

MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 29, 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, Harry Atherton, Sam Poles and Erich Meding

Members Absent: Laurence Mason, Vice-Chairman, and William Nace

Guests Present: Steve Haas - Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, Bill Weber, Glen R. MacWelch, Tom Thorpe, Pat Freeman, and Chuck Medvitz

Staff Present: Liz Cook and Stacey Pell

I. Approval of February 22, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Trumbo stated page 5 line 7 'with' should be 'will'. He also requested line 21 read 'Mr. Trumbo suggested' instead of 'Mr. Trumbo stated'.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Atherton and seconded by Mr. Graham it was moved to approve the February 22, 2006 Committee meeting minutes, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith inquired if anyone had specific questions or comments for Deputy Haas, as Dep. Haas will be unable to stay for the duration of the meeting.

Mr. Smith inquired if there was any increase in the radar along Route 17 North.

Dep. Haas stated that the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office has not seen any difference; the same amount of tickets are being handed out. He noted the State Police also work that stretch of road a lot.

Mr. Trumbo stated he is more aware of a police presence on Zulla Road and he wished to thank the Sheriff's Office.

Dep. Haas stated they need more court dates to be able to write more tickets.

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

2. *Consider a Request for “Watch For Children” Signs Along Baldwin Street (Route 673) – Pat Freeman*

Mr. Cabbage stated the road is classified as a collector road and is not intended for placement of “Watch for Children” signs. It is also not intended to be open to pedestrians and children at play.

Mr. Smith inquired if there were any signs that state the speed limit.

Mr. Cabbage stated there are postings down to 35 m.p.h. and further reductions may come as growth increases in this area.

Mr. Medvitz showed pictures of Baldwin Street. The pictures show the narrowness of the road and problems vehicles have passing each other on parts of the road. Mr. Medvitz also stated that although this is a collector road, there may be a reason to make an exception for a sign here. He would support a reduction of speed and “Watch for Children” sign. As the traffic in this area increases, he encourages making an exception.

Mr. Cabbage stated the speed limit reduction is forthcoming, but he cannot support the “Watch for Children” sign.

Mr. Trumbo asked the Committee if there was any leverage to go to the State and make all internal service district, unposted roads changed to 35 m.p.h.

Mr. Atherton stated Service Districts are unique to Fauquier County, and we would need local authority to set speed limits.

Mr. Trumbo stated he was only referring to unposted roads in Service Districts.

Mr. Atherton stated the Committee would need to ask the County Attorney what would be needed to establish unposted speed limits in Service Districts.

Mr. Meding stated there needs to be uniformity. Right now there is inconsistency.

Mr. Graham stated drivers go clipping along through villages, and he agrees that the speed limit theoretically does need to be 35 m.p.h. He would be an advocate of that change.

Mr. Trumbo stated he would promote consistency.

Ms. Freeman stated she would not agree with a 35 m.p.h. speed limit for her road due to the fact that on some stretches the road is only wide enough for one vehicle.

Mr. Trumbo stated ‘Watch for Children’ signs are not the best solution. Speeding is enforceable by law and the police can write speeding tickets.

Mr. Smith stated that it sounds like the speed limit signs are going up soon and that is being done within VDOT recommendations.

Mr. Graham stated that when the road changes significantly, the Committee needs to look at it as a continuation of a two-lane road.

Mr. Cabbage stated this road appears to be a good candidate for the Six-Year Plan for spot improvements or safety funds to target site specific problem 'hot' areas.

Mr. Graham inquired how to warn drivers about the road condition.

Mr. Cabbage stated that posting a 'Road Narrows' sign is one option.

Mr. Graham stated one issue is that people do not realize the need to read signs, but there is a need to have something posted along the road to alert drivers.

Ms. Freeman stated most of the drivers in this area are people who drive this road everyday and know the road narrows.

Mr. Cabbage stated that posting signs is a relative low dollar fix.

Mr. Graham stated he will touch base with the Sheriff's Office about the speed issue on this road.

Mr. Weber stated this appears to be a speed issue and such measures need to be taken.

Mr. Cabbage stated that out of optical counters, speed trailers, and loop counters, VDOT has found out these measures do not capture data as well as two counters and cameras.

Mr. Graham stated that Baldwin Street is already in for a speed limit reduction and asked Mr. Cabbage to look into 'Road Narrows' signs.

