

MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
February 22, 2006
7:00 P.M.
2nd Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186

- Members Present:** Matthew Smith, Chairman, J. David Cubbage, Holder Trumbo, Ray Graham, Sam Poles and Erich Meding
- Members Absent:** Laurence Mason, Vice-Chairman, Harry Atherton, and William Nace
- Guests Present:** Steve Haas - Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, Kareen McGhee, Mike and Pat Freeman, Chandra Signore, and Ray Muirhead
- Staff Present:** Liz Cook, Stacey Pell

At the time the meeting was brought to order, a quorum was not present.

It was also noted that the Transportation Committee now has the authority to approve warning signs to alert motorists of activities or hazards in a particular area, including "Watch for Children", animal crossings, and agricultural warning signs.

1. *Consider a Request for "Watch For Children" Signs Along Baldwin Street (Route 673) – Pat Freeman (Item #2)*

Mr. Graham inquired as to the presence of Speed Limit Signs along Baldwin Street. Ms. Freeman replied that there is an 'End Speed Limit 40' but nothing else is posted. Mr. Graham noted that if the speed limit is not posted, then the speed limit is 55 m.p.h. Ms. Freeman stated that 25 m.p.h. around this curve may even be too fast. She has spoken with Richie Little with VDOT about this issue previously. The road was tarred and chipped in the 1980's.

There was discussion that this road may benefit more from speed limit signs being posted rather than a "Children at Play" sign being erected.

ACTION: VDOT will look into the status of the speed limit sign. This item will be brought back at the March 2006 meeting.

2. *Consider a Request for "Watch For Children" Signs at the Intersection of Stonehurst Court (Route 1320) and Graystone Road (Route 1317) – Ray Muirhead (Item #3)*

Mr. Muirhead stated there are an inordinate amount of young people traveling these roads now and many vehicles exceed the 25 m.p.h. speed limit.

Mr. Trumbo inquired if the drivers were regular offenders.

Mr. Muirhead replied that the majority of offenders are drivers who get lost or turned around in the subdivision.

Mr. Smith stated that sign pollution is something the committee tries to control but if a sign will help, he is for it.

Mr. Muirhead stated there are not a lot of signs in this neighborhood.

Mr. Smith inquired about the number of children playing.

Mr. Muirhead stated there are the most young people living there in years.

Mr. Poles reminded everyone that even if a 'Children at Play' sign does get approved, it does not give the okay to play in the road.

Mr. Cabbage stated the sign should not create a false sense of security nor act as a traffic calming device.

ACTION:

Mr. Cabbage will take a look at the neighborhood, stating that right now there are good indicators for the placement of a 'Children at Play' sign. This item will be brought back at the March 2006 meeting.

3. *Approval of January 25, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes (Item #1)*

With a quorum present, the committee was able to take action.

Mr. Meding stated he was not at the January 2006 Transportation Committee meeting.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Poles and seconded by Mr. Trumbo it was moved to approve the January 25, 2005 Committee meeting minutes, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

4. *Consider a Request for 3-Way Stop Signs at the Intersection of Maidstone Road (Route 713) and Rectortown Road (Route 710) – Kareen McGhee*

Ms. McGhee stated the speed limit on both roads is 25 m.p.h. but traffic flies in both directions. She indicated that the visibility is horrendous. There are speed limit signs posted and the Sheriff's Office has tried to patrol in that area. Stop signs would slow traffic.

Mr. Trumbo stated that this spot is as good as any for a 3-way stop.

Mr. Smith inquired if this will create more accidents than it will prevent.

Mr. Trumbo and Ms. McGhee both stated no.

Mr. Cabbage stated that there was a recently approved speed limit reduction in that area. VDOT will be doing step down speed reduction signs, clear visibility, and installing village gateway signs. He suggested trying to let the new measures take effect. VDOT will look at the actual accident data and traffic volume to see if it is balanced from all directions for an all-way stop to be implemented.

Ms. McGhee stated many people use these roads to get to Interstate 66 thus avoiding Marshall.

Mr. Cabbage stated there are seven warrants to determine if an all-way stop should be put into place.

Mr. Trumbo stated there is an extenuating circumstance where the intersection is at the bottom of a hill on both sides and cars naturally accelerate going down the hill. This is a unique situation due to it being a tricky intersection.

Mr. Poles also noted that in the spring time when the flowers are blooming they further reduce visibility.

ACTION:

VDOT will do a study and report back to the Committee.

5. *Consider a Request for “Deer Warning” Signs Along Riley Road (Route 676) – Chandra Signore*

Mr. Meding stated he has experienced problems with deer along this stretch of road many times. The deer are very bold and almost seem to expect the drivers to stop for them.

Ms. Signore stated that between 9:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight there are usually anywhere from one to thirty deer crossing the road. She has lived here for eight years and this has always been an issue, but is getting worse.

Mr. Cabbage inquired if there was an accident history.

Mr. Trumbo stated most people do not stop if they hit a deer.

Mr. Meding stated that commuters have no desire to slow down and this stretch of road is becoming a major commuter route. Currently, the deer go through the school soccer field and also cross Route 600. After the new subdivision comes to the area, the deer may change patterns.

Ms. Signore stated the deer mostly cross between where the guard rail is and the “Watch for Children” sign.

Mr. Poles stated the VDOT does have a carcass removal program.

Ms. Signore stated there is no other signage on this stretch of road.

Mr. Cabbage stated knowing the impending development for this area, the signs may be a moot point. The more residential and higher traffic volume, the deer may no longer use that area.

Mr. Trumbo stated the development may take a while.

