

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
September 24, 2014**

7:00 P.M.

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

Members Present: Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman, Ed Moore, Vice-Chairman, Adrienne Garreau, John Green, Matthew Sheedy, Jeffrey Walker, and Mark Nesbit

Guests Present: Ben Davison, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ray Acors, Lieutenant, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

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

Mr. Eltringham introduced Andrew Hopewell, the new Assistant Chief of Planning.

1. Approval of June 25, 2014 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On a motion made by Adrienne Garreau and seconded by John Green, it was moved to approve the June 25, 2014 Committee meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

2. August and September 2014 – VDOT Monthly Report

Mr. Nesbit gave a brief overview of the September 2014 report and discussed new activity to this report including:

- Route 688, Bridge Replacement over Thumb Run is in development.
- Bridge over Sumerduck Road (Route 651) is now under construction.

Ms. Garreau asked for detail regarding lane closures during the Route 17 Bridge Replacement over Southern RR and Route 805 project. Mr. Nesbit confirmed that this project is in the very beginning stages, but will most likely experience the routing of two-way traffic down to one lane. Mr. Nesbit will advise the Committee if a public hearing has been held for this project.

The Committee asked Mr. Nesbit about the Waterloo Bridge (Route 613) restoration vs. replacement study. He noted that Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) has completed an engineering study to determine the cost of bridge rehabilitation as a means of comparison to the VDOT estimate for rehabilitation. VDOT confirmed receiving the engineering study from Fauquier County Administrator, Paul McCulla, and will schedule a meeting with the Counties once the study has been reviewed. Mr. Eltringham asked that Staff contact County Administration to obtain a copy of the PEC engineering study.

Mr. Sheedy inquired about two completed traffic engineering studies: Route 652, Kennedy Road and Route 245, Old Tavern Road.

ACTION: Ms. Scheetz will contact Fauquier County Administration to inquire about obtaining a copy of the engineering study for Waterloo Bridge.

ACTION: VDOT will forward the completed multi-way stop study (Route 652, Kennedy Road) to Ms. Scheetz, who will distribute the study to Committee members.

ACTION: VDOT will forward the completed stop bar warrant study (Route 652, Kennedy Road) to Ms. Scheetz, who will distribute the study to Committee members.

3. Old Business

- **Main Street in Marshall Storm Sewer Improvements**

At the June 25, 2014 meeting, the Committee asked Staff to look into alternate funding sources for this project. Ms. Scheetz noted that the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) replaced TEA-21. Under the new TAP program, underground utilities are no longer eligible for funding.

In addition, staff is waiting for confirmation from VDOT regarding the eligibility of this project for VDOT Revenue Sharing funding. She said that as long as the Committee is addressing a flooding problem, the project should be eligible. Ms. Scheetz cautioned that VDOT does prioritize projects with this project qualifying for the lowest priority for funding. She confirmed the estimated total cost of the project to be \$80,000 with the hope that half would be funded by VDOT Revenue Sharing funding.

- **O'Keefe Road**

Ms. Scheetz shared an estimate from Dominion to relocate six utility poles along the southbound section of Route 29, immediately north of the intersection with O'Keefe Road. She reported that the estimated cost of \$501,800 only includes the approximate cost to relocate Dominion's infrastructure and utility poles. Other utilities are collocated on these poles that would need to be moved and it is likely that additional easements would need to be obtained, both of which would increase the estimated cost.

Ms. Scheetz stated that in previous Committee meetings, it was discussed that this project be added to the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). If this project is added to the SYIP as part of a safety concern, Ms. Scheetz believes that the Committee should be looking comprehensively throughout the county at different safety issues. She is recommending a safety study be conducted of the primary roads in the county to assess where safety improvements are most needed and to prioritize these types of projects for inclusion in the SYIP.

Mr. Nesbit encouraged frequent communication between VDOT and county staff to make sure the right projects are being addressed in the SYIP.

ACTION: Committee requests that staff retain a list of roads identified for safety improvements and that the list is brought for review every six months.

4. New Business

- ***Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan***

Ms. Scheetz reported that staff is preparing to update the existing Transportation Chapter of the Fauquier County Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Hopewell noted that in creating the Transportation Chapter staff will look to seek conformity between the transportation goals and objectives of the individual service district plans and the overall transportation goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Eltringham spoke about the importance of the Transportation Chapter being harmonized between the county and the nine service districts. The Committee inquired about the current version of the Transportation Chapter and Mr. Eltringham noted that the chapter needs to be brought up-to-date to reflect the tremendous effort of service district plans and the changes in planning capabilities of county staff. Staff will forward a link to the chapter on the county's website so the Committee can review the existing document.

The Committee asked about their role in the development of the updated Transportation Chapter. In response, Mr. Hopewell noted that the Code of Virginia very clearly outlines six topics that the Transportation Chapter must address. Mr. Hopewell sees this Committee providing leadership in identifying the goals, objectives and policies pertaining to where the Committee sees the future of transportation in the county.