ACTION:

Mr. Trumbo will speak with Kevin Burke, County Attorney, about changing speed limits on unposted roads in Service Districts. Mr. Cabbage will look into 'Road Narrow' signs. This item will be considered at the April Transportation Committee Meeting.

3. *Consider a Request to Extend the Length of Eskridges Lane in the Six Year Plan – Linda Hyson (Item #6)*

Mr. Cabbage stated VDOT was in the process of collecting right-of-way and has 0.6 miles right now. VDOT cannot go beyond this unless the County steps up. VDOT cannot dedicate state dollars beyond the 0.6 mile length.

Mr. Thorpe stated he was informed by Culpeper that the state owns the right-of-way. He tried to get a cul-de-sac on this road when it was initially installed. When school buses travel down this road, they have to turn around in driveways.

Mr. Cabbage stated it is not up to VDOT, but up to the County to add it to the system.

Mr. Meding made the recommendation to do discovery to find out who owns the right-of-way along the rest of the road and upon discovery what else needs to be done to bring this road in the system.

Mr. Smith inquired as to who does the discovery.

Mrs. Cook stated the County could go back and see what was dedicated.

Mr. Meding requested this be brought forward in one month.

Mr. Cabbage stated this road is currently in the Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Graham stated that the Committee needs to know who owns the Right-of-Way and what to do next.

ACTION:

The County will research who owns the right-of-way. This item will be considered at the April Transportation Committee Meeting.

4. *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. Cabbage stated that this request meets all VDOT standards.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Mr. Trumbo it was moved to approve the sign request. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Cook will do the resolution.

5. *Consider a Request for a Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Route 17 and Route 245 (Old Tavern Road) – Arthur W. Arundel (Item #4)*

Mr. Trumbo stated traffic does occasionally back up on Old Tavern Road.

Mrs. Cook stated people tend to use this as a cut through to Interstate 66.

ACTION:

VDOT will initiate a traffic study for this intersection, do a traffic count, and report back to the Committee in 30 days.

6. *Consider a Request to Lower the Speed Limit on Olinger Road (Route 764)(Item #5)*

Mr. Cabbage stated he rode this and it is paved all the way.

Mr. Atherton stated most people on this road do not drive too fast.

Mr. Poles stated as this is a dead-end road then it is probably the residents that do all the speeding.

Mr. Atherton stated it is not worth initiating the process.

ACTION:

This item was dropped.

7. *Consider a Request for Signalization at the Intersection of Route 28 and Meetze Road (Route 643)*

Mr. Cabbage stated that VDOT is doing a traffic study for the Meetze Road intersection.

Mr. Graham inquired if letters had been sent out regarding the intersection of Route 28 and Route 616.

Mr. Cabbage stated those letters have not been sent out yet.

Mr. Graham and Mr. Smith both asked to be copied on that letter.

ACTION:

VDOT needs one more month to finish the study. This item will be considered at the April Transportation Committee Meeting.

8. *Consider a Request to Mitigate Speeding and Road Conditions on Greenwich Road (Route 603) in the Vicinity of Kennedy Road (Route 652)*

Mr. Graham requested that Mr. Cabbage ride down Greenwich Road and take a look at this area.

Mr. Cabbage stated he pulled the accident report from 2002-2003. There were no reported injuries or \$1000 or more reported in damages. He also stated that VDOT can upgrade the signs to more advance warning and increase the reflectivity.

Mr. Meding asked for clarification on accidents with \$1000 or more claimed in damages, and asked if VDOT receives data below the \$1000 limit.

Mr. Cabbage stated VDOT does not receive the data below \$1000 the limit.

Mr. Smith asked if he would have more information within the next couple of months.

Mr. Cabbage stated he would.

ACTION:

Mr. Graham will get in touch with the citizen concerned. This item will be tabled until a later meeting date.

9. *Consider a Request for No Littering Signs Near the Warrenton-Fauquier Airport – Ray Graham*

Mr. Graham stated there is a lady who will adopt a piece of the road for litter clean up.

Mr. Cabbage inquired if the police have caught anyone in the act of littering.

Mr. Graham stated no, but littering can be reported especially if trash is found along the roadside with a name on it.

Mr. Graham stated a sign on Brent Town Road that threatened a fine for littering has decreased littering in that area.

Mr. Meding suggested more creative wording on signs including the threat of a fine and the fact that drivers can be reported to the Sheriff's Office for littering.

