

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MEETING

November 12, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Patricia S. O'Bannon, Chair	County of Henrico
Edward L. Henson, III, Vice Chair	Town of Ashland
Joseph Andrews, Jr.	County of Goochland
Viktorija W. Badger	City of Richmond
Malvern R. Butler	County of Goochland
Robert A. Crum, Jr.	RRPDC
Tammye Davis (Nonvoting)	FHWA
Marleen K. Durfee	County of Chesterfield
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
Thomas E. Flynn	City of Richmond
Daniel A. Gecker	County of Chesterfield
Kathy C. Graziano	City of Richmond
Lawrence A. Hagin (Alternate)	GRTC Transit System
James M. Holland	County of Chesterfield
George M. Homewood	County of New Kent
Amy M. Inman (Nonvoting Alternate)	VDRPT
Jean M. Moore	County of Henrico
Mark Riblett (Alternate)	VDOT
Robert R. Setliff	County of Hanover
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate)	County of Chesterfield
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

Stephen R. Adkins (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
Timothy W. Cotman	County of Charles City
John Gordon	County of Hanover
Thomas A. Hawthorne	VDOT
Corey W. Hill (Nonvoting)	VDRPT
John M. Lewis	GRTC Transit System
John McCracken	County of Chesterfield
Ellen F. Robertson	City of Richmond

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

REPRESENTING

John Rutledge.....CRAC
Frank J. Thornton..... County of Henrico
Joseph B. WaltonCounty of Powhatan

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Daniel N. Lysy, (Alternate), **Secretary** RRPDC
Jonathon BalilesCity of Richmond
Daniel T. Grinnell VDOT
Wallace Myers VCU MURP Student
James P. Ponticello VDOT
Ronald Svejkovsky VDOT
Sulabh Aryal RRPDC
Chuck Gates RRPDC
Brian Koziol..... RRPDC
Jin Lee..... RRPDC
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Greta Ryan RRPDC
Randy Selleck RRPDC
Lee Yolton RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman Patricia S. O’Bannon called the November 12, 2009 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:55 p.m. in the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission Board Room.

MEETING QUORUM

MPO Secretary Daniel N. Lysy reported that a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Additions to MPO Agenda –

Dan Lysy reported a request for consent action item III.A.1 to be pulled for discussion, which would change it from a consent action to an action item with discussion. Mr. Lysy noted that he will also add an item under his RRPDC Transportation Director’s Report as item I.E.2., Revised FY 10 – FY 15 Public Meeting Notice. On motion of Marleen K. Durfee,

seconded by Stran L. Trout, the MPO unanimously approved changes to the MPO agenda as requested.

B. Minutes of the October 8, 2009 MPO Meeting –

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Robert R. Setliff, the minutes of the October 8, 2009 MPO meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

C. Open Public Comment Period –

There were no requests to address the MPO.

D. MPO Chairman's Report –

Chairman O'Bannon had no report.

E. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

1. ARRA Transparency and Accountability Information Updates –

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Transparency and Accountability information included in the agenda is a VDOT report, "ARRA Funds Outlaid," for August 2009. Mr. Lysy said it is too early for the report to include any data since the MPO just approved the projects in October, but the report provides an overview of the information that will be reported in the future. Future reports will be provided to the MPO as an information item.

2. Revised FY 10 – FY 15 SYIP Public Meeting Notice –

Mr. Lysy reported that staff received notice on Monday, November 9, of a VDOT public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, to solicit comments regarding proposed cuts to the FY 10 – FY 15 Six-Year Improvement Program, and the notice was mailed/e-mailed to the MPO that same day. The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. in the VDOT Central Office Auditorium, 1221 East Broad Street in Richmond. Chairman O'Bannon said she will attend the public meeting on behalf of the MPO.

3. Other Business –

Robert Crum said an MPO board member requested that RRPDC Communications Coordinator Chuck Gates provide a brief overview of RRPDC legislative items that deal with transportation, and he inquired when would be a convenient point on the agenda to provide this report. Chairman O'Bannon said it could be heard under Other Business if there were no objections to it being added to the agenda.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Virginia Association of MPOs (VAMPO) –

Dan Lysy noted that concerns were expressed about the wording of the resolution at the October 8 MPO meeting. He said staff considered MPO comments and also reviewed the resolution with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and incorporated suggestions making significant changes in the resolution presented for consideration today. Mr. Lysy reviewed changes in wording including changes in the resolution title and the “BE IT RESOLVED” section which both express interest in the proposed establishment of VAMPO. He said the resolution contains an added “WHEREAS” that discusses how the mission is defined, which was included in the White Paper; two conditions were added to the “NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED” section which discuss the need for mission and procedures to be defined in bylaws, and the need for the cost of membership, and organizational and administrative costs to be specifically defined and kept to a minimum. Mr. Lysy said the “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED” section requests that the Virginia General Assembly take no further action during its 2010 session while this proposal is being reviewed by Virginia MPOs.

