

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 30, 2016**

5:00 P.M.

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

Members Present: Chairman, Jim Stone, Vice Chair, Matthew Sheedy, Peter S. Eltringham, Chris Butler, Dave Newman, Rick Gerhardt, Mark Nesbit, Patrick Mauney

Members Absent: Adrienne Garreau

Guests Present: Greg Banks, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ben Davison, Virginia Department of Transportation
Sergeant Steve Lewis, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
Lieutenant Andrew Marshall, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
Captain Lowell Neville, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

Staff Present: Marie Pham, Andrew Hopewell, and Maureen Williamson

1. Approval of February 25, 2016 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On a motion made by Mr. Peter Eltringham and seconded by Mr. Matthew Sheedy, it was moved to approve the February 25, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. March 2016 – VDOT Monthly Report

Mr. Mark Nesbit gave a brief overview of the March 2016 monthly report and touched upon the following highlights:

Projects in Development:

Route 622, Whiting Road, RR Crossing

- Mr. Nesbit confirmed that it is the County's intention to apply for funding through House Bill 2 (HB2) to fund the project. Ms. Kimberley Fogle added that it is the intention of Scott District Supervisor, Holder Trumbo, to try to find other ways to get control of the shortfall in the project's budget.
- **Warrenton Interchange**
Mr. Nesbit confirmed that this project did score well in HB2 and is being recommended by the State to be selected for funding by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).
- **Route 28 Improvements from Route 29 to Route 17**
Mr. Nesbit said that the project has been de-scoped to focus on trench widening, road resurfacing, and the addition of centerline rumble strips for safety. Plans for this work are scheduled to take place during the 2017 construction season.

Town of Warrenton

- **Route 17/29/211 – Broadview Avenue**

Mr. Nesbit reminded the Committee that the project went through the HB2 scoring process and is not being recommended for funding. He said that the Town will seek alternative funds to complete the project.

Construction Activities

- **0742-030-P87, N501, Wheatley School Road**

Mr. Nesbit reminded the Committee that this rural rustic project is construction complete, however, due to hurricane rain/wind forecasted in late September early October coupled with low temperatures, VDOT chose to postpone surface treatment until the spring 2016. He said that hard surfacing is scheduled for late April.

- **Surface Treatment Schedule ST7B-967-F16, P401**

Mr. Nesbit noted that VDOT plans to surface treat various rural secondary roads this summer. Should Committee members want a list of roads scheduled for surface treatment, he offered to provide a copy.

Traffic Engineering Studies

- **Route 738 – Speed Study**

VDOT received a request to conduct a speed study on Wilson Road (Route 738) to lower the speed limit to 45 miles per hour through to Crest Hill Road (Route 647). He reported that the speed study is under review.

- **Route 28 at Routes 603 & 616 – Traffic Signal Analysis**

Mr. Nesbit reported meeting with Lee District Supervisor Rick Gerhardt to discuss results of the traffic signal analysis. He said the analysis showed that traffic volumes at this location do not meet the minimum requirements for the addition of a traffic signal. However, there is potential for widening and the addition of left hand turn lanes, as the intersection on Route 28 did meet the warrants for left turn lanes, which he said would help to alleviate rear end collisions at the intersection. The project does not qualify for VDOT safety funding as the crash history does not support it. VDOT is recommending that if funding becomes available to obtain the necessary right-of-way, left turn lanes should be added. Staff to discuss funding alternatives for the project.

- **Route 613 – Waterloo Bridge**

VDOT reported that they cannot fund the rehabilitation with state funds given that any work done with state funds must remove the structural deficient rating of the bridge and this rehabilitation would not. Mr. Nesbit said that alternative funding sources will need to be identified.

- **Route 607 – Shenandoah Path - Bridge Deck Replacement**

Mr. Nesbit reported that this project is completed.

3. *New Business*

- Rogues Road (Route 602)

Scott District Supervisor Holder Trumbo addressed the Committee by saying the County and VDOT have studied the reconstruction of Rogues Road (Route 602) from Dumfries Road (Route 605) to the Prince William County Line. He said that projects in the Six-Year Plans must be fully funded by January 2018. Due to the total project cost, VDOT has proposed the County reconstruct Rogues Road (Route 602) in segments. To date, the project has accrued approximately \$3.25 million and is estimated to cost a total of approximately \$9.4 million. Supervisor Trumbo said the one-mile segment between Edington Drive (Route 1653) and Finch Lane (Private) is the busiest section and he proposed that this segment be reconstructed first.

