

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
December 3, 2008**

7:00 P.M.

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

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

Members Absent: William D. Nace, J. David Cubbage, Jeffrey Walker and Sam Poles

Guests Present: Paul Russell, VDOT, Sharon G. Lee, Town of Remington Administrator
Teresa Hopkins and Major Paul Mercer, Jr.

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

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

Mrs. Eddy distributed a correction to the minutes from Mr. Nace who was unable to attend.

Mr. Eltringham requested corrections to the paragraph on page 5 of his recount of the battle.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Trumbo and seconded by Mr. Smith, it was moved to table the October 29, 2008 Committee meeting minutes until the next meeting on January 28, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. *Consider a request for “Children at Play” signs on Franklin Street (Lee District)
– The Town of Remington***

Ms. Lee stated that the community has witnessed increased volumes of traffic on Franklin Street in the last 3-5 years along with greater numbers of families with children living and playing all throughout the neighborhood. The community is interested in at least three "Watch for Children" signs at strategic locations on roads connecting to Franklin Street: on Marshall Street, on Remington Road, and off of Main Street.

Mr. Russell stated that he was happy with the language requested for the sign, would deliver this request to VDOT staff and they will take into account the community's suggested location preferences and also use their own professional judgment to place signs in the most suitable locations to address this transportation concern.

Mr. Trumbo clarified with Ms. Lee that the asterisks shown on the map were indicating the requested intersections and not the exact locations of the signs.

Mr. Smith added that there might be four signs instead of three.

Mr. Mason noted he would like to see a "blind curve" sign added to this request, where Franklin Street and Remington Road intersect.

Ms. Garreau confirmed with Ms. Lee that the speed limit is 25mph.

Mrs. Eddy referenced her recent conversation with Mr. Cabbage who after looking into the request seeks flexibility on the placement of the signs. She then distributed a draft Resolution to the committee, supporting the motion for the placement of these signs.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Trumbo and seconded by Ms. Garreau, it was moved to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

3. *Consider a request for a reduction in speed on Route 673 (Baldwin Street) (Scott District) – Teresa Hopkins*

Mr. Smith stated that this committee discussed this issue almost two year ago and that VDOT completed a study in response to the committee's request.

Mrs. Eddy provided committee members with a copy of the study she just recently received from VDOT regarding their analysis in January 2006.

Mr. Smith summarized that, based on the study at that time, VDOT felt 25mph was appropriate for that section of Baldwin Street. He then confirmed with Ms. Hopkins that 25mph is the current speed.

Ms. Hopkins stated that Baldwin Street is 40mph from Route 29 to its intersection with Grays Mill Road where the posted speed then changes to 25mph.

Mr. Trumbo asked which segment of Baldwin Street is in question and Ms. Hopkins replied that the 40mph segment is the problem.

Mr. Medvitz described the 25mph segment as a reduced width, single lane road. Coming out of that segment a centerline was added since the study and a 40mph sign was placed at its intersection with Grays Mill Road and another at Route 29. He then stated that the portion of Baldwin Street from the entrance of Jamison Farm to Grays Mill Road does not have posted speed signs.

Mr. Trumbo asked if Ms. Hopkins is requesting that the 40mph segment be changed to 25mph.

Ms. Hopkins responded that she would be happy if it is reduced below 40mph.

Mr. Trumbo explained that it appears that VDOT's study findings resulted in 25 mph speed postings on portions of Baldwin Road but the study findings also resulted in 40 mph postings on other portions between Gray's Mill and Route 29. VDOT must have determined that those portions were appropriately posted at 40 mph.

Mr. Smith noted that it was made clear at the last meeting that VDOT does not have funding to continue to undertake studies every time a request is made for speed reduction.

Mr. Trumbo asked when was the speed limit change implemented and the committee concluded that it was sometime after the study in 2006. He noted that in his view as a matter of good land use, every road in a Service District that is a neighborhood street should be a 25 mph speed limit.

Ms. Hopkins confirmed that children play and walk throughout the neighborhood along with bus stops located along that road.

Mr. Medvitz stated there were 0 – 2 foot shoulders and perhaps shoulder lines could be painted if there was enough pavement and that these types of visual measures might help to slow the traffic.

Mr. Trumbo moved that he would like to see VDOT consider adding white shoulder pavement lines as a traffic calming measure.

Mr. Russell noted that he would follow through on that request.

Mr. Smith introduced Officer Mercer and acknowledged the need for having a representative from the Sheriff's office be present at the Transportation Committee meetings.

Officer Mercer stated that he would get a speed cart on the road as soon as possible and reminded the committee that in all of his experience that speeding on neighborhood streets, and not burglaries and other crimes, remains the number one concern among county residents.