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Stran L. Trout, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, The Virginia General Assembly, during its 2009 session, called for the formation of an association of Virginia’s Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in House Joint Resolution (HJR) Number 756; and

WHEREAS, HJR 756 requested that the Secretary of Transportation assist the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions and the Transportation Planning Board for the National Capital Area with the determination of the scope of Virginia Association of MPOs activities and responsibilities best suited to the professional needs of the Commonwealth of Virginia or adopt other measures to enhance the effectiveness, professionalism and confidence of the State’s MPO organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions has appointed an ad hoc committee to develop an initial background issues report and a recommended organization structure report for a Virginia

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (VAMPO), both of which have been prepared and submitted for review by MPOs; and

WHEREAS, the mission for VAMPO, which is subject to the approval of the Richmond Area MPO and other MPO boards, has been defined as follows:

It is the mission of the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations to bring together the Commonwealth's MPOs to enhance the state of urban transportation planning and programming by:

- 1) fostering a greater spirit of partnership with the Commonwealth's transportation agencies;
- 2) sharing "best practices" among the MPOs; and
- 3) continually informing the Commonwealth's executive and legislative branches about improvements needed in Virginia transportation planning and programming, both in law and in practice;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization expresses interest in the proposed establishment of VAMPO and reserves its endorsement while the following conditions are being addressed:

- 1) that the mission and procedures of VAMPO are defined in bylaws developed by Virginia's MPOs, and carried out in a way that is supportive of the MPO's planning and programming responsibilities and does not act as a substitute for regional transportation decision-making;
- 2) that the cost for VAMPO membership is specifically defined and kept to a minimum with the Richmond Area MPO allowed to give full consideration of proposed staffing and other organizational costs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area MPO recommends that the General Assembly take no additional action during its 2010 session on MPO matters while this proposal is being reviewed and discussed by the Richmond Area MPO and other Virginia MPOs.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Item –

1. Air Quality Conformity Analysis for 1-295/Meadowville Road Interchange and TIP Amendment Request –

MPO action under agenda item I.B. changed this item from a consent action item to a regular action item with discussion. Dan Lysy reported that staff received a request to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include an I-295/Meadowville Road

Interchange project, a project which is already included in the *2031 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)* and was included in the air quality conformity analysis conducted for the 2031 LRTP and FY 09 – FY 12 TIP. However, Mr. Lysy said that the analysis was done with the project's first analysis year being 2031 and so the project was not included in the TIP. Since the project's original timeframe was well beyond the TIP timeframe for project construction and it was not included in the current TIP, Mr. Lysy said a new conformity analysis must be conducted which reflects the revised construction schedule for this regionally significant project. The new conformity analysis must reflect the project being programmed in the current TIP with a finding that it will not adversely impact the nonattainment/ maintenance area State Implementation Plan (SIP) for ozone air quality standards.

VDOT requires that the MPO take action to authorize proceeding with the air quality conformity analysis before work can begin. Mr. Lysy explained that VDOT is responsible for administering the conformity analysis process and for conducting the MOBILE 6.2 part of the regional emissions model; however, RRPDC staff is responsible for conducting the public review and interested parties consultation portions of the analysis. In addition, based on VDOT's new policy of MPOs being responsible for conducting model applications of the regional travel demand model, RRPDC staff has lead responsibility for running the project through the regional travel demand model to provide input for the MOBILE 6.2 regional emissions model.

Mr. Lysy said the Chairman requested that he bring to the MPO's attention the fact that the LRTP regional travel demand process normally has been conducted by VDOT; VDOT has now passed that responsibility on to MPOs so that RRPDC staff will now run the travel demand model. He said VDOT will provide significant tutorial assistance guiding RRPDC staff through the process. He said staff will provide an initial report to TAC next week on addressing modeling needs. Mr. Lysy noted the proposed resolution in tab four of the agenda package. Chairman O'Bannon said that she wanted the MPO to know VDOT is cutting costs by passing them on to the PDC and MPO. Mr. Lysy discussed the process in more detail. Mark Riblett commented that VDOT will continue to prepare the base modeling work so project lists can be added to the model for future LRTPs and other scenarios the MPO may consider. He said the VDOT modeling group is conducting a significant update of the model so future runs can provide more information.

