

**MINUTES OF  
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
October 28, 2015**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**Members Present:** Peter S. Eltringham, Vice Chairman, Chris Butler, Adrienne Garreau, Matthew Sheedy, Chester Stribling, Patrick Mauney

**Members Absent:** Ed Moore, Mark Nesbit, Tony Tedeschi, Jeffrey Walker

**Guests Present:** Roy Tate, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Lieutenant Ray Acors, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

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

**1. Approval of July 29, 2015, Committee Meeting Minutes**

According to the July 29, 2015 meeting minutes, Ms. Adrienne Garreau noted that Committee members were to receive a proposed scope of work, a rough cost estimate, and schedule related to the Rogues Road (Route 602) project from Route 605 to the Prince William County line. Ms. Marie Pham pointed to a handout and Mr. Roy Tate with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) described the information as two-fold with the first part of the report being an evaluation of the current conditions of the Rogues Road (Route 602) project and the second part being a crash history of the Rogues Road (Route 602) project.

Mr. Peter Eltringham suggested that Committee members review the document and contact Ms. Marie Pham with comments, questions, and suggestions.

Mr. Eltringham requested that an update to the Rogues Road (Route 602) project be added to the January 27, 2016 meeting agenda.

***ACTION: Staff will add an update to the Rogues Road Project (Route 602) to the January 27, 2016 meeting agenda.***

***ACTION: On a motion made by Mr. Chester Stribling and seconded by Ms. Garreau, it was moved to approve the July 29, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.***

**2. Citizen's Time**

*No citizens spoke during Citizens Time.*

**3. November 2015 – VDOT Monthly Report**

Mr. Roy Tate gave a brief overview of the November 2015 monthly report and touched upon the following highlights:

Mr. Tate reported that VDOT has been completing slurry sealing throughout the County and has received comments from citizens regarding the lines not being repainted on roads. He reported that due to recent low temperatures the contractor is behind schedule. He said that on the primary roads, VDOT completes line repainting at night, and the low temperatures, in the 40s, have prevented the repainting.

#### **Projects in Development:**

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

Construction complete, however, due to hurricane rain/wind forecasted in late September early October coupled with and low temperatures, VDOT chose to postpone surface treatment until the spring 2016.

- **Waterloo Bridge**

Mr. Eltringham asked for an update on the status of the Waterloo Bridge. Ms. Julie Bolthouse reported having had a recent conversation with Culpeper County Administrator, Mr. Ernie Hoch, about the possibility of adding the Waterloo Bridge to its six-year plan. Mr. Hoch told Ms. Bolthouse that he would contact Culpeper County Board of Supervisor's Chairman, Mr. Brad Rosenberger, to discuss the next steps for the bridge. Ms. Bolthouse said that as the bridge spans two counties, there is confusion as to which county owns the bridge.

Mr. Tate told the Committee that the last activity on the Waterloo Bridge included a meeting between the two Counties, VDOT, and consultants who created engineering reports. He reported that VDOT is waiting for the two Counties to meet to discuss next steps and follow up with VDOT. To date, Mr. Tate said VDOT has not heard from either County related to the Waterloo Bridge and next steps.

- **Route 661, Schoolhouse Road, Curve Improvement**

Ms. Garreau asked for an update on the status of the Safe Routes to School Program. Mr. Tate reported that VDOT is working with the Safe Routes to School Program and the railroad, but said that it is the railroad that is holding up the right-of-way.

#### **4. *Old Business (17:15)***

##### **FY 2017-2022 Secondary Roads Six-Year Plan**

Ms. Pham reported that on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 County staff and VDOT conducted a joint public meeting with residents along three unpaved roads: Shenandoah Path (Route 607), Tall Cedars Road (Route 788), and Fox Groves Road (Route 659). She said that information was provided to the residents regarding how each road might look if hard surfaced and their input was requested to guide staff and the Transportation Committee in this process.

She said that these are roads identified by VDOT which have a high reported number of incidents and citizen requests for paving.

