and safety audit. The evaluation will be conducted by a consultant. The RTC is charged to identify those trouble locations. They can be intersections, a segment of road way or interstate interchanges. Ron Svejksky stated that 20 locations applied to intersection locations. As a counting system, a corridor or a segment of road way counted as two locations, while interstate interchanges are counted as 3 locations.

Questions were also directed to what is the best way to identify those trouble locations. After much discussion, it was agreed that each locality be entitled two safety and two mobility locations for consultant evaluation.

A member suggested that there is a need to develop evaluation criteria to assess trouble locations. Victor Liu replied that he would develop a list of factors and present them to RTC for consideration.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting will be held in the Waverly Residence Conference Room on October 27, 2007.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.