ACTION: Staff will forward a link to the online version of the current Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan to Committee members and develop a timeline listing staff and the Committee's next steps in developing the new Transportation Plan.

- ***Paving Unpaved Roads Public Outreach***

Ms. Scheetz noted that at the March 26, 2014 Committee meeting, residents along six unpaved roads that were being considered for paving were invited to the meeting to provide the Committee with their input. Residents along three roads, Swains Road (Route 739), Moss Hollow Road (Route 728), and Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) were undecided about having their roads paved given the uncertainty of whether or not the roads would need to be widened. As a result, the Committee chose to keep these roads at the bottom of the list of the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads (SSYP) and conduct additional public outreach with the residents. In July 2014, staff and VDOT conducted a site visit to each of these roads and determined the following:

- Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) could be paved under the Rural Rustic Road program and would require only minimal widening in some areas. Staff is currently working with a consultant to better assess the impact that paving this road will have. Once this is complete, a meeting will be scheduled near Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) and

residents accessing the road will be invited to attend for additional information and to provide input.

-Swains Road (Route 739) and Moss Hollow Road (Route 728) would be better candidates to be paved under the traditional construction program and would require more substantial improvements to safely pave them. Staff is working with Supervisor Schwartz to conduct additional public outreach with residents to inform them of their paving options and receive their input.

In response to the residents, a revised (SSYP) was taken to the Board of Supervisors on August 14, 2014, which included the removal of Swains Road (Route 739) and Moss Hollow Road (Route 728) from the SSYP. At that meeting, the BOS asked staff to keep these roads in the SSYP and conduct additional public outreach so that residents along all three roads can make an informed decision.

The Committee will be informed of the public outreach events as they are scheduled as well as feedback received from the residents.

ACTION: Staff to add this item to the next meeting agenda of this Committee, October 29, 2014.

- ***Rogues Road Overview***

Ms. Scheetz reported that at the March 27, 2013 meeting, the Committee voted to add Rogues Road (Route 602) to the SSYP for safety and operational improvements. VDOT reported that while the preliminary engineering phase was not scheduled to begin until next year, work has begun early and VDOT is currently working to complete the initial survey of the road. Once this is complete, VDOT will prepare the cost estimate and conduct a public meeting to gather residents' input. Given that this project is expected to be too costly to fund in its entirety, in the SSYP, VDOT will work with county staff to divide the project into phases, which will then be added into the SSYP.

Mr. Moore will provide a list of traffic improvement/flow suggestions to staff and VDOT related to the intersection of Rogues Road (Route 602) and Academic Avenue. The list includes extending the right turn lane into Kettle Run High School and adjusting the timing of the traffic signal in the morning.

Mr. Nesbit noted that VDOT placed a camera at the intersection of Rogues Road (Route 602) and Academic Avenue in early September to evaluate the issues with signal timing and met with the principal of Kettle Run High School, Major Warner, on Friday, September 12, 2014 to discuss this issue. He expects recommendations from VDOT in the next few days, has asked for an estimate for the extension of the right-hand turn lane, and is considering adding right-hand turn arrows to address the flow of traffic. He noted these are changes that could be implemented quickly. However, the proposed right-hand turn lane extension may need funding.

ACTION: Staff to add this item to the next meeting agenda of this Committee, October 29, 2014.

- **Revenue Sharing Applications**

Ms. Scheetz provided an update on the four Revenue Sharing applications the County is tentatively applying for. She added that this is a proposed list.

1. **Lake Drive and Riley Road Intersection**

This application would help fund a left turn lane from Riley Road onto Lake Drive, as well as study the need for additional stop signs and traffic calming measures. The local match for this project would come from the New Baltimore transportation fund.

2. **Vint Hill Public Street Network**

This application would help fund the construction of the proposed public road network in Vint Hill between Aiken Drive and the future extension of Vint Hill Parkway.

3. **Stormwater Improvements on Main Street in Marshall**

This application would help fund the installation of a proposed storm sewer line along West Main Street in Marshall across Frost Street.

4. **Salem Avenue Extended**

This application would help fund the extension of Salem Avenue to West Main Street/Free State Road in Marshall and pay for additional parking spaces in a proposed commuter lot at this new intersection.

Ms. Garreau asked staff to check on proffers in regard to the extension of Salem Avenue, as she believes this is something the developers of the Cunningham property had agreed to.

ACTION: Staff to research proffers as it would relate to the extension of Salem Avenue.

ACTION: Staff to add this item to the next meeting agenda of this Committee, October 29, 2014.

- **Revised FY 2015-2020 Six-Year Improvement Program**

Ms. Scheetz reported that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will conduct a joint public hearing and meeting in Culpeper to give citizens the opportunity to review and provide comments on the working draft of the Revised Fiscal Year 2015-2020 Six-Year Improvement Program (FY 15-20 SYIP). The FY 15-20 SYIP, adopted by the CTB in June 2014, is being revised to comply with the new House Bill 2 prioritization process, as required by law. This new process will determine critical transportation priorities through a fair and transparent analysis. The revised FY 15-20 SYIP will be presented to the CTB for adoption in November 2014.

