

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
April 8, 2010

Members/Alternates Present

Richard Ayers (M)County of Powhatan
Willie L. Bennett (M) County of Henrico
Malvern R. “Rudy” Butler (M).....County of Goochland
Deborah B. Coats (A)County of Hanover
Marleen K. Durfee (M).....County of Chesterfield
Evan Fabricant (M)County of Hanover
John E. Gordon, Jr. (M)County of Hanover
Kathy C. Graziano (M), ChairmanCity of Richmond
John C. Grier (M).....City of Richmond
James M. Holland (M)County of Chesterfield
Dorothy Jaeckle (M)County of Chesterfield
David A. Kaechele (M)..... County of Henrico
Patricia S. O’Bannon (M) County of Henrico
C. Harold Padgett (M).....County of Hanover
Robert R. Setliff (M).....County of Hanover
Randall R. Silber (A) County of Henrico
Millard D. “Pete” Stith (A)County of Chesterfield
Frank J. Thornton (M)..... County of Henrico
Stran L. Trout (M), Treasurer County of New Kent
Joseph B. Walton (M)County of Powhatan

Members Absent

Douglas G. Conner (M)City of Richmond
Robert R. Cosby (M).....County of Powhatan
Timothy W. Cotman, Sr. (M)..... County of Charles City
James B. Donati (M), Vice Chairman..... County of Henrico
Daniel A. Gecker (M)County of Chesterfield
Richard W. Glover (M)..... County of Henrico
Russell J. Gulley (M)County of Chesterfield
Courtney G. Hyers (M).....County of Goochland
E. Martin Jewell (M).....City of Richmond
Lynn McAteer (M).....City of Richmond
Edward W. Pollard (M)..... County of New Kent
Faye O. Prichard (M), SecretaryTown of Ashland
George K. Roarty (M).....County of Chesterfield
Charles R. Samuels (M).....City of Richmond
Ernest B. Vanarsdall (M) County of Henrico
Arthur S. Warren (M)County of Chesterfield

Others Present

John R. Amos..... RRPDC Legal Counsel
Viktoria Badger.....City of Richmond
Jon Baliles.....City of Richmond
John Blackwell..... Richmond Times-Dispatch
Champe Burnby Virginia Bicycling Federation
Paige Carnohan James River High School
Sid DelCardayre..... Van Go, Inc.
Suzette Denslow.....City of Richmond
Eric Engler Velocity Motorcycles
Kathryn Freeman-JonesGoodman Allen & Filette
Jeff Jones..... WF of R, Inc.
Matt Kitces.....Goodman Allen & Filette
John Martin Southeastern Institute of Research / STIR
Gary Rhodes..... J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Mark Riblett..... VDOT
Thom Ryan..... James River High School
Tom Silvestri.....Richmond Times-Dispatch / STIR
Ron Svejkovsky VDOT
Von Tisdale GRTC RideFinders
Julie von SternbergUniversity of Richmond
Buck Ward Segway of Richmond / STIR
Jim WrightPulsar Advertising

Staff Present

Robert A. Crum, Jr..... Executive Director
Jo A. Evans Assistant Executive Director
Julie H. Fry..... Executive Secretary
Anne Darby Associate Planner
Allyson Finchum.....Principal Planner
Chuck Gates Communications Coordinator
Barbara JacocksPrincipal Planner
Jin Lee..... Senior Planner
Barbara Nelson.....Principal Planner
Daniel N. LysyDirector, Transportation
Greta Ryan Intern
Randy SelleckSenior Planner
Jackie S. Stewart Director, Planning/IS
Peter M. Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator
Kathy Wright Intern
Lee YoltonPrincipal Planner

Call to Order

Chairman Graziano called the regularly scheduled April 8, 2010 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. in the RRPDC board room. She then led the Commission members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum

Mr. Crum certified that a quorum of members was present.