4. *Old Business*

Ms. Pham discussed each of the priorities that are currently within the FY 2017-2022 Secondary Roads Six-Year Plan (SSYP).

- **FY 2017-2022 Secondary Roads Six-Year Plan (SSYP)**

- Priority #5, Wheatley School Road (Route 742) – is currently the highest priority for unpaved roads. Scheduled for completion 2016.
- Priority #6, Burwell Road (Route 604) – scheduled for completion 2016.
- Priority #7, Tall Cedars Road (Route 788) – public outreach completed October 2015. Staff received support from residents for hard surfacing.
- Priority #8, Fox Groves Road (659) – public outreach completed October 2015. Staff received support from residents for hard surfacing.
- Priority #9, Shenandoah Path (Route 607) – staff to conduct community outreach on upper, northern section of the road. Mr. Arrington's opposition is on lower, southern portion of the road.
- Priority #10, Springs Mill Road (Route 823) – staff to measure road to determine feasibility as a rural rustic road.
- Priority #11, Dulins Ford Road (Route 798) – VDOT reports that the road is narrow and will need three-four feet to widen the road for rural rustic treatment. Staff to conduct public outreach to determine resident interest.
- Priority #12, Old Culpeper Road (Route 800) – staff to measure road to determine feasibility as a rural rustic road.

Ms. Pham said that based on discussion by the Committee at its February 25, 2016 meeting, staff has prepared two separate resolutions for the Committee's consideration. She explained that the first resolution removes Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) from the SSYP. She further explained that the alternate resolution keeps Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) on the SSYP and at the bottom of the list.

Mr. Sheedy noted that he spoke to Marshall District Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel about Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) and she is in agreement with the will of the Committee to remove it from the SSYP. She is committed to removing Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) with the presumption that if residents bought into the road as a gravel road it should remain a gravel road unless there is a consensus of the residents and/or a compelling safety issue.

Ms. Pham reported that County Administrator, Paul McCulla, has requested that the Committee and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) add the rehabilitation of the Waterloo Bridge on Route 613 to the SSYP. She said that the addition will be Priority # 13. She also said that Mr. McCulla understands that projects in the SSYP must be fully funded even though it is listed as a priority. Without full funding, the project will not get included in VDOT's SSYP. However, it is a step the County wanted to take to demonstrate the importance the rehabilitation of the bridge is to the County.

Lee District Supervisor Chris Butler proposed that Fox Groves Road (Route 659) receive a higher priority in the SSYP list as the only access to the event center is from Fauquier County's Fox Groves Road (Route 659) which intersects with Freeman's Ford Road (Route 651) in Remington. Supervisor Butler stated that hard surfacing the road will keep the dust down for residents along the road due to the increased traffic as the facility is expected to generate approximately seventy vehicles per week for events such as weddings. The Committee agreed to move Fox Groves Road (Route 659) to Priority #7 thereby moving current Priority #7, Tall Cedars Road (Route 788), to Priority #8.

ACTION: On a motion made by Mr. Eltringham and seconded by Supervisor Butler, it was moved to approve the resolution which included the removal of Tapps Ford Road (Route 645), the addition of Priority #13, Jefferson Road (Route 613), and the shifting of Fox Groves Road (Route 659) to Priority #7 and Tall Cedars Road (Route 788), to Priority #8. The motion carried unanimously.

- **FY 2017-2022 Interstate and Primary Roads Six-Year-Plan Priorities**
Interstate Highway Six-Year Improvement Plan

Ms. Pham said that based on discussion by the Committee at its February 25, 2016 meeting, Committee discussed that no changes would be made to the plan. Ms. Pham opened the discussion asking if recommendations for changes, additions, or rearrangement of priorities are being considered.

Mr. Nesbit commented on current Priority #2, Interstate 66 – Extension of the Acceleration Lane, and said that after review of the project, it was determined that the crash history does not support VDOT funding. Mr. Dave Newman asked if the project included roundabouts for the trucks to get off at the interchange and onto Interstate 66. Community Development Director, Kimberley Fogle, answered by saying that this project was developed as part of the Marshall Service District Plan in order to help trucks to move in and out of the industrial area located onto Interstate 66. She said that two roundabouts for the interchange are planned. She said the other issue involves the turn lane for northbound Route 17 to go onto westbound Interstate 66 does not have the capacity and there are significant backups particularly in the summertime. She confirmed that this concept is still in the Marshall Service District Plan.