The public hearing for the Culpeper District is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2014 at Germanna Community College's Daniel Technology Center, located at 18121 Technology Drive, Culpeper. Prior to the public hearing at 6:00 p.m., an open house will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Eltringham will represent the Committee at the upcoming public hearing.

5. *Staff Updates*

- **O'Keefe Road (Standardized System for Reporting Accidents)**

Staff spoke with the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office regarding its interest in a standardized reporting system with the Virginia State Police to generate consistent data between the two agencies. Local Law enforcement officers and Virginia State Police use Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS) to report all reportable crashes. The Fauquier County Sheriff's Office has indicated that they are not interested in expanding their information to include accident reports in the County that the State Police respond to.

- **Hopewell Road**

A copy of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors' resolution regarding the Through-Truck Restriction on Hopewell Road/Waterfall Road (Route 601) was provided to the committee. It was recently noted that a truck restriction was put in place on Route 15 several years ago when it was only two lanes prohibiting trucks over sixty-five feet long. In 2008 Route 15 was widened to four lanes, which would allow this route to accommodate trucks. However, the truck restriction was never removed. To ensure that the existing truck restriction will not impact our ability to get the truck restriction on Waterfall Road/Hopewell Road given that a portion of this road is proposed as an alternative truck route, Prince William County is working with VDOT to lift the existing truck restriction while simultaneously moving forward with the proposed truck restriction on Hopewell Road.

- **Opal Interchange Signage**

Ms. Scheetz reported that VDOT has requested additional signage be added to the overhead signs for the William S. Shacklette Bypass to clarify that the exit is on the right hand side of the road.

- **Route 29 and Vint Hill Road (Route 215) Intersection**

On September 4, 2014, staff met with VDOT to discuss future alternatives for this intersection. VDOT is looking at options to address safety issues with the northbound section of Route 29 approaching the light at Vint Hill Road. No agreements were made during the meeting and VDOT is going to take a look at some of the different alternatives that they would have for resolving safety and access issues along the road. Mr. Nesbit said he would try to get a ballpark timeframe for when we can get some analysis of the different alternatives that were discussed.

- **Transportation Planning Board**

It was discussed that on July 16, 2014, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) adopted a resolution to approve Fauquier County's membership as a voting member with the rights to fully participate in all TPB work program activities. Ms. Scheetz reported, however, that the Governor has not yet signed paperwork to officially include Fauquier County in the TPB's MPO. Even though the county is not yet an official member, Supervisor Schwartz attended the September meeting. This does not mean that the County will not receive funding. It does mean that staff is unable to add projects into the TPB's Constrained Long Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Plan. All projects that receive federal funding must be included in these two plans.

6. *Citizens' Time*

- **Mountjoy Road – Joseph Guite, Jr. Request**

Mountjoy Road (Route 720) is located between Free State Road (Route 721) and Crest Hill Road (Route 647) via Elihu Hill Road (Route 722). A portion of Mountjoy Road is in the state system. Mr. Joseph Guite, Jr. is seeking to have the entire length of Mountjoy Road taken into the state system for maintenance and a turnaround provided for "lost" large vehicles.

A discussion was had between Mr. Guite and the Committee related to the portion of Mountjoy Road in question of being a state maintained road. Mr. Guite referenced an 1889 deed in which the land was given to the county. He reports the deed can be found in Book 80, Page 502. Staff will obtain a copy of the deed to determine the legal basis for who owns the road.

ACTION: Staff will obtain the deed as referenced by Mr. Guite and seek assistance from the County attorney for interpretation, if necessary.

- **Elihu Hill Road (Route 722) – Ellen Mitchell Request**

Elihu Hill Road is located between Crest Hill Road (Route 647) and Free State Road (Route 721) via Mountjoy Road (Route 720). A portion (0.4 mile) of Elihu Road is in the state route system, while 0.83 mile of Mountjoy Road is in the state system.

Ms. Mitchell has come before this Committee previously to report issues of inappropriate through traffic specifically related to incorrect GPS system readings. To combat the inappropriate traffic, VDOT placed "No Outlet" signs at the beginning of both Elihu Hill Road and Mountjoy Road to deter through traffic. Ms. Mitchell continues to recount numerous recent inappropriate traffic issues which are caused by the incorrect GPS readings and suggests the signage is not working to deter traffic. She again expressed her aggravation and fear due to people tearing up her property and using her driveway as a turn-around day and night. She also reported that existing signage has been knocked down by an eighteen wheeler.

Ms. Mitchell delivered pictures to the Committee. She again asked the Committee for assistance with a solution to the situation.

ACTION: VDOT will review the site to ensure that current signage is visible.

ACTION: Staff to add this item to the next meeting agenda of this Committee, October 29, 2014.

7. Member Comments

Mr. Sheedy appreciates the new staff summary format, as it is helpful when constituents have questions related to Transportation Committee activity.

Mr. Walker invited Committee members to the next meeting of the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission on Thursday, October 2, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 29, 2014.**