B. Requests for Additions or Changes in Order of Business

Chairman Graziano asked if there were any additions or changes to be made to the agenda. Mr. Crum said he would like to request that under Old Business, Item II. B. – Legislative Update be deleted. He indicated staff would like additional time to thoroughly review all legislation passed during this year's General Assembly over the next month and provide a detailed summary during the May meeting. A motion to change the agenda as requested by staff was made by Mr. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Holland. There was no further discussion and the motion carried. As there were no additional changes noted, the agenda was accepted as revised.

C. Open Public Comment Period

Chairman Graziano asked if there was anyone from the public in attendance who wished to make a comment to members of the Commission. She reminded speakers that their time is limited to three minutes.

There were no requests from the public to address the Commission, and the Chairman closed the public comment period.

D. Chairman's Report

Chairman Graziano indicated she would not have a report today.

E. Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2010 Meeting

Chairman Graziano presented minutes from the March 11, 2010 meeting on behalf of Ms. Prichard, who could not attend today's meeting. There being no discussion, on motion made by Mr. Butler and seconded by Mr. Bennett, the minutes were approved as presented.

F. Approval of the February 2010 Financial Report

Chairman Graziano asked Mr. Trout to present this item.

Mr. Trout stated the financial report is included in the agenda book under Tab 2. There being no discussion, on motion made by Mr. Trout and seconded by Ms. Durfee, the February 2010 financial report was accepted for audit as presented.

G. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum brought the members' attention to the monthly staff activity report, which is included in the agenda book under Tab 3, and details work being done by staff on behalf of the localities.

Mr. Crum noted that during the May Commission meeting, an update will be provided on the Capital Region Collaborative. Staff continues to work with the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) staff to process a request for funding to develop a regional Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). The first part of the application has been submitted and the second part of the application will be submitted later this month.

Mr. Crum introduced a new member to the Commission: Richard Ayers, Powhatan County Planning Commission. Mr. Ayers replaces Karin Carmack as the county's planning commission member on the RRPDC Board. Mr. Crum welcomed Mr. Ayers on behalf of Commission members.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Jurisdictional Committees Reports

Chairman Graziano asked Mr. Gordon to present a report from these committees.

Mr. Gordon reported that the committees had not met in March and will hold a joint meeting on April 16. Mr. Crum said items for discussion during this meeting will be the study area for the MPO and an update on the new emergency management program.

B. Legislative Update – Item Deleted

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sustainable Transportation Initiatives for Richmond (STIR)

Chairman Graziano said she hoped everyone had a chance to take a look at the different types of vehicles on display in the parking lot. She asked Mr. Crum to introduce today's guest speaker.

Mr. Crum thanked all of the participants who had provided the vehicles for today's transportation showcase – GRTC, Buck Ward with Segway of Richmond, and the others. Mr. Gates introduced Eric Engler, with Velocity Motorcycles, who had provided the zero emissions motorcycle.

Mr. Crum said a presentation will be made by John Martin (Southeastern Institute of Research), who will give an overview of what the Sustainable Transportation Initiatives for Richmond (STIR) hopes to accomplish. Mr. Crum noted that STIR wants to introduce to the community at large other transportation options that are available. Gary Rhodes, president of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, is on the STIR board and will also offer a few comments. Mr. Crum said this initiative takes a big picture look at transportation and relates it to some of the regional challenges being faced. He said this is an informational item only and he would encourage questions following the presentation. Mr. Crum said the presentation can be made to the localities if it is determined this would be of interest to the jurisdictions.

Dr. Rhodes indicated he would like to introduce other STIR members and noted that Mr. Crum is also a member of the STIR board. Other members in attendance today are: Buck Ward, who serves as STIR chairman; Jeff Jones, and Tom Silvestri. Dr. Rhodes said a slide will be presented later to show the entire STIR committee, which also included a representative from Virginia Dominion Power and the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce. He said STIR is trying to look ahead for ways to prevent the Richmond Region from becoming similar to northern Virginia and the metro Washington DC area with regard to traffic congestion.

