

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
February 23, 2011**

7:00 P.M.

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

Members Present: Laurence Mason, Chairman, Peter S. Eltringham, Vice-Chairman, Adrienne Garreau and R. Holder Trumbo

Members Absent: William D. Nace, Joel Barkman, Ann McCarty (Interim), Jeffrey Walker and J. David Cabbage

Guests Present: James Rich, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and Marshall Barron, VDOT

Staff Present: Rick Carr, Susan Eddy, and Meredith Meixner

Others Present: Ken Alm, Planning Commissioner and Peter Schwartz, Board of Supervisor

1. *Approval of December 1, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes*

ACTION:

On motion made by Larry Mason and seconded by Adrienne Garreau, it was moved to approve the December 1, 2010 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. *Introduction of James Rich, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Member for Culpeper District*

Mr. Trumbo introduced Mr. Rich to the committee who began by requesting the committee's input on the Six Year Plan including enhancement projects. He noted that currently the main focus is shovel ready projects but is hoping for additional funding. Many large projects are being considered such as Route 460, the western bypass, and I-395 with approximately 52% of funds allocated to Northern Virginia. Members of the CTB at the last meeting showed concern for the lack of funding for secondary roads which will affect Fauquier County. Mr. Rich would like to focus on Marshall, Vint Hill, the intersection at Lord Fairfax, and shoulder work on Route 28 (but he does not support a 4-lane Route 28). The CTB voted not to add new enhancement projects this fiscal year, but will fully fund the existing ones. He shared his view that these roads belong to the tax payers and not just VDOT, therefore the county should have a say. Mr. Rich concluded that they need to make the roads fit in to what the counties want in a context sensitive manner and would like feedback from the committee.

Mr. Trumbo brought up the Bishop's Run Subdivision which is going through the Preliminary Plat approval process. Staff and Board of Supervisors wanted to see more of a neighborhood friendly, traffic calming design. This could be a good example of VDOT working with a locality to create neighborhood streets with a context sensitive design. The applicant supports the new design as it would be less costly to build. Mr. Barron added that because this is a secondary road there is less flexibility unlike the local subdivision level. Mr. Trumbo suggested this road would be best if it had two travel lanes, a median and two parking lanes.

Mrs. Eddy clarified that the Planning Commission would most likely be taking action on the Bishop's Run Preliminary Plat tomorrow, February 24, 2011. Working with VDOT, the applicant was asked to prepare two sheets; one approvable today, two lanes with a median down the middle, and the second more like a county wish list which would include on-street parking. Therefore when the construction plan is submitted in the future we will work to try to get VDOT to agree to Plan B.

Mr. Eltringham inquired about the status of the Route 29 Corridor Study's next phase. Mr. Schwartz replied that a subcommittee was formed last summer to write a set of rules of how these corridor studies would be done so there was more local government stakeholder consultation. VDOT and the task force was then to meet with local governments in Phase two and that forum would then lay out the plan of all the intersection designs and ultimately be incorporated into the Route 29 plan. Mr. Rich added that the CTB has tabled it twice due to the discussion of Prince William and the Charlottesville bypass.

Mr. Rich stated he would like to talk to the Town of Warrenton to discuss the Broadview Avenue bypass and feels there might be primary money for that. Mr. Alm replied that the town has had studies done on Broadview Avenue. Mr. Barron added that VDOT funded a Route 211 Connector Study, approximately two years ago, which evaluated the connection of Route 211/17 and also all of Broadview Avenue making recommendations on an access management plan.

Mr. Eltringham responded that the bypass which would go through the Gold Cup community is no longer in the County's Comprehensive Plan and the Board of Supervisors decided it is not a solution to the current or future problems of Broadview Avenue.

