

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 14, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Daniel A. Gecker, Chairman	County of Chesterfield
William J. Pantele, Vice Chairman	City of Richmond
Daniel N. Lysy, Secretary (Alternate)	RRPDC
Viktoria W. Badger	City of Richmond
Robert M. Berry	RMA
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting)	EDAC
Malvern R. Butler	County of Goochland
Timothy W. Cotman	County of Charles City
Marlene K. Durfee	County of Chesterfield
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
Daniel A. Gecker	County of Chesterfield
John Gordon	County of Hanover
Lawrence C. Hagin (Alternate)	GRTC Transit System
James M. Holland	County of Chesterfield
George M. Homewood	County of New Kent
Mark E. Riblett (Alternate)	VDOT
Ellen F. Robertson	City of Richmond
Robert R. Setliff	County of Hanover
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate)	County of Chesterfield
Frank Thornton	County of Henrico
Stran L. Trout	County of New Kent
Joseph E. Vidunas	County of Hanover
Joseph B. Walton	County of Powhatan

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

Jameson T. Auten (Nonvoting)	RideFinders
Charles Badger (Nonvoting)	VDRPT
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting)	VDA
Tony Cho (Nonvoting)	FTA
Ralph J. "Joe" Emerson	County of Henrico
Thomas A. Hawthorne	VDOT
John M. Lewis	GRTC Transit System
Robert P. Morris (Nonvoting)	CTAC
John McCracken	County of Chesterfield
Patricia O'Bannon	County of Henrico
Faye O. Prichard	Town of Ashland
Charles H. Rasnick	(Nonvoting)Citizen Appointee

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

REPRESENTING

Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting) FHWA
John Rutledge.....CRAC
David T. Williams.....County of Powhatan

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

John T. Benton Citizen
Robert Bradham Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce
William R. Britton (Alternate)..... County of Charles City
Deborah B. Coats (Alternate)County of Hanover
Robert R. Cosby RRPDC Commissioner, County of Powhatan
Ned S. Creasey..... RRPDC Commissioner, County of Goochland
James W. Dunn Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce
J. Michael Flagg (Alternate)County of Hanover
Franklin P. Hall..... Delegate, Virginia General Assembly
Kelly Hickok.....EDAC
W. Dewey Hurley Branscome, Inc.
Walter Johnson..... VDOT
David A. Kaechele RRPDC Commissioner, County of Henrico
Parker Mills..... Branscome, Inc.
Liz McAdory..... VDOT
Harold C. Padgett..... RRPDC Commissioner, County of Hanover
James P. Ponticello VDOT
Steven Rich Van Go
Bradley R. Shelton VDOT
Stephen StoryJames River Bus Lines
Jin Lee..... RRPDC
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC
Archita Rajbhandary RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Lee Yolton RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Vice Chairman William J. Pantele, acting as MPO Chairman, called the February 14, 2008 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:40 p.m. in the large conference room of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission offices.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Vice Chairman Pantele introduced and welcomed new MPO members Timothy W. Cotman, Charles City County Board of Supervisors; Marleen K. Durfee, Daniel A. Gecker, and James M. Holland, Chesterfield Board of Supervisors; Joseph B. Walton, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors; and MPO alternate member Deborah B. Coats, Hanover County Board of Supervisors. Vice Chairman Pantele noted new MPO alternate

member Carson L. Tucker, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors, was not in attendance. Introductions were followed by a round of applause.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by MPO Secretary of Meeting Quorum –

Dan Lysy reported that a quorum was present.

B. Additions to MPO Agenda –

Dan Lysy reported a staff request to amend the agenda presenting New Business item D, 2031 MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) List of Proposed Projects, as an information item rather than an action item. Mr. Lysy said when the agenda was prepared, staff anticipated requesting MPO action on this item; however, he noted the item is not ready for action at this time. Mr. Lysy said if there are no other changes, he would request that the agenda be approved as amended. On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by John E. Gordon, the MPO unanimously approved the February 14, 2008 MPO meeting agenda as amended.

C. Election of MPO Chairman –

John Gordon, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee met and nominates Dan Gecker to serve as MPO Chairman. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed. On motion of John E. Gordon, seconded by Malvern R. Butler, the MPO unanimously elected Daniel A. Gecker to serve as MPO Chairman for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2008.

Chairman Gecker thanked the MPO for their expression of confidence and he presided over the remainder of the MPO meeting.

