

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
July 29, 2015**

7:00 P.M.

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

Members Present: Ed Moore, Chairman, Peter S. Eltringham, Vice Chairman, Chris Butler, Adrienne Garreau, Mark Nesbit, Matthew Sheedy, Chester Stribling, Tony Tedeschi, Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Ben Davison, Roy Tate, Nathan Umberger, and John Winn, Virginia Department of Transportation
Lieutenant Ray Acors, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

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

1. Approval of January 29, 2015, April 22, 2015 and April 27, 2015 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On a motion made by Mr. Ed Moore and seconded by Mr. Chester Stribling, it was moved to approve the January 29, 2015, April 22, 2015 and April 27, 2015 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Citizen's Time

Mr. Carl Pearson asked the Committee for an update on the improvement to Rogues Road (Route 602) from Route 605 to the Prince William County line. Mr. Nesbit explained that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is in the process of finalizing a proposed scope of work for the project. He said that the crash history has been analyzed and existing features of the road have been studied. He noted that the proposed scope of work, a rough cost estimate, and schedule will be available to County staff prior to the next meeting of this Committee.

Ms. Pham noted that the right turn lane was extended for Kettle Run High School at Academic Avenue (Route 9956) and Rogues Road (Route 602). She said that this was done with some of the funding that had accumulated for the Rogues Road (Route 602) project to address a critical safety need that the County and VDOT felt was imperative to address now. The Committee noted that the Rogues Road (Route 602) project is in the Secondary Six-Year-Plan (SSYP).

Ms. Garreau suggested that staff plan community outreach to the residents who live along Rogues Road (Route 602) to provide an update on recent improvements and inform them of upcoming activity pertaining to proposed enhancements.

Mr. Bob Mosier introduced himself as a candidate for Fauquier County Sheriff. He noted wanting to attend the meeting to familiarize himself with transportation issues facing this Committee and the County.

Ms. Julie Bolthouse of Piedmont Environmental Council, asked VDOT for an update on the rehabilitation of the Waterloo Bridge. She informed the Committee of a similar Pratt truss bridge located on Featherbed Lane in Loudoun County that is in jeopardy of not being rehabilitated due to a metalizing procedure that caused cracking. Ms. Bolthouse told Committee members that she is asked monthly by citizens who are interested in an update on the rehabilitation of the Waterloo Bridge.

Mr. Nesbit 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. VDOT is waiting for the two Counties to meet to discuss next steps and follow up with VDOT. To date, Mr. Nesbit said VDOT has not heard from either County related to the Waterloo Bridge and the next steps.

Mr. Scott Filling spoke about safety issues on Belvoir Road (Route 709) and his request to have the speed limit reduced to 35 mph in the 45 mph section of the road between Route 17 and I-66. His comments also included requesting an increase to speeding fines within this section of the road as well as the installation of anti-littering signage. Mr. Filling's concerns will be discussed at the October 28, 2015 meeting of this Committee.

Mr. Mark Nesfeder, Chairman of the Fauquier County Pedestrian Bicycle and Greenway Advisory Committee, spoke about a recently sponsored tour of the Remington area. As part of the tour, he said the group stopped at the railroad crossing on Main Street in Remington. He noted that the cyclists found the railroad crossing to be less than a ninety degree angle and missing the plange lay filler. Mr. Nesfeder told the Committee of an email Ms. Mary Root, Chairman of the Remington Community Partnership, sent to Mr. Nesbit regarding the issues. Mr. Nesbit did not recall receiving the email and Mr. Nesfeder provided him with a copy. Ms. Root's concern asked if the construction of the rail line with the bike facility was done correctly and if not what are the options to increase the safety for cyclists crossing the railroad tracks.

The Committee came to a consensus that the railroad crossing is in the Town of Remington. Mr. Stribling said that he would contact the Town of Remington about these concerns and follow up with the town council.

3. August 2015 – VDOT Monthly Report

Mr. Nesbit gave a brief overview of the August 2015 monthly report and touched upon the following highlights:

Projects in Development:

- **Route 742, Wheatley School Road, Rural Rustic Project**
VDOT will start this project within two weeks.

