

**MINUTES OF  
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**MAY 31, 2006**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**Members Present:** Matthew Smith, Chairman, Laurence Mason, Vice-Chairman, J. David Cabbage, Erich Medding, Sam Poles, and Holder Trumbo

**Members Absent:** Harry Atherton, Ray Graham, and William Nace

**Guests Present:** Scott Filling, John Griffin, Robert T. Sisk, and Bill Weber

**Staff Present:** Liz Cook

1. *Consider a Request to Add Ernest Robinson Road (Route 637) to the Rural Rustic Road Program - Lee Sweetapple (Item #3)*

Mr. Cabbage stated that the request could be best addressed as a Six Year Plan item in a concentrated effort in July. The route's traffic count qualifies it as a "great" candidate for unpaved roads.

**ACTION:**

**The item will be addressed as a Six Year Plan item during the July 26, 2006 Transportation Committee meeting.**

2. *Consider a Request to Trim Trees at the Southbound Entrance of Route 17 onto U.S. Route 66 near Delaplane - Ann McCarty (Item #7)*

Mr. Cabbage stated that because this is a matter of vegetation, it is a maintenance issue and not an item for the Committee.

**ACTION:**

**The item was removed from the agenda, as it will be addressed by VDOT.**

3. *Consider a Request to Make Safety Improvements to the Ashville Road Bridge (Route 732) Over U.S. Route 66 - Holder Trumbo (Item #6)*

Mr. Trumbo stated that the item was more of a maintenance issue. He and Mr. Cabbage agreed to meet about the subject.

**ACTION:**

**Mr. Cabbage and Mr. Trumbo will meet to discuss the item.**

4. *Consider a Citizen Request to Address Safety Issues Related to the February 12, 2006 Snow Storm and Downed Power Lines - Debbie Roland (Item #5)*

Mrs. Cook stated that the item might be more appropriate for review by the Public Safety Committee. The County Sheriff's Office has responded and they will communicate with VDOT and electric company.

Mr. Trumbo reinforced Ms. Cook's suggestion that the item be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee.

**ACTION:**

**Item forwarded to Public Safety Committee.**

5. *Consider a Request for a Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Route 17 and Route 245 (Old Tavern Road) - Arthur W. Arundel (Item #2)*

Mr. Cabbage indicated that VDOT has taken traffic counts, which during times of day appear to meet some signal warrants. The intersection will continue to be reviewed and the traffic counts verified during the next year.

Mr. Cabbage advised that VDOT would reassess the intersection in a year to see if the warrants are still being met. There was discussion about signal warrants and how they are determined.

Mr. Cabbage stated that the speed study has shown that limiting speed limit is not warranted for the full length of Route 17. VDOT will extend reduced speed limit one quarter-mile toward Warrenton.

**ACTION:**

**VDOT will verify the warrant results and reassess the intersection within a year.**

6. *Consider a Citizen Concern About the Placement of a No Trespassing Sign at the Intersection of Great Run Lane (private street) and Cannonball Gate Road (Route 690) - Douglas L. Sickler (Item #4)*

Ms. Cook stated she had received the letter that is in the Committee's packet, and had spoken with the person who wrote it. He has gone to Sheriff and VDOT about the issue and asked if they would allow it in the right-of-way.

There was discussion about placement of signs. Mrs. Cook advised the Committee that this was probably a civil matter, not one of the Committee.

Mr. Cabbage indicated that VDOT does not install or permit the installation of "No Trespassing" signs.

**ACTION:**

**The item was dropped from the agenda.**

7. *Approval of April 26, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes (Item #1)*

**ACTION:**

**On motion made by Mr. Poles and seconded by Mr. Trumbo, it was moved to approve the May 31, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

8. *Consider the requests related to Belvoir Road (Route 709)- Scott Filling (Item # 8):*

a. Speed Limit Reduction from 45 mph to 35 mph

Mr. Filling handed out maps to address item a. Mr. Filling stated that increasing traffic and people running off the road are problems on Belvoir Road. He indicated that a sharp curve, passing farm trailers, and a high drop-off present danger while traveling on the road.

He advised that Mr. Fetterer asked for a speed limit reduction on Belvoir Road north of this area. Mr. Filling stated he would like more speed limit signs placed in that area.

