

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
August 29, 2012**

7:00 P.M.

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

Members Present: Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman, R. Holder Trumbo, John Green, Matthew Sheedy and Roy Tate

Members Absent: Tony Tedeschi, Adrienne Garreau, Ed Moore and Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Jim Rich, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB); First Seargent Wines, Sheriff's Department; and Deputy Marshall, Sheriff's Department

Staff Present: Susan Eddy and Meredith Meixner

1. *Approval of July 25, 2012 Committee Meeting Minutes*

ACTION: On motion made by John Green and seconded by Matthew Sheedy, it was moved to approve the July 25, 2012 Committee meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

2. *Route 28 Safety Improvements*

Mrs. Eddy gave a brief introduction, welcoming Jim Rich from the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). She stated the CTB has appropriated \$1 million dollars for Route 28 Safety Improvements in their FY 2013-2018 Six Year Improvement Program.

Mr. Rich commended the Transportation Committee for their proactive work. He explained that he does not support expanding Rt. 28 to four lanes, but would prefer shoulder improvements and roundabouts where appropriate. He will continue working towards securing funds for Fauquier County.

Mrs. Eddy showed a few slides from the revised Rt. 28 Safety Study. Changes incorporated into this draft included more emphasis on the context sensitive solutions requested by the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Trumbo asked the deputies if it was difficult to enforce the speed limits on a stretch of road like Rt. 28 when the speed is lowered through the villages. First Sgt. Wines agreed that it

would be difficult within short distances. Mr. Trumbo added that having the road designed to encourage people to slow down through the villages would be beneficial.

Mr. Green stated that Route 28 will have increased traffic over time and needs to be designed to safely accommodate the growth.

A citizen asked if the roundabouts being considered would be large enough for tractor trailers, emergency vehicles and school buses. Expensive maintenance is a concern for him because of what he has seen in Prince William County subdivisions. Mr. Eltringham responded that they would be designed to handle the large vehicles similar to the Route 50 roundabouts.

Mr. Rich agreed to provide a copy of the study to District Supervisor, Jim Utterback and will request that it is incorporated into VDOT's plans.

3. *Halfway Road – Dr. Anthony Wells and Dr. Carol Evans Request*

Mrs. Eddy distributed a map showing the accidents along Halfway Road and explained that it was created by the GIS Department using the data provided by the Sheriff's Office. She also explained it not only includes "reportable" accidents, but all that were called into emergency services. Further, it gives a clear picture that there are many areas along the road where multiple accidents have occurred.

Mr. Eltringham stated that he drove this road approximately ten times since the last meeting and said it would be difficult to navigate if you were going over the 35 mph speed limit.

Mr. Rich added that there is a request pending to not allow through trucks on Halfway Road.

Mr. Tate shared the information provided by Mrs. Eddy with the new traffic engineer who agreed to take a fresh look at Halfway Road and take new speed samples. Mrs. Eddy will forward the accident map to VDOT.

Mr. Eltringham requested that the traffic engineer look into all options for improvements; not only a three way stop, but various signage, rumble strips, etc.

Mr. Tate said we should have results within 30 – 60 days.

Mr. Eltringham commended staff for providing the accident map and the Sheriff's office for providing the additional data.

Mr. Sheedy asked if we have a way to compare other roads to this request to put it into perspective. Mrs. Eddy said we specifically requested the data from the Sheriff's Office for just this road. Mr. Eltringham added that over time when it is warranted, we may need this type of accident map for other roads and then would have more data to compare.

ACTION: VDOT will take a new look at Halfway Road, take speed samples, look into other safety improvements and report back to the Transportation Committee in 30 – 60 days.

4. *Blantyre Road & Route 17 – Ken and Pat Adams Request*

Mrs. Eddy recapped the request in that citizens are concerned about the dangerous intersection of Blantyre Road and Route 17. They produced a petition with over 200 signatures, requesting better traffic control (such as larger signs or flashing lights) and gave it to Supervisor Granger. He then discussed the problem with VDOT who agreed to perform a study.

Mr. Eltringham stated that looking at a map of this intersection will not give you a clear picture of the area because Rt. 17 has different levels and grades that add to the blindness coming out of the intersection. Improving site distance and slowing down traffic on Rt. 17 will help prevent accidents.

Mr. Trumbo added that a flashing light would help warn drivers of the upcoming intersection.