- **Route 622, Whiting Road, Railroad Crossing**
VDOT is considering doing this project in-house with hired equipment, which would push up the November 2018 AD date.
- **Route 15/17/29 Business Interchange**
Consultant is analyzing different options to build this project. No public hearing date is set. VDOT is looking at ways to address safety, delays, and congestion so that the project will be scored and ranked high on the House Bill 2 (HB2) scoring process. VDOT is considering short and long-term fixes for this interchange.
- **Route 28 Improvements**
VDOT completed a traffic study for the section of Route 29 and Route 17 and it provided data which prompted VDOT to redefine the scope-of-work as the study found that the accident history in this section is not as critical or as high as on other sections of Route 28. Mr. Eltringham said that the Committee needs to ensure that what we are doing on Route 28 is in the interest of safety, but also in the interest of our long-term development ideas with regard to the Bealeton Service District. He continued to say that very early on the Committee asked that the scope of the project be harmonized with the Bealeton Service District Plan. Mr. Nathan Umberger of VDOT said that preliminary engineering is being done with safety funding and the results of the study suggest that VDOT will not be able to justify the construction phase of the project with safety funds. He said that the project could be justified as an HB 2 project.
- **Route 602 – Reconstruction**
VDOT completed a safety report, and is looking to finalize the scope of the project, and develop a cost estimate and a phasing which will be brought to the County. Mr. Moore asked if there are any short-term opportunities that VDOT is pursuing. Mr. Nesbit responded by adding that VDOT is working on the right-turn overlap – to turn right into the school. Mr. Nesbit said that VDOT was able to lengthen the turn lane by two hundred feet which equals approximately eight cars.

Construction Activities:

- **Bridge on Route 688 – Leeds Manor Road (NFO) 0688-030-341, C501**
Project was awarded to a construction company with notice-to-proceed set for August 17, 2015.

Mr. Nesbit mentioned paving on Routes 15/29 northbound within the next few weeks. He said that paving will take place between Opal and Warrenton and noted that the southbound lanes were paved two years ago.

Traffic Engineering Studies:

- **Route 712 (Delaplane Grade Road)**
Speed study conducted with no speed limit changes proposed. Traffic calming measures not supported. Missing and outdated signage replaced.

ACTION: Ms. Pham to distribute Route 712 (Delaplane Grade Road) speed study report to Committee members.

- **Route 709 (Belvoir Road)**

The speed study did not warrant lowering speed limit. No littering signs were discussed. VDOT asked for documentation to support no littering signs. Curve signs recommended and installed.

- **Route 688 (Leeds Manor Road)**

The safety study did not warrant lowering the speed limit. Curve related issues were found and VDOT updated warning signs.

Mr. Moore asked about short-term improvements to Routes 215/29. Mr. Nesbit noted that rumble strips have been repaired. Mr. Nesbit said that VDOT signal guides are being looked at to extend the flashers and to sequence the timing of the lights.

4. Old Business

- **House Bill 2 Update**

Ms. Pham reminded members that at the April 22, 2015 Committee meeting, staff provided an overview of the recently released *Draft HB2 Implementation Policy Guide*. She said that during that meeting, staff identified two primary concerns with the document: 1) that the Rappahannock-Rapidan region was placed in Category B, a low urban classification, as opposed to Category C, a rural classification; and 2) that scores should be normalized by category, not statewide. She continued by saying that on May 11, 2015, VDOT held its public hearing for projects in the 2016-2021 Six-Year-Improvement-Plan (SYIP) as well as any final comments on the Draft HB 2 Implementation Policy Guide. She noted that Supervisor Stribling spoke on behalf of the County at the public hearing.

Ms. Pham reported that on June 17, 2015, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) adopted the final *HB 2 Implementation Policy Guide*. She said that the revised document shows that the Rappahannock-Rapidan region was moved to Category C, as requested. She relayed that it further clarified that the portion of Fauquier County that has been included with the Transportation Planning Board, Metro Washington's MPO, will be included with the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, not with the MPO.

Starting August 1, 2015, she said that staff will begin to work with VDOT to get projects through the HB2 prioritization process. She added that applications are due September 30th and on October 1, 2015 VDOT will begin evaluating submitted applications. She continued by saying that in January 2016, VDOT will take the scored projects to the CTB to determine which projects will be funded.

Ms. Pham noted that there were changes to the weighting system framework and that the County will have the opportunity to continue to provide comments on the weighting system next year. She said that changes were also made to the measures; the most notable change was to accessibility based on localities' feedback. Over the spring, she said the State took thirty-eight projects that have either been recently built or under construction from across

Virginia and ran them through the prioritization process to see how the process would work. She noted that projects were selected from all four categories and the results seem fairly equitable. She also noted that low scoring projects could still receive a high ranking if their cost was low.

