



Richmond Regional Planning District Commission July 2010 Meeting Report

RRPDC Officers

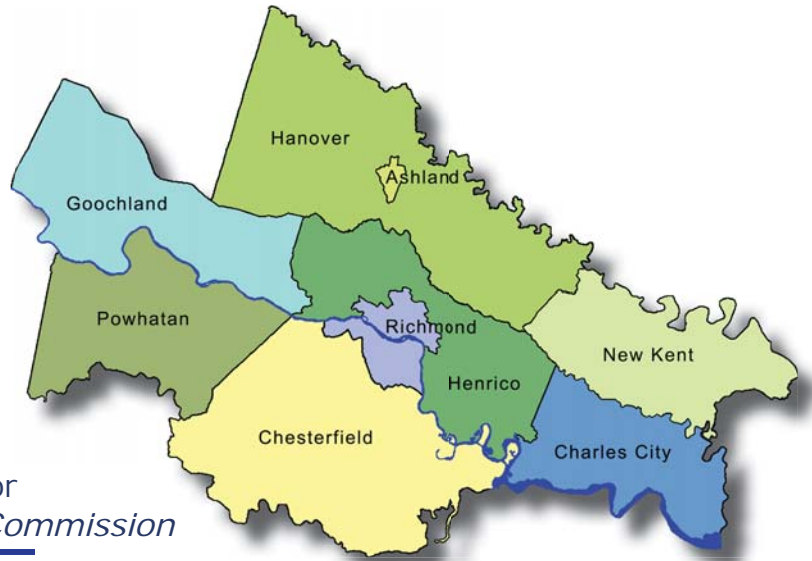
James B. Donati, Jr. – Chair
Henrico County

Stran L. Trout – Vice Chair
New Kent County

Faye O. Prichard – Treasurer
Town of Ashland

John E. Gordon, Jr. – Secretary
City of Richmond

Robert A. Crum, Jr. – Executive Director
Richmond Regional Planning District Commission



The **Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC)** held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on July 8, 2010. The August meeting of the RRPDC Board has been cancelled; therefore, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the RRPDC Board Room.

Legislative Agenda Planning Begins

Communications Coordinator Chuck Gates presented the RRPDC Board with copies of the 2010 RRPDC Legislative Summary and outlined various pieces of legislation passed in the 2010 General Assembly session that impacted the interests of the Richmond Region.

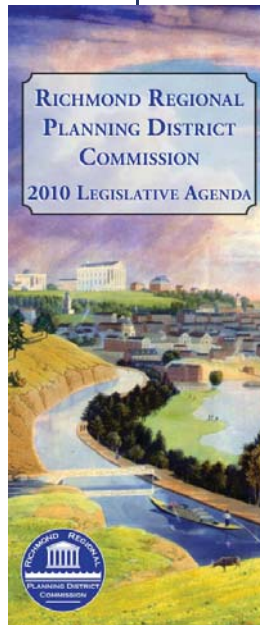
The booklet summarizes legislation that relates to the work and missions of the RRPDC, RAMPO, and the Capital Region Collaborative.

Mr. Gates expressed gratitude for the legislators who passed bills included in the 2010 RRPDC Legislative Agenda, especially Senator John Watkins and Delegate Rosalyn Dance for their bills delaying the implementation of forthcoming stormwater regulations.

Mr. Gates outlined plans to begin the process of creating the 2011 RRPDC Legislative Agenda and called for initial thoughts on what new items may be suggested. These included:

- equal taxing authority for all jurisdictions,
- opposition to federal mandates of collective bargaining for public safety officials,
- transportation funding options,
- land-use authority, and
- cash proffers.

Further suggestions may be sent to Mr. Gates or to the appropriate local representative to the Large and Small Jurisdictions Committees, which will begin drafting the document this month.





Capital Region Collaborative Continues Progress

Executive Director Bob Crum provided the RRPDC Board with an update on the public participation process of the Capital Region Collaborative (CRC). Mr. Crum and Kim Scheeler, the President and CEO of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, have been speaking at public meetings to introduce the CRC's Strawman Draft of Regional Priorities to the public.