D. Resolution of Appreciation to Outgoing Member and MPO Chairman R. M. “Dickie” King, Jr. –

Chairman Gecker called for a motion on the resolution and on motion of John E. Gordon, seconded by Malvern R. Butler, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Honorable R. M. “Dickie” King, Jr. has served with distinction as one of Chesterfield County’s voting members on the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, he has proven to be an exemplary leader, serving as MPO Vice Chairman from July 2006 to June 2007, and as MPO Chairman from July 2007 to December 2007; and

WHEREAS, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as both a member and an officer of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his leadership, contributions and effort;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this fourteenth day of February 2008, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

E. Resolutions of Appreciation to Outgoing Members and Alternates –

Chairman Gecker requested voting on the resolutions to outgoing members and alternates, included in the agenda package, as a block and on motion of William J. Pantele, seconded by Viktoria W. Badger, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The Honorable Timothy E. Ernst has provided valuable public service from January 2000 to December 2007 as an alternate voting member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as a member of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his contributions and effort;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this fourteenth day of February 2008, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

And,

WHEREAS, The Honorable Russell E. Holland has provided valuable public service from January 2004 to December 2007 as a voting member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, he has distinguished himself as an exemplary leader, serving as MPO Vice Chairman from February 2004 to June 2004, and serving as MPO Chairman from July 2004 to June 2005; and

WHEREAS, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as both a member and an officer of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his leadership, contributions and effort;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this fourteenth day of February 2008, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

And,

WHEREAS, The Honorable Michael L. Holmes has provided valuable public service from January 2002 to December 2007 as a voting member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, he has distinguished himself as an exemplary leader, serving as MPO Vice Chairman from February 2002 to June 2002, and serving as MPO Chairman from July 2002 to June 2003; and

WHEREAS, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as both a member and an officer of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his leadership, contributions and effort;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this fourteenth day of February 2008, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

And,

WHEREAS, The Honorable Joseph T. Lacy, Jr. has provided valuable public service from February 2004 to December 2007 as a voting member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as a member of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his contributions and effort;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this fourteenth day of February 2008, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

And,

WHEREAS, Sherman W. Litton has provided valuable public service from January 2004 to December 2007 as a voting member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as a member of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his contributions and effort;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this fourteenth day of February 2008, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

And,

WHEREAS, The Honorable Donald D. Sowder has provided valuable public service from November 2006 to December 2007 as a voting member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as a member of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his contributions and effort;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this fourteenth day of February 2008, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

F. Minutes of the November 8, 2007 MPO Meeting –

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by John E. Gordon, the MPO unanimously approved the minutes of the November 8, 2007 meeting as presented.

G. Open Public Comment Period –

Chairman Gecker opened the Public Comment Period and recognized Stephen Story, president of James River Bus Lines and Cary Transportation. Mr. Story said James River Bus Lines has partnered with GRTC Transit for years and noted how fortunate this region is to have this top transit organization. He said his concern is that we don't fully utilize our transit service. He said he would encourage that as we go through the transportation planning process, giving considering to light rail, mass transit initiatives, equipment purchases, and facilities construction, so that we do a better job of getting people back to using bus services.

Chairman Gecker thanked Mr. Story for his comments and recognized John Benton, a Chesterfield County citizen. Mr. Benton said he has lived and worked in several jurisdictions of the region and he said he sees a need for all the jurisdictions of the region to pull together. He said he believes the region needs a leader, that this organization would be the logical leader, and he encouraged the MPO to step forward as the regional leader and to work with the legislature. Mr. Benton encouraged inter-jurisdictional cooperation saying the region has transportation issues that are tied with comprehensive planning and land use issues and they cannot be separated. Mr. Benton said he called Delegate Frank Hall and asked him to please attend today's meeting and speak to the MPO. Mr. Benton urged the MPO to take down the local jurisdiction flags and put up one Richmond Regional flag and begin working and thinking together as a region.

Chairman Gecker thanked Mr. Benton for his comments and recognized the attendance of Delegate Frank Hall and also Jim Dunn, Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce president. Rudy Butler suggested that if Delegate Hall would like to speak, he be granted more than the three minute limit for his comments. Chairman Gecker recognized Delegate Hall.

