

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MEETING

September 10, 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
Malvern R. Butler	County of Goochland
Deborah B. Coats (Alternate)	County of Hanover
Douglas G. Conner (Alternate).....	City of Richmond
Robert A. Crum, Jr.....	RRPDC
Marleen K. Durfee	County of Chesterfield
Thomas E. Flynn.....	City of Richmond
Daniel A. Gecker	County of Chesterfield
Kathy C. Graziano	City of Richmond
Thomas A. Hawthorne	VDOT
James M. Holland	County of Chesterfield
Amy M. Inman (Alternate)	VDRPT
Jean M. Moore	County of Henrico
Ellen F. Robertson	City of Richmond
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

Stephen R. Adkins (Nonvoting).....	CTAC
Viktorija W. Badger.....	City of Richmond
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
Tammye Davis (Nonvoting)	FHWA
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover
Corey W. Hill (Nonvoting).....	VDRPT
George M. Homewood.....	County of New Kent
John M. Lewis.....	GRTC Transit System

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

REPRESENTING

John McCracken County of Chesterfield
John Rutledge.....CRAC
Von Tisdale (Nonvoting) RideFinders

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Daniel N. Lysy, (Alternate), **Secretary** RRPDC
Linda K. Carpenter.....Wilbur Smith Associates
Scott H. Clark.....GRTC Transit System
Michael J. Flagg (Alternate) County of Hanover
Philip Kempf.....Michael Baker
James P. Ponticello VDOT
Mark Riblett (Alternate) VDOT
Ronald Svejkovsky VDOT
Anne Darby RRPDC
Natalie Díaz-Taylor RRPDC
Chuck Gates RRPDC
Jin Lee..... RRPDC
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Greta Ryan RRPDC
Jacqueline Stewart RRPDC
Lee Yolton RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman Patricia S. O’Bannon called the September 10, 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. At the Chairman’s request, all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

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 that in the interest of time, it was requested that agenda item III.B.2 be deferred to a future meeting. There were no objections and the agenda was revised as requested.

C. Minutes of the July 9, 2009 MPO Meeting –

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Kathy C. Graziano, the minutes of the July 9, 2009 MPO meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

D. Open Public Comment Period –

There were no requests to address the MPO.

E. MPO Chairman's Report –

1. Presentation to Outgoing MPO Chairman –

Chairman O'Bannon presented a wooden plaque to Kathy C. Graziano honoring her for her service as FY 09 MPO Chairman and read aloud the engraved message on the plaque as follows: "Presented to Kathy C. Graziano in recognition of her outstanding services as Chairman of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Ms. Graziano thanked the MPO and received a hearty round of applause.

2. Other Business –

No other business was brought forward.

F. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

1. Introductions of New RRPDC Staff –

Dan Lysy introduced new staff members Charles E. Gates, Jr. ("Chuck"), Communications Coordinator, and Natalie Díaz-Taylor, Receptionist/Secretary, and each of them provided a brief summary of their education, experience and RRPDC work efforts. Both were welcomed by Chairman O'Bannon and with a warm round of applause from the MPO.

2. Authorization for Staff Travel; Association of MPOs Annual Meeting –

Dan Lysy stated that as part of the VDOT/RRPDC FY 10 PL Funds Agreement, all staff travel where expenses are estimated to exceed \$1,000 requires MPO approval. He also noted the RRPDC staff travel policy that requires RRPDC Executive Committee review and authorization for all out-of-state staff travel requests. Mr. Lysy reported that the Executive Committee approved the request for RRPDC Principal Planner Barbara Nelson to travel to Savannah, Georgia to attend the AMPO (Association of Metropolitan Planning

Organizations) annual conference and to accept the AMPO “National Award for Innovative Practice in Metropolitan Transportation Planning” for the “64 Express” James River barge project initiated in 2008. He said receipt of this distinguished AMPO award and the national recognition it brings to the Richmond Area MPO out of over 300 MPOs nationally is exceptional.

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, 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) authorizes Ms. Barbara S. Nelson to attend the 2009 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia.