Mr. Cabbage and Mr. Smith discussed the scope of the former study. Mr. Cabbage offered to re-study the road if the Committee makes the request.

Mr. Trumbo stated his experience is that there are commuters who travel very fast on the road. He believes this section may warrant a fresh look.

Mr. Cabbage will do a study. He advised that it would take 30 to 60 days for study results.

Ms. Cook suggested the item be on the September agenda.

b. Placement of “No Littering” Signs

Mr. Filling stated that there is much littering along the road. He advised that several of the neighbors are working to clean up the road. Mr. Filling asked for a no littering sign with the fine posted to help discourage littering in the future.

Mr. Cabbage indicated he discourages the use of signs, as he believes them ineffective. He suggested that there could be a program with the landfill to have an amnesty program. He indicated that for signs to be effective they need to be backed up with enforcement.

Mr. Trumbo suggested an “Adopt-a-Highway” program for the area.

Mr. Cabbage will work with Mr. Filling to establish a group to adopt the particular section of road.

Mr. Medding suggested that the County might establish some type of consistent countywide campaign.

Mr. Cabbage stated that such a campaign would be difficult because it would require changing people’s thinking. He has been in discussion with Commonwealth Attorney Jonathan Lynn’s office about assigning community service individuals to do road/litter clean up for various offenses. He indicated that VDOT does this in other counties. Mr. Cabbage will let Committee know the results of his conversations.

c. Installation of signs banning Jake Brakes near Route 17

Mr. Filling stated that this affects one section of Belvoir Road where the road goes uphill.

Mr. Smith stated that this is a liability issue and the Committee could not put up a sign banning jake brakes. He stated that a February 2003 meeting had involved discussion of similar issues.

Mr. Cabbage stated that the County cannot adopt an ordinance to prohibit legal equipment and VDOT cannot put signage to enforce county ordinances.

Mr. Trumbo suggested moving sign for an earlier warning of the stop sign.

Mr. Filling indicated that he believes the same trucks are repeat offenders, so they know about the stop sign.

There was discussion about speed limit reduction to help with braking noise.

**ACTION:**

- a. **VDOT will study the road and have counts ready by September.**
- b. **Mr. Cabbage will look into “Adopt-a-Highway” program with Mr. Filling.**
- c. **There will be no action on signs banning jake brakes.**

**9. Citizens’ Time**

Mr. Weber addressed the issue of a stop sign on Bear Wallow Road at the Training Center intersection.

Mr. Cabbage stated that VDOT is studying the intersection. VDOT does not have an issue with the Route 690 entrance. The third leg of the intersection is in question. VDOT believes the all-way stop may have merit.

Mr. Weber stated that one must pull into the center of the intersection to be able to see around construction signs.

Mr. Cabbage stated that he could not legally change the visibility unless it is in the right-of-way. VDOT’s traffic count study will provide more information.

Mr. Weber addressed the issue of sunken pavement on the southbound bypass before Meetze Road, between Academy Hill and Meetze Road.

Mr. Weber stated that he had asked the Culpeper District Office about message board placement at Baldwin Road.

Mr. Cabbage stated that this was approved in 1999 and various factors go into site selection.

Mr. Medding would like the County to be notified on sign locations in the future.

Mr. Smith has concerns about the sign’s size and believes a smaller one would also work.

Mr. Cabbage advised that he would consider the Committee’s suggestions and would let them know of this type of item in future, but that these are state-level decisions. He told the Committee that VDOT has message boards planned for Route 29 & 17 and the Opal Interchange.

**10. Other Items**

Mr. Cabbage advised the Committee of his monthly speed adjustments report, which includes:

- Route 617(Blackwells Mill Road), from unstated 55 mph to 40 mph;
- Route 674 (Baldwin Street) to 25 MPH, from Grays Mill Road (Route 674) to the dead end;
- Route 837 (Old Marsh Road) and Route 17 to Route 663 (Balls Mill Lane) from 40 mph to 35 mph (for 1.41 miles).

Mr. Cabbage stated that speed indicator signs for Route 17 from U.S. Route 66 to Route 50 have gone to advertisement with bids due in June. He indicated the Route 55 Bridge would receive advertisement soon. The Tapps Ford Bridge is open and complete.

Mr. Cabbage stated that mowing would start in June. There will be full mowing in the spring and probably one mowing in the fall, depending on rain.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held June 28, 2006.