Mr. Tate said the study is complete and it shows there were three angle crashes in a two year period indicating drivers failing to yield the right of way. One problem noted was the 20 ft. median (storage area) does not leave much room for cars to sit, however the site distance meets VDOT criteria. VDOT recommends enlarging the signs and adding 50 mph advisory signs on Route 17 for now.

Citizen, Regina Miller, commented that most is commuter traffic using Blantyre Road as a cut through.

Mr. Tate agreed to provide a copy of the study to Mrs. Eddy.

ACTION: VDOT will enlarge the existing signs and add 50 mph advisory signs on Route 17 approaching the intersection with Blantyre Road.

5. *Super NoVa Study*

Mrs. Eddy updated the committee, stating the draft recommendations will be provided at public meetings during the month of September. She noted two recommendations for Fauquier County: a commuter rail line to Remington and commuter buses along Rt. 29.

Mr. Eltringham stated they have not included conservation easements in the draft and suggested the CTB look into their location.

Mr. Rich queried the status of the update to the Transportation section of the county Comprehensive Plan requiring compliance with VDOT and the CTB. Mrs. Eddy explained the new legislation to the committee.

6. I-66 Rest Area

After discussion, Mrs. Eddy agreed to look into what it would take to provide minimal facilities similar to the Front Royal rest area.

Mr. Trumbo stated he would do a site visit with Supervisor Schwartz to both the Markham and Front Royal Rest Areas.

Mr. Eltringham volunteered to go on the site visit also.

ACTION: Mrs. Eddy will look into what it would take to provide minimal facilities similar to the Front Royal rest area.

7. Citizens' Time

Julie Wickham requested the committee keep in mind the section of Route 28 between Routes 17 and 29 because it was not included in the scope of the Route 28 Safety Study. Mrs. Eddy responded that the VDOT funding will cover safety improvements along all of Route 28 within Fauquier County and she will discuss with Mr. Rich.

Mr. Zuspan stated his request will be included on the next month's agenda regarding a dangerous passing area along Route 28.

8. Other Items

Mr. Eltringham updated the committee regarding the New Baltimore Service District Committee. A small subcommittee is working with County staff on recommendations for the central New Baltimore area and will bring them to the Transportation Committee for review closer to December.

Mr. Eltringham reminded the committee that they are an advisory committee for the Board of Supervisors and do not have the ability to make final decisions. Citizen requests and committee recommendations should be discussed only in the realm of the committee meetings where open discussion is expected.

Mrs. Eddy stated the school bus signs were installed on Weaversville Road.

Mrs. Eddy stated Rokeby Road will be closed for seven weeks for bridge repairs.

Mrs. Eddy stated Terranova Drive has a pipe maintenance issue. Mr. Tate added that the maintenance manager has a meeting on site there tomorrow morning.

Mr. Tate stated the construction at the intersection of Routes 657 and 28 is complete and the traffic light is now functioning.

Mr. Tate stated a request was made to study the intersection of Routes 55 and 622. VDOT will change the signage at the intersection by installing larger chevrons, cross road signs and new 35 mph signs. Mr. Tate agreed to forward the study to Mrs. Eddy.

Mr. Tate stated Weaversville Road is not wide enough to stripe, however VDOT installed the school bus stop sign and replaced a missing 45 mph sign.

Mr. Tate stated the Sheriff's Office requested additional speed limit signs to Route 661, Botha Road. VDOT added three additional signs.

Mr. Tate stated he spoke with the engineer who prepared the Old Waterloo Road Speed Study and shared the County's concerns. The traffic engineer stands by the study. VDOT will not perform another study at this time. Mr. Eltringham responded that the original study was flawed based on the facts provided. The Transportation Committee will continue to push for a new study. Mrs. Eddy added that the citizens will likely move up the chain to request another study.

Mr. Trumbo asked the deputies if they knew why logging trucks were traveling through Marshall. First Sgt. Wines replied he believes the trucks were coming from somewhere off of Route 17.

Mr. Green stated a new property owner on O'Keefe Road is building a large pond and has an agreement with VDOT to bring fill dirt to the Opal flyover project. Forty to fifty dump trucks have been doing round trips for about two months and have damaged O'Keefe Road. Mr. Green is concerned about the maintenance of the road and would like to know if it's repair is built into the project. Mr. Tate replied the contractor has already repaired some issues, such as replacing a sign that one of the dump trucks took out. Typically VDOT will fix problems at the end of the project if the contractor is not responsible for it. Mr. Tate agreed to speak with the head inspector to see what the agreement is for this project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 26, 2012.**