

**RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 12, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Kathy C. Graziano, Chair	City of Richmond
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Vice Chair	County of Henrico
Nora D. Amos	Town of Ashland
Joseph Andrews, Jr.	County of Goochland
Virginia H. Axtell (Nonvoting).....	CTAC
Viktorija W. Badger	City of Richmond
James R. Banks	County of Chesterfield
Robert M. Berry	RMA
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting)	EDAC
Malvern R. Butler	County of Goochland
Deborah B. Coats (Alternate)	County of Hanover
Douglas G. Conner.....	City of Richmond
Timothy W. Cotman	County of Charles City
Robert A. Crum, Jr.....	RRPDC
Tammye Davis (Nonvoting)	FHWA
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
Thomas E. Flynn.....	City of Richmond
Lawrence A. Hagin	GRTC Transit System
Thomas A. Hawthorne	VDOT
George M. Homewood.....	County of New Kent
Jean M. Moore	County of Henrico
Robert R. Setliff	County of Hanover
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
Frank J. Thornton.....	County of Henrico
Von Tisdale (Nonvoting)	RideFinders
Stran L. Trout.....	County of New Kent
Joseph E. Vidunas	County of Hanover
Dexter C. White (Alternate).....	City of Richmond

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting)	VDA
Karin Carmack	County of Powhatan
Tony Cho (Nonvoting).....	FTA
Marleen K. Durfee	County of Chesterfield
Daniel A. Gecker	County of Chesterfield
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover
Edward L. Henson, III	Town of Ashland

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)..... REPRESENTING

James M. Holland County of Chesterfield
John M. Lewis..... GRTC Transit System
John McCracken County of Chesterfield
Ellen F. Robertson City of Richmond
Daniel Rudge VDRPT
John Rutledge.....CRAC
Joseph B. Walton County of Powhatan

OTHERS PRESENT REPRESENTING

John T. Benton Citizen
Walter Johnson..... VDOT
Shelbra Jones Serve U Transportation, LLC
Mary Josephine Lapeña VDOT
Richard Lockwood..... VHB
David McNeel..... Port of Richmond
Mark Riblett (Alternate) VDOT
Stephen Story James River Bus Line
Anne Darby RRPDC
Jin Lee RRPDC
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Matt Weaver..... RRPDC
Lee Yolton RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman Kathy C. Graziano called the February 12, 2009 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 3:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission offices. Chairman Graziano noted the absence of Mr. Lysy due to the death of his mother and noted that RRPDC Principal Planner Barbara S. Nelson would serve in his place for today's MPO meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Chairman Graziano introduced new MPO member Jean, E. Moore, Assistant Director of Planning for Henrico County, and new MPO alternate members Nora D. Amos, Director of Planning and Community Development for Town of Ashland, and Douglas G. Conner, Jr., Councilman, City of Richmond, all of whom were present. Chairman Graziano also noted the appointment of new MPO nonvoting member Daniel E. Rudge representing the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT), who was absent from the meeting.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by MPO Secretary of Meeting Quorum –

Barbara Nelson reported that a quorum was present.

B. Additions to MPO Agenda –

Chairman Graziano noted the addition of new agenda item I.F., Legislative Update on the Proposed Central Virginia Regional Transportation Authority, to be provided by Bob Crum. Additionally, Chairman Graziano reported that agenda Item III.F., Federal Economic Stimulus Program, will be moved on the agenda to new item I.G, with original agenda items I.F and I.G renumbered to be agenda items I.H., RRPDC Transportation Director's Report, and I.I., Memorandum of Understanding; Metropolitan Transportation Planning Responsibilities for the Richmond Area. These agenda changes were agreed to by consensus of voting members present.

C. Minutes of the November 13, 2008 MPO Meeting –

On motion of George Homewood, seconded by Viktoria Badger, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) unanimously approved the minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting as presented.

D. Open Public Comment Period –

Chairman Graziano recognized Chesterfield County citizen John T. Benton who reported that Chesterfield County is, at this moment, voting on whether to proceed with a consultant contract to update the county's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Benton shared his views on planning efforts he believes are needed in the region including greater coordination of land use and transportation planning. He said he believes all comprehensive plans should be standardized through coordination with the MPO and that there should be a regional GIS plan as well. Mr. Benton said he has contacted Chesterfield County planning staff and they have agreed to share their files, maps and other documents to move such a project forward. Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Benton for his comments.