Delegate Hall thanked Chairman Gecker and the MPO for its effort on behalf of the region. He said he is present at today's meeting to listen and to offer what help he can in an elected legislative capacity and that he doesn't come offering solutions. Following up on Mr. Benton's comments, Delegate Hall said he asks and challenges the MPO to take a look at the region as a whole community and not just jurisdiction by jurisdiction. Delegate Hall noted recent and upcoming economic development boosts to the region and said unless the MPO helps the

region figure out a way to get ahead of the curve, we're going to find ourselves in the same kind of trap as Northern Virginia and Tidewater with regard to transportation. He said he believes if this regional community comes together to identify projects that they believe as a group are needed to keep the region ahead of the curve, that there are a number of folks who represent our community who stand ready and willing to step up to the plate to help find the resources. Delegate Hall said he hopes the MPO will consider this an invitation to come to any member of the Richmond area delegation, and not only make your case, but talk specifically about what you think needs to be done. Delegate Hall thanked the MPO for extending to him the courtesy to speak.

Chairman Gecker thanked Delegate Hall for his comments and asked if there was anyone else who would like to address the MPO. There were no further requests to address the MPO and Chairman Gecker closed the Open Public Comment Period.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Gecker noted there is no old business to consider.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2007 Virginia General Assembly Transportation Bill (HB 3202) –

Chairman Gecker introduced Brad Shelton, and Mr. Shelton said is currently working for the Virginia Department of Transportation as project manager for the State Highway Plan. Mr. Shelton's PowerPoint slides were included under tab four of the MPO agenda package and staff distributed additional informational handouts. Mr. Shelton said he would provide a quick overview of the 2007 transportation funding bill, House Bill 3202 and began with background information. His PowerPoint presentation included the following slides:

- 2007 Transportation Funding Bill, An Overview (cover slide)
- Current Situation
- House Bill 3202
- Funding Provisions
- Statewide Revenue Sources
- Abusive Driver Fees
- Impact of New Statewide Revenue
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Hampton Roads Transportation Authority
- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
- Transportation and Land-Use Measures

- Land Use Provisions – Urban Development Areas (two slides)
- Land Use Provisions – Impact Fees
- Land Use Provisions – Urban Transportation Service Districts (three slides)
- Transportation Reform Provisions (three slides)
- House Bill 3202, Questions? (with contact information, web site addresses for more information and actual text of bill)

Following his presentation, Mr. Shelton answered questions and there was discussion which brought forward the following major points:

- When HB 3202 was passed, the General Assembly was planning to rely on the surplus in the General Fund; there is no surplus in the General Fund this year and a surplus is not likely over the next several years.
- Transportation is a statewide problem, not a regional problem. Three regional transportation districts will not solve transportation problems across the Commonwealth.
- Funding transportation with an increase in the gas tax is a better alternative than having each locality raise local taxes to fund transportation.
- Governor Baliles was the last Governor to address transportation issues at the state level and the legislature has not given the necessary attention to transportation over the last 15 to 20 years.
- The General Assembly has not yet determined how it will make up the projected \$65 million in abusive driver fees that will no longer be a source of revenue. These fees were intended to fund a portion of the statewide pool of transportation funds.
- Revenues raised by special transportation districts in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads are over and above whatever state transportation funds are available to these districts and are not intended to replace state transportation funding.
- Senate Bill 768, the Watkins bill dealing with proffers and impact fees, is still being revised, but there will still be a shortfall of transportation funds.
- The Commonwealth needs a visionary long-term approach to funding transportation needs which will provide a dedicated, dependable revenue source and will link land use and transportation development.
- The national average for gas tax is 45 cents per gallon for state and federal gas tax and the total in Virginia is 37 cents. Neighboring states have significantly higher combined federal and state gas taxes.

B. MPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meetings Report –

In the absence of CTAC Chairman Robert Morris, Dan Lysy noted that the main business of the January 22 CTAC meeting was Mr. Shelton's presentation on House Bill 3202 with no action items being presented.

C. MPO Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) Meetings Report –

EDAC Chairman Linda Broady-Myers said she had nothing to add to the report contained in the MPO agenda package.

