

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
February 25, 2009**

7:00 P.M.

*1st Floor Meeting Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186*

Members Present: Matthew Smith, Chairman, Laurence Mason, Vice-Chairman, William D. Nace, Sam Poles, Peter S. Eltringham, Adrienne Garreau, R. Holder Trumbo, Jeffrey Walker and J. David Cabbage

Members Absent:

Guests Present: Chris Mothersead and Ken McLawhon, Town of Warrenton, Abi Lerner, HNTB

Staff Present: Susan Eddy, Meredith Meixner, Rick Carr, Kimberley Fogle and Kim Abe

ACTION:

On motion made by Holder Trumbo and seconded by Adrienne Garreau, it was moved to change the order of item #6 to #2 on the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Election of Officers

ACTION:

On motion made by Adrienne Garreau and seconded by Holder Trumbo, it was moved to nominate and elect Matthew Smith for Chairman. On motion made by Holder Trumbo and seconded by Sam Poles, it was moved to nominate and elect Laurence Mason for Vice Chairman. The motions carried unanimously.

2. Transportation Update from the Town of Warrenton

Mr. Abi Lerner, a transportation consultant with HNTB, began by describing the Warrenton Broadview Avenue Access Management Study objectives - access to local businesses, traffic operations, and safety for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. He further described in detail the study area, process of data collection and analysis, the alternatives and final recommendation. HNTB recommended implementing Alternative 4 (and a proposed connector) that would include: four lanes with 32 ft raised median; median openings and left turn lanes at Church Street, Gold Cup Drive, Stuyvesant Street, Chappell Street and Roebing Street; driveway consolidation and interparcel access for elimination of redundant access points; a traffic signal at the intersection of Broadview Avenue and Gold Cup Drive (subject to warrants); dual-left turn lanes from Shirley Highway to Frost Avenue and from West Lee

Highway to Broadview Avenue; and uniform sidewalks extending the entire length of Broadview Avenue.

Mr. Lerner gave a PowerPoint presentation; a hard copy of which can be found in the Planning Division Office and is made part of the official minutes.

Representatives of the Town of Warrenton spoke briefly emphasizing the importance of the connector.

3. *Approval of October 29, 2008 Committee Meeting Minutes*

ACTION:

On motion made by Sam Poles and seconded by Adrienne Garreau, it was moved to approve the October 29, 2008 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. *Approval of December 3, 2008 Committee Meeting Minutes*

ACTION:

On motion made by Sam Poles and seconded by Adrienne Garreau, it was moved to approve the December 3, 2008 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. *Consider a request for a three-way stop sign at the junction of Halfway Road (Route 626) and Landmark Road (Route 679) and reducing the speed limit of Halfway Road (Scott District) – Dr. Anthony Wells and Dr. Carol Evans*

Mr. Smith stated that we have received this request more than once.

Mr. Cubbage added that the first request was in 2005 and in turn VDOT's traffic engineers performed an extensive study that was provided to the Transportation Committee previously and again at this meeting. VDOT revisited the situation again in 2008 and found that the average daily traffic has remained the same for Route 626 (from The Plains to Route 679) at 2,100 vehicles per day and a marginal increase for the section of Route 626 from Route 679 to the Loudoun County line. Since the original study there have been 5 crashes reported near the intersection which were single vehicle crashes that generally an all way stop condition would not mitigate. Based on the previous report and the updated information, VDOT does not support the installation of an all way stop or an adjustment of the speed limit.

Mr. Poles asked for clarification of where the accidents occurred and Mr. Cubbage responded that they were within 250 ft of the intersection.

Ms. Garreau asked if there were fatalities and Mr. Cubbage answered that there were none noted. She then asked if this is considered a high traffic area and Mr. Cubbage responded that

the report shows an imbalance in the amount of traffic in all directions, therefore, it does not meet the criteria for an all way stop.

Mr. Cabbage noted that speed advisory signs were installed in 2005 after the study was completed.

