

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
January 30, 2008**

7:00 P.M.

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

Members Present: Laurence Mason, Vice-Chairman, R. Holder Trumbo, Larry Kovalik, Sam Poles, Peter S. Eltringham, William Nace, and J. David Cabbage

Members Absent: Matthew Smith, Chairman, Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Darrell Shiflett (VDOT), Michael King, Brian Larkin, Kay Hayes, Wes Kennedy, Dave Mailler, Adrienne Garreau

Staff Present: Susan Eddy and Meredith Meixner

1. Approval of October 31, 2008 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Kovalik and seconded by Mr. Poles, it was moved to approve the October 31, 2008 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution of Appreciation for Harry Atherton.

Mr. Nace asked that Susan Eddy read the Resolution of Appreciation for Harry Atherton to all present.

Mrs. Eddy read the resolution aloud.

Mr. Mason expressed his appreciation for Harry Atherton and stated that Harry always thought about what he was going to say and provided insight in order to help people with their problems; he was a master at doing that.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Mason and seconded by Mr. Trumbo, it was moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Harry Atherton. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Receive an Update on the Request for a Speed Limit Reduction on Cannonball Gate Road (Route 628) between Wilson Road and Keith Road (Marshall District) – Kay Hayes, Bellevue Landowner’s Council

Mrs. Hayes asked if she should reiterate her issue.

Mr. Cabbage replied that he was clear from the minutes and stated the posted speed is 40mph for this portion of Cannonball Gate to Rt. 628 and it is the appropriate speed.

Mr. Cabbage stated that he went through the reports, data that was collected and analysis by the traffic engineers and he feels it is a valid speed.

Mrs. Hayes pointed out that this is a residential subdivision, where both sides of the road have trail easements. Mrs. Hayes stated there is increased traffic here with the growth of the county and this is a very small, narrow, winding road whereas people are there for the peace and tranquility and enjoy the special character of the area. Mrs. Hayes hopes VDOT would be sensitive to and protect this special rural area and take special exception for unique and unusual situations.

Mr. Kovalik asked Mrs. Hayes about the discussion of more commuter traffic coming through the area.

Mrs. Hayes stated this is becoming a major cut-through.

Mr. Kovalik stated we have a similar situation here tonight with Bethel Academy that seem to be dove tailing this situation and part of a larger problem which is commuter traffic going through certain areas with disregard to residents.

Mr. Poles asked if another traffic study was done, thus the reason this item was postponed until tonight. Mr. Poles also asked Mr. Cabbage if he had the results from the second study.

Mr. Cabbage stated it was a re-evaluation of what VDOT already had and a comparison to the adjacent links of portions of Routes 690 and 628. Mr. Cabbage also stated that recent traffic volume was showing a count of 736 vehicles.

Mrs. Hayes stated that survey was performed on the 3rd of January and that is not a typical commuter day being so close to a holiday.

Mr. Nace asked what factors were considered in this study.

Mr. Cabbage cited the data collected as a speed study in a 24 hour period, geometrics of the road, frequency of driveways, characteristics of shoulders, development and environment of the roadside which is where the easement criteria started to make an appearance, the presence of pedestrians was not recorded, crash history over a 3 year period and the enforcement consensus from the state police. Mr. Cabbage stated those were the elements VDOT worked through.

Mr. Nace asked if Mr. Cabbage considered the setback from the road.

Mr. Cabbage stated that given the data collected, we still stand that 40mph is appropriate.

Mr. Nace asked Mrs. Hayes what she thought the volume should be.

Mrs. Hayes stated that she was asking for and would accept 35mph, but 25mph would be best because it would be consistent with the two adjoining roads, Keith Rd. and Route 690, and suddenly it changes to 40mph. Mrs. Hayes also stated that 40mph is not being adhered to and she has witnessed drivers going 50 – 60 mph.

Mr. Nace stated that it is an unfortunate circumstance and up to enforcement by the law.

Mr. Poles verified with Mr. Cabbage that the road was asphalted a 1 ½ years ago, prior to this study, therefore, the history of 3 years does not reflect the new asphalt road.

Mr. Cabbage stated that he did not see any significant spike or crashes since the road paving.

Mr. Eltringham asked if a local law enforcement query has been performed as to the enforceability to the 40mph speed limit.

Mr. Cabbage stated the best he has is the consensus from the state police.

Mr. Eltringham confirmed that there was no local query.

Mr. Cabbage stated no.

Mr. Poles asked if speed bumps have been considered in that stretch of Cannonball.

Mr. Nace advised that the fire department would need to be contacted directly.

Mr. Poles replied that he understood. Mr. Poles also stated that if the speed limit could not be reduced, then we should attempt some other alternative.

Mr. Kovalik stated there might be other traffic calming devices that we could come up with to slow traffic down in these stretches.

