

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

June 25, 2014

7:00 P.M.

2nd Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building

10 Hotel Street

Warrenton, VA 20186

Members Present: Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman, Adrienne Garreau, John Green, Matthew Sheedy, Tony Tedeschi, and Mark Nesbit

Guests Present: Roy Tate, Virginia Department of Transportation
Judy LaMana, Fauquier Trails Coalition

Staff Present: Holly Meade, Marie Scheetz, and Maureen Williamson

1. Approval of May 28, 2014 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On a motion made by John Green and seconded by Tony Tedeschi, it was moved to approve the May 28, 2014 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Opal Interchange (Ongoing)

Mr. Nesbit gave a brief update to ongoing improvements/enhancements to the Opal Interchange.

- Mr. Nesbit noted that the June 2014 traffic counts included the effect of the new signage and pavement markings. The June data saw a 4% reduction in the amount of truck traffic using the southbound left turn lane. In addition, there was a 2% increase in the amount of passenger vehicles using the southbound left turn lane, which was attributed to drivers from out of town who were following outdated GPS directions. Mr. Nesbit suggested repeating the vehicle counts in the fall, after school is back in session, and less tourist traffic is in the area.
- If numbers do not improve, Mr. Nesbit discussed the possible addition or modification of overhead signage to warn drivers of distinct lane usage. The Committee agreed that a “Right Lane” sign is needed. The existing VDOT sign currently reads, “Exit 1 Mile”.

ACTION: The Committee opted to continue to monitor the Opal Interchange project and to have it remain on the agenda for the July 30, 2014 meeting.

3. July 2014 – VDOT – Fauquier County Monthly Reports

Mr. Nesbit touched upon the following items related to the report:

- **Bridge over Sumerduck Run**

The Bridge over Sumerduck Run project is under contract. The pre-construction conference on this project is scheduled for the week of June 30, 2014, at which a notice-to-proceed will be issued. Construction will cause a total closure and detour and it is expected that the project will begin in late summer and last approximately 6-8 months.

ACTION: After the pre-construction meeting, Staff to work with VDOT to obtain additional information on timing of the project, as well as actual detour routes.

- VDOT will be initiating turn lanes and improvements for the Raymond Farm Development (Route 605) across from PB Smith Elementary School.
- The Old Tavern Signage signal study at Route 245/Route 17 is being done to determine if the intersection meets the criteria for a traffic signal.

4. *Old Business*

- ***Main Street (Route 55) in Marshall***

Ms. Scheetz explained that West Main Street in Marshall continues to experience drainage problems due to a lack of storm sewer infrastructure near the intersection of Frost Street. The existing system needs to be extended northeast along Main Street and across the intersection of Frost Street to address the drainage problems. The County has already designed the storm sewer, at its expense, and VDOT has previously supported including this project in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). However, in order for this project to move forward, funding for construction needs to be secured. She quoted that as of May 2014, the project is estimated to cost \$82,500. Ms. Scheetz asked that the Committee recommend that staff pursue funding sources for this project.

The VDOT Revenue Sharing Program is a possible source of construction funding for the West Main Street project. To pursue funding from the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program, the Committee will need to draft a resolution to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) stating its intent. Her timeline reflected the resolution being sent to the August 2014 BOS meeting and, if approval is received, the due date to submit to VDOT is late October 2014.

Ms. Garreau suggested a TEA-21 grant for historic districts. Ms. Scheetz will research TEA-21 grants and bring findings to the July 2014 Meeting.

ACTION: Staff to concurrently pursue other sources of funding and provide details on the TEA-21 Grant Program and the VDOT Revenue Share Program process at the next meeting of this Committee, July 30, 2014.

ACTION: Staff to create a resolution to the BOS making a recommendation from the County to pursue funding of the West Main Street project from the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program. The resolution will be reviewed at the next meeting of this Committee, July 20, 2014.

ACTION: Committee asks that Staff make BOS aware of their impending receipt of a resolution to pursue funding from the VDOT Revenue Share Program for a storm sewer infrastructure project for on Main Street in Marshall.