Dr. Anthony Wells spoke in opposition to VDOT's recommendation and challenged the number of accidents. He stated that there are accidents that have not been reported and the data is inaccurate. He further stated that he would like the speed limit to be posted at 25 mph from The Plains to Route 679.

Mr. Cabbage added that a reportable accident is any that involves \$1000 or more in damage, fatality or personal injury.

Ms. Garreau suggested adding enforcement in that area or a speed trailer.

Dr. Wells stated that he wanted a formal protest entered into the minutes, and that he (as a representative of his community) disagrees with the findings, which he believes will endanger the community.

ACTION:

On motion made by Bill Nace and seconded by Matthew Smith, it was moved to accept VDOT's study and take no further action. The motion carried unanimously.

6. *Consider a request to re-time the signal lights at the intersection of Route 29/29 Business/Route 880 (Lord Fairfax Road) (Cedar Run District) – Bill Nace*

Mr. Cabbage stated that this signal was previously linked to the three signals north of Warrenton and now runs on its own timing cycle. VDOT now reports an improved level of service and a reduction in the delay of the intersection. There is a temporary traffic camera placed there which can be viewed from VDOT's website day or night.

Mr. Cabbage added that VDOT has optimized the signals north of Warrenton which now have a 15 – 13 % improvement in delay.

ACTION:

No action needed. Improvements already made by VDOT.

7. *Route 215 (Vint Hill Road)*

Per the request of the Transportation Committee that they produce a report and recommendations on the 29/215 intersection and the future of Route 215 in Fauquier County, Ms. Garreau and Mr. Eltringham presented five assumptions. The first was that the funding available from VDOT is now limited to safety issues and repairs. (Mr. Cabbage added that currently all outstanding debt on the study of the Route 29/215 intersection is paid and the remaining funds have been transferred to other projects.) Second, the Buckland Battlefield is an ongoing study and very significant to how the Transportation Committee will proceed. Third, the draft Prince William County Transportation Plan, as recommended by the PW

Planning Commission, proposes that Route 215 be downplanned to two lanes with a four lane reserve from the intersection with Rollins Ford Road to the Fauquier County line. Fourth, Prince William's adopted Comprehensive Plan identifies a gateway area from the Fauquier boundary along Route 29 to its intersection with Route 15; the PW Planning Commission is recommending that this portion of Route 29 remain four lanes. Fifth, the Vint Hill Economic Development Authority is supportive of keeping the current alignment of Rt. 215 as long as Vint Hill has a doorway from Rt. 29. Mr. Eltringham mentioned that there are other options/outlets developing in terms of access into Vint Hill. Last, in consideration of the above, a recommendation was made to reconvene a working group to update/rework the transportation portions of the New Baltimore Service District Plan.

Ms. Garreau shared facts such as the right-of-way width narrowing to 50 feet through the battlefield area; 49,000 vehicles per day go through the Route 215/29 intersection; 13-15% of Route 29 traffic uses Route 215; 1 crash every 10 days on Route 29 (northbound) and 2 crashes in 3 years on Route 215. Mr. Cubbage added that crashes have been reduced since the No Left/No U-Turn sign has been posted on the northbound side of Route 29. He further added that VDOT forecasts less delay and improved level of service if the entrance could be moved to another point as a T-intersection.

Ms. Garreau read the conclusion from the report, "The subcommittee: In recognition of the historical significance of Route 215, the unique aesthetic quality this largely untouched ancient road provides into that part of Fauquier, the potential economic benefits of increased tourism in this area, and a belief that 215 can be preserved while still meeting the vehicular movement challenges of the future, recommends retaining the current alignment." Additionally, Ms. Garreau supports further study on the design of Route 29 and Route 215 intersection, recommends a parallel effort to review the New Baltimore Transportation Plan and potential connectivity to include the New Baltimore Service District Committee and others, and last to complete the Brookside Parkway through Vint Hill as a high priority.