Mrs. Hayes stated she wanted to clarify that when you turn the corner from Cannonball Gate Road onto Keith Road going to Route 17 is 45mph.

Mr. Cabbage stated that any re-analysis where VDOT would collect data would have to include adjacent roads in any future studies.

Mr. Poles asked if the speed limit might then be raised.

Mrs. Hayes stated that it is a chance they will have to take.

Mr. Cabbage stated there has been no significant crash history since April 2007 when the signage was installed. He offered to increase the signage and add a speed trailer.

Mrs. Hayes will contact Richmond to request special equestrian consideration.

ACTION:

Mr. Cabbage will increase the signage and add a speed trailer. Mrs. Hayes will contact Richmond to request special equestrian consideration.

4. Consider a request for speed humps and/or increased fine zone on Blantyre Road (Route 628) in the area of Bethel Academy (Center and Scott Districts) – Brian Larkin

Mr. Larkin stated his family moved into Bethel Academy in 1995, the speed limit was 35 mph and was lowered to 25 mph. He described the narrow road with houses very close to the road and how people still speed when speed trailers are set out. He distributed a copy of the letter he sent to the county to nine neighbors who are also affected and upset. Mr. Larkin and his neighbors signed an agreement that they all feel something must be done. He stated that his children are not allowed to play in the front of the house without adult supervision. He described the speeding as all day long, not just rush hour traffic. He spoke to Mr. Poles over the weekend regarding the situation and discussed the possibility of speed humps. Mr. Larkin requested that the county initially consider an increase to \$200 fine in this zone and do a speed study. He spoke about how most accidents are not reported, signs get knocked down and neighbors patch their own lawn and don't bother to call the sheriff's department. Mr. Larkin stated that all mail boxes are located across the road and people do not slow down.

Mr. Poles asked if a traffic study can be done or if one has been done in this section of the road.

Mr. Cabbage stated the last study was May 2007, but was outside of Bethel Academy and did not include this stretch.

Mr. Trumbo stated the immediate option available is the consideration of the additional \$200 fine in this highly residential neighborhood.

Mr. Cabbage agreed that additional fine signs are appropriate and would need a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. He felt this could be ready for April or May agenda.

Mr. Eltringham inquired about the resolution process and how the media is informed.

Ms. Eddy replied that a press release can be done if approved.

Mr. Poles asked if Bethel is zoned Village.

Ms. Eddy stated that it is R-1.

Mr. Cabbage discussed the possibility of posting a sign that states you are entering Bethel Academy but feels the additional fine sign is a good first step. He also suggested that this issue be placed on the agenda for the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Larkin asked what other methods the county could use long term if the signs don't work with the increasing population.

Mr. Trumbo replied that they are beginning to look into traffic calming and targeting corridors within the service districts, however not in the rural areas yet. He also stated that

this is a continuing conversation between the county and VDOT that land use and traffic solutions are not always compatible.

Mr. Nace suggested moving the 35 mph sign closer to Bethel where the speed limit reduces.

Mr. Trumbo explained that the signs are posted 45, then 35 then 25 and are located based on an old system.

Mr. Larkin asked if the speed limit sign could be moved back, closer to Route 17.

Mr. Cabbage replied he made a note to review it and update signage including the size.

Ms. Eddy stated she would contact Mr. Larkin when it will be on the BOS agenda.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Trumbo and seconded by Mr. Poles, it was moved that the Transportation Committee make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for additional fine signs. The motion carried unanimously.

5. *Consider a request for an acceleration lane going northbound on US 29/17 at the intersection of Beach Road (Route 616) (Cedar Run District) – Michael King*

Mr. King stated he has lived in this county for 35 years and has seen this intersection grow from being able to pull up and turn to now, within the past 5 years, it's virtually impossible to pull out onto Route 29. He explained that with no acceleration lane and the densely packed cars on Route 29, it has caused him and his neighbors to find other routes to access Route 29. Mr. King also explained that you cannot see beyond the crest of the hill to the south of the intersection and with the speed of the vehicles, there is not enough time to pull out without an acceleration lane.

Mr. Cabbage stated that the standard length of turn lane is 600 – 1200 ft and he would like to do a study on this section where you gain entry to Route 29, right-of-way and clear zones.

Mr. Trumbo asked how long it would take.

Mr. Cabbage replied 60 days.

Mr. Poles asked to motion.

Mr. Trumbo replied to informally let Mr. Cabbage do a study for 60 days.

Mr. Nace commented on the poor site distance and how you cannot see.

Mr. Shiflett suggested the slip ramp acceleration for merging to avoid an accident.

Mr. Cabbage restated that he would do an analysis to see if this meets the criteria.

Mr. Mason stated that this should be added to the March meeting agenda.

Ms. Eddy stated she will notify Mr. King prior to the March meeting.

