

**Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization
755 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073**

Minutes
April 5, 2007

- PRESENT: Clay Goodman - Montgomery County
Doug Marrs - Montgomery County
Steve Mouras - Virginia Tech
Susan Anderson - Town of Blacksburg
Richard Ballengee - Town of Christiansburg
Abigail Convery - NRV PDC
Unwanna Dabney - Federal Highway Administration
Richard Caywood - VDOT (Salem)
Patrick Burton - VDOT (Salem)
Nathan Umberger - VDOT (Salem)
Dan Brugh - Executive Director, MPO
Lance Terpenney - Town of Christiansburg
Rebecca Martin - Blacksburg Transit
David Clarke - VDOT (Christiansburg)
Jennifer Hamblin - Recording Secretary
- ABSENT: Michael Gray - VDOT (Salem)
Ron Rordam - Town of Blacksburg
Michael St.Jean - VT Montgomery Regional Airport Authority
Adele Schirmer - Town of Blacksburg
Melissa Barlow - Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Patricia Kampf - Federal Transit Administration

DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Lance Terpenney declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Doug Marrs, seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously, the agenda of April 5, 2007 was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2006

On a motion by Susan Anderson, seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously, the minutes of October 6, 2006 were approved.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SESSION

There being no speakers, the public address session was closed.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Route 460 Connector Corridor Study

Two public information meetings have been held and were well attended. The TAC is currently making final recommendations. A public hearing will be scheduled, most likely in May. The TAC will then present a recommendation to the Policy Board for consideration.

Blacksburg expressed opposition to the concept of making Prices Fork six lanes within town limits and reminded the group that a connection was needed for Hubbard Country Club.

VDoT Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations

VDoT has prepared draft Implementation Guidelines for the TIA Regulations. An information session was held at New River Community College on March 21, 2007. Phased implementation will begin July 1, 2007 and Salem District is in the first phase. While these regulations do not directly impact the MPO, the MPO is willing to assist localities if needed.

Richard Caywood handed out copies of the most recent version of the guidelines and discussed them with the group. Richard has offered to come out to locality sites in order to give presentations and answer questions. The district currently has plans to add one person to their staff in order to help accommodate the increased work load that will be caused by these guidelines. The guidelines are being implemented in phases in order to more accurately determine the increased amount of work. There is the potential for more full time staff positions to be developed if the increased volume warrants this action. VDoT's goal is to meet the locality's expectations as far as time lines are concerned.

A suggestion was made to set up a presentation at a central location for Montgomery County and the towns to participate in as a whole.

NEW BUSINESS

Update of MPO Work Products for SAFETEA-LU Compliance

The required compliance date to the SAFETEA-LU regulations is July 1, 2007. The Executive Director has been working with VDoT and FhWA on what is needed in this MPO. What is required – the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan needs to be amended, a Public Participation Plan needs to be adopted; the annual Work Program (UPWP) as well as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) need to be compliant when developed this year. Our current Public Involvement Policy has been modified to the required Plan and a draft Amendment has been developed. These have been sent to Interested Parties and Environmental Regulatory agencies for comment as required. Comments will be received until April 23, 2007. The TAC will meet on April 26, 2007 and finalize these draft documents. The Policy Board should approve these at the May 3, 2007 meeting for advertisement for comment for 45 days. The TAC will review again and submit final documents to the Policy Board for final approval on July 5, 2007.

Items in the amendment to the Long Range Plan:

1. Environmental Overview – developed by VDoT, an approach for how to address issues.
2. Citizen Participation – highlights what we are going to do for the Long Range Plan
3. Coordinated Human Services Plan – urban areas must develop, but not necessarily the MPO. A plan is being developed by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. As an interim the NRV PDC did a public mobility study that will serve as our initial reference.
4. Freight Transportation – VDoT doing statewide study, which the MPO has assisted in.
5. Truck Climbing Lanes on I-81 – project will be added from the 128 to the 119. The project currently

does not enter the MPO study area, but we are adding the project just in case the plan changes. The money is coming from money earmarked for truck separated facilities.

6. Safety Planning – general statement, working with VDoT on the statewide safety plan.
7. System Management and Operations – general statement, working with VDoT.

UPWP

A draft UPWP will be reviewed by the TAC in April and a draft version submitted to the Policy Board at the May 3, 2007 meeting for advertisement for comment. A final 2007-08 UPWP needs to be approved at the June 7, 2007 meeting.

TIP

No schedule for update has been received yet from VDoT.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - None

OTHER ITEMS

Belview Village

Belview Village plan now being developed. There has been discussion of building a tunnel and extra parking for the school. The MPO has identified the increase of 114 to 4 lanes as a high priority need in the long range plan. Currently the project lacks funding. A letter will be drafted to be included on the next agenda to notify VDoT of the high priority status of this project for the MPO

David Clarke

Citizen information meeting held in Blacksburg for the North Main project which includes a round about at Prices Fork Road and a signal at Alumni Mall. The turn out was high and many comments were received.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is May 3, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Lance Terpenney, Chairman