Strawman Presentation Meetings held (as of July 8, 2010):

- Leadership Metro Richmond Alumni
- Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
- Management Roundtable
- Vision Check at Central Virginia Foodbank
- New Kent County Board of Supervisors
- Richmond City Council
- Town of Ashland
- Greater Richmond Chamber Board
- Charles City County Board of Supervisors
- Former Chairs of the GRCC

Strawman Presentation Meetings scheduled (as of July 8, 2010):

- Hunton Williams – 7/21
- Henrico County – 7/27
- Hanover County – 7/28
- Powhatan County – 8/5
- Chesterfield County – 8/25
- Goochland County – 9/7
- InVision Richmond – 8/12
- InVision Henrico – 9/1
- LMR Class Orientation – 9/10 & 9/11
- InVision Chesterfield – 9/21
- Better Housing Coalition – 9/22
- InVision Hanover – 9/23
- GRCC Foundation Board of Directors – 10/20

Strawman Presentation Meetings being scheduled:

- Daily Planet (2 meetings)
- Richmond Hispanic Office
- Partnership for Smarter Growth
- League of Women Voters
- Richmond Times Dispatch Forum
- Richmond Hill
- Inter Faith Council



If you would like to receive this flyer electronically and help RRPDC save on mailing costs, please contact Julie Fry via email, jfry@richmondregional.org.



Richmond Regional Planning District Commission FY 2010 Membership

Town of Ashland	1 Elected Town Councilmember
County of Charles City	1 Elected County Supervisor
County of Chesterfield	5 Elected County Supervisors 1 Planning Commission Representative 1 Citizen Representative
County of Goochland	2 Elected County Supervisors 1 Planning Commission Representative
County of Hanover	2 Elected Officials 1 Planning Commission Representative 1 Citizen Representative
County of Henrico	5 Elected Officials 1 Planning Commission Representative 1 Citizen Representative
County of New Kent	1 Elected Official 1 Planning Commission Representative
County of Powhatan	2 Elected County Supervisors 1 Planning Commission Representative
City of Richmond	4 Elected City Councilmembers 1 Planning Commission Representative 1 Citizen Representative

RRPDC MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the quality of life throughout the Richmond region by serving as a regional forum of member local governments to address issues of regional significance, providing technical assistance to localities, and promoting and enhancing the collective consensus on the economic, transportation, social, environmental, and demographic interests of the region.



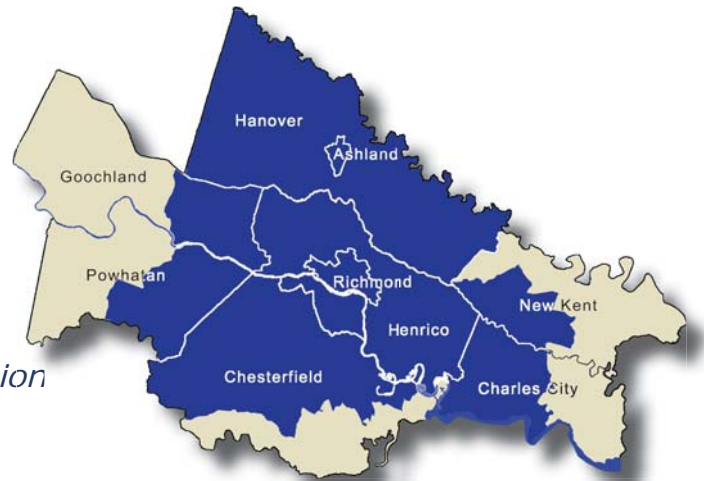
Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization July 2010 Meeting Report

RAMPO Officers

Edward L. Henson, III – Chair
Town of Ashland

Timothy W. Cotman – Vice Chair
County of Charles City

Daniel N. Lysy – Secretary
Richmond Regional Planning District Commission



The **Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (RAMPO)** held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on July 8, 2010. The August meeting of the RAMPO Board has been cancelled; therefore, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, beginning at approximately 2:15 p.m., or after the completion of the RRPDC meeting, in the RRPDC Board Room.

Stimulus Funds Flexed to Purchase GRTC Buses

The RAMPO Board took action to reallocate \$3.12 million in stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) towards the purchase of eight buses for GRTC, or seven buses running on compressed natural gas instead of diesel.