E. MPO Chairman's Report –

Chairman Graziano noted the resolution of appreciation for Richmond City Councilman E. Martin Jewell's service on the MPO. Mr. Jewell was not in attendance at the meeting, and on motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Robert R. Setliff, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) voted unanimously to approve the following resolution and to present the resolution to Mr. Jewell at a future meeting:

WHEREAS, The Honorable E. Martin Jewell has provided valuable public service from March 2008 to December 2008 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 twelfth day of February 2009, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond Region.

F. Legislative Update on the Proposed Central Virginia Regional Transportation Authority (CVRTA) (new item) –

Robert Crum provided a brief update on two bills introduced in the legislature on Friday, January 23 regarding the proposed CVRTA. He said Delegate Hall and Senator Watkins introduced identical bills in the House and Senate, respectively, which varied from previous bills on two points: 1) the new bills identified the City of Richmond and Chesterfield County as the core localities for the proposed regional transportation authority with an opt-in option for all other localities in the region; and 2) the bills identified a funding source, a grantor's tax on real estate transactions with authority to levy up to 40 cents/\$100 of assessed value, with all modes of transportation being eligible to benefit from proceeds of the tax. Mr. Crum reported that the House Bill was tabled in committee; however, SB 1534 passed by a vote of 21 to 19 and has now progressed to committee on the House side. Mr. Crum noted that the grantor's tax is a very controversial matter, especially in light of current economic concerns. Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Crum for his report.

G. Federal Economic Stimulus Program (old item III.F) –

Barbara Nelson reported that the federal economic stimulus bill was reported out of conference and prompt action is expected. She said the region anticipates receiving additional funds as a result of the stimulus package and noted that the funds would be available for "ready-to-go" projects. In order to take advantage of the funding, staff is asking that the MPO Chair authorize TAC to act on behalf of the MPO for TIP amendments associated with economic stimulus package funds. Chairman Graziano agreed and authorized TAC to act on behalf of the MPO to approve urgent amendments to the TIP. She asked VDOT Richmond District Administrator Tom Hawthorne to comment on how the MPO

might position itself to take full advantage of funds that may become available.

Mr. Hawthorne said that details of the legislation are not finalized, but that Virginia anticipates receipt of up to \$750 million in the first wave of economic stimulus package funding and it is his understanding that candidate projects must be ready-to-go and funds must be obligated within 90 days of receipt. In response to questions, Mr. Hawthorne stated that projects would need to be included in the current TIP in order to be eligible for funding consideration. Rudy Butler noted that most ready-to-go projects are maintenance projects and there was discussion as to whether economic stimulus package funds could be use for maintenance projects. Pat O'Bannon noted that the region's top three projects are "shovel-ready" and total approximately \$100 billion, so that with only \$750 million available for the whole state, the region will not likely receive funds to cover its top priority projects. Mr. Hawthorne indicated that VDOT has selected several "shovel-ready" projects, many of which are maintenance projects, to fund with the anticipated funds, and he cited I-64 pavement rehabilitation as a project likely to move forward if the federal funds become available as anticipated. Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Hawthorne for his comments.

H. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report (old item I.F) –

1. Federal Certification Review of MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Process –

Barbara Nelson reported tentative dates for the Quadrennial Federal Certification Review are Wednesday and Thursday, March 25 and 26. Ms. Nelson asked if FHWA representative Tammye Davis had comments to share and Ms. Davis noted that the dates are finalized as reported with the public comment meeting scheduled from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25 in the RRPDC Board Room.

2. Other Business –

There was no other business to report.

I. Memorandum of Understanding: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Responsibilities for the Richmond Area (old item I.G) –

Barbara Nelson provided a brief report on the development process for the revision of this document. Ms. Nelson offered to answer questions and there were none. On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Viktoria W. Badger, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) adopts the "Memorandum of Understanding on

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Responsibilities for the Richmond Area” (replaces the September 19, 1995 four-party agreement “A Memorandum of Understanding for Conducting the Programming Process in the Richmond Metropolitan Planning Area”) as presented.

II. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forward for consideration.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Item –

1. Authorization for Staff Travel; Annual TRB Ports, Waterways, Freight, and International Trade Conference –

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Joseph Andrews, Jr., the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorizes staff from the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission to attend the 34th Annual TRB Ports, Waterways, Freight, and International Trade Conference in Irvine, California.