On motion of Kathy C. Graziano, seconded by Robert R. Setliff, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) requests action by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) to conduct the air quality conformity analysis of the proposed Chesterfield County I-295/Meadowville Road interchange project in order to proceed with amending the MPO's FY 09 – FY 12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

B. MPO Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) Meeting Report –

In the absence of EDAC Chairman Linda Broady-Myers, Lee Yolton provided a brief report of major business items at the October 28 EDAC meeting noting the written report included in the agenda package. He reported EDAC action to change the EDAC meeting time from 10:00 a.m. to a more convenient noon lunch meeting time to encourage attendance. Mr. Yolton reported that John Rutledge and Troy Bell, with the Capital Region Airport Commission, provided a report on airport usage, recently completed and ongoing expansion plans, and the airport long-range master plan. There was positive dialogue and feedback regarding the air travel needs of the disabled community. In other business, Mr. Yolton said EDAC developed recommendations for revision of organizational membership and those recommendations are presented for MPO consideration on today's agenda. Mr. Lysy commented that EDAC was very helpful to Mr. Bell and Mr. Rutledge on how to make the airport's website more accessible to disabled users, especially the blind and vision impaired. Chairman O'Bannon noted congratulations are in order for Linda Broady-Myers on her election as president of the GRTC Transit System Board.

C. EDAC Membership Update and Membership Request for Private, For-Profit Transportation Operator –

EDAC submitted a request several months ago to add a private, for-profit transportation operator membership position on EDAC. After consideration at several MPO Executive Committee meetings, EDAC's request was approved with this position recommended as an at-large appointment by the MPO chairman based on the recommendation of EDAC, and also that this position should not serve in a leadership capacity as either the EDAC chairman or vice chairman. Mr. Lysy said EDAC received the Executive Committee's recommendation and addressed membership housekeeping issues since EDAC membership officially stood at the limit of 18 member organizations (and as a result, would not allow any additional member organizations). EDAC eliminated from membership those organizations that no longer exist or have not responded affirmatively to EDAC membership invitations; included the new organization formed as the result of two member organizations merging; and included the new private, for-profit transportation operator position.

This resulted in 13 member organizations with five membership slots available for new member organizations. Mr. Lysy noted the proposed EDAC membership structure on page six of the attachments under tab six. He reviewed the two resolutions presented for MPO consideration on pages two and three of the tab six cover memo and distributed a memo advising that John Amos, RRPDC legal counsel, has requested a modification to Resolution Two to include the following:

“WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) that leadership of the committee come from those member organizations that represent the elderly, disabled, persons of low income or other organizations that serve such interests; it is therefore...”

There was brief discussion and clarification of various issues regarding the two resolutions, during which Rudy Butler suggested that EDAC consider Goochland Free Clinic & Family Services to fill one of the vacant membership slots. Mr. Lysy said staff would take that suggestion under advisement. On motion of Marleen K. Durfee, seconded by Kathy C. Graziano, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution (i.e., Resolution One in the MPO agenda staff report):

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) revises the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) list of member organizations as recommended by EDAC and presented on the attached list.

Chairman O’Bannon then called for consideration of Resolution Two and Malvern R. Butler made a motion, seconded by Marleen Durfee, for approval of the revised resolution as presented in the memo. Following extensive discussion over the wording of the resolution and the intent of the revision, Malvern R. Butler withdrew his original motion (second was also withdrawn) and he moved to defer consideration of Resolution Two to the next MPO meeting to allow Mr. Amos to review the resolution again and provide clarification. The motion was seconded by Robert R. Setliff, and the MPO voted unanimously to defer action to the next MPO meeting.

D. Regional Transportation Priority Projects –

Barbara Nelson noted that staff has distributed copies of a draft resolution and action by the MPO Executive Committee earlier today reporting to the MPO, the Executive Committee’s recommended list of regional priority projects. She provided a brief presentation on how the MPO Regional Transportation Priority Projects have advanced over the years, saying that until 2007, there was a nearly consistent project pool with a similar number of projects due to the significant number of years it took to accumulate the allocations to advance projects. Ms. Nelson said that

beginning with the 2008 cycle, which coincided with the completion of the Regional Mass Transit Study and the 2031 Long-Range Transportation Plan, the MPO established its number one priority as preservation of funding for projects initially identified in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) as fully funded. She noted that last year the MPO took action to “stay the course” focusing on the work done over the past ten years to advance the existing projects, because seven of the 13 projects were noted in the FY 09 SYIP as fully funded. The MPO added seven new projects from the LRTP and the RMTS to the priority listing. However, projects previously fully funded saw reductions in calendar years 2008 and 2009 due to declining revenues and multiple, significant cuts in the SYIP, with only four of the number one priority projects remaining fully funded following these cuts.