**Shenandoah Path (Route 607)**

Ms. Pham said that Shenandoah Path (Route 607), according to VDOT, is one of the best candidates for Rural Rustic Roads. She said that the road is in the Cedar Run District with the entire road being approximately 5.8 miles with the unpaved portion being 0.69 mile. She said that there have been issues with school busses on this road in the winter and VDOT has received requests from residents living along this road to have it paved. She reported that after the site visit, staff commented that ditches may need to be moved back and pipe installed.

Ms. Pham reported that along the unpaved section of the road, there are five different property owners. She said that a large property that comprises the majority of the frontage is owned by one family who were represented at the meeting and are opposed to the paving. One property owner who also attended the meeting and has a small property on the frontage, is in favor of paving. Three property owners were not in attendance at the meeting.

Ms. Pham said that resident concerns over the hard surfacing of the road included speeding, increase in traffic, and paved road used as a cut through road.

Mr. Matthew Sheedy asked if VDOT controls the easement necessary to widen the road. Ms. Pham confirmed that VDOT has the 30' prescriptive easement to widen the road.

Ms. Garreau asked if additional community outreach should be done in order to capture input from those that live along the entire road and not just the unpaved portion. Ms. Pham said staff tried to limit input to residents whose properties have frontage on the road.

Mr. Eltringham asked for a current traffic count on the road. Ms. Pham responded that the traffic count in July 2013 was one hundred and forty vehicles per day.

**Tall Cedars Road (Route 788)**

Ms. Pham informed the Committee that Tall Cedars Road (Route 788) is in the Lee District and the entire length of the unpaved, dead end road is 0.24 mile. She noted that the road should work well as a Rural Rustic Road, however it is fairly well lined with trees and understory, which would have to be cut back. She explained that the road is up for consideration because there is a small, state maintained subdivision road, Tall Oak Turn (Route 1731), that comes off of Tall Cedars Road (Route 788). The subdivision road is a dead end road and is paved. The current road pattern routes travelers onto a paved road, back to a gravel road, and then back onto a paved surface.

Ms. Pham told the Committee that sixteen property owners live along Tall Cedars Road (Route 788). Of the sixteen, Ms. Pham reported hearing from five property owners who are in favor of paving. The remaining eleven property owners did not respond to the public meeting notice.

Ms. Pham said that residents in attendance expressed their thoughts to the paving of the road which included: gravel road increases maintenance to personal vehicles, never seems to be enough gravel on the road, and more cost effective for VDOT due to less routine maintenance of the road.

Mr. Eltringham asked for a current traffic count on the road. Ms. Pham responded that the traffic count in June 2013 was one hundred and thirty vehicles per day. She confirmed that VDOT has the 30' prescriptive easement to widen the road.

**Fox Groves Road (Route 659) (28:50)**

Ms. Pham noted that Fox Groves Road (Route 659) is located in the Lee District and is 0.60 mile. She said that of the three roads being considered, this is the least strong candidate for a Rural Rustic Road Program. Staff and VDOT feel this road may benefit from traditional construction, as significant cutting of trees and understory as well as relocation of utility poles must be done. Mr. Tate noted that the second half of the road is followed by a stream and a naturally deep drainage ditch encroaches upon the road.

Ms. Pham noted that there are four different property owners along this road. One property owner who attended the meeting is in favor of hard surfacing. Mr. Stribling confirmed having heard from this resident who is in favor of paving the road.

Mr. Stribling asked if Culpeper County recently held a public hearing on Fox Groves Road (Route 659) regarding an event center and a private drive that crosses into Culpeper County. Staff said they would research and advise the Committee if findings impact the decision regarding the submission of the road to the SSYP.

***ACTON: Staff to research the question as to whether Culpeper County recently held a public hearing on Fox Groves Road (Route 659). Staff to bring findings to next Committee meeting on January 27, 2016.***

Ms. Pham said that when speaking with the residents, staff should make sure they are aware that traditional construction will be more intrusive than Rural Rustic in that trees will have to be removed and utility poles moved.

Ms. Pham noted speaking with Mr. Greg Banks of VDOT who mentioned to her that Tall Cedars Road (Route 788) and Fox Groves Road (Route 659) have been in the SSYP before and removed as each year's funding fluctuated. He told Ms. Pham that if these roads were to come back on the plan, he believes there will be support for paving.

