

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
October 31, 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, Harry Atherton, Larry Kovalik, Sam Poles, William Weber, William Nace, J. David Cubbage, and Jeffrey Walker

Members Absent: Ray Graham (Alternate)

Guests Present: Kay Hayes, Rick Pfeiffer, Leo Schefer, and Jane Merrion

Staff Present: Susan Eddy and Stacey Pell

1. *Approval of September 26, 2007 Committee Meeting Minutes*

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Atherton and seconded by Mr. Kovalik, it was moved to approve the September 26, 2007 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. *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*

Mr. Cubbage stated that he pulled the road studies and at this time does not have a final report back yet. He is trying to determine what was done to change the intersecting roads to 25 m.p.h.

Mr. Smith stated that Mrs. Hayes said that anything below 40 m.p.h. would be an improvement.

Mr. Cubbage stated the traffic engineers take into account site distance, intersections, and road sags to assist in determining the speed limit for a road.

Mrs. Hayes inquired as to when a new survey can be done.

Mr. Cubbage stated the most recent survey was done January 3-4, 2007 over a 24-hour period. Mr. Cubbage also stated that to be fair, there is a reasonable risk that the roads that have 25 m.p.h. as a current speed limit, could be raised to a higher speed limit due to a new study and all intersecting roads now being paved.

Mrs. Hayes stated that there is still an issue for school busses as they travel this road, as well as many equestrians and outdoor activity on the trail easements.

Mr. Cubbage stated that equestrian and pedestrian activities do not occur in the roadway.

Mr. Nace inquired as to why the request is only for part of Cannonball Gate Road and if advisory speeds are posted.

Mr. Cubbage replied that the rest of the road is 25 m.p.h. and that advisory speeds are posted.

Mrs. Hayes stated she appreciates the Committee and the help they have provided.

ACTION:

This item will be held over until the January 30, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting.

3. *Receive an Update on the Request to add 0.4 miles of McRaes Road (Route 695) to the State Road System (Scott District) – Rick Pfeifer, Pleasant Estates HOA*

Mr. Cabbage stated he walked this portion of the road with Mr. Pfeifer on 30 October 2007. On March 11, 1965, 0.68 miles of Route 695 had been discontinued (with about twenty other roads) from the state system.

Mr. Atherton inquired what it would take to get this road into the state system.

Mr. Cabbage replied that it would have to be brought up to a reasonable standard.

Mr. Atherton stated the property owners would have to finance the road upgrade to where VDOT would take over the maintenance. The County would let VDOT have the necessary right-of-way.

Mr. Cabbage stated that there would have to be a 40' minimum road width.

Mr. Atherton stated the County would give their 30' and the property owners would have to give 5' minimum on each side or one owner could give 10' on one side.

Mr. Pfeifer stated this road has been used as a public road as there is no turnaround prior to the discontinued area. This stretch of road is not in the HOA area and everyone uses this road.

Mr. Nace inquired if discontinuing road maintenance is a legal process.

Mr. Cabbage replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Pfeifer stated that in his opinion the road was discontinued in the wrong spot.

Mr. Atherton stated that when the maintenance was discontinued, the road was probably not used as much.

Mr. Cabbage stated this situation is unique. It was discontinued in 1965, there is no landmark but there is a sign noting end of maintenance.

Mr. Poles inquired if a survey is in place to be sure the sign is where it belongs.

Mr. Cabbage stated the sign should be 0.77 miles from the center line of Route 628.

Mr. Nace inquired if there was any advice from the committee members as to which way to go regarding this request.

Mr. Atherton stated that there is not a lot that can be done about it right now. He will visit this site and talk to Paul McCulla and Kevin Burke regarding this situation.

Mr. Smith inquired as to how far from state standards this road is.

Mr. Cabbage stated it only has a width of 16' and there are areas where the pavement needs to be removed and repaired.

Mr. Nace inquired if drainage is an issue.

Mr. Cabbage replied that drainage was inspected and is not a problem. He recommended that surface treatment and the shoulder work be done.

ACTION:

Mr. Atherton will speak to the County Attorney regarding the County relinquishing the easements. Mr. Atherton will also visit this site with Mr. Cabbage.

On motion made by Mr. Poles and seconded by Mr. Kovalik, it was moved to table this item until the February 27, 2008 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

4. *Receive information on the Schedule for Updating the FY2008/2009 Secondary Six Year Plan*

Mr. Cubbage stated there would be a Public Hearing for the Commonwealth Transportation Board on November 1, 2007. He and Mrs. Eddy spoke briefly regarding this meeting and that Mrs. Eddy will be attending representing Fauquier County.