- ***Hopewell Road/Waterfall Road Through-Truck Traffic Restriction***

In response to the Committee's request for additional information on Prince William County's denial of the through-truck traffic restriction, Ms. Scheetz explained that the alternate truck route submitted with the request suggested that Hopewell Road connected directly into Interstate 66 at exit 31. However, this is not the case and trucks would actually have to travel from Hopewell Road onto Loudoun Avenue (T626), to Main Street (Route 55), and then to Old Tavern Road (Route 245) to access I-66 at exit 31. She stated that this key portion of the route was omitted and as a result, the proposed route was considered to be an unacceptable alternative.

Ms. Scheetz has received a copy of the new resolution which includes the new route coming from the Town of the Plains down to Interstate 66. Prince William County Staff fully expects the resolution to be approved; however, they are waiting for authorization from their County administration to resubmit the resolution. The next step will be to get new resolutions signed.

ACTION: Staff is to provide copies of the new resolution at the next meeting of this Committee, July 30, 2014.

- ***Update on the FY 2016-2021 SYIP Regional Priorities***

Ms. Scheetz noted that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) met Wednesday, June 18, 2014 and approved the Final 2015-2020 SYIP. The final plan for Fauquier County includes a total of nineteen projects.

- Twelve of the projects that were listed in the Draft FY 2015-2020 SYIP were included in the approved plan.
- Two projects were omitted from the draft FY 2015-2020 SYIP, but were part of the final SY 2014-2019 SYIP.
- Five new transportation projects were added.

Ms. Scheetz informed the Committee that the approval of House Bill 2 primarily impacted the proposed interchange at Route 15/17/29 and Route 15/17/29 BUS. She said the FY 2014-2019 SYIP allocated \$16 million in future funding to this project with a balance of \$10 million, the draft FY 2015-2020 SYIP allocated \$8 million in future funding to this project with a balance of \$18 million, and the final FY 2015-2020 SYIP removed all future funding and shows a balance of \$26 million.

Because construction has not yet started for this project, House Bill 2 mandates that funding which was previously allocated to this project is moved to complete other projects

already under construction. This will allow projects near completion to be finished and removed from the Plan before the prioritization process is implemented. Ms. Scheetz said that she fully expects that once it goes through the prioritization process it will likely meet the criteria and funding will return. The CTB is beginning to develop the prioritization process, which is expected to take a year or two to develop and begin. She expects that once this process is underway, funding will return to this project.

Mr. Eltringham relayed that with this one particular project it needs to be clearly communicated to everyone, as it was at the hearing, how strongly the County is behind this project and that significant effort has been made working with VDOT over a number of years and we ask VDOT and State Department of Transportation to ensure we are included at whatever level and at whatever time in any process with regards to the House Bill 2 prioritization in order to participate with openness and a desire to get this project done.

5. *New Business*

- **Fauquier Trails Coalition Presentation**

Ms. Judy Lamana, a representative with Fauquier Trails Coalition (FTC) gave a brief presentation on how this small 501(3c) non-profit organization currently works closely with the Fauquier County Parks & Recreation Department to develop new trails and help connect existing trails in Fauquier County. She noted that FTC feels it would be useful to work closely with this Committee to identify opportunities for new trails and existing trails as well as recommending that VDOT include construction of trails as part of their road projects.

Ms. Lamana said that there is a Fauquier County Connections plan for each service district which illustrates existing trails and trails that are planned and briefly described each of the nine high priority trails. These are trails that FTC believes are the most beneficial future trails for county residents. The Committee and VDOT discussed their relationship to the high priority trails that have connections to future planned VDOT projects.

Mr. Eltringham encouraged Ms. Lamana to get involved in the Service District Planning process and with this Committee by reviewing the monthly agenda found on the County's website. He welcomed her to attend any meeting of this Committee.

Mr. Eltringham also encouraged Ms. Lamana, to engage Ms. Kimberley Fogle, the Director of Community Development in regard to trails in the New Baltimore Service District.

ACTION: Staff is to coordinate with Ms. Lamana related to contacts and websites discussed during the meeting.

- **Rogues Road and Academic Avenue (Kettle Run High School)**

Ms. Scheetz reminded the Committee, that at the May 28th meeting, Supervisor Trumbo reported that the BOS and the School Board Liaison Committee met to discuss the

improvement of traffic flow at the intersection of Rogues Road (Route 602) and Academic Avenue for Kettle Run High School. The two outcomes of the meeting included extending the right turn lane into Kettle Run High School and adjusting the timing of the traffic signal in the morning. VDOT's traffic engineer has discussed this with the regional signal engineer who suggested studying this in August 2014, once school traffic returns, to determine feasible timing solutions. VDOT will schedule a meeting with the school to discuss the proposed solutions.