A general discussion was had related to the FY 2017-2022 SSYP. Ms. Pham said that staff can continue to try to get additional consensus from residents along these three roads in order for the Committee to make an informed decision. She pointed to an example like Tall Cedars Road (Route 788) where at least thirty-one percent of the residents heard from want the road paved. She asked the Committee, does this road get placed before Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) where there is a major split between those who are for and against paving the road.

Ms. Pham stressed that the Committee must review the current prioritization of projects listed in the SSYP. She said that projects listed above Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) in the SSYP are funded and ready to be started. She advised that as of next year, Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) will begin to collect funds and within the next couple of years it is feasible the County will have the funding to complete the project. She asked the Committee that given the controversy

with Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) is it worth keeping this road at the top of the SSYP or would the Committee be better off considering smaller roads that there is more certainty on.

(35:34)

Staff noted that additional outreach to residents of Swains Road (Route 739) should be done to ensure they are supportive of traditional construction versus Rural Rustic.

In preparing the draft for spring 2016, the Committee proposed changes to the prioritization for FY 2017-2022 Secondary Roads Six-Year Plan, which included:

- #11 Tall Cedars (Route 788) Rural Rustic Program
- #12 Fox Groves Road (Route 659) Traditional Construction
- #13 Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) Rural Rustic Program
- #14 Swains Road (Route 739) Traditional Construction
- #15 Shenandoah Path (Route 607) Rural Rustic Program

The FY 2017-2022 SSYP will be submitted to VDOT by the end of May 2016. Mr. Eltringham said that the Committee should make a recommendation to the BOS and provide the factual data based on what we know from an engineering perspective, a road construction and VDOT perspective, and from citizen input.

**5. New Business (47:10)**

- Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan – Vision and Thoroughfare Plan  
Mr. Andrew Hopewell asked the Committee to provide input on a draft vision statement for the Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan before it is taken to the Planning Commission work session in December 2015. He noted that the draft vision statement is written based on Ms. Pham’s research as well as what was heard from the Committee in past meetings in terms of an emphasis on safety.

Committee members had a general discussion related to the vision statement and proposed the following version which differed slightly from the version presented:

*To create a countywide multi-modal transportation plan that fosters the movement of people and goods in a safe and efficient manner and effectively promotes economic development while adhering to the County’s land use plans, rural character and historic heritage.*

Mr. Hopewell said that at the July 29, 2015 meeting, the Committee reviewed information related to the Thoroughfare Plan and Level of Service maps for Fauquier County. During that meeting, he said that descriptions of the functional classifications of roads were also provided. In addition to those descriptions, he said staff has now prepared graphics for the typical cross section of each classification. The Functional Classification Design Policies, the Functional Classification Map/Table, and the Cross Sections were reviewed and discussed.

Also at the July 29, 2015 Committee meeting, Mr. Hopewell reminded the Committee that VDOT's Culpeper District Regional Traffic Engineer, Nathan Umberger, gave a presentation related to intersections and road segments in Fauquier County identified as safety concerns and ranked by their fatal injury and potential for safety improvement. He said that staff has combined this information into a single set of maps to identify road segments and intersections that would significantly benefit from improvements.

Mr. Hopewell said that it is staff's goal to come to the next Transportation Committee meeting with a full thoroughfare plan which is essentially going to identify the full extent of the County's wish list of road improvements based on the Comprehensive Plan. He said the thoroughfare plan will be based on what we see in terms of the level of service maps to show what improvements are needed to make sure the roads continue to function. He added that they will also be based on crash data and safety results. Mr. Hopewell asked the Committee for input related to what is missing in the thoroughfare plan.

Mr. Matthew Sheedy asked how staff arrived at the data. In particular, he asked how Route 17 north of Interstate 66 up to Paris from Delaplane is listed as level of service F. Ms. Pham explained that the data is taken from two different models. She confirmed that the County model only covers eight service districts, which largely comprise the central part of the County. She further explained that the County model does not go up to Marshall and it does not cover the southern portion of the County. She said a second model was used which pulled data from Metro Washington Council of Government for 2010 and 2040. She confirmed that the two models use different methodologies. Ms. Pham explained that because we are one of Metro Washington Council of Government outlying counties, we are at the edge of their model. She said once you start to get at the edges with models, the data becomes less reliable and she believes this may be what is happening to our data.