ACTION:

The item was postponed until the next meeting.

8. *Citizens' Time*

Mr. David Mailler commented that VDOT's report regarding Route 215 was very reasonable and seemed like a "no brainer".

Mr. Eltringham responded that the committee's intent is to focus on safety improvements and will work with VDOT on prioritization, taking a hard look at the intersection in the context of the New Baltimore Service District Plan, how it works with Route 29 as a T intersection and other options to make it safer and to preserve the battlefield.

Ms. Gibson introduced herself as a representative from the Brookside HOA Board and also acts as a liaison to Vint Hill EDA. She expressed their interest in the committee's decision

regarding Route 215 and its impacts on Brookside. She then stated they would like to be a part of the process in the future and be represented.

Mr. Chuck Medvitz inquired about the status of the Baldwin Street request from the December meeting and further described the benefits of having white lines added as a narrowing visual effect. Ms. Garreau asked if he has seen a speed trailer placed in the area since the request which he had. The representative from the sheriff's office stated that he placed the trailer in specific spots for three days. Mr. Cabbage added that he will look into the request further as he was unable to attend the December meeting.

9. *Other Items*

Ms. Garreau stated that she had received a phone call about fences being down along Route 66 where livestock could get through in the Marshall District.

Mr. Walker gave a quick update from the Regional Commission in regards to the regional freight study; it went out to bid and interviews are being conducted for the final consultants; its targeted completion date is June 30th. The study will hold possible implications for Route 29, gain a clearer picture of freight vehicles diverting from I-81 to Route 29, consider further diversions to the north/south rail line, and study how much freight is originating or passing through our area.

Mr. Eltringham stated that the Transportation Committee should be involved in the Route 29 Corridor Study process by more than just attending the workshops. Mr. Walker added that the Regional Leadership Planning Forum will be held on March 31st. Mrs. Eddy offered to give out the link with details to the members.

Ms. Garreau stated that she serves on the Pedestrian Bicycle and Greenway Advisory Committee and inquired about the implementation of the trail system along Route 605. She added that a representative of the Committee would like to attend a Transportation Committee meeting to familiarize the Transportation Committee with the County's Connections Plan. Mr. Cabbage clarified that the current Route 605 project does have a 6-8 foot shoulder on both sides beyond the travel ways to accommodate bicycle/pedestrian travel.

Mrs. Eddy stated that the Board of Supervisors has delegated the ability to make decisions on the installation of warning signs to the Transportation Committee for another four years.

Mr. Mason brought up a conversation he had with Planning Commissioner John Meadows regarding a section of Schoolhouse Road near Cedar Lee Middle School. There is a narrow intersection with a sidewalk alongside. Vehicles taking a right turn swing into the other lane creating an unsafe situation for pedestrians. Mr. Mason requested that improvements to this intersection be added to or moved up on the six year plan. Mr. Smith stated that VDOT recommended it be added to the six year plan. Mr. Cabbage confirmed that it has not been added to the six year plan yet.

Mr. Cabbage explained that the upcoming FY2009/2010 through FY2014/2015 Six Year Secondary Plan needs to be completed by the county by June 2009, and that future money beyond what is in the program currently is not available. He further explained that without removing items from the six year plan, no new projects can be added.

Mr. Poles inquired about the status of the bridges listed on the six year plan. Mr. Cabbage stated that two currently on the plan on Route 688 will be treated as one project; another on the list is in Sumerduck; another underway now on Route 631 will be open next week; most bridges will be in-kind replacements. VDOT will focus on preservation, maintenance and restoration of infrastructure going forward.

Mr. Cabbage stated that there has been discussion in the media regarding VDOT's blueprint and this will be discussed at a public hearing on March 19th in Culpeper.

Mr. Cabbage added that Fauquier County is included in the list of counties that has a statutory 35 mph on unpaved roads.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 25, 2009.**