Mr. Martin offered an overview of how STIR sees things in Richmond currently and provided suggestions from STIR on how to make changes. He indicated that the Richmond Region has been given many accolades on being a good place to live, work, and play, among them: 5th best metro area for business; 20th best city for young professionals; 14th best city for small businesses. Richmond Region employers have given the Region an 81 percent favorable grade as a good place to do business.

Some of the drivers behind this rating included mobility to move around quickly and easily. Mr. Martin noted there is a direct correlation between transportation and the business climate viability as well as residents' quality of life. A study was completed in 2007 for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation that indicated Richmond ranked 11th in commute minutes and 10th in number of miles commuted. Most Richmond residents (87%) commute to work within the Region. However, 88 percent of Richmond commuters drive alone, which is higher than the state average.

As the Region's population grows, the number of cars on the roads will also increase. This is in sync with what has been predicted by demographers for

growth in the “Golden (Population) Crescent” along the eastern seaboard. Statistics show that the Region’s footprint is expanding with a projected increase to urban villages, or edge cities. This will increase the number of commuters coming into the inner city area as well as increased pass-through traffic, including an increase in ships coming into the Hampton Roads ports.

Mr. Martin indicated that 99 percent of the Region’s roadways have already been built. Increased vehicles will also impact the environment. With this in mind, changes need to be made to include more walking and bicycle paths, including Segway paths, Zipcars, mass transit, electric cars, and car-free zones.

There will be a need for an integrated transportation system. This will require a new mindset about each trip taken by individuals. Studies in areas such as Arlington, Virginia, show that rideshares will need to be increased. Currently in the Richmond Region, single occupancy vehicles are at 88 percent with only a 12 percent rideshare.

STIR has developed a vision: The Greater Richmond Region is the national model in building an innovative, sustainable transportation system that moves people in a greener way. The mission of STIR is to ensure the Greater Richmond Region’s future transportation system provides an array of cost-effective, sustainable transportation choices all designed to move people in a manner that maintains the unprecedented access and mobility and minimizes the impact travel has on the environment.

The strategic focus of STIR will be on behavior (build awareness and advocacy), infrastructure (partner with transport manufacturers), and funding (attract new funding).

Behavioral Change Model:

- awareness of social cause
- familiarity with how to participate
- trial / initial participation
- long-term behavioral change

Some other ways STIR will build awareness will be to meet with Leadership Metro Richmond, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, local boards of supervisors and city councils, and presentations to the RAMPO, GRTC, and RideFinders boards.

General Motors is asking for partner cities to test its new Personal Urban Mobility and Accessibility (PUMA) vehicles. A presentation will be made during an event on April 12 on reasons why Richmond should be chosen as a partner city.

Mr. Martin noted that STIR is pursuing federal grant funds to help with the initiatives. He invited members to visit the STIR website for additional information and updates: www.ProjectSTIR.org.

There are several reasons that STIR feels the Richmond Region will be successful in this effort:

- Heritage – electric trolleys, canals, early auto makers
- Magnet for Innovation – Hanover County’s Green Tech Incubator Park, hydrogen fueling stations
- Demographic makeup – optimal national test market for auto manufacturers
- Location – intersection of two major interstate highways and proximity to Washington DC for electric vehicle demonstration purposes
- National Ties – selection of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College to develop technician training for hybrid and electric vehicles
- Dominion Virginia Power’s Focus on Electric Vehicles (EV) – commitment to building public charging infrastructure
- RideFinder’s Strategic Plan – balanced transportation system
- Economic Development Focus – green technologies
- STIR’s Founding Partners – Dominion Virginia Power, Greater Richmond Partnership, Virginia Commonwealth University, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Data Directions, WF of R Media, Southeastern Institute of Research, Venture Richmond, Segway, GRTC, Greater Richmond Chamber, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
- Timing – 80% of residents think or act “green” and over half will spend more for “green”

STIR’s next step is to create a movement by increasing the number of those who partner with STIR. Competitors across the country are acting now to embrace the idea of electric vehicles. There are benefits for long-term green economic development.

