

**RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 9, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Kathy C. Graziano, Chair	City of Richmond
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Vice Chair	County of Henrico
Joseph Andrews, Jr.	County of Goochland
Viktoria W. Badger	City of Richmond
Malvern R. Butler	County of Goochland
Deborah B. Coats (Alternate)	County of Hanover
Douglas G. Conner (Alternate)	City of Richmond
Timothy W. Cotman	County of Charles City
Robert A. Crum, Jr.	RRPDC
Marleen K. Durfee	County of Chesterfield
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
Thomas E. Flynn	City of Richmond
Lawrence A. Hagin (Alternate)	GRTC Transit System
Thomas A. Hawthorne	VDOT
Edward L. Henson, III	Town of Ashland
James M. Holland	County of Chesterfield
George M. Homewood	County of New Kent
James Kennedy (Alternate)	RMA
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
Stran L. Trout	County of New Kent
Joseph E. Vidunas	County of Hanover
Joseph B. Walton	County of Powhatan

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

Virginia H. Axtell (Nonvoting)	CTAC
Robert M. Berry	RMA
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting)	EDAC
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting)	VDA
Karin Carmack	County of Powhatan
Tony Cho (Nonvoting)	FTA
Tammye Davis (Nonvoting)	FHWA
Daniel A. Gecker	County of Chesterfield
John Gordon	County of Hanover
John M. Lewis	GRTC Transit System

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

REPRESENTING

John McCracken County of Chesterfield
Ellen F. Robertson City of Richmond
Daniel E. Rudge (Nonvoting) VDRPT
John Rutledge..... CRAC
Von Tisdale (Nonvoting) RideFinders

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Daniel N. Lysy, **Secretary** (Alternate)..... RRPDC
Nora D. Amos (Alternate)..... Town of Ashland
Jonathan Baliles City of Richmond
John T. Benton Citizen
J. Michael Flagg (Alternate) County of Hanover
Tim Foster Henrico Department of Public Works
Walter Johnson..... VDOT
Ron Svejkovsky VDOT
Ruby Turner Citizen and Greater Richmond Against Gun Violence
Anne Darby RRPDC
Jin Lee RRPDC
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Randy Selleck RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman Kathy C. Graziano called the April 9, 2009 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:55 p.m. in the Board Room of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission offices.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by MPO Secretary of Meeting Quorum –

Dan Lysy reported that a quorum was present.

B. Additions to MPO Agenda –

There were no requests for additions to the agenda.

C. Minutes of the March 12, 2009 MPO Meeting –

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Robert R. Setliff, the minutes of the March 12, 2009 MPO meeting were approved as presented.

D. Open Public Comment Period –

Chairman Graziano opened the public comment period of the meeting and recognized John T. Benton. Mr. Benton, a Chesterfield County citizen, noted that the MPO had a discussion at its last meeting about the travel demand model and that this work task is included in the budget and work plan. He said he doesn't see where that is happening and reemphasized the importance of the travel demand model. He said it was announced at today's Executive Committee meeting that VDOT is going to stop doing modeling and that reinforces that if the MPO is going to do its job the way it needs to be done, the MPO needs to have a model and staff to operate the model. Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Benton for his comment.

There were no additional requests to address the MPO, and Chairman Graziano closed the public comment period.

E. MPO Chairman's Report –

Chairman Graziano reported that there needs to be a nominating committee to recommend a new MPO chair and vice chair for FY 10, which begins July 1, 2009. She noted the MPO bylaws rotation order establishes that the new chair will come from Henrico County and the vice chair will come from Ashland. She reported that Stran Trout, Rudy Butler, and she will serve on the MPO Officers Nominating Committee and they will report back at the next MPO meeting. Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Trout and Mr. Butler for volunteering.

F. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

1. Introduction of New Staff –

Dan Lysy introduced new RRPDC Senior Planner Randy Selleck and asked that Mr. Selleck provide some background about himself.

Mr. Selleck said he has worked with VDOT for seven years in the Location and Design Division while he earned his master's degree in urban and regional planning at VCU. He said he is looking forward to utilizing his degree in the RRPDC Transportation Division.

2. Preliminary Report on Federal Certification Review of MPO Transportation Process –

Mr. Lysy reported that the two-day federal certification review was held March 25 and 26 and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) anticipate having a preliminary report ready for the MPO either at the May 14 or June 11 meeting. He said the final report will follow a couple of months after that.