Ms. Pham reminded the Committee of the discussion on House Bill 1887 at the April 22, 2015 Transportation Committee meeting. She said that while HB2 really develops the prioritizing process and says it has to be used for projects submitted to the State's six year plan, HB 1887 created three funding programs: 1) State of good repair – these projects are not prioritized – 45% of funding goes to this program; 2) High priority projects – staff submits these to the State and they are competing against other projects in the state for funding using the HB2 prioritization process; and 3) The construction district grant program is designed for some of our smaller projects such as a park and ride lot that would be less expensive. She said these projects only compete with projects in the Culpeper District. She added that the high priority projects and construction district grant program each receive 27.5% of the funding.

Ms. Pham informed the Committee that the CTB is considering a two-year submission process. She said that one of the concerns the CTB has is the tremendous amount of VDOT and staff time expended to submit and score projects. She shared that the Secretary of Transportation is also in favor of this given that two years of funding will allow the state to fund more projects at one time.

5. *New Business*

- Tapps Ford Road (Route 645)

Members of the Committee to Save Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) presented a petition in opposition to the paving of Tapps Ford Road (Route 645). Committee representative, Ms. Deborah Dodge, spoke on behalf of the group saying that they are aware of an earlier petition presented to the Transportation Committee that was in favor of paving the road. She said that the purpose of the petition is to indicate the residents who are adamantly against paving. Ms. Dodge noted that there are forty-two signatures on the petition and the signing of the petition was limited to one signature per household, no renters, and all signatories are landowners on Tapps Ford Road (Route 645). She noted that since the Transportation Committee received the pro-paving petition, seven individuals have changed their stance and have now signed the petition against paving. She said that the majority of the people who are in favor of paving live either on Deerfield Lane or Crest River Lane, which are private streets. The Committee to Save Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) does not feel residents living along these streets should have a vote as they are not directly impacted by the paving.

Ms. Dodge said that their petition cites a VDOT survey which concluded that there would not be a significant increase in traffic if a cut through road from Route 211 to I-66 were paved. Ms. Dodge would like to go on record to challenge the survey as she noted it was compiled using data from a traffic survey that was completed in 2004.

Related to residents' concerns over Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) use as a cut through road, Ms. Pham said that the County hired a consultant, independent of staff, who determined that Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) would not draw additional traffic. Ms. Pham stated the study examined Tapps Ford Road (Route 645), parallel roads, and built environment around the area to determine who was using the road and whether or not it would draw traffic from other nearby areas. The consultant concluded it would take longer for people to divert from roads they were already using to take Tapps Ford Road (Route 645). It was determined that even if it is paved it is not going to be a substantially faster route for cut-through purposes.

With forty-two residents opposed and only fourteen residents in favor of paving, Ms. Dodge feels that in light of the overwhelming numbers, the Committee to Save Tapps Ford Road formally requests that the Transportation Committee take Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) off the Secondary Roads Six-Year Plan.

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

Nathan Umberger, VDOT Area Traffic Engineer for the Culpeper District, gave a two-fold presentation centered on traffic safety and a fatal crash review. The presentation included a review of safety statistics and crash data for VDOT's Culpeper District and for Fauquier County specifically.

Mr. Eltringham asked for the source of the traffic safety and crash data in the presentation. He noted that this is the first time the Committee has seen anything with the current or previous year crash data. Mr. Umberger explained that vehicle crashes involving fatalities are reported quickly. He further explained that whenever there is a significant accident with fatalities within the county, VDOT receives an email from law enforcement detailing the number of vehicles involved, injuries, and number of fatalities. Mr. Umberger says that he now has access to crash data that is two months behind and he reported that he currently has accurate crash data through May 2015.

Mr. Umberger also presented lists of high incident crash locations and road segments within Fauquier County. He told the Committee that the lists identify the top one hundred Target Safety Need intersections and the top one hundred and one Target Safety Need road segments. He referenced that the County specific data is from 2011-2013. Ms. Pham noted that out of the top one-hundred, which included looking at nine counties and the city of Charlottesville, Fauquier County has twenty-five intersections with the most crashes. She also said that analyzing the road segments, Fauquier County has thirty-five in the top one hundred and one.

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

Ms. Pham reminded the Committee that at the January 29, 2015 meeting, members considered three new unpaved roads to potentially add to the SSYP. 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) - pave 1.6 miles of gravel road as a Rural Rustic Road. This is a through road that was in the plan in the past. There have been

issues with school busses on this road in the winter. VDOT has received requests from residents living along this road to have it paved. The existing road is wide enough to make it a good candidate for the Rural Rustic program.

- Tall Cedars Road (Route 788) - pave 0.24 mile of gravel road as a Rural Rustic Road – This is a dead end road that has a paved subdivision road, Tall Oak Turn, extending off it. The road is a little narrow, but it may be feasible to get the minimum desired 16’ paved width. This road may involve some utility relocation as part of this project.
- Fox Groves Road (Route 659) - pave 0.60 mile of a gravel road as a Rural Rustic Road – This is a dead end road that was in the plan in the past. VDOT has received requests from residents living along the road to have it paved. The road is a little narrow, but it may be feasible to get the minimum desired 16’ paved width.