Mr. Rich asked if the committee felt the intersection of Route 29 and Lord Fairfax should be addressed. Mr. Schwartz suggested looking at the possibility of having a roundabout there to have an at-grade solution from both a cost and aesthetic standpoint as a gateway to Warrenton. Mr. Rich supported the idea but understands there are not many experts in the region as VDOT had to look elsewhere for the Route 50 roundabouts. Mr. Barron stated that VDOT is supportive of them as long as they are placed in appropriate locations and will work.

Mr. Rich stated he would also like to ensure that bridges are cost effective and attractive with open parapets that blend in with the scenery like at Kelly's Ford.

3. ***Reverend Leon Jackson Request (Route 643 – Meetze Road)***

Mrs. Eddy recapped the discussion with Dave Cabbage from the October 2010 meeting.

Reverend Jackson stated that based on the fatal accidents that occurred where the deep embankment and tree are located, he feels the installation of a guard rail is justified.

Mr. Barron explained that VDOT has certain standards of criteria and their traffic engineers would need to complete a study and review the accident data. He stated that advisory signs could possibly be installed.

Mr. Eltringham noted from Darryl Shifflett's email that the Church would need to grant right-of-way easements to VDOT for a guard rail to be installed and maintained.

ACTION:

On motion made by Pete Eltringham and seconded by Holder Trumbo, it was moved to have VDOT perform a traffic study and report back to the committee in 90 days. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ***Danielle Wojtasik Request (Green Meadows Subdivision)***

Dave Cabbage, with VDOT, agreed to contact citizen directly.

5. ***David Blake Request (Route 215 – Vint Hill Road)***

The committee postponed discussion until Mr. Blake was present to discuss with VDOT.

6. ***Marshall Interchange (Exit 28 of I-66)***

Mrs. Eddy described the interchange where multiple accidents have occurred over the years and pointed out the difficult movements entering/exiting I-66. In the recently adopted Marshall Plan, there are three roundabouts replacing an enormous and expensive flyover which was a previous solution. The Transportation Committee is now being asked to look at this and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors whether it should be included in the County's interstate road priorities.

Mr. Eltringham asked what the Emergency Services position was regarding the roundabouts. Mr. Barron responded that the design accommodates fire trucks and tractor trailers classified as WB-50.

Ms. Garreau inquired if this decision will be heard at the CTB. Mrs. Eddy replied that the primary and interstate projects have their public hearing at the CTB where the local governments convey their priorities to the CTB. In order for Fauquier County to say we want

this, a resolution must be passed at the Board level. Ms. Garreau then asked where the funding will come from. Mr. Schwartz responded that because an interstate is involved, some will be federal funds and the rest would be state funds administered by the CTB.

ACTION:

On motion made by Adrienne Garreau and seconded by Larry Mason, it was moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Route 66 Exit 28 improvements be added as Priority 1 to the Secondary Six Year Improvement Plan, keeping Exit 23 now listed as Priority 2. The motion carried unanimously with Holder Trumbo abstaining.

7. *Signage Recommendation*

Mrs. Eddy presented examples of directional signage for businesses, attractions, tourist destinations and points of interest; Specific Travel Services (Logo) Signs, Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs (TODS), Supplemental Guide Signs, and General Motorist Services Logo Signs. She explained that it has been brought to the attention of staff that TODS are increasing in Fauquier County along state maintained highways. These signs, installed by Virginia Logos, are VDOT approved, located within their right-of-way and are not subject to Fauquier County sign ordinances. The current statewide program was developed in 2005. The TODS fee is \$450 per year plus a onetime application fee of \$100.

Mr. Trumbo suggested coming up with a County program with more attractive, context sensitive signs and work with VDOT to use a County design. Mr. Rich cautioned that we could be viewed as anti-business and informed the group that in order for a County to opt out, they would need to have the CTB pass a resolution. Mr. Alm noted that there needs to be a limitation on the amount of signs. Mr. Schwartz suggested that the committee could make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution in March, and in turn forward it to the CTB public hearing in March. In the meantime the county should work with VDOT and the business community to come up with a new design that is acceptable with VDOT to be placed in their right-of-way.