ACTION: On a motion made by Chairman Jim Stone and seconded by Supervisor Butler, it was moved to approve the resolution recommending two projects for inclusion in the Interstate Highway Six-Year Improvement Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Primary Roads Six-Year Improvement Program

Ms. Pham presented a red-lined version of the draft resolution recommending projects for inclusion in the primary roads six-year improvement program. The red-lined version was presented to show the additions/deletions to the project descriptions dependent upon the status of the project.

Priority #1 – Route 15/29 and Route 215

Ms. Pham stated that the first two bullet points in the project’s description did not specifically address the safety and operations concerns of the intersection. Therefore, she recommended adding a third bullet point to address the safety and operational improvements at the intersection of Route 15/29 and Route 215. Mr. Eltringham asked that the order of the bullet points be changed so that the bullet point addressing safety and operational concerns at the intersection is placed first. Ms. Pham said that this project should remain high on the list as HB2 or HSIP funding will be sought in the future.

Mr. Eltringham strongly feels that the northbound sight line and the dip at Route 215 needs to be corrected within the right-of-way. Mr. Nesbit said that there are steps that can be taken to mitigate the sight line issues and VDOT will present alternatives to the 29 Stakeholders Committee.

Priority #3 – 15/29/East Shirley Avenue (Near Lord Fairfax Road)

As the interchange has been studied twice previously, Ms. Pham recommends replacing the project’s current bullet point with one that reads: Replace the existing signal with a grade-separated interchange at the intersection of Route 15/17/29 and Business Route 15/17/29.

Priority #5 – Route 28

As was discussed at the February 25, 2016 Committee meeting, Ms. Pham said that HB2 funding may be sought for this project as staff is considering making improvements at Route 28 from Route 17 to Station Drive (Route 853) to help improve the throughput in this area.

Therefore two bullet points were added including:

- Improve throughput on Route 28 from Route 17 east to Station Drive (Route 853).
- Improve safety and visibility at the intersection of Route 28 and Bristersburg Road (Route 616) / Bastable Mill Road (Route 603).

Priority #8 – Route 17 through Bealeton

The Opal interchange has been studied by VDOT traffic engineering on multiple occasions, additional signage has been added, and the timing of the signal has been adjusted. Therefore, Ms. Pham suggested that the first bullet point for this project has been exhausted. At Mr. Eltringham’s request, Ms. Pham added additional language to the second bullet point, which now reads:

- Include bicycle and pedestrian improvements enabling safe movement across Route 17 in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Pham furthered the discussion by asking if members have recommendations for changes, additions, or rearrangement of priorities.

Mr. Stone noted receiving a request from a resident who lives along Midland Road (Route 610) to look into the status of a narrow one-lane bridge located near the Woodrow Patton Farm three or four miles south of the airport. He also described the bridge as being near the Elk Run Convenience store at 4373 Midland Road. Mr. Nesbit said that he would research the bridge and get back to Mr. Stone at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION: On a motion made by Mr. Eltringham and seconded by Supervisor Butler, it was moved to approve the resolution recommending projects for inclusion in the Primary Roads Six-Year Improvement Program. The motion carried unanimously.

- Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan – Thoroughfare Plan

Ms. Pham said that for the past year, the Committee has been working on updating the Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. She continued that to date, the Committee has revised the Goals, Objectives, and Actions, and reviewed the early draft of the 2010 and 2040 levels of service as well as safety data to be incorporated in the thoroughfare plan. Ms. Pham presented a revised list of road projects assembled from existing plans, including the Six-Year Plans and the Comprehensive Plan, congestion data, and safety/crash data. Ms. Pham asked members for their input as to whether they see projects missing or projects needing modification in the thoroughfare plan.

Mr. Eltringham said that within the service district plans, specifically New Baltimore and Opal, there are road segments that had been identified for transportation in order to facilitate development within the service districts in accordance with our Comprehensive Plan and goals. Mr. Eltringham said that these roads should be in the thoroughfare plan. He also said that the service district communities had indicated what they would like to see over the next twenty-to-thirty years and it is important for the thoroughfare plan to be harmonized with the service district plans. He said it is important to have safety data and traffic throughput, but it is also important to know what we want the Comprehensive Plan to do in order to facilitate development.