Mr. Sheedy asked staff to visually designate which areas are using which models.

Mr. Eltringham cautioned staff from using data in our central planning documents from models that may be inaccurate in regard to our County. Ms. Pham noted that these are the resources available to staff. Mr. Eltringham continued by saying if the data is not accurate, he cautions against using it. Ms. Pham said that we look at it now from what we know from it and ask if this is worth looking at as a project noting that it is from Metro Washington's model and maybe they are not so accurate in this area and we know better.

- **Belvoir Road**

Mr. Scott Filling requested a postponement of a presentation to discuss issues identified along Belvoir Road. Mr. Filling's request to address the Committee will be fulfilled at a later meeting of the Committee.

## **6. Staff Updates**

### **House Bill 2 Update**

Ms. Pham reported that on September 29, 2015, staff submitted two applications for the House Bill 2 prioritization process: the US Route 15/17/29 Interchange and the expansion of the Warrenton Park and Ride Lot at the intersection of Route 29 and Colonial Road (Route 605).

She said that during the months of October and November 2015, VDOT will screen the submitted applications to determine if they meet a need identified in VTRANS 2040 and are eligible to be scored. She noted that a list of projects will be made public in mid-December 2015.

1:20:00

Ms. Pham said that 1.2 billion is allocated statewide for transportation projects and almost seven billion in projects was submitted to be funded in 2016. She said that three hundred and twenty one applications have been submitted to date and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has the option to submit two additional projects. She noted that the Culpeper District submitted seventeen applications between all nine counties and the city of Charlottesville, totaling \$314 million. She said the Culpeper District will receive \$36 million for the construction district grant program for the next six years. Mr. Eltringham asked for the cost estimate of the US Route 15/17/29 Interchange project and Ms. Pham replied \$43 million. She reminded the Committee that this is the number one priority project. In mid-January 2016 scores for all of the projects will be released and Ms. Pham estimates that in May or June of 2016, the final list of projects will be released.

Mr. Eltringham asked Mr. Patrick Mauney of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, as this process moves forward, is this a communication between the CTB and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and how is this process now going to be influenced. Ms. Pham said that it is a process based on the scores and the projects are scored by the State. The State will review all the scores and ten or twenty percent of the projects will randomly be selected to be scored a second time to ensure consistency as they are scored. Along with the scores, the CTB will receive the project's scorecard. Mr. Eltringham said that it was our vigilance throughout the District with the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission's help that revealed the structural deficiencies that Supervisor Stribling and others were able to get changed. Mr. Eltringham asked how staff will ensure that the CTB is adhering to the change process because every bureaucratic process that has this much money attached to it gets changed at the working level from the policy that originally directed it. He asked Staff how we monitor the process. Mr. Mauney said that revisions to the guidelines for eligible projects were accepted up to a week or so before the applications were due. Because of this, he said that staff had to pay close attention and in the case of both counties that submitted applications, they were able to address those revisions accordingly. Moving forward in regard to the scoring process, he said you continue to do due diligence and pay attention to what the CTB issues. He said that at the CTB's October 2015 meeting, examples of project scorecards were given. What staff should see on the scorecards are the scores for each criteria in each factor and we can do the calculations to ensure that category C criteria was applied. Ms. Pham compliments Ms. Alison De Tuncq on keeping her informed as well.

Mr. Eltringham said that in the past, the Committee has invited members of the CTB to a meeting of this Committee. Ms. Pham noted inviting Ms. De Tuncq to several meetings of this Committee including tonight's meeting, however she was attending the Governor's Transportation Conference. Mr. Eltringham expressed an interest in meeting Ms. De Tuncq prior to the scores being released in May.

Ms. Pham said that in January 2016 we will see all of the scores and be better able to judge where we are within all three hundred twenty one projects submitted. How close are we to the top, how does our score compete with others, and does it look like we should be getting funded, will all be answered.