Mr. Martin said the objective of STIR to generate momentum is to engage others – local governments, corporations, and individuals. He said STIR would like for local governments to pass resolutions of support for the initiative and to appoint representatives to the STIR leadership council. Dominion Energy will develop an electric vehicle infrastructure plan at no cost for each jurisdiction. RideFinders will assist with rideshare plans for local government employers.

Mr. Martin thanked members for the opportunity to present this plan to them. He indicated now is the time for action.

Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Martin for his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Stith asked if there was a model resolution of support available for localities to use. Mr. Martin said he would work with RRPDC staff to develop a draft resolution.

Mr. Kaechele asked if electric vehicles included hybrids. Mr. Martin said hybrids were included.

Chairman Graziano urged members to invite STIR to make this presentation during their local meetings.

Chairman Graziano noted that during the RRPDC Executive Committee meeting held earlier today, there was discussion on presentations given to members requesting authorization for RRPDC staff to apply for grant funds. She indicated the Committee members felt these types of action items could be included on a consent agenda without presentations. If there are questions, the items can be placed on the regular agenda for discussion. She said as these items are typically detailed in the agenda books, it was felt that by placing them on a consent agenda, the meetings could move along more efficiently. Chairman Graziano said she would like to institute this procedure for the remainder of today's agenda. She said she will read each item as this is the first time a consent agenda format is being used, and if there is a question, members can ask for more information prior to the vote.

B. Authorization to File and Execute FY 11 Federal and State Grant Applications and Agreements on Behalf of the RRPDC for the Richmond Area MPO's FY 11 Unified Work Program

Mr. Gordon moved the resolutions be approved; Mr. Fabricant seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

C. Authorization to File and Execute FY 11 Coastal Technical Assistance Grant

Mr. Bennett moved that the resolution be approved; Mr. Fabricant seconded the motion. Ms. O'Bannon asked if a local match was required. Mr. Crum said this will be in the form of in-kind staff services. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

D. Authorization to File and Execute FY 11 Coastal Green Infrastructure Grant

Mr. Setliff moved that the resolution be approved; Mr. Walton seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

E. Authorization to File and Execute FY 11 Rural Transportation Planning Grant

Mr. Walton moved that the resolution be approved; Ms. Durfee seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

There were no other committee reports.

B. Announcements

Mr. Crum announced that each member would receive an invitation from the United Way to attend a dinner on May 3 hosted and financed by Mr. Tom Chewning. The event will provide information on the United Way's Smart Beginnings Program and the early childhood education focus of this program. As part of the Capital Region Collaborative, the RRPDC is assisting with planning the event. He emphasized that no public funds are being used for the event. He encouraged all members to attend. Mr. Crum said local school superintendents and local school board members have also been invited to attend the dinner, along with presidents of the Region's colleges and universities as well as members of the Capital Region Caucus. The dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. A workshop will be held the following day to provide more details on the program.

Mr. Gordon said he would encourage everyone to attend. This is one of the Collaborative's initiatives, and the RRPDC plays a major role on the Collaborative. He said all elected officials have been invited, not just those who are members of the Commission. Mr. Gordon said all school board members in each locality throughout the Region have also been invited. He said this will be the first time he is aware of that all elected officials and school board members have been invited to meet together to focus on early childhood education.

Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Gordon for his leadership on this effort.

Mr. Crum thanked everyone for coming early to the meeting today in order to participate in the transportation showcase.

Mr. Stith announced his retirement from Chesterfield County. The Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors has asked him to remain as the county's alternate voting member to the RRPDC Board.

C. For Your Information

There were no items included in this section.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Graziano adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director

Kathy C. Graziano
Chairman