2. VDOT TIP Amendments Request –

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Joseph Andrews, Jr., the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the *FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* adding the following projects: Chesterfield County (UPC 90346 and UPC 90349); in Hanover County (UPC 90347); in Henrico County (UPC 56331); and Interstate projects (UPC 92212 and UPC 88904).

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

CTAC Chairman Virginia Axtell reported on major discussion items at the December 9, 2008 and January 27, 2009 CTAC meetings as reported in the report under tab five of the agenda package: 1) a report by Sarah Weisiger, VDOT Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator; 2) a report

by RRPDC Executive Director Robert A. Crum on the status of the Central Virginia Regional Transportation Authority, and 3) Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Advisory Committee recommendations for conducting the next LRTP. Ms. Axtell noted that CTAC is in agreement with recommendations for the next LRTP process. Chairman Graziano thanked Ms. Axtell for her report.

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

Linda G. Broady-Myers referred the MPO to the report included under tab six of the agenda package on major business items at the November 29, 2008 and January 28, 2009 EDAC meetings. She urged all present to remember in their planning and funding processes how important it is to consider the needs of disabled citizens and to go beyond the minimum standards set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in accommodating their needs. She reminded that the ADA does not set limits, but rather is a starting point in creating accessibility for the disabled population. Chairman Graziano thanked Ms. Broady-Myers for her report and for her work with EDAC.

D. Report on Financial Close-Out of Previous Allocations of RSTP and CMAQ Funded Projects –

Barbara Nelson reported that in late November 2008, Reta R. Busher, VDOT Chief Financial Officer, reported the results of VDOT's research on the financial close-out of previous allocations of approximately 82 RSTP and CMAQ funded projects saying that the final review indicates a surplus balance of approximately \$5.8 million. Ms. Nelson reported that RRPDC staff has met with VDOT staff and that VDOT is proceeding with reallocation of funds. VDOT has instituted procedures to ensure this problem won't recur; Diane Mitchell, Director of VDOT Programming Division, will provide a presentation to TAC on these measures. Pat O'Bannon reported praise from Ms. Busher for RRPDC Transportation Director Dan Lysy regarding the meticulous records he has kept over the years saying that without Mr. Lysy's extremely thorough documentation, reconciliation of the records for these projects might have been impossible. Ms. O'Bannon said she echoes that sentiment and would like to publicly acknowledge Mr. Lysy's diligence saying she doesn't know anyone who would have given these records more thorough attention. She also thanked MPO staff for their part in the record-keeping process which helped to make this financial recovery possible. Ms. Nelson added that Mr. Lysy and Jin Lee, who has worked with Mr. Lysy in this record-keeping effort for more than twenty years, both deserve credit for their thoroughness and noted that between Mr. Lysy and Mr. Lee, the MPO has benefit of an unprecedented number of years of experience. All present gave a round of applause.

Rudy Butler stated that funding was removed for a long-standing project in Goochland County as part of the recent VDOT funding cuts and said the project needs a total of \$385,000 to proceed, and he hopes that the reallocation of the close-out funds would restore this project. Ms. Nelson indicated that while Goochland County may not have sufficient closeout funds to reallocate to this project, as it is ready to proceed, it is a likely candidate for funding in the FY 10 round of RSTP allocations by the MPO. Mr. Vidunas mentioned a similar primary road project in Hanover County that is in need of additional funds. He also inquired as to how funding would be determined between the two project funding groups, RSTP/CMAQ regional discretionary funds and the Other "State" Funds group. Ms. Nelson noted that there is more work to do in determining how funds may be shifted and asked Mr. Riblett to provide an update at the February 19 TAC meeting.

E. Revised RSTP and CMAQ Allocations –

Barbara Nelson provided a brief report saying that the recent reductions in federal revenues has resulted in reductions in FY 10 and FY 11 RSTP balances. The revision to revenue projections has created a negative balance in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) in the out years for the Richmond Area MPO. Given the short notice and time frame for addressing the shortfall, staff is proposing an across-the-board proportional reduction in funded projects, including the allocation to RideFinders. Staff anticipates evaluating reductions during the next cycle of allocation and project selection.

On motion of George M. Homewood, seconded by Viktoria W. Badger, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorizes the submission of FYs 2009 to 2012 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) revised project allocations as shown on the attached tables for submission to VDOT for inclusion in the revised VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward for MPO consideration.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Kathy Graziano adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:50 p.m.