Ms. Nelson said the recommendation included in tab seven of the agenda package asks the MPO to reaffirm its regional transportation priority projects list, except to remove the completed and fully funded RIC Access Improvements project from the list. She said staff also requests authorization by the MPO for member jurisdictions and agencies to use the Regional Transportation Priority Projects report as they seek funding for their projects. She noted that staff will look into developing a quantitative program to evaluate and select projects in the future. She said MPO action on regional transportation priority projects is important because of the upcoming Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) action to consider \$750 million in cuts to the current SYIP.

Ms. Nelson noted minor corrections to the report distributed with the agenda package saying that on page eight, the box showing the \$5 million balance to complete for the Main Street Station project was inadvertently omitted. She also noted that on page 17, Lewistown Road Interchange Phased Improvements, the second paragraph will be amended to include two associated projects, UPC numbers 58920 and 90347.

Chairman O’Bannon inquired what “fully funded” actually means and Ms. Nelson responded that over the life of the SYIP, which spans six fiscal years, the entire amount of a project’s funds would be actually allocated (the first year of the SYIP) and/or programmed for allocation over the remaining years. She said the first year is an actual allocation and the out years are planned allocations based revenue projections and are the amount of money projected to be available. Dan Lysy noted that is why we keep projects on our priority list, even though they are recognized in the SYIP as fully funded, because cuts may alter that fully funded status and project cost increases may require additional allocations. George M. Homewood offered a motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Kathy C. Graziano, and Chairman O’Bannon called for discussion.

Joe Vidunas noted that the cost estimate for the I-95 and Lewistown Road Interchange Phased Improvements project is incorrect and gives the

impression that it is fully funded when it is significantly underfunded. He said that since this report will go to the CTB, it is important that it show additional funding is required. He said the report reflects what is reported in the SYIP; however, a recent VDOT report indicates the project is significantly short. Mr. Vidunas requested that the cost estimate be revised to reflect current VDOT information. Ms. Nelson said that the "Funding Status After 2015" box could include the appropriate balance. Vickey Badger noted a typographical error on the last page of the report, saying the footnote for the unranked Main Street Station Platforms project should be (2) instead of (1). Staff agreed to make that change.

On motion of George M. Homewood, seconded by Kathy C. Graziano, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approves the report of the MPO Executive Committee on Regional Transportation Priority Projects establishing this list as the MPO's updated list of Regional Transportation Priority Projects and authorizes the submission of this list to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for its review and consideration in selecting transportation projects and allocating state and federal funds in the upcoming Virginia Department of Transportation Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) and in considering revisions to the current FY 10 – FY 15 SYIP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO authorizes the submission of this list of regional transportation priority projects in responding to requests from MPO member governments and agencies in expressing the MPO's support of efforts by its member local governments and agencies in seeking federal, state, and other potential sources of funds in support of the MPO priority projects.

Regional Transportation Priority Projects are identified and ranked as follows:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Project</u>
1	Preservation of funding of "fully funded" MPO priority projects from the previous and in the current SYIP, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main Street Station, Phase 3• Route 360 East, Hanover County• Huguenot Bridge Reconstruction• Route 250, Goochland County• I-64 Widening, Henrico to Goochland County• Virginia Capital Trail

- 2 South East High Speed Rail Corridor: Richmond to Washington
- 3 Route 10, Chesterfield County
- 4 Parham Road/Patterson Interchange, Henrico
- 5 I-95/Lewistown Road: Interim Interchange Improvements, Hanover County
- 6 High Speed Rail: Richmond/Hampton Roads
- 7 I-64 Widening from I-295 to James City County

Unranked Projects Added in 2008

- Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit from Willow Lawn to Rockett's Landing
- GRTC Downtown Transfer Center
- Platform Extensions at Main Street Station
- Route 711/Huguenot Trail Widening (Rt. 288 to Chesterfield Co.)
- I-295/Meadowville Interchange
- Forest Hill Avenue Widening (Hathaway Rd. to Powhite Pkwy.)
- Jahnke Road Widening (Forest Hill Avenue to Blakemore Rd.)

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Overview of RRPDC Legislative Agenda –

RRPDC Communications Coordinator Chuck Gates reported policy statements on transportation issues included in the RRPDC legislative agenda as follows:

- A statement with language to stress the vital need for the Commonwealth of Virginia to develop funding mechanisms to meet the state's current and future transportation funding needs.
- A statement supporting the addition of the term "federal funds" to the list of matching sources for projects seeking funding from the Commonwealth's Rail Enhancement Fund.
- A statement that supports the extension of high-speed rail from Washington, D.C. to the Richmond region.
- A statement that supports the addition of a third urban at-large seat on the Commonwealth Transportation Board to be filled by a resident of the Richmond-Petersburg Metropolitan Statistical Area.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman O'Bannon noted the staff recommendation to cancel the December 10, 2009 and January 14, 2010 MPO meetings and asked if there were any objections and none were voiced. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.