D. MPO Multimodal Planning Grant Application; Intermodal Strategies and Actions for Inter-Regional Freight Movement –

Barbara Nelson reported that the MPO submitted an application to the VDOT Multi-Modal Planning Office for a grant that would help our region improve the existing transportation system and have positive environmental impacts while increasing freight mobility options. She said staff was requested to submit a more detailed draft scope of services, which was submitted at the end of January. Grant recipients will be notified tomorrow. Ms. Nelson noted that details of the application are included in tab seven of the agenda packet along with a draft resolution for MPO consideration and action. Ms. Nelson reviewed the study background, purpose, major details of the scope, and why the pursuit of intermodal strategies in her PowerPoint presentation using the following slides:

- Intermodal Strategies and Actions for Inter-regional Freight Movement (cover slide)
- Study Background
- Study Purpose
- Proposed Scope
- Why "Intermodal Strategies"?
- Growth in Wasted Hours (bar graph)
- International Trade (graph)
- Major Freight Truck Bottlenecks (map)
- Port of Virginia: Intermodal Gateway (photos)
- Marine Highway: A Solution (map)
- Congestion and Savings (graph)
- Pounds of Emissions Per-Ton (graph and photos)
- "Destination Richmond"
- Projected Cargo Demand & Planned Capacity (graph)
- The Port of Virginia: Cargo Origins and Destinations (scattergram on map)

- VPA Cargo Origins and Destinations – Richmond Area (scattergram on map – close-up)
- The Port of Richmond Opportunity: “the 30 mile market” (photo)
- Intermodal Strategies and Actions for Inter-regional Freight Movement (closing slide)

Ms. Nelson concluded her presentation and offered to answer questions. Chairman Gecker thanked Ms. Nelson and recognized Rudy Butler. Mr. Butler noted that years ago the MPO talked about the same thing and said we’ve had numerous studies and he believes it is time for action. Mr. Butler asked if there are people willing to provide the barge service to Richmond. Ms. Nelson responded that there is a private business, T. Parker Host, Inc., that is interested in establishing a barge line to run from Hampton Roads to Richmond, potentially beginning as early as this summer. Mr. Butler noted that Director of the Port of Richmond was present at an MPO meeting last fall discussing this possibility and there was a news article about this possibility earlier in the week. Mr. Butler said an intermodal facility where air, rail, truck, and port would all come together was discussed fourteen years ago and we’re still using grants and studies to say we need it. Mr. Butler said we know we need it; it’s time we have action. Dan Lysy confirmed that there have been several studies on this matter with this study being done by an on-call-consultant from VDOT. He said this study differs from the intermodal study led by Capital Region Airport Commission, which recommended an intermodal center, in that it is looking at addressing bottlenecks caused by various freight traffic and developing strategies to reduce those bottlenecks.

Chairman Gecker noted that the very narrow issue for MPO consideration today is whether or not to support the resolution supporting the grant application and said he would entertain a motion to pass the resolution contained in tab seven supporting the grant application. Bill Britton noted that Charles City County now has a port saying the county has taken some initiative to try to get some of the trucks off of the roads that had been coming to Charles City County.

On motion of Marlene K. Durfee, seconded by Viktoria W. Badger, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) accepted at its February 14, 2002 meeting, the *Richmond Regional Intermodal Transportation Study*; and,

WHEREAS, the MPO further resolved at that time to establish a joint Richmond Area MPO and Tri-Cities Area MPO Intermodal Advisory Task Force to monitor the demand for intermodal facilities and to

incorporate intermodal analysis into the overall regional planning process; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Multimodal Transportation Planning Office has solicited applications for competitive grants to advance multimodal transportation initiatives across the Commonwealth; and,

WHEREAS, the MPO staff has developed and submitted a “Grant Letter of Intent” to VDOT on December 4, 2007 for the development of an “Intermodal Strategies and Actions for Inter-Regional Freight Movement” study and program of strategies and actions (study) for our region; and,

WHEREAS, the submitted grant letter of intent anticipates engaging freight stakeholders in a collaborative effort to identify regional challenges and potential regional solutions associated with moving freight through and within our region by prioritizing short and long range strategies to enhance and maintain the linkages and performance of the transportation system; and,

WHEREAS, the study would collect and analyze freight flow data; establish an Intermodal Advisory Task Force; survey freight dependent industries to determine existing and future needs; develop and prioritize transportation system performance improvements; and evaluate opportunities for mitigating congestion and improving air quality through shifting of freight from highway to marine and rail modes, applying new technologies and using alternative fuels; and

WHEREAS, VDOT has notified the MPO that the application is advancing for final consideration using VDOT’s on-call consultant with a proposed award of \$175,000, of which a ten percent in-kind services match would be provided with non-federal funds by the MPO;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) does hereby endorse the January 25, 2008 “Multimodal Planning Grant Application: Intermodal Strategies and Actions for Inter-Regional Freight Movement” as submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that following notice from VDOT that the grant application has been accepted, that the staff for the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) prepare and submit for MPO review and action appropriate amendments to the FY 2008 and/or FY 2009 Unified Work Program (UWP) for a new UWP task 6.2, Intermodal Strategies and Actions for Inter-Regional Freight Movement, and that appropriate arrangements be made with VDOT and/or the RRPDC providing for use of VDOT’s on-call consultant services.