3. Other Business –

No other business was brought forward for consideration.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. **VDOT Budget Reductions and Proposed MPO Resolution Opposing Closure of Rest Stops –**

Chairman Graziano referenced the letter from Jacob A. Porter, VDOT Maintenance Engineer, and supplementary information enclosed with the agenda package providing information regarding the proposed closing of rest stops in Virginia. She also noted the resolution proposed at the March 12 MPO meeting presented on page two of the agenda under Item II.A. Pat O'Bannon moved the resolution as presented and Bob Setliff seconded the motion. Marleen Durfee recalled extensive MPO discussion on this matter at the March 12 meeting and the decision to obtain additional information and said this is an issue of timing to make sure that the MPO has ample information before it decides to take action. She said the letter from Mr. Porter indicates VDOT will seek input from community leaders late this spring and she believes it is premature to send a resolution before having benefit of that input. Chairman Graziano said she believes there are sufficient community leaders present and that MPO input to VDOT will give them an idea of where these community leaders stand. Pat O'Bannon reported that she visited seven rest stops and observed significant numbers of visitors stopping. She suggested private vendors bid to operate the rest stops as in other states and noted some states have handicapped groups provide vending machines and serve coffee. She said there are 70 truck spaces at the New Kent rest stop and she counted more than 70 trucks parked there in the early evening and she worries about the safety point.

Mr. Butler said he believes the MPO should move forward and send the resolution; that he believes the CTB is looking for comments by the April 15 deadline they set for receiving comments; that there will be a strain on the rest stops that remain open; and that the MPO needs to encourage General Assembly funding for this function. Tom Hawthorne clarified that under federal law, rest areas that were built with federal dollars cannot have private concessionaires operating at the rest stops although VDOT would like to see this changed. Mr. Hawthorne further clarified that there are vending machines owned and operated by the Department of Visually Handicapped. Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Hawthorne for the information he provided.

On motion of Patricia S. O'Bannon, seconded by Robert R. Setliff, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, with all voting in favor except one abstention (i.e., Thomas A. Hawthorne), approved the resolution (included in the agenda) as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization submit a letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board urging them not to close any rest stops in Virginia due to public safety and economic development considerations.

B. Report on Proposed Closure of VDOT Residencies –

Mr. Lysy noted that the information Mr. Hawthorne will present was mailed to the MPO last Friday as part of an agenda supplement. Mr. Hawthorne provided a brief PowerPoint presentation with the following slides:

- VDOT Residency Consolidation Proposal (cover slide)
- Background
- Public Comment Received on Service Areas and Staffing
- Maintenance, Operations, Emergency Response Organization and Staffing – Recommendations
- Existing Residency Boundaries (map)
- Proposed Residency Boundaries (map)
- Maintenance/Emergency Response Focus
- Closing slide (contact information)

The following major points were brought forward during and following Mr. Hawthorne's presentation:

- VDOT proposes periodic mowing to the ditch line with full right-of-way mowing only every four years in order to prevent/inhibit tree growth.
- VDOT proposes reducing the number of residencies from 44 to 29 and refocusing their role to provision of maintenance and emergency response services; the planning function will be removed to the District Office.
- There may be some real or perceived loss of service across the Commonwealth as a result of VDOT's proposed changes.

Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Hawthorne for his report.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. MPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report –

Mr. Lysy noted the absence of CTAC Chairman Virginia Axtell, noted the report included in the agenda package, and said Barbara Nelson, staff person for CTAC, would address any questions. There were no questions.

B. FY 2009 Unified Work Program Budget and New Work Tasks Amendments –

Mr. Lysy noted agenda package attachments under tab four and reported one correction in carryover numbers noting that a revised sheet was mailed to the MPO last week. He said the correction reduced the TIP work task by \$1,013. Mr. Lysy explained that staff is requesting MPO action to amend the FY 09 Unified Work Program (UWP) to shift various Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) PL funds among various PDC staff work tasks to program FTA Section 5303 FY 08 carryover funds as presented in the revised table; to transfer of \$125,000 in FHWA PL funds from this year's work program to FY 10; and to add two new work tasks, task 2.8, Route 5 Urban/Suburban Multimodal Corridor Study, and task 8.1, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning.

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Timothy W. Cotman, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the FY 2009 Unified Work Program (UWP) to shift Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) PL funds among various RRPDC staff work tasks and programs available Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 FY 08 carryover funds as presented in the attached table "Proposed Budget Amendments for RRPDC Staff/Consultant Work Tasks"; transfers \$125,000 in FHWA/PL funds from the FY 2009 UWP to the FY 2010 UWP; and adds new FY 2009 UWP tasks 2.8, Route 5 Urban/Suburban Multimodal Corridor Study and 8.1, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, as presented and as corrected.

C. FY 2010 Unified Work Program (UWP) –

Mr. Lysy provided a PowerPoint presentation on the FY 2010 UWP which included the following slides:

- FY 2010 Unified Work Program (UWP) (cover slide)
- Overview
- What is the UWP?
- UWP and the MPO Planning and Programming Process (flow chart)
- FY 2010 UWP, Work Task Categories Summary (five slides)
- FY 2010 UWP, Priorities (two slides)
- FY 2010 UWP, Funding Source Programs (chart)
- FY 2010 UWP, Staff Budgets (chart)
- FY 2010 UWP, Funding Source Shares (chart)
- FY 2010 UWP, Thank You, Questions (closing slide)

The following major points were brought forward during and following Mr. Lysy's presentation:

- Staff learned through a VDOT webcast yesterday [April 8] that effective July 1, 2009, VDOT will no longer be responsible for maintaining MPO travel demand models; that will now be an MPO responsibility with the limit of VDOT's responsibility to be technical assistance support for the MPO's regional travel demand modeling efforts and PPTA project modeling work.
- Staff plans to address development of the regional travel demand modeling work effort with TAC.
- Beginning with 2008 data, VDOT will be reporting crash data for not only VDOT system roads, but also for City of Richmond, Henrico County secondary, and Town of Ashland roads. Staff expects this data will be available in mid-summer.
- The work program budget amounts to approximately \$2.2 million not including grant funds from VDOT for the two-year VDOT Multimodal Planning Grant. Included in the approximate \$2.2 million work program budget is \$400,000 in VDOT allocated SPR funds for consultant work on the Route 5 Multimodal Corridor Study.
- The budget is higher than the FY 09 budget due to the amount of PL funds that are transferring and carrying over due to staff vacancies and due to added funds for consultant work. The budget is usually higher than the actual expenditures; staff makes every effort to be as fiscally responsible as possible.

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Timothy W. Cotman, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) adopts the FY 2010 Unified Work Program as submitted.

D. MPO Allocation of RSTP and CMAQ Funds and Submission to CTB/VDOT –

Barbara Nelson provided a brief update on the RSTP and CMAQ process. She reported that between July of 2008 and March of 2009 there has been a reduction in projected CMAQ funds for the six-year period from FY 09 to FY 14 ranging between 14 percent and 19 percent and a funds reduction of between 17 and 18 percent for projected RSTP funds. She said funding is being reduced and TAC has taken these reductions into consideration in preparing to evaluate project selections and recommendations for RSTP and CMAQ projects for FY 10 through FY 13. TAC is focusing on allocating funds to those projects that are ready to advance to construction or advertisement, preserving the status and advancement of those projects.

For fiscal years 11, 12, and 13, TAC has recommended holding an unallocated balance of 25 percent of the available allocations based on guidance from VDOT that they should anticipate continued reductions in federal revenue projections which will translate into reduced allocations to the RSTP and CMAQ funding programs. TAC anticipates taking action on recommending RSTP and CMAQ projects and allocations later this month and will submit the list of proposed projects and allocations later for MPO consideration and action at the May 14 meeting.

E. MPO Allocation of RSTP/ARRA Funds and Submission to CTB/VDOT –

Barbara Nelson noted the brief update on sub-allocation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) RSTP stimulus funds included under tab seven of the agenda packet. She referenced the brief summary chart that shows approximately \$20.8 million allocated to the Richmond region. Ms. Nelson reported that TAC will undertake the project review and selection process and proceed with the recommendation of candidate projects for stimulus funding during the summer of 2009 forwarding their recommendations for MPO consideration that should translate into obligations by October of 2009, well in advance of the March 2010 deadline for obligating RSTP stimulus funds. There were no questions and Chairman Graziano expressed appreciation to Ms. Nelson for her report.

F. CTB Review and Action to Amend/Revise SYIP and to Submit TIP Amendments/Adjustments Programming ARRA Funds –

Tom Hawthorne briefly reported that the list of projects included in the first wave of economic recovery act projects was announced last week and the list was released to the MPO to start the process for the TIP amendments. Mr. Hawthorne said this information was included in the agenda supplement package mailed to the MPO last week. He said statewide there were about \$175 million in projects that were announced last week that go toward the first round, 120-day, obligation requirement. He said there is about another \$75 million in projects that must be obligated by the end of June by VDOT and he expects those projects to be announced within the next few days, possibly at next week's Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting. Mr. Hawthorne said that will complete the first phase of the federal obligation requirement for VDOT and the selection process for the remaining \$250 million that must be obligated by March 2010 has not been scheduled yet. He said VDOT is focused on getting first round projects announced, advertised and under construction by the various deadlines. He said all the projects in the first round were advertised for bids earlier this week. Mr. Hawthorne noted three projects for this region in that first round: 1) the resurfacing of a portion of I-295 between Nuckols Road and Staples Mill Road on the inner loop/eastbound direction; 2) the bridge rehabilitation

project on Rt. 684, Kernersville Road over Muddy Creek in Powhatan County; and 3) the project in New Kent County on Rt. 60, westbound lane at Toe Ink Swamp.

Rudy Butler inquired if the bids come in under the allocation amount, what happens to the remaining money. Mr. Hawthorne said VDOT has a number of projects where these remaining funds can be applied. Mr. Lysy inquired if VDOT is certain they can get all the stimulus funds obligated by the June 29 deadline. He said they are hoping the MPO will act to approve the appropriate TIP amendments to keep the projects on track to meet that deadline and assuming that happens, VDOT is confident it can meet the deadline. Mr. Lysy responded that the MPO chairman has authorized TAC to act on behalf of the MPO to program those TIP amendments so the MPO is in a position to act quickly. Mr. Hawthorne said they appreciate that effort. There were no additional questions and Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Hawthorne for his report.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward for MPO consideration.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Kathy Graziano adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:25 p.m.