

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

October 18, 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, Harry Atherton, William Nace, Jeffrey Walker, Darryl Shifflett, Erich Meding

Members Absent: Laurence Mason, Vice-Chairman, Ray Graham, and Sam Poles

Guests Present: Lt. Col. David Flohr – Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office, Chuck Medvitz, Sam Mitchell, Clara Brown, Bill Weber, Cherie Zimbro, William A. Hazel, Anne Hall, and Allen Crane

Staff Present: Liz Cook and Stacey Pell

1. Approval of September 27, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Atherton and seconded by Mr. Trumbo it was moved to approve the September 27, 2006 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider a Request for a Speed Limit Reduction on Blantyre Road (Route 628) – William Hazel

Mr. Hazel stated that many drivers use Blantyre Road as a cut through from Route 55 to Route 17. The road is not suited for a speed limit of 55 m.p.h. There is no shoulder and often drivers pass where there is a double yellow line. Accidents have caused utility poles to come down and his fence to be replaced several times.

Ms. Hall stated she used to ride her bike along this road but cannot anymore with the road not having a shoulder and the speed of the cars traveling this road. There are other bikers and joggers who still use this road. This road was not meant to handle the type of speed drivers are going.

Mr. Atherton inquired as to the process required to reduce the speed.

Mr. Cubbage replied that VDOT has some data for this road but would like to hold it until he receives the official repoRoute The crash history shows that there have been 12 crashes within the past 36 months and that 85% of the cars are exceeding 60 m.p.h. The data is building, and Mr. Cubbage will have the final report next month. When he does, he is sure there will be no question as to the action the Committee should take.

Lt. Col. Flohr stated that over 127 traffic citations have been written on Blantyre Road and the majority were speed violations.

Mr. Nace stated he would support a reduction to 45 m.p.h. and inquired as to the possibility of placing speed traps along this road.

Lt. Col. Flohr stated Fauquier County Sheriff's Office has no problem enforcing radar but reiterated to the Committee that Blantyre is only one of many roads in the county for the 12 officers on one shift to cover. The radar can be used in motion and at a stop. He also stated officers are allowed to park in driveways while running radar.

ACTION:

This item will be held until the November 2006 meeting.

3. *Consider a Request for "Watch for Children" Signs on Wankoma Drive in the Wankoma Village Subdivision – Sam Mitchell*

Ms. Brown stated she is concerned for the safety of the children in the subdivision. Vehicles are being driven around school buses and even though there are speed limit signs, cars still speed.

Mr. Cabbage stated he needs a resolution from the County to be able to install the sign. He reiterated that "Watch for Children" signs do not allow nor should they encourage children to play in the streets. These signs sometimes create a false sense of security. This request does meet some standards and if the Committee looks favorable upon it, VDOT can move forward with this request.

Mr. Atherton informed Ms. Brown and Mr. Mitchell that these signs become invisible to the residents in the area after a period of about six months.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Trumbo it was moved to have the "Watch for Children" signs installed in the area VDOT deems as the best location in Wankoma Village. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell stated there is a "No Parking" sign in the area that keeps getting pulled out and laid on the ground.

Mr. Cabbage will put in a work order for that maintenance request.

4. *Consider Making a Recommendation on the Secondary Six-Year Plan Projects and Consider the Following Additional Projects:*

- a. Improvements to Route 692 (Kines Road)
- b. Improvements to Route 816 (Fenny Hill Road)
- c. Improvements to Route 615 (Silver Hill Road)
- d. Improvements to Route 800 (Old Culpeper Road)

Mrs. Cook advised the Committee that petitions have been received from Route 816 (Fenny Hill Road) residents, Route 692 (Kines Road) residents, and Route 615 (Silver Hill Road) residents. A site visit was also made to Kines Road.

Mr. Atherton inquired as to the status of Dullins Ford Road.

Mr. Shifflett stated he visited the road and took pictures. Based on that visit, he suggested that at the intersection of Route 688, the crest of the hill could be brought down. That would

increase site distance, and then pave the rest of the road. Fixing the crest of the hill would fix the site distance issue.

Mr. Smith inquired if anyone found about out the Green Road project request.

Mr. Shifflett replied the work is needed on the guard rail and falls under a maintenance issue.

Mr. Cabbage suggested deletion of this project from the Six-Year Plan as funding will come from another source.

Mr. Smith agreed to remove Item #7 – Green Road from the Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Cabbage suggested redistributing the bulk of the \$11 million marked for Route 605 to other projects. Then \$100,000 could be earmarked for the 2008-09 year for a study on the existing alignment versus a change in the alignment for Route 605.