ACTION: Staff is to place this item as Old Business on the September 2014 meeting agenda.

- **Update on Fauquier County's Membership with the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board**

Ms. Scheetz noted that the Census Bureau identifies two types of urban areas based on population: urban clusters with between 2,500 and 50,000 people and urbanized areas with 50,000 people or more. She noted that the 2010 Census indicated that a portion of Fauquier County, including the Town of Warrenton and part of the New Baltimore Service District, was designated as an urban cluster with approximately 21,000 residents.

Federal law requires that urbanized areas be represented by a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that serves as a regional forum for transportation planning. The MPO for the Washington DC-VA-MD urbanized area is the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The TPB is responsible for preparing the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), which are two federally mandated plans that allocate funding to transportation projects and programs. Transportation projects in the urbanized area must be listed in both the CLRP and TIP in order to receive federal funding. She noted that as we have transportation projects in our urban area they must be listed in both of these documents.

Ms. Scheetz reminded the Committee that in April, the TPB invited Fauquier County to join the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board effective July 1, 2014, as a voting member of the TPB and represent the interests of Fauquier County residents in the regional transportation planning process. The TPB is currently in the process of updating both its CLRP and TIP, which are scheduled for approval in October 2014. As a result, the County will need to work with the TPB to ensure that all projects located in the urban cluster of Fauquier County that are scheduled to received federal funding through the SYIP are now also listed in the CLRP and TIP.

Ms. Scheetz pointed out that the original urban cluster map excluded a small portion of Warrenton. The Town of Warrenton requested the entire town be taken into the urban cluster. Dan Painter of VDOT also requested that the southern area along 15/17/29 be expanded to include the interchange location. He also asked to include Route 29 north to the Prince William County Line. The BOS declined this request, as this area is within the Buckland Mills Battlefield.

ACTION: Staff to ensure that all projects located within the urban cluster and scheduled to receive federal funding through the SYIP are now also listed in the CLRP and TIP.

- **Update on the RRRC RTC June 4th Meeting**

Ms. Scheetz reported the highlights of the RRRC RTC meeting she attended on behalf of the Committee at the June 3, 2014.

- Discussed regional priorities.
- Anticipated impact of Virginia's House Bill 2.
- Possible development of a regional GIS mapping tool.
- Committee members agreed with crash data inconsistency.

ACTION: Mr. Eltringham asked that Staff watch how the RRRC RTC engages the House Bill 2 prioritization process.

6. *Citizens' Time*

No citizens spoke during this time.

7. *Member Comments*

Ms. Garreau invites Committee Members to attend the June 26, 2014, Planning Commission Meeting, 10:30 a.m., to hear a speaker from Journey through Hallowed Ground, give an update specifically on the Living Legacy Project.

ACTION: Staff to add this item to the next meeting agenda of this Committee, July 30, 2014.

Ms. Garreau said that there was a recent meeting in Culpeper on the Waterloo Bridge that was sponsored by Piedmont Environmental Council. She reported that Culpepper County, Fauquier County, and an independent source donated \$2,000 each for an engineering study to determine the cost of bridge rehabilitation as a means of comparison to the VDOT estimate for rehabilitation.

Mr. Eltringham expressed concern that given the delay in funding for the construction of the interchange at Route 15/17/29 may cause VDOT to look at other lower cost solutions for managing the traffic flow in this area. He asked that Staff locate the 29 Access Study that was done between Fauquier County, PEC, and Citizens for Fauquier County, and others that contributed to it because it is source of knowledge to manage the flow on 15/17/29 at Lord Fairfax

ACTION: Staff to electronically distribute 29 Access Study and add this item to the next meeting agenda of this Committee, July 30, 2014.

ACTION: Staff is asked to invite Dan Painter from VDOT to the next meeting of this Committee to discuss the 29 Access Study.

Ms. Scheetz reported that at the June 12, 2014 BOS meeting, a public hearing to consider a revision of Chapter 13.5 of the Fauquier County Code pertaining to noise regulation was initiated for a ninety-day hearing period. Mr. Scott Filling spoke on in support of the noise ordinance. She also reported that the ordinance, as it is currently worded, may not be legally enforceable. The BOS is considering revising current language and rewording of the not legally enforceable language.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 30, 2014.**