Mr. Sheedy asked if the scoring criterion is set for the prioritization process. Ms. Pham said that it is set for this process. She also said that spring/summer of 2016 the CTB will open the process up for comment. Ms. Pham believes the CTB will evaluate the process as it moves forward over the next months. Mr. Mauney added that as the scores are issued in January 2016, you may see some push back on weighting of projects and the beginning of conversations on revising the process.

Ms. Pham said that Culpeper has been very optimistic about the Interchange project. She credits VDOT saying they have done everything they could to boost the score of the Interchange project. Ms. Pham also gave credit to Mr. Mauney as he stayed on top of the process making sure staff was aware of any last minute revisions to the process. She said that a week before the applications were due, the CTB revised some of the needs and staff had to revise applications before submitting to ensure that the most current revisions to the guidelines were met.

#### **VDOT Revenue Share Grant Program**

Ms. Pham reported that the County is submitting two Revenue Share Applications at the end of October 2015 for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017. The two applications include additional funding for the Vint Hill Public Street Network Aiken Drive project and the Extension of Salem Avenue in Marshall. She said that the County should be informed of projects receiving funding in June 2016.

#### **Committee Member Terms**

Ms. Pham reported that all Committee member terms expire as of December 31, 2015. She confirmed that the next Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2016. Mr. Paul McCulla, Fauquier County Administrator, is aware and working to have members appointed by the next meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Stribling said that it is his understanding that after elections next week, staff is planning meetings to educate the new Board members and appointments to Boards will be an agenda item.

#### **7. Member Comments**

Mr. Sheedy has been asked by constituents about plans for rail service in the County. Ms. Garreau noted that there is a VRE public meeting for the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Study.

***ACTION: Ms. Pham to email Committee members the information related to the VRE public meeting for the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Study.***

Ms. Pham noted that staff was contacted by the organization who are heading up the VRE study asking for a representative from Fauquier County to attend the November 2015 VRE Technical Advisory Committee meeting. She reported that she will represent Fauquier County at this meeting. Mr. Eltringham asked that an update to this topic be given at the January 2016 meeting.

***ACTION: Ms. Pham to provide an update on the November 2015 VRE Technical Advisory Committee meeting at the January 27, 2016 Committee meeting.***

Ms. Garreau announced that she, Mr. Holder Trumbo, Ms. Kimberley Fogle, Ms. Holly Meade, and Ms. Pham met with the Institute of Environmental Negotiations (IEN) at University of Virginia. She said that the IEN is an organization who are going to facilitate the process of coming up with a plan for the section of Route 29 between Old Alexandria Pike (Route 693) and the County line. It was an informational meeting with the expectation that in January or February 2016 will start rolling out a tight meeting schedule. She said that it is the EIN's sole job to get disparate groups together to come to an agreeable plan.

Mr. Chester Stribling said of his service to the Transportation Committee that it has been a pleasure, an enjoyment, and an educational process on how the County works. He also said that he appreciated all the staff work involved to get the members of the Committee where they need to be.

Mr. Patrick Mauney noted that the Commonwealth Transportation Board's Fall Public Meeting will be held on November 23, 2015 at Germanna Community College in Culpeper. County staff plans on attending this meeting.

Ms. Pham noted that VDOT's [www.511virginia.org](http://www.511virginia.org) website is a one-stop resource for all the information you need to make traveling in Virginia as easy and reliable as possible. She said that 511 provides the user with real-time traffic information anywhere you are, any time you need it. She said that VDOT maintains this website which has an interactive map showing current road conditions. She explained that users can zoom in and out of the state and select the icons to display information about road work, incidents, traffic alerts, etc. and even see current road conditions on live traffic cameras.

Mr. Eltringham noted that eight years ago, when he first joined the Committee, members were looking at twenty year old lists of roads that were not audited, no models, and no comprehensive plan of value that talked about transportation. He expressed it was a meeting to come to to argue with VDOT about stop signs. We immediately changed, he said, to take a larger view and a longer term planning perspective and try to build a place that stakeholders would find it worth their own value to come knowing that no decisions would be made but that resources would be shared and perhaps we could find solutions and provide recommendations to leadership. The capabilities of staff now, the resources county has given staff, and the level of knowledge and importance that we now place on the work we do has risen dramatically and we as a County are now working on important issues.

## 8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 27, 2016.**