

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
September 26, 2007**

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, Larry Kovalik, Harry Atherton, Sam Poles, and William Weber

Members Absent: J. David Cabbage, Ray Graham (Alternate), William Nace, and Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Kay Hayes, Rick Pfeiffer, James Frye, Jim Fox, Lois Pfeiffer, and Julie Grant

Staff Present: Susan Eddy and Stacey Pell

Mr. Smith introduced Susan Eddy to the Transportation Committee. Mrs. Eddy is the Chief of Planning for Fauquier County Community Development.

Mr. Smith introduced William Weber to the Transportation Committee. Mr. Weber is the new Scott District representative to the Committee.

1. Approval of June 27, 2007 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Atherton and seconded by Mr. Kovalik, it was moved to approve the June 27, 2007 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider a Request for a Speed Limit Reduction on Cannonball Gate Road (Route 628) between Wilson Road and Keith Road – Kay Hayes, Bellevue Landowner’s Council

Mr. Atherton stated he travels this road frequently and is very familiar with the area. He remembers the initial paving request.

Mrs. Hayes stated she wants her request to reduce the speed to 25 m.p.h. to go on the record. She stated this is a community that includes equestrians, hikers, and people walking the trails. The intersection of Cannonball Gate Road, Keith Road, and Cannonball Ridge Road is a rural part of the County. She noted the traffic study was done on January 3, 2007. This road is now being used as a major cut-through and as such is not a typical country road. Mrs. Hayes also stated that a lot of high school students travel this road and go rather fast.

Mr. Smith stated that based on VDOT’s study, a 40 m.p.h. speed limit was suggested.

Mrs. Hayes stated school busses stop frequently on this road and there are also a lot of people driving this road that do not even live near the area.

Mr. Smith inquired as to when this road was paved.

Mr. Atherton stated it was paved this past spring.

Mr. Smith stated that VDOT usually waits a year before performing a follow-up review but since this road was recently paved, the committee will request a new study be done sooner although the accident history is hard to override. Mr. Smith inquired if the speed limit is posted on this road.

Mrs. Hayes stated it is, but not on Bear Wallow Road. Mrs. Hayes noted that Keith Road is posted at 25 m.p.h. and does not have the same traffic problems.

Mr. Smith stated he will contact Sheriff Fox regarding patrolling and setting up radar in this area.

Mr. Weber stated the speed sign has a laptop that records data and print outs are available.

Mr. Poles also stated Officer Friendly is an effective measure as well.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Atherton and seconded by Mr. Poles, it was recommended to ask VDOT to revisit the study without waiting the full year since the previous study was done early in the year, close to a holiday, and it was done prior to the road becoming fully paved. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider a Request to add 0.4 miles of McRaes Road (Route 695) to the State Road System – Rick Pfeifer, Pleasant Estates HOA

Mr. Pfeifer recapped the letter he had submitted, reiterating the fact that the subdivision does not receive sewer or water and does not have VDOT snow removal.

Mr. Smith inquired if the subdivision is paved.

Mr. Pfeifer stated the first part only is paved.

Mr. Atherton inquired if the subdivision is in the state road system and if it is not, is this a request to put it in the system. Also, he inquired if VDOT owns right-of-way.

Mr. Pfeifer stated the subdivision is not in the state system and he is not requesting that it be added. He was not sure about VDOT's right-of-way.

Mr. Smith read the email from Mr. Cabbage. Mr. Smith noted he is not clear on the funding issue. He inquired as to how close the roads are aligned.

Mrs. Eddy stated the part of the road in question is not up to state standards.

Mr. Atherton stated this item should be kept on the agenda for the October 2007 meeting and have VDOT gather more information.

Mr. Pfeifer asked if VDOT could also look into why road maintenance stops at that point and if the sign location is accurate.

Mr. Poles stated if the road narrows in this location, VDOT may need to take property to get right-of-way.

Mr. Pfeifer stated that should not be a problem in this area. He also stated that VDOT has fixed potholes and completed other maintenance on this part of the road previously.

ACTION:

This item will be held over until the October 31, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting.

4. Citizen's Time

No citizens spoke at this time.

5. *Other Items*

Mr. Weber stated the road in The Town of The Plains southbound lane between the railroad tracks and sign needs to be looked at, but thought it might be in the jurisdiction of the Town of The Plains instead of Fauquier County.

Mr. Atherton stated that is a State Road.

Mr. Smith inquired as to whether Bear Wallow Road had been fixed.

Mr. Weber stated he had originally requested a three-way stop but this works well and the road seems safer.

Mr. Atherton stated it is nice to know the drivers coming down the hill will be stopping.

Mrs. Eddy stated she met with Dave Cabbage prior to the Transportation meeting. She noted that historically the Six-Year Plan goes on the September agenda. Mr. Cabbage informed her that the VDOT cycle had changed and he suggested the Six-Year Plan go on the November or January agenda. He also stated that unless there were new projects on the Plan, site visits may not be necessary.

Mr. Weber stated there is a bridge on Wilson Road between Conde Road and Freestate Road that has a 7-ton weight limit but there is no notice regarding the limit prior to the bridge. Trucks traveling this route need prior warning regarding the weight limit.

Mr. Atherton stated he travels this road and has seen VDOT working on this bridge.

Mr. Poles inquired if there would be a change in personnel on the Transportation Committee as this is an election year for the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Atherton stated that the Transportation Committee serves the same terms as the Board of Supervisors and that all representative positions are up as of January 1, 2008. New supervisors may re-appoint the current representative or appoint a new representative. If the supervisor wishes to appoint a new representative, the current representative may be asked to serve on the committee until the new appointee has been selected and approved by the Board. Mr. Smith also stated that if there are any representatives currently serving who wish to continue serving on the Transportation Committee, they should notify their Board of Supervisors member of their desire to continue as a Transportation Committee member.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held October 31, 2007.