3. VDOT/MPO ARRA Stimulus Funds Coordination and Reporting –

Dan Lysy reported that staff received correspondence from Congressman James Oberstar, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, concerning transparency and accountability on information that the MPO has been requested to coordinate with VDOT. He said he would like to make sure that when VDOT submits these reports, they also provide the MPO with a copy and VDOT Richmond District Administrator Tom Hawthorne agreed that VDOT would provide copies of those reports to the MPO. Dan Lysy thanked Mr. Hawthorne for that assurance.

II. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forward for consideration.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Item –

1. GRTC TIP Amendment Request, FTA Section 5317 New Freedom Funds Project; Specialized Transportation Customer Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System –

On motion of Kathy C. Graziano, seconded by Daniel A. Gecker, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the FY 2009 – FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the following new GRTC project: “Capital Assistance/Specialized Transportation Interactive Voice Response System,” obligating \$139,000 in Federal Transit Administration Section 5317 New Freedom program funds for FY 2009 (matched by \$35,0000 in GRTC funds).

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

1. July 28 CTAC Meeting Report –

In the absence of the CTAC Chairman, Barbara Nelson noted information provided in tab four of the agenda package on the July 28 CTAC meeting and she provided a brief summary of major meeting topics including a report by VDOT Air Quality Program Manager Jim Ponticello on a component of the VTrans 2035 Plan, “Human and Environment Report and Recommendations” and a video and discussion on Phoenix Light Rail and the Norfolk light rail project under construction. She noted that the primary meeting topic for the September 22, 2009 CTAC meeting will be a presentation on Virginia’s High Speed Rail Initiative by Daniel Plaughter and a report by RRPDC Executive Director Robert Crum on the successful efforts undertaken by the Capital Region Collaborative to develop regional support for high speed rail in the Richmond Region to Washington, D.C. corridor.

2. Phoenix Light Rail –

Under consideration of agenda item I.B., Additions to the Agenda, this item was deferred by consensus to a future meeting. Chairman O’Bannon suggested that this item be bundled with a report on the Norfolk light rail system when it is brought back.

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

In the absence of the EDAC Chairman, Lee Yolton noted the report included in tab five of the agenda package on the July 22 EDAC meeting and briefly reviewed major meeting topics including two presentations by GRTC Transit System CEO John Lewis, one on the Transit Talk program and website and another on proposed development of the old train shed at Main Street Station into a bus transfer center and possible multimodal transportation center to incorporate high speed rail. Mr. Yolton said Mr. Lewis indicated they are seeking federal stimulus funds to move ahead with this project.

D. RSTP/ARRA Funds: Projects and Allocations –

Barbara Nelson noted the five-page agenda item cover memo and other information provided in tab six of the agenda package and she reviewed the timelines for obligation of ARRA stimulus funds; the revised VDOT guidance on how the regional-ARRA monies should be utilized; and the three-tier process the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) developed and followed for evaluating candidate projects and selection of projects recommended to receive the MPO's \$20.8 million share of RSTP/ARRA funds. Ms. Nelson reported that following extensive TAC review and discussion, TAC developed three recommendations which identified replacement of the bridge over I-95 at Lewistown Road as a high priority; provided strategies for the transfer of allocated RSTP funds from two projects to the Lewistown Road bridge project which could not be ready for obligation by the March 2010 deadline; and provided allocation of RSTP/ARRA funds to three projects in the region, all of which are ready-to-go and can be obligated by the March deadline. Ms. Nelson noted a typo in the UPC number of the Lewistown Road widening project and said staff recommends a change in wording in paragraph number two to read "...transfer all available allocations from the Route 250 widening project in Goochland," eliminating the specific language about the construction phase to allow maximum flexibility with any leftover funds.