ACTION:

On motion made by Adrienne Garreau and seconded by Larry Mason, it was moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County seek to opt out of the VDOT Tourist Oriented Directional Signs Program and to have existing TODS removed as their annual contract periods expire; and that the County will work with VDOT and the business community, the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Advisory Committee to develop a context sensitive Fauquier County Tourist Oriented Directional Sign standard, more consistent with the County's agricultural and rural character. The motion carried unanimously with Holder Trumbo abstaining.

Mrs. Eddy continued on a related topic and showed examples of excessive, duplicate road signs, specifically traveling south on Route 29/15, the Eastern Bypass of Warrenton. The suggestion is to reduce and consolidate these signs and that Supervisors travel the roads with VDOT, their Transportation Committee member and their Planning Commission member to begin addressing this issue. Mr. Trumbo noted that he counted over 300 VDOT signs in the

Town of The Plains alone; there are so many you start to ignore them and they lose their meaning. Mr. Alm asked if a survey could be done and if the County could suggest removing certain signs. Mr. Barron stated that the transportation engineering staff would be responsible for a traffic study of certain areas with excessive sign clutter.

On motion made by Larry Mason and seconded by Pete Eltringham, it was moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Board Members and their respective Member of the Transportation Committee and Planning Commissioner meet with appropriate VDOT staff to address the issue of redundant signs, unnecessary signs and sign consolidation on a road by road basis over time; and to consider developing a design standard for road signs within the County, so that they are consistent with the County's traditional rural character. The motion carried unanimously with Holder Trumbo abstaining.

8. *Requests to VDOT's Highway Helpline*

Mrs. Eddy restated that the VDOT Warrenton Residency has recently directed citizens to the Fauquier County Planning Division. Staff along with Mr. Eltringham has created a form for citizens to complete in order for County staff to forward the request to the Transportation Committee. Ideally, the VDOT Helpline or Warrenton Residency could also distribute this form for requests along with County staff.

Mr. Trumbo suggested as the forms are received, staff gives a copy to the District Supervisor and Transportation Committee member.

ACTION:

On motion made by Larry Mason and seconded by Pete Eltringham, it was moved to have the VDOT Helpline Form used for citizen requests. The motion carried unanimously.

9. *Citizens' Time*

Mr. Jim Morris introduced himself as a Scott District resident who lives on the corner of Grapewood Drive and Rogues Road near Kettle Run High School. He described that intersection as inappropriate for a high school and has discussed it with the school division for five years along with testifying to the Board of Supervisors. He was pleased when the Board came up with the funds for a second entrance and emergency access to the school. The emergency access, now completed, is actually a ballpark path and baseball field parking lot, and the remaining funds were transferred for use of renovating Fauquier High School. Mr. Morris now believes the second entrance will not be completed and has heard that Academic Avenue will soon be turned over to VDOT. He has witnessed the turn lanes backing up and drivers turning around in his driveway on Grapewood Drive. He inquired if there is a plan to address the intersection or if it has been studied and feels it is not adequate for school crisis planning. When Greenville Elementary has an event, the cars park alongside the road which could prohibit emergency vehicles from entering.

Mr. Trumbo asked VDOT if they intend to evaluate the functioning of the intersection prior to acceptance into the state system and if there is a condition to having a second entrance. Mr. Barron agreed to look into the agreement with the School Division and will report back to the committee in April.

Mrs. Eddy will contact Mr. Morris when the information is provided from VDOT.

ACTION:

VDOT will confirm what was reviewed including the original design, the second entrance, the traffic control in the access lanes and the LOS, and will report back to the Transportation Committee in April.

10. Other Items

Mrs. Eddy stated the Auburn Crossing subdivision has requested the condition of Old Chapel Road and Overbrook Drive be evaluated.

Mr. Eltringham noted that the intersection is coming up in a 20' x 10' area and further on Overbrook Drive there are several areas in need of repair.

ACTION:

VDOT will have maintenance staff evaluate the roads.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 30, 2011.**