Mrs. Eddy stated that each of the Committee members received a copy of the letter that she plans on submitting at the public hearing. She stated this contained the Board's most recent priorities for interstate and primary roads.

Mr. Cubbage stated the intent of the Public Hearing was to identify the large scale primary roads with in Six-Year Plan, not the secondary roads. All of the County's priorities have rolled over from the previous year. The ultimate goal with the schedule being off is to get all schedules in sync with the General Assembly budgeting process.

Mr. Smith stated Fauquier County's list of priorities is the same as the previous year's. He inquired if the letter with the list of priorities can be presented as written.

Mr. Atherton stated the list of priorities is correct.

Mr. Cubbage stated that by June 2008 the work by Fauquier County needs to be completed, including a Board resolution and a public hearing for the Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Kovalik and Mr. Atherton discussed the Bealeton Connector.

Mrs. Eddy inquired as to the timeline for the Transportation Committee in regards to the Six-Year Secondary Plan.

Mr. Cubbage stated the Board needs to vote on it no later than the May 2008 meeting, with a public hearing in April 2008, and a review of the Six-Year Plan in January, February, and/or March of 2008 by the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Atherton inquired if site visits were desired by the committee. He noted there will be new Board of Supervisors members which may mean new projects being added to the list.

Mr. Cubbage stated new projects need to be eligible for funding and preferably in a Service District or growth center oriented, then rural rustic will be considered, and then unpaved roads. He also noted that there are usually right-of-way issues.

Mr. Smith inquired if right-of-way is received for new projects, will those projects take priority over projects currently on the list.

Mr. Cubbage stated that nothing says the projects have to sit on the list for the full six years.

Mr. Atherton stated that right-of-way needs to be secured for new projects as they are added to the list as new owners may take ownership of the properties before the road work makes it to the top of the list. Documentation may be necessary prior to adding to the list.

Mr. Smith suggested that new projects are not added to the list until right-of-way has been secured.

Mrs. Eddy inquired if this item should return on the January or February 2008 agenda.

Mr. Atherton stated it might be best to wait until the February meeting as to give the new Board time to get into office and make possible changes to the Transportation Committee members.

Mr. Cabbage suggested adding no new projects this cycle as it is already established.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Mason and seconded by Mr. Poles, it was moved that the Transportation Committee concurs with the letter as written regarding primary roads and for Mrs. Eddy to submit the letter at the Commonwealth Transportation Board Public Hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

The Six-Year Plan will return on the February 2008 Transportation Agenda.

5. *Presentation to the Transportation Committee on Commuter Issues (statistics, trends, grants, new initiatives) – Jeffrey Walker, RRRC*

Mr. Walker introduced Terri Snead from Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission.

Ms. Snead gave a presentation on Commuter Services offered by Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission.

Mr. Walker stated that there had been a Commuter Fair located at the Warrenton Commuter Lot.

6. *Citizens' Time*

Ms. Merrion stated that she lives on Lockhart Lane off of Ernest Robinson Road off John Barton Payne Road. Ms. Merrion would like to see Ernest Robinson Road paved, but knows she will not be able to get the appropriate right-of-way. She inquired as to the procedure to have this portion tarred and chipped. She stated that Lockhart Lane is 50' wide but Ernest Robinson Road is not as wide. She also inquired how to bring Lockhart Lane into the state system.

Mr. Atherton stated that roads cannot be accepted into the state system unless the owners along the road bring the road to state standards. He noted that Ernest Robinson Road may be able to be brought into the Six-Year Plan, but will need right-of-way. He also stated that Ernest Robinson Road may or may not be eligible for rural rustic. Mr. Atherton suggested that he and Mr. Cabbage drive Ernest Robinson Road when they drive McRaes Road.

Mr. Smith stated VDOT will look into this request.

Mr. Atherton stated that if this can be done in the present right-of-way, owners can request inclusion in the Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Cabbage stated that if one property owner does not want to relinquish right-of-way, check the other side of the road. The current condition of the road needs to be inspected and there needs to be a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 10 vehicles traveling this road per day.

ACTION:

This item will be placed on a future agenda and staff will contact Ms. Merrion with an update.

7. *Other Items*

Mr. Kovalik thanked Dave Cabbage and VDOT for the great job that has been done on Route 29 North from Remington to Opal. He stated the road is very smooth through there.

Mr. Cabbage stated that a new contract has been put into place since September and Route 29 North was done by the new contractor.

Mr. Atherton inquired as to the status of the stretch of Waterloo Road between Fauquier High School and Stonelea Estates.

Mr. Cabbage stated VDOT is working on it.

Mr. Poles suggested implementing a time limit for when citizens speak.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
The next meeting will be held November 28, 2007.