

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MAY 26, 2010
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, William D. Nace, Adrienne Garreau and R. Holder Trumbo

Members Absent: Sam Poles, Joel Barkman, Jeffrey Walker and David Cubbage

Guests Present: Linda Arrington, Citizen, Wayne Arrington, Citizen, Ben Cooper, Fauquier County Farm Bureau, John Schied, Fauquier County Farm Bureau, and Bruce Stone, Virginia Farm Bureau, Lieutenant Billy Hitt, Sheriff's Office, Captain Charles Bopp, Sheriff's Office

Staff Present: Susan Eddy, Rick Carr and Meredith Meixner

1. *Approval of April 28, 2010 and May 5, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes*

ACTION:

On motion made by Holder Trumbo and seconded by Pete Eltringham, it was moved to approve the April 28, 2010 minutes and to table May 5, 2010 Committee meeting minutes until Mr. Trumbo can clarify questions with Tracy Gallehr, Deputy County Attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

2. *Discussion of Farm Equipment Road Safety – Mr. Wayne Arrington*

Mr. Arrington began by emphasizing the need for awareness of road safety when farm equipment is operating on public roads. He suggested education for the public, more signs and possible lower speeds in agricultural areas. Mr. Arrington then shared a personal experience where he was following a fellow farmer driving a truck carrying two hay rigs with the proper SMV emblem, a pick-up and a car with flashers following behind it. A jeep decided to cross the double yellow line to go around the truck and the three vehicles. At the same time an on-coming vehicle came around the blind curve hit a culvert, a board fence, turned around and came to a screeching halt to avoid the jeep passing the slow moving vehicles. Mrs. Arrington added that drivers don't recognize and understand hand signals anymore.

Mr. Nace asked if there is a state law for farm vehicles having the right of way. Lieutenant Billy Hitt responded that if properly marked, all farm vehicles have the same right to traveling on public roads as other vehicles. Captain Charles Bopp said the Sheriff's department is fully engaged into keeping the roads safe and the state code mandates the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem to be used in back of all farm vehicles. He also agreed that most drivers do not recognize the meaning of that emblem. Mr. Trumbo stated that the commuters add to the problem. Mr.

Eltringham suggested that changes to the state code might be possible. Mr. Cooper felt the problem is not equipment or legislation, but lack of education for the drivers. Mr. Trumbo suggested an extra fine applied to tickets, Lieutenant Hitt confirmed there is a reckless fine incurred. Mr. Cooper suggested working with the local paper and the county fair and Mr. Eltringham added that brochures of signs, symbols and statistics should be provided to the high schools as well as all who teach drivers education courses throughout the county. Mr. Arrington suggested better signage of blind curves. Captain Bopp said the Sheriff's Department receives complaints from all areas requesting their presence. He added that with narrow roads it would help to place signage on the front of farm equipment to signal vehicles coming in the opposite direction. Mr. Arrington stated between 3pm – 6pm is when the speeding is a problem. Mr. Trumbo suggested an awareness program with a new logo, such as "Share the Road". Mr. Eltringham added the program would need a lasting effect, be enforceable and should include the state code. Mr. Arrington inquired about signage stating Farmers Use Road and Mr. Trumbo agreed to have staff discuss with VDOT.

Mr. Stone, Safety Manager with the Virginia Farm Bureau, addressed the group and distributed two brochures, "Farm Equipment Highway Safety Promotion" and "What does this emblem mean? Slow Moving Vehicle". He agreed that the driving community has no respect for the agricultural vehicles on the road. He confirmed that the SMV emblem is one of the random questions on the DMV driver's test and is in the VA driver handbook and also stated that the SMV sign is standard in all fifty states. Mr. Stone described one experience with the youth programs he does throughout the state. In Loudoun County, he spoke to seven hundred children over two days and specifically asked what the sign meant and not one child knew. He continued that the predominant cause of accidents with farm tractors and vehicles is left turns. He distributed copies of an article describing such an accident, stated it is illegal to pass on a double yellow line and cited Virginia Code 46.2-804. He also cited Virginia Code 46.2-1081 for Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) and suggested that farmers add rotating amber lights to equipment wider than the tractors. He then concluded that Fauquier County was the first to invite the Virginia Farm Bureau to attend and approach the problem and felt this was an opportunity to begin discussions on the campaign for identifying agricultural vehicles and educating the public.

Mr. Trumbo asked Mr. Stone to speak at a future Board of Supervisors meeting, ensuring the press would be invited as well.

3. *Citizens' Time*

No citizens spoke at this time.

4. *Other Items*

Mr. Eltringham stated there was not much to comment on in reviewing the latest draft of the Route 29 study. He felt the committee will be well prepared for the next phase of the study.

Mr. Eltringham mentioned that feedback was not given to Peter Schwartz regarding the CTB process memo due to time constraints.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 30, 2010.**