Mr. Hopewell said he plans to keep the Committee's focus more on the technical aspects of the plan which included looking at specific road segments and intersections. Ms. Pham said that the next step for the thoroughfare plan is for the Planning Commission to review the document in a work session in May and then it will move on to VDOT for review.

Ms. Pham said that staff is seeking Committee input on any road projects missing from the districts or the county as a whole or any listed projects that may need to be modified. She said she would accept comments, suggestions, additions or modifications from the Committee for the next three-to-four weeks.

8. Staff Updates

House Bill 2 Update

Ms. Pham said that at the March 15, 2016 CTB workshop, a second possible funding scenario was presented for the HB2 process that eliminates Step 3, the step that recommends funding for the Warrenton Interchange. She noted that this second scenario was developed at the request of CTB members during the February 16, 2016 workshop. Although the CTB was supposed to vote on a funding scenario to move forward with at its March 16, 2016 action meeting, this was delayed until April following discussion on the two scenarios. Ms. Pham presented a summary of the two funding scenarios. She said that one concern that was discussed was that Scenario 1 (with Step 3) only leaves \$33.4 million of unutilized funds whereas Scenario 2 (without Step 3) would leave \$119.4 million in unutilized funds. She noted that if Scenario 2 is selected, the Culpeper District would be the only district in the Commonwealth that would not receive statewide high priority project funds. She said that in addition, Scenario 1 funds five more projects than Scenario 2.

She mentioned that currently, CTB members appear to be fairly split on which funding scenario to move forward with, though there may be slightly more support for Scenario 1. The CTB will hold their Six-Year Improvement Plan public hearings on April 12, 2016 and will welcome public comment on the process. Ms. Pham said that staff will update the Committee on the outcome of this as it moves forward in the next month.

Route 29 Stakeholder Study with EIN and VDOT

Ms. Pham said that since December 2015, County staff and VDOT have been working with stakeholders along the Route 29 Corridor in the New Baltimore area and the Institute for Environmental Negotiations (IEN) to identify problems between Old Alexandria Turnpike (Route 693) and the Prince William County line. She described the first meeting, December 7, 2015, as focused on getting a sense of the stakeholders' concerns for this section of the corridor as well as informational needs and scheduling future meeting dates. The second meeting was held January 19, 2016, and focused on land use planning in the New Baltimore area as well as transportation plans in this area and Prince William County, an overview of the cultural and environmental resources in the area, and a cultural and historic overview of the area. The third meeting, February 23, 2016, focused on the viewsheds in this section of the Route 29 corridor as well as traffic engineering overview of the corridor presented by VDOT and traffic data presented by the County's transportation consultant, Bill Wuensch. The next couple of meetings are intended to focus on potential innovative solutions for the corridor with the goal of reaching a consensus on a design alternative by the end of June.

Markham Rest Area

Ms. Pham reported that on Monday, March 7, 2016, County staff and VDOT conducted an informational meeting to consider improvements at the Markham rest area. She estimated that thirty-to-forty residents attended the meeting and expressed strong opposition to the rest area citing the following:

- This area is a conservation area
- There are rest areas in Manassas and Front Royal as well as Riverton Commons
- Crime is associated with truckers stopping at these rest areas

- This would bring additional noise, air pollution, and litter to the area

Ms. Fogle gave an overview of the history of this project citing the *Virginia Truck Parking Study* completed in July 2015 by Kimley Horn that identifies a critical need for a rest area on I-66 near Route 17. The Markham rest area was originally designed to be a rest area similar to the one in Manassas, which serves both truckers and passenger vehicles, but the intent was later changed for use by truckers only.

Mr. Dave Newman reported visiting the local rest areas at approximately 7:00 p.m. as truckers began to stop at the rest areas for their breaks. He said that breaks are the highest at this time. He explained that truck drivers need a legal place to stop to take their required breaks and that the Manassas rest area is often at full capacity.

At the March 7, 2016 informational meeting, residents referred to a rest area at exit 6 off I-66 called Riverton Commons as a possible place for trucks to park. Mr. Newman visited the Riverton Commons rest area and by 7:15 p.m. the lot was completely full. Residents also referred to alternative truck parking at local shopping centers. Mr. Newman said that he visited one such local shopping center to find that it is one such lot which is being engineered to hinder truck parking.