Chairman O'Bannon noted that several projects recently bid in Henrico County came in significantly under estimated costs and Ms. Nelson said that should there be surplus obligated funds, those stimulus funds can be reallocated by September 2010. She pointed out that is the reason for advancing these projects quickly to advertisement and finalizing costs so that surplus funds, if any, can be shifted to other projects before the deadline. Mr. Lysy noted that unallocated or surplus funds from other areas of the state may be reallocated within the state and that process may provide a future opportunity for the Richmond Area MPO to receive additional stimulus funds. Robert Setliff complimented the staff and the MPO TAC for doing such a good job of reallocating and taking advantage of available funds, and moved the draft resolution to include suggested changes. Jim Holland seconded the motion saying he concurs that the job staff and TAC have done is outstanding.

On motion of Robert R. Setliff, seconded by James M. Holland, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approves the following allocations of RSTP/ARRA funds and authorizes the following transfers of RSTP funds:

1. Transfer \$4.8 million in RSTP from UPC 58920 (Lewistown Road widening; adjacent phase of bridge replacement) to UPC 90347 (Lewistown Road Bridge replacement).
2. Transfer all available allocations from the Route 250 widening project in Goochland County (UPC 52448) to UPC 90347 (Lewistown Road Bridge replacement). Other fund sources on this project (i.e., state primary funds) should be used in the PE in the RW phases with any remaining state primary funds used for the CN phase, thereby reserving as much RSTP funds for transfer as possible. VDOT has estimated that the amount available for transfer at approximately \$4.5 million.
3. Allocate \$4.8 million in RSTP/ARRA to UPC 58920 (Lewistown Road widening; adjacent phase of bridge replacement).
4. Allocate \$10.0 million in RSTP/ARRA funds to UPC 80529, West Hundred Road in Chesterfield.
5. Allocate \$6.0 million in RSTP/ARRA funds to UPC 52448, Route 250 in Goochland.

E. Intermodal Strategies and Actions Study –

Barbara Nelson introduced Linda Carpenter with Wilbur Smith Associates who would provide a brief presentation on the Intermodal Strategies and Actions Study currently in progress. Ms. Nelson reviewed that the MPO was awarded a grant of approximately \$175,000 by VDOT early last spring to conduct an inter-regional, intermodal freight study which encompasses analyzing goods movement within and through the region. She said the Richmond Area MPO is working directly with the Tri-Cities MPO and indirectly with the Hampton Roads MPO region since much of the goods movement to region comes from the ports in the Hampton Roads area as well as along the I-95 corridor. She said Wilbur Smith Associates is the project consultant and that project completion is anticipated by spring of 2010. A consultant update presentation will be provided to both the Richmond and the Tri-Cities MPOs later in the fall.

Linda Carpenter provided a PowerPoint presentation that included an overview of the context and purpose of the study; a flow chart of the study approach and work tasks; progress to date; and delineation of the study area with primary, secondary and special connector routes identified. The presentation also provided data on freight by mode and direction, freight volumes, and types of freight along with an initial appraisal of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in the region (a SWOT assessment) to help make sense of the numbers. Ms. Carpenter said the future focus of the study will be on the opportunities and will work with the local freight stakeholders through a freight forum to validate that the identified opportunities are indeed what should be the focus. She said that through

discussion with the stakeholders, they hope to focus on and develop three different arenas – 1) infrastructure improvements, 2) land use and landside development patterns, and 3) continued engagement goals for the freight stakeholder community. Ms. Carpenter identified the framework and invitees for the freight forum and requested input from the MPO for additional suggestions of stakeholders to be included. She said they hope to hold the freight forum in November and to review the SWOT analysis to make sure they are focusing on things that will really benefit the region. Ms. Carpenter said that based on the results of the forum, they will begin to finalize conclusions and complete the study in the spring.

Chairman O'Bannon informed Ms. Carpenter of a one-year survey being conducted by Henrico County in conjunction with emergency services to analyze the movement of freight and materials through the county and identifies truck and train travel patterns with the purpose of identifying hazmat material moving through the region. Ms. Carpenter suggested having a person involved with that survey to attend the freight forum to bring the emergency services perspective to the table and Chairman O'Bannon suggested Anna McRay, Henrico County Emergency Manager. There were no additional comments or questions and Chairman O'Bannon thanked Ms. Carpenter for her presentation.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward for MPO consideration.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman O'Bannon adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:50 p.m.