The committee generally agreed that although in the past the Sheriff's Office attended all meetings, it was more efficient that a Sheriff's Department representative attend only at meetings dealing with safety issues.

ACTION:

VDOT will look into adding white shoulder pavement lines as a traffic calming measure and the Sheriff's Department will add a speed cart and increase enforcement on Baldwin Street.

4. *Route 215 (Vint Hill Road)*

Mr. Smith stated that at this time the intersection at Route 29 and Route 215 remain identified as Fauquier County BOS's number one priority.

Mr. Eltringham stated that the decisions related to Route 215 have been difficult because of the introduction of significant new historical data about the existence and the significance of the Buckland Mills Civil War Battlefield. He indicated that he really would like to be able to understand all the dimensions of what problems need to be resolved within the New Baltimore and the surrounding transportation network as a basis for the committee's recommendations about Route 215. He feels that once that is determined, then the alternatives need to be identified.

Mr. Trumbo replied that one of the problems is the intersection with Route 29. Another challenge with Route 215 is any change will have an impact on historic preservation and it is uncertain what amount of traffic it will need to handle down the line. He stated that the Board of Supervisors would like a recommendation from the Transportation Committee regarding Route 215 because VDOT would like the County to clarify its position. As it stands, the Service District Plan lends ambiguity to the overall equation because it outlines a fan shaped area of alternative Route 215 routes. Mr. Trumbo explained that this is a very challenging decision for the committee to make in light of possible historic impacts and in light of the fact that no one knows what is going to happen on all related roadways. However, the Board of Supervisors would still like a recommendation, even if the committee decides not to take a position and outlines a number of serious issues for consideration.

Mrs. Eddy said maybe the road could be studied in sections. The group generally agreed that they needed to evaluate all the related transportation issues as part of the decision about Route 215.

Mr. Carr showed the Transportation Plan for Buildout, which is identified in Figure 3 in the New Baltimore Service District Plan. He explained that the fan concept denoting possible alternative alignments is used in the Plan at Kennedy Road and the Brookside Parkway and on the west of Route 215. He stated that there is a need for a number of through lanes through the Service District out into Prince William. Several committee members mentioned that Shepherdstown Road is extensively used as a commuter route. He further stated that there is a need for a connection from Rogues Road to Brookside Parkway.

Mr. Trumbo noted that Shepherdstown Road was just paved and widened by VDOT.

Mr. Carr added that Shepherdstown Road has historically been very controversial.

Mr. Trumbo noted there is considerable traffic on Route 600 and the Service District Plan calls for this area to be higher density as the center of the community. He stated that the committee needs to evaluate this traffic pattern and mentioned there may be possibilities for a well designed and slow moving grid system in this area of the community that will lend the community alternative routes as well as provide the community with a sense of place.

Mr. Carr said there are no signals on Rt. 600, which makes it attractive for commuters.

Ms. Garreau noted that the greater number of route choices works to the advantage of everyone.

The committee members discussed a range of battlefield issues that have been raised over the last month and how changes in the landscape for road improvements would negatively impact the battlefield.

Mr. Medvitz stated that the incremental loss of integrity in the battlefield would jeopardize its National Register Eligible status.

Mr. Eltringham said the humps at the current Rt. 215 and Route 29 intersection was key landscape in the battlefield.

Mr. Carr indicated that VDOT was looking at some other options that would close down that signal at its current location.

Mr. Eltringham encouraged VDOT to work more closely with the neighborhood with that project in light of knowledge about the battlefield.

Mr. Carr said that he would try to get that study to the committee as soon as possible.

Ms. Garreau said that there is a great view of the county from the intersection at Route 215 and Route 29.

Mr. Trumbo noted that he would like a recommendation to the BOS relatively soon.

Mr. Eltringham stated that both he and Ms. Garreau would like to work together to develop draft goals and ideas for the committee's review and consideration. Mr. Eltringham said he would like to have VDOT's safety assessment of Rt. 215, before and after the signalization. He would also like to have information about the archaeological resources and reports as well as VDOT's current plans for the intersection.

The committee generally agreed that this item would be placed on the January Transportation Meeting agenda.

ACTION:

The item was postponed until the next meeting.

5. *Citizens' Time*

No citizens spoke at this time.

6. *Other Items*

Mr. Trumbo stated that the Town/County Liaison Committee is going to recommend that the Transportation Committee take on the Timber Fence Parkway with the principal that the plans should be parallel.

Mrs. Eddy will try to coordinate Mr. Motherhead's attendance in January.

Mrs. Eddy noted that Dr. Wells was not able to attend this evening's meeting but his item is scheduled for January.

Mr. Carr added that there will be an 18 month delay on the Transportation Impact Fees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 28, 2009.**