At 7:45 p.m., Mr. Newman reported visiting the Warren County rest area and found it to be neat and clean, with ample trash dumpsters, portable johns, and a dog rest area. He reported that there were eighteen-to-twenty trucks scattered throughout the upper and lower tiers of the facility. He approached a truck driver who was on his break who said if it was not for this facility, he said he would be taking his ten hour break on the shoulder of the road.

Mr. Newman asked VDOT to review the right hand turn lane at Exit 27 off I-66 in Marshall as GPS is misleading truck traffic through to Mountjoy Road (Route 720) which is a dead end road. Mr. Newman said he feels that signage alerting truckers to the dead end road is needed. Mr. Nesbit said he would review the signage in question and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Nesbit reported that steps are in motion to open these rest stops to truck traffic, but VDOT is in a holding pattern now particularly since the public hearing and plans to get back with the County to make sure there is local support for the project.

Mr. Sheedy, who attended the informational meeting, noted that the reason citizens were upset was that they felt they were not notified of the public meeting. He said this speaks to the fact that staff needs to make extra effort to notify property owners who live in the area of the proposed rest stop if another public meeting is planned.

Supervisor Butler suggested holding a second public meeting on location at either the east or west Markham rest stop facilities. Mr. Nesbit said that holding a public meeting on site would be a safety issue as the facilities are not signed for vehicle traffic. Mr. Nesbit noted that VDOT owns the property and is not obligated to hold another public meeting. However, he expressed that VDOT wants to work with the County and receive their backing in the form of a letter of support.

Mr. Sheedy, expressed the need for a second public hearing as he believes the residents did not hear the need for the rest stop. He believes staff needs to show quantifiable analysis for the rest stop and said that if you want to address this successfully, you need to present a very fact based analysis.

Ms. Fogle noted that next steps include talking with members of the BOS to get a sense of how to move forward in of the opening of the rest stop.

9. Citizens' Time

Mr. Lewis Ray of the Cedar Run District spoke to the Committee during Citizens' Time. Mr. Ray said that his seventeen-year-old son was killed on Fauquier County roads and he asked the committee to please keep that in mind while he asked the following questions of the Committee.

- What are the top 100 intersections in the district and where are they located? Mr. Ray feels this list needs to be made public to the citizens of the county.
- Crash history does not support...what is the crash history... how many people have to die before a project is supportable?
- What is the carnage on Route 28? What is the increase from year-to-year? What is the carnage in Fauquier County?
- How many government tags are issued to Fauquier County? Police, fire, government vehicles, schools. How many tags in Fauquier County are government issued tags. Ms. Fogle said that the County's General Services office may have the answer.
- 40% of taxes to fund the interstate system come from truck drivers. His concern and the concern of people in the Midland area, is related to who pays for the damage of local roads done by trucks?

Mr. Ray expressed the same concerns he expressed to the BOS when he spoke during Citizens' Time at its March 10, 2016 meeting. His concern centers on the entrance to the Mintbrook development from Route 17 and Route 28. He said that snowplows knocked down markers during the big snow and they have not yet been repositioned. Supervisor Butler noted having a conversation with the Mintbrook Developers related to the markers not being replaced. Supervisor Butler also said that another issue Mr. Ray spoke about at the BOS meeting was the alignment of Mintbrook coming out of Liberty High School and he reported that Mintbrook has started to discuss property acquisition. Supervisor Butler asked Mr. Nesbit to look into the replacement of the markers.

Mr. Eltringham noted that the word carnage was not used in a flippant manner but used it to emphasize the human cost to the Transportation Committee's decision making and to highlight safety. He provided Mr. Ray with a copy of the Top 100 Intersections and Road Segments in Fauquier County in regard to crash history. Mr. Ray said that he did not come to the Transportation Committee meeting for confrontation. He came to listen about safety in Bealeton.

Ms. Fogle said that the County has been in conversation with Captain Lowell Neville, of the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office about the pictures of Bealeton that Mr. Ray presented to the

BOS. She said that the Sheriff's Office is taking a look at the particular intersection to see if, from their perspective, there are operational improvements that can be done.

9. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 30, 2016.**