ACTION:

This item will be postponed for 60 days for VDOT to complete a study and be placed on the March agenda. Staff will contact Mr. King with an update.

6. *Discuss the Virginia Department of Transportation Secondary Six-Year Plan*

Mr. Cabbage stated he would like to make appropriate adjustments to the priority of the plan and that 2 particular items, Route 798 and Route 823, are projects that will be removed due to opposition of the right-of-way and he does not want to obligate the money any longer. Mr. Cabbage stated that Route 738 and Route 628 have been completed this year and VDOT has moved to Route 748 which is advertised next month; Route 806 has gone to advertisement and has been awarded to Ryder & Associates; Both Route 605's are coming up in May; Route

1201 is under construction, Route 655 is surveying the bridge replacement and is related to Route 1201 being under construction; Route 651 Sumerduck, the right-of-way and design is being worked on; Route 794 Heddings, VDOT is scoping next month. Mr. Cabbage stated the other projects, for example, with the Route 605 four lane they need to have a better understanding of the scope before starting. He asked if there were any questions and stated that he would like to go over the plan with this committee at the next two meetings, work with the Board of Supervisors at the work session in February and have full county approval by April.

Mr. Poles asked if Lees Manor (Route 688) with the two bridges could be moved higher on the list.

Mr. Cabbage replied that considering the scope of projects that are ready for advertisement and not dwell on the numerical order, but look at the bulk of work ready to go, this will jump significantly to the top 10 after Routes 605, 806, 748 are complete. He also stated that VDOT will be questioning right-of-ways more as projects come into the plan.

Mr. Poles asked about the bridge situation in the county.

Mr. Cabbage stated overall the bridges are safe and VDOT has addressed the critical issues which are the 3 ton such as Route 726, another in Rappahannock was recently addressed and one in Mr. Poles area, Route 724, will need to discuss possible closure.

Mr. Trumbo asked if he could schedule a meeting with Mr. Cabbage to discuss items 9 and 10 (Routes 605 and 600).

Mr. Cabbage agreed to the meeting.

Mr. Trumbo inquired about item 11 (Route 734) and asked if they are considering going from dirt to tar and chip.

Mr. Poles replied that there was a meeting about it and that some residents said they did not want it.

Mr. Trumbo suggested removing item 11.

Mr. Poles agreed.

Mr. Cabbage stated he would remove it from the spreadsheet.

Mr. Mason stated that item 6 bridge (Route 655) over Tin Pot Run at times has been completely under water.

Mr. Cabbage stated they are doing a hydraulic analysis prior to the final scope of the bridge design and are lifting it 4-5 feet. He also stated that Route 655 will be closed for a period of time while doing the work.

Ms. Eddy reiterated that Mr. Cabbage will come with a revised list next meeting and they will make a recommendation at that time.

Mr. Cabbage agreed and stated that he would bring the revised list to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Mason asked if there was any further discussion.

ACTION:

Mr. Cabbage will revise the Six Year Plan for the next meeting and the committee will make a recommendation at that time.

7. Citizens' Time

No citizens spoke at this time.

8. *Other Items*

Mr. Trumbo inquired the status of Riley Road and Broad Run Church Road (600/606) project.

Mr. Cabbage replied that this was removed from the plan due to multiple rezonings in that area.

Mr. Trumbo stated the rezonings are done.

Mr. Cabbage replied that he would put this project back on the list.

Mr. Kennedy stated he would support it as a representative of Brookside, the largest community in the area.

Mr. Cabbage stated they need to have further discussion regarding the round-about and what is anticipated there.

Mr. Trumbo indicated it is a problem and that traffic round-about needs to become more peaceful.

Mr. Nace commented that they need to do more with the Transportation Committee than highway signs and speed limits.

Mr. Trumbo showed Mr. Nace the county project list and stated he would like this committee to discuss some of the issues on the list.

Mr. Nace stated there is a lot more to be done by the Transportation Committee and we need to move forward with other issues like getting people from one end of the county to the other.

Mr. Poles stated we are all with you.

Mr. Trumbo stated that he has a lot of faith in this group and hopes to put them all to work a bit more this year. He also stated that he would provide Susan the list of priority county projects to pass on to all members.

Mr. Shiflett asked if the committee should work with the Public Safety Committee to make sure they can enforce what decisions are made.

Mr. Trumbo commented that not long ago a representative of the Sheriff's Department was attending these meetings.

Mr. Mason stated we should re-invite them.

Mr. Poles replied that Sheriff Fox said if he had the personnel on duty, they would come. He also stated that a lot of the cases they deal with should be referred to the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Poles asked Ms. Eddy to check the status about Lake Daniel Road, Hume in Marshall District, where there were some complaints about a resident at the end of the road having a construction business and parking equipment there.

Ms. Eddy replied that she would check with Zoning.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
The next meeting will be held February 27, 2008.