E. 2031 MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) List of Proposed Projects –

Staff distributed a handout relating to a schedule for air quality conformity analysis being used for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) list of proposed projects noting that there is background in the agenda. Mr. Lysy said the report in the agenda package discusses requirements relating to financial capacity and the need to keep the cost of proposed projects in line with the amount of projected revenues, after accounting for inflation. Mr. Lysy said a major component driving the Long-Range Plan is the federal air quality conformity analysis requirements, a lengthy process involving modeling work that includes a travel demand model and an emissions reduction model, both performed by VDOT, and which requires public review. Taken together, conducting these modeling activities and public reviews is anticipated to take about four months to complete with an additional 45 days for federal review once the MPO takes action on the plan. Mr. Lysy said the LRTP Advisory Committee is now very close to completing the list of proposed projects for submission to VDOT to initiate work on the air quality conformity analysis. He noted there have been eight meetings of the LRTP Advisory Committee since November 15 with the primary meeting topic being development of the financially constrained list of projects. Mr. Lysy stressed this has been a difficult process with the need for considering funding from so many different sources, accounting for inflation, the need to address existing projects first, and various other factors that enter into developing a list of projects that meets all requirements. Mr. Lysy said the LRTP Advisory Committee met again two days ago and was not able to finalize the list of projects for MPO consideration. He said the committee will meet again soon to finalize the list. Mr. Lysy noted there may be a need to schedule a special MPO meeting on March 6, one week ahead of the regular meeting date, in order to meet the tight deadlines for conformity analysis. He noted the final draft of the 2031 Long-Range Transportation Plan needs to be ready for action at the July MPO meeting. Mr. Lysy asked LRTP Project Manager Lee Yolton to provide an overview of work to develop the LRTP constrained project list.

Mr. Yolton said the LRTP Advisory Committee is most concerned with the list being done correctly and they will need an extra week to that end. He said he has arranged individual meetings with Chesterfield, Henrico, the City of Richmond and Hanover County representatives to be certain all of their projects for which funding is available are included on the constrained project list. He said one of the challenges is to get the highest priority primary road projects funded and included on the list. Mr. Yolton said the MPO should receive the committee's recommended draft list of projects for review in March.

Chairman Gecker asked if there were any issues with scheduling a special MPO meeting on Thursday, March 6, at 1:00 p.m. and Rudy Butler

inquired how long the meeting would be. Mr. Lysy responded that this meeting would probably need to be about an hour long. Mr. Butler inquired if the RRPDC Board meeting could be held on the same day and both Mr. Lysy and Chairman Gecker said they would explore the possibility.

F. Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) –

Lee Yolton said the RMTS, is being conducted by an on-call consultant in coordination with VDOT and VDRPT, and is entering its final stages. He said the feasibility of possible new transit services is being evaluated for implementation. The RMTS Advisory Committee met on January 17 to hear the initial draft report on the analysis of modal alternatives, different types of transit services in the region's major travel corridors. The Advisory Committee felt that reliance on the transportation demand model to forecast ridership for the various types of transit services and various corridors was not adequate and suggested different approaches the consultant might use in revising the recommended modal alternatives. Mr. Yolton said the March 4 public meeting was rescheduled tentatively to April 2 and the RMTS Advisory Committee will meet on March 10 to review the results. The consultant was scheduled to present results to the MPO at the March 13 MPO meeting and we are looking to extend this schedule. There were no questions or comments and Chairman Gecker thanked Mr. Yolton for his report.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. MPO Chairman's Report –

Chairman Gecker had nothing to report.

B. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

Chairman Gecker noted that Mr. Lysy had nothing to report.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There was brief discussion to clarify when the next MPO meeting would be held. Vickey Badger requested copies for the MPO of the resolution that the RRPDC passed at its meeting earlier today regarding Senate Bill 768, the Watkins bill and Mr. Lysy indicated he would follow up on that.

Chairman Gecker adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:05 p.m.