

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 26, 2005**

7:00 P.M.

*2nd Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186*

Members Present: Matthew Smith, Chairman, Laurence Mason, Vice-Chairman, Harry Atherton, David Cubbage, Paul Balderson, William Downey, Garrett Moore, William Nace, Gary Nelson, Sam Poles, Holder Trumbo and Liz Cook

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Lynne and Bill Richards, Marc and Nancy Yahn, Tollie Wyant, Jackie Brown, Rocky Westfall, Cheryl Chumley, Steve Black, Lindsay Walker, Kevin Carter, Janet Finch, Bob Zwick, Virginia Wright, Joan and Erica Hellandsjo, Yolanda Brittle, Cindy Hancock, Scott Filling, Jocelyn Lee Alexander, D. W. Blake, Ralph and Lois Thwaite, Larry Kovalik, Paul Service and Mary Kate Kelly, Amy Goins, Debra Scharlau, Jamie Barry, Bill Howard, and Leslie Van Sant.

Staff Present: Diana Tasker and Fran Williams

1. Election of Officers

With unanimous vote the election of officers was postponed to the next meeting.

2. Approval of December 1, 2004 Committee Meeting Minutes.

On motion made by Holder Trumbo and seconded by Sam Poles it was moved to approve the December 1, 2004 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Speed Limit Reduction on Rokeby Road (Route 623) South of Rectortown Road (Route 710) – Carole Miller

Carole Miller, a resident on this road since 1962 would like the speed limit reduced from 35 MPH to 25 MPH for safety reasons. The road is 3.7 miles long, is unpaved and no wider than 1.5 lanes. Minor accidents have happened on the blind curves. Speed is a problem on this road. Sam Poles agrees that it is windy and ‘washboardy’ with large rocks in the road.

ACTION:

Dave Cubbage, VDOT will start a study on this issue.

4. *Consider Speed and Safety Concerns on Route 17 Between Marshall and Warrenton – Scott Filling*

Matthew Smith acknowledged that there has been some correspondence and some study on this issue since the December 1st Committee meeting.

After lengthy discussion, it was decided that of the three major concerns of truck speed, safety and noise, the most important issue was excessive truck speed and the enforcement of speed limits. Consensus showed that truck speed reduction would also have a positive effect on the noise and safety issues.

Long term solution would be to lower speed limit from 55 to 45 MPH.

Short term (possible permanent solution) would be to have the current speed limit enforced.

ACTIONS:

This will be an agenda item for February meeting. Sheriff Fox will be asked to attend or send representative from Sheriff's Office.

Harry Atherton will communicate concerns to Sheriff Fox – who will be asked to relate the information to the State Police.

David Cabbage will run data capture to find the times of excessive speeding and pass the information on to law enforcement officials.

5. *Consider a Request to Pave Washwright Road (Route 734) – Mary Kathryn Kelly*

Ms. Kelly read a statement requesting the paving and widening of this road which is a 1 mile stretch of unpaved road, less than 2 lanes wide, which has deteriorated to the point that it is dangerous to drive. The road is very narrow, has no shoulders, a steep pitch and continues to erode with each rain. Ms. Kelly, on the behalf of 17 petitioners (approx. 80% of the residents owning property on Washwright), also requested speed limit and hidden entrance signs on the road.

ACTIONS:

Gary Nelson moved to put the paving of this road on the 6 year plan. Bill Nace seconded the motion and it was passed with a unanimous vote.

Dave Cabbage will talk to VDOT Maintenance Department and request that they keep an eye on Washwright Road.

6. *Consider a Request for “No Parking” signs along Route 28 near the entrance to Ashley Glen (formerly known as Edgewood East) – John Meadows*

Liz Cook initiated the discussion. Calls have been coming in to the Fauquier County Zoning Office with complaints of people parking their cars in the excess right of way and using the space as a used car lot. Mr. Meadows has also been getting calls about this and would like us to post NO PARKING signs.

ACTION:

Harry Atherton moved to recommend that the Board of Supervisors request NO PARKING signs be posted by VDOT on the property. Sam Poles seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

7. *Discuss Access for the Marshall Pool Site – Ron Mabry*

Ron Mabry brought to the Committee’s attention a potential problem with road access to the Marshall Pool Site if temporary road access is not granted by VDOT through Melody Lane. This was one of the review comments from VDOT.

Mr. Mabry’s purpose in bringing this issue to the attention of the Transportation Committee was to get a consensus on what should be done should this be a problem. This is a county project and the county is paying the bill for it. There are county engineers and staff on the meter, and the county is submitting the site plan. Mr. Mabry indicated that does not want to have our design engineers burning up taxpayers’ dollars if they don’t have a consensus on what they are doing.

ACTIONS:

Liz Cook indicated that they would likely continue to hear comments regarding access and road issues during the review process.

Dave Cabbage will continue to work on this from the VDOT end.

8. *Continue Discussion on Membership in the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)*

Harry Atherton stated that there was a presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board was collectively quite positive in its interest in joining and plan to discuss it further along with other transportation issues during the retreat on April 7th at Vint Hill. The Chairman of the Transportation Committee will be invited to the retreat.

ACTION:

PRTC will remain on the table.

9. *Discuss the Revenue Sharing Program*

Liz Cook stated that due to funding and staffing issues we will not be able to apply this year by the March 1, 2005 deadline.

The general concern was that this is found money that will go to another county if we do not apply this year.

Dave Cabbage cautions that we have to find the projects and identify the purpose and needs. The money needs to be committed to a specific project up front.

ACTIONS:

Gary Nelson moved that the county try to make Revenue Sharing Application for this year. Harry Atherton seconded the motion. It passed with a unanimous vote.

Liz Cook will visit with Rick Carr about finding someone to write the grant application by the March 1, 2005 deadline.

10. *Discuss Four-Way Stop Signage for the Intersection of Opal Road (Route 687) and Lees Mill Road (Route 651) – Deana Travis*

David Cabbage: VDOT is aware of this intersection, and the following actions have been or are in the process of being taken:

- VDOT held a meeting with Chester Stribling, State Police and the Sheriff's Department. VDOT will do a study on peak traffic times for selective police enforcement.
- VDOT is in the process of evaluating a four-way stop and would like more time to complete the study.
- VDOT has investigated the site where the accident happened and have identified immediate, short-term and long-term solutions.
 - Immediate Solutions: Removal of fixed objects such as power pole that were obstructing sight, pavement message in road, placard noting 550 feet from the STOP sign.
 - Short Term Solutions: Potential for a four-way stop if warranted, increasing the visibility of signs, locating place for speed trailer for driver awareness.
 - Long Term Solutions: Building turn lanes if warranted.

ACTION:

VDOT requested and was granted more time to complete study.

11. *Discuss Transportation Meeting With Prince William County Representatives*

Bill Downey and Harry Atherton attended a very positive ‘information sharing’ meeting with Prince William County Representatives. Prince William is looking for commitment from Fauquier regarding US 29 and improvements to Route 28.

Prince William appears to want to bypass Gainesville, realign US 29 via the “Buckland Bypass” and construct the bypass thru Fauquier with no commitments to limited access. Fauquier is not interested in discussing the issue any further if there is a possibility of access to this spur.

Prince William has acknowledged that this is a regional issue, not just an issue caused by Fauquier County.

ACTION:

Conversations between both counties are planned to continue.

12. *Other Issues*

Chuck Medvitz spoke about the CFFC hosting another transportation forum February 16th.

The Committee gave a special thank you to Garrett Moore for his service to the community.

13. *Adjournment*

There being no other issues, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.