Mr. Trumbo stated a study could be done both before and after the new school opens.

Mr. Cabbage stated, in regards to Broad Run Church Road, that \$3.6 million of the budgeted \$8.5 million is for right-of-way acquisition. It is possible to get developers to dedicate right-of-way, but if this project is no longer in the Six Year Plan, the County will lose leverage with developers. Another high cost portion of this project is relocating utility poles. Mr. Cabbage would also like to note that if the cost can be lowered on this project, the project would move higher on the list and the excess funds could be redistributed to other projects.

Ms. Cook brought up Bishop's Run and the intersection at Route 600

Mr. Meding stated this will change the dynamics of Route 600.

Mr. Atherton stated the ideal would be to limit access to Route 600 and noted you cannot get developers to donate funds unless they want to donate funds.

Mr. Meding stated there are a lot of new communities being built up in this area and the speed limit needs to be addressed.

Cheryl Zimbardo was present and speaking for Mr. Curtis, a property owner along Silver Hill Road. Ms. Zimbardo turned in a signed petition requesting to have the unpaved section paved and/or upgraded. Ms. Zimbardo also stated the property owners are in agreement to give easements or right-of-way for this project. She spoke with Chester Stribling and he is in favor of this. There had been a land dispute, which has since been settled and will enable VDOT to acquire right-of-way.

Mr. Shifflett stated 50 feet of right-of-way is needed with an additional 10 feet on either side. There are some barns that will be located in the right-of-way.

Ms. Zimbardo stated Mr. Curtis owns the property with the barns and one of the barns burnt down. She stated Roger Curtis owns the property on the left and Walter Curtis owns the property on the right.

Mr. Nace inquired as to the necessity of Old Culpeper Road being in the plan.

Mr. Smith stated it is a state maintained road.

Ms. Cook also stated there are a lot of properties along this road.

ACTION:

On motion made by Mr. Atherton and seconded by Mr. Nace it was moved to recommend adoption of the Six-Year Plan with the addition of the four (4) new projects at the end, redistribution of the \$11 million allocated to Route 605, add approximately

\$100,000 for a study into improvements for Route 605, and removal of Item #7 – Green Road. The motion carried unanimously.

5. *Citizens' Time*

Mr. Atherton informed Mr. Weber there has been no further progress in the Training Center issue due to the shortened amount of time between Transportation meetings. He will call and set up a meeting about the stop signs and stop ahead warnings.

Mr. Weber stated drivers still speed on Beverley's Mill Road (Route 628) and there are realistically only two areas for the Sheriff's office to sit with radar.

Mr. Atherton stated two suggestions would be to: 1 – lower the speed limit and 2 – set higher fines for speeding in that area.

Mr. Trumbo stated a lower speed limit would change the violation from a speeding ticket to a reckless driving charge.

6. *Other Items*

Mrs. Cook distributed a memo from CTB about a workshop looking for a model school that has students arriving on foot.

Mr. Atherton suggested sending a copy of the letter to the Town of Warrenton.

Mr. Meding stated there is a foot path plan in the New Baltimore Service District Plan.

Mrs. Cook received another request for a "Watch for Children" sign on Baldwin Street close to the Route 605 end.

Mr. Atherton stated the Committee needs to hear from the representative and hold this item until next month.

ACTION:

This item will be held until the November 2006 meeting.

Mr. Smith stated he appreciated Mr. Meding's concerns about the New Baltimore area, specifically Broad Run Church Road (Route 600) and will ask VDOT to monitor.

Mr. Trumbo inquired when this area was last studied.

Mr. Cabbage stated the most recent study is about 4 to 6 years old. VDOT is in the process of having this area studied now. The Committee will be able to review the study when submitted.

Mr. Meding stated if the site is visited now, one will see an average of 50 dump trucks on the road, both sides of Route 600 are being developed, and there is major construction traffic in this area.

Mr. Atherton mentioned Turnbull may take on Village status soon and that may change the speed limit on that portion of Springs Road.

Mr. Walker announced that the following night will be the kick-off for Rappahannock-Rapidan Rural Transportation Planning Technical Committee. Representatives from VDOT and a number of other agencies will be attending.

Mr. Smith noted the New Baltimore area and the interchange at Route 215 and Route 29 in Gainesville are getting more congested. If any Committee members come up with any recommendations, please keep that in mind for the next meeting.

Mr. Meding agreed that issue is something on which the Committee members need to focus.

Ms. Cook advised that the Committee was involved with VDOT on the Route 29 crossover study.

Mr. Atherton stated input is needed for the alignment of Route 215.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held November 29, 2006.