Ms. Pham said the Transportation Committee will again review the SSYP in January 2016, to update the current plan for FY 2017-2022. To prepare for this discussion, Ms. Pham asked the Committee for a motion to move forward with community outreach to these three groups of residents to get a sense of their interest in having the roads paved. Staff will bring findings to the Committee at the October 28, 2015 meeting. Outside of VDOT’s request for the County to consider these roads for paving, Ms. Pham said she has not been contacted by residents living on these roads asking for the roads to be paved.

Mr. Stribling noted that he has received several complaints and numerous letters on Fox Groves Road and Tall Cedars Road.

ACTION: Mr. Eltringham made a motion directing staff to solicit community input on the Rural Rustic paving of Shenandoah Path (Route 607), Tall Cedars Road (Route 788), and Fox Groves Road (Route 659). The motion passed unanimously.

- ***Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan – Functional Classification and Level of Service***

Mr. Andrew Hopewell updated the Committee on the progress to the Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. Based on feedback received at the April 22, 2015 Committee meeting, he said the goals have been updated to incorporate safety as a priority. He noted that staff is continuing to edit the goals for inclusion in the revised chapter. He also noted that staff is developing a Thoroughfare Plan for the existing and proposed transportation network. He said the existing and future levels of service have been mapped, allowing staff to document anticipated future deficiencies in the network and develop a list of transportation projects that will be necessary to address these needs. Continuing, he said the functional classification of roads stems primarily from VDOT’s guiding documents and staff is in the process of revising them to be specific to Fauquier County. Mr. Hopewell noted that Ms. Pham is utilizing computer software to look at the level of service standards on the various road segments. He said that the thoroughfare plan has typically only focused on level of service standards and has not accounted for safety considerations. However, he said, given the recent availability of safety data, staff will be able to better identify intersections and road segments for future improvements in the County.

6. *Staff Updates*

“Watch for Children Signs”

Ms. Pham informed the Committee that in 2012, the General Assembly passed HB 914 amending Section 33.1-210.2 of the Code of Virginia. This section previously allowed the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to request that VDOT install “Watch for Children” signs at certain locations. Section 33.2-251 of the Code of Virginia now requires that the County or Town enter into an agreement with VDOT and fund the fabrication, installation, and maintenance of “Watch for Children” signs. She said that a resolution was developed that will be considered at the August 13, 2015 BOS meeting allowing the Director of Community Development to enter into the agreement with VDOT provided that the citizen(s) requesting the sign(s) first enter into an agreement with the County to pay for the sign(s). Ms. Pham quoted the cost for a 30”x30” sign at \$250.00 and \$275.00 for a 36”x36” sign.

Ms. Garreau asked if Committee members have concerns that this is going to appear that the State and County do not care about the safety of children. Mr. Stribling noted that if it is a real concern for the community requesting the sign, then it makes them take ownership. He said it shows that citizens have a vested interest. Mr. Nesbit noted that Culpeper County is looking into changing their policy on “Watch for Children” signs. Mr. Stribling asked County staff for information and data on what is driving Culpeper County to consider changing their policy.

ACTION: Ms. Pham to send Committee members information and data related to Culpeper County’s decision to change their policy on “Watch for Children” signs.

Route 29 Corridor Study

Ms. Pham noted that the newly adopted New Baltimore Service District Plan recommends that the County, in a coordinated effort with VDOT and the community, evaluate the Route 15/29 corridor and develop a comprehensive approach for access management and intersection improvements. She said the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research (VCTIR) has offered to provide a facilitator from the Institute of Environmental Negotiations (IEN) to assist in this process over the next year. She mentioned that support is requested for the County to partner with VDOT, VCTIR, and IEN to study and develop a plan for the Route 29 corridor between Old Alexandria Turnpike (Route 693) and the Prince William County Line. This item was added to the BOS Consent Agenda on Thursday, July 9th, and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Garreau would like to see a definitive timeline developed including a start and end date.

Burwell Road (Route 604) Resolution

Ms. Pham told the Committee that VDOT contacted County staff requesting a BOS resolution to designate Burwell Road (Route 604) as a Rural Rustic Road candidate so they might begin work when ready this fall. There will be a public hearing in August 2015. Staff has notified residents and notification posters have been posted.

7. *Member Comments*

There were no member comments.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 28, 2015.**