The Board voted to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) so that surplus stimulus funds remaining from the Region's ARRA projects would be directed to purchasing the buses as part of GRTC's replacement program. The funds were available after bids on three projects, to which RAMPO previously allocated ARRA funds, came in lower than expected.

The quick action by the RAMPO Board will allow the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to work with the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Governor McDonnell to re-obligate the funds before the September 30 federal deadline.

GRTC



Purchasing the buses was the second recommendation of RAMPO staff after the initial recommendation to allocate the funds to the preliminary engineering (PE) work on rail projects around Acca Yard was deemed ineligible. Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration

(see GRTC on page 5)



GRTC

(from page 1)

(FHWA) explained that the ARRA stimulus funds must be part of an entire project, and not just the PE phase. The Acca Yard PE work was not eligible a stand alone ARRA project.

The board also asked FHWA if, in the future, the MPO could re-allocate non-stimulus surplus RSTP funds to rail projects. FHWA said that while existing agreements between FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) make it easy to flex FHWA stimulus funds to FTA projects, a similar agreement is not in place between FHWA and the Federal Rail Administration (FRA).

One MPO member expressed the apparent tension at the table and asked, “What do we have to do to make sure that in the future we can flex highway dollars into rail projects if we, as an MPO, choose to do so?”

Accordingly, the MPO unanimously directed staff to prepare a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the Commonwealth’s Secretary of Transportation expressing concern that such an agreement has yet to be established between FHWA and FRA.

Despite the Board’s dismay with the limits on its ability to utilize the surplus funds for rail improvements, the members were pleased to provide replacement buses for the GRTC Transit System.

Passenger Rail in the Richmond Region

RRPDC Communications Coordinator Chuck Gates, and Kevin Page, the Chief of Rail for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), briefed the RAMPO Board on the current status of the three passenger rail projects in the Richmond Region.



Mr. Gates briefly reviewed the status of the Washington, DC to Richmond Rail Improvements Project before turning to the Tier 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the Richmond to Raleigh portion of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor. Mr. Gates urged the RAMPO member jurisdictions and organizations to attend one of the upcoming public hearings.

The presentation culminated with a detailed discussion of the Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Project and DRPT’s plans to bypass Main Street Station when the first train to Norfolk begins in 2013. However, Mr. Page assured the Board that the projects along the route through Main Street Station remain a priority of DRPT.

SEHSR Public Hearings

Open house from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Richmond

July 20, 2010
Virginia DMV Cafeteria
1st floor
2300 W. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23269

Petersburg

July 21, 2010
Union Station
103 River Street
Petersburg, VA 23804



Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization FY 2010 Membership

Voting Member Jurisdictions

Town of Ashland	1 Elected Town Councilmember
County of Charles City	1 Elected County Supervisor
County of Chesterfield	3 Elected County Supervisors & 1 Staff Representative
County of Goochland	1 Elected County Supervisor & 1 Citizen Representative
County of Hanover	2 Elected County Supervisors & 1 Staff Representative
County of Henrico	2 Elected County Supervisors & 2 Staff Representatives
County of New Kent	1 Elected County Supervisor & 1 Staff Representative
County of Powhatan	1 Elected County Supervisor & 1 Planning Commissioner
City of Richmond	2 Elected City Councilmembers & 2 Staff Representatives

Voting Member Organizations

Capital Region Airport Commission	1 Staff Representative
Greater Richmond Transit Company	1 Staff Representative
Richmond Metropolitan Authority	1 Staff Representative
Virginia Department of Transportation	1 Staff Representative
Richmond Regional Planning District Commission	1 Staff Representative

Non-Voting Member Organizations

Federal Highway Administration	1 Staff Representative
Federal Transit Administration	1 Staff Representative
Virginia Department of Aviation	1 Staff Representative
Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation	1 Staff Representative
Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee	1 Staff Representative
Elderly and Disbled Advisory Committee	1 Staff Representative
RideFinders, Inc.	1 Staff Representative

RAMPO MISSION STATEMENT:

“To serve as the federal and state designated regional transportation planning organization that serves as the forum for cooperative transportation decision-making to assure excellence in mobility and safety within and through the Richmond region.”