Mr. Graham stated the need to check with the County Attorney's office to see what the County can do.

Mr. Cabbage stated the wording on signs is legal binding.

Mr. Cabbage also suggested an idea would be to offer inmate litter control duties or the ability to earn Community Service time for other offenders.

ACTION:

Mr. Cabbage will work with Mr. Graham to see what can be done. This item will be brought back with information regarding the wording on signs.

10. *Discuss Road Abandonments and Additions for Overdue Six-Year Plan Projects – Dave Cabbage*

Mr. Cabbage stated this needs to go through the Board of Supervisors. There is a piece of Route 611 that needs to be abandoned and a piece that needs to be added. There is also of piece of Route 605 that needs attention. He gave the notices to Mrs. Cook.

ACTION:

The Committee needs to process the paperwork and forward to the Board of Supervisors.

11. *Consider a Request to Support the Governor's and the Virginia Senate's Transportation Plan*

Mr. Graham received a letter regarding this matter in the mail and brought it forward to the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Atherton stated this seemed to be a political matter for a non-political body.

Mr. Graham stated this does impact the local transportation revenue.

Mr. Atherton suggested the Committee may want to stay out of it.

Mrs. Cook noted the deadline for a response had passed, so the matter was subsequently dropped.

12. Citizens' Time

Mr. Medvitz stated the Transportation Committee load continues to grow throughout the County. He has never heard any talk about access or a crossover control at Route 17. He would like to take this opportunity to plant a seed for the Committee to think about what needs to be done along Route 17 as it is not in a Service District.

Mr. Atherton stated the Committee can make recommendations as was done for Route 29.

Mr. Trumbo stated the Committee does discuss issues that are noteworthy.

Mrs. Cook stated the Committee could look at future development and road access.

Mr. Meding inquired into the status of the interchange of Route 17 and Route 29 where the Sheetz is located.

Mr. Cabbage stated this will be accomplished in the 2008-2009 timeframe.

Mr. Weber inquired into the status of a three-way stop where the Warrenton Training Center road intersects with Bear Wallow Road.

Mr. Graham stated a letter was sent regarding this situation.

Mr. Atherton stated this may get senatorial backing.

Mr. Weber stated vehicles travel down the hill from the Training Center very fast.

Mr. Smith inquired if there is more traffic traveling in and out of the Training Center or along Bear Wallow Road.

Mr. Atherton stated there is five times more traffic for the Training Center.

13. Other Items

Mr. Poles stated that in regard to the issue on Lake Daniel Road, he will get back to the Committee.

Mrs. Cook stated she is finding out from the Zoning Office the options for enforcement.

ACTION:

Mr. Poles stated he will get Mrs. Cook more information.

Mr. Meding stated he has noticed a change in the All Red Phase at the intersection of Route 29 and Route 600 for one direction, but the light turns green almost immediately on Route 600 when Route 29 turns red. He has also noticed the same for the intersection at the Route 29 and Route 215. He would like to have the timing of the lights at both intersections checked.

ACTION:

Mr. Cabbage will check both intersections' traffic signals.

Mr. Cabbage stated that in an effort to be more proactive with tractor trailer issues. VDOT and DMV are considering a contract to place a Weigh- In Motion system. The system

involves placing sensors in pavement and enforcement officers reading data from the sensors.

This is a pilot program in this area. It will be in effect on the northbound lane of Rte. 15/29 at the start.

Mr. Graham requested that he is notified with the opening day results.

Mr. Cabbage stated a contract will be prepared for this project and could be in place within the next 12-18 months.

Mr. Trumbo stated the traffic signal in Marshall still has seemingly erratic timing.

Mr. Atherton agreed the timing is most random.

ACTION:

Mr. Cabbage will check into this.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Cabbage the purpose of the message boards on Route 29.

Mr. Cabbage stated they will be used to notify drivers of upcoming construction, accidents, and Amber Alerts. They will complement the ones in Prince William County.

Mr. Meding inquired if they will notify drivers of traffic delays due to events held at Nissan Pavilion.

Mr. Cabbage stated not at this time.

Mr. Cabbage stated the test phase will go into effect in the next month or so.

Mr. Smith stated some people contacted him who expressed they thought the speed limit on Walker Drive was too slow.

It was determined that Walker Drive is within the Town of Warrenton limits and is not under the jurisdiction of this Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held April 26, 2006.