Mr. Meding stated the Committee should consider the warning signs, at least until the timeline of development can be better determined. His main concern is the dead deer right next to the school near the playground. Mr. Meding also stated putting the signs up now would be beneficial to drivers, prior to the change in landscape due to upcoming development.

Mr. Cabbage reiterated that the signs are placed as a warning to drivers, not to direct the deer. People have a tendency to become oblivious to signs.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Meding and seconded by Mr. Graham it was moved to approve the put up “Deer Warning” signs. The motion carried unanimously.

6. *Consider a Request for “No Parking” Signs for Lake Daniel Road (Route 863) – Sam Poles*

Mr. Poles stated that at least 4-5 people have called him in regards to a construction company parking heavy equipment in the cul-de-sac near the beginning of this road. This is also a VDOT hazard when pushing snow.

Mr. Graham inquired whether this spot was used as permanent or overnight parking.

Mr. Poles replied there are some type of vehicles there every day; usually construction company vehicles but other times there are personal vehicles parked there.

Mr. Trumbo inquired if this may be a Zoning violation.

Mrs. Cook stated if the road is a public street, parking is permitted.

Mr. Poles asked if this could be checked with Zoning to see if it is a violation and what could be done.

ACTION:

Mrs. Cook will turn this item over to Zoning.

7. *Consider a Request for Signalization at the Intersection of Route 28 and Bastable Mill Road (Route 603)/Bristersburg Road (Route 616)*

Mr. Cabbage stated that VDOT is doing a traffic study for the Meetze Road intersection. As to the intersection of Route 28 / Route 603 / Route 616, VDOT did a traffic study and the intersection did not meet the warrants for a traffic signal. Between January 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005 there was only one accident reported at the intersection. Other issues that did not meet the warrant were: speed, traffic data, pedestrian movement, and peak hour traffic.

8. *Receive an Update from VDOT on Speed Limit Reductions*

Route 608 – Clarkes Road will go to 35 m.p.h.

Route 624 – Crenshaw Road will go to 25 m.p.h.

Route 674 – Green Road will go to 40 m.p.h.

Route 689 – Dudie Road will go to 40 m.p.h.

Route 710 – Rectortown Road will go from 35 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h.

The intersection of Route 29 and Lees Mill Road does not meet the warrants necessary to install a traffic signal. The lack of accidents, four in a five-year period, was a primary reason the intersection did not warrant a traffic signal.

It is looking as though VDOT will be reducing the speed limit on Halfway Road in the area of Route 626 and Route 679 near the Village of Halfway, going to 35 m.p.h. The current speed limit is 45 m.p.h.

9. *Citizens' Time*

Mr. Smith thanked Deputy Haas for attending this month's Transportation Committee Meeting.

10. *Other Items*

Mr. Trumbo inquired to the Blantyre Road / Georgetown Road name change situation.

Mrs. Cook stated that the GIS office is working with the County Attorney office to find out, since this is a public road, what the process will be; whether there will be a need for a public hearing at the Board. There is also the question whether the route number will change if the street name is changed.

Mr. Trumbo suggested Stover Mill Road as the Stover Mill is an historic landmark on the national registry and is located on this road.

Mr. Meding recommended that a study on the speed limit on Broad Run Church Road be started. He would like to see the speed limit as uniform as possible on this road. The speed limit goes from 45 m.p.h. to 35 m.p.h. just past Kelly Road then 25 m.p.h. when the lights are blinking near the school. This may potentially be part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Cabbage stated that neither the Transportation Committee nor Fauquier County can change speed limits but rather the State does.

Mr. Cabbage will bring the general information of speed limit changes to the next meeting.

Mr. Trumbo stated that with the traffic impact of the new development in this area, this may be something to put in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Cabbage stated VDOT worked some timing into the traffic signal at the intersection of Route 17 and Route 55.

Mr. Trumbo stated the traffic signal is still doing to same thing where only one or two cars pass through before the light changes again.

Mr. Cabbage stated the light is triggered when someone pulls up.

Mr. Cabbage stated that 2 seconds were added to the All Red phase at the traffic signal located at the intersection of Route 29 and Route 600.

Mrs. Cook stated Mr. Graham received a letter from the mayor of Leesburg regarding the Greenway tolls in Loudoun County.

Mr. Trumbo stated that is not a realm of this Committee or of Fauquier County.

Mr. Meding stated we should send some type of response.

Mr. Trumbo suggested the committee does not want to drive transportation decisions in other counties.

ACTION:

A response will be sent by Mr. Graham.

Mr. Graham stated the Buckland Bypass Committee has charged the VDOT Culpeper District with being the starting point to manage the group. They will be looking at all alternatives; taking the bypass from Route 29/211 to Interstate 66. The contract will be led through Prince William County.

Mrs. Cook stated that the Committee approved two "Deer Warning" signs on Route 605 and a "Watch for Children" sign on Chestnut Oak Lane.

Mrs. Cook inquired into the status of Route 215 road improvements.

Mr. Cabbage stated there is no historical significance in this area. The findings showed there are no additional archeological work needed to complete the assessments. VDOT will need to determine the location and then go to design in the Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Trumbo inquired as to the improvements to the north.

Mr. Cabbage stated these improvements can go forward as they are untied to the Buckland Study.

Mr. Cabbage acknowledged the removal of the second traffic light at the intersection of Route 29 and Route 215. VDOT received a lot of calls regarding the second light. There have been increased accidents at this intersection since the signal removal.

Mr. Smith thanked VDOT for taking care of the items in Midland. He received a Thank You letter from the Longerbeams in regard to this as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
The next meeting will be held March 29, 2006.