

APPENDIX B

MEMORANDUM

To: Richmond Area MPO
From: Michael O. Clements
Date: February 2, 2004
Subj: **Summary of Public Workshop Comments**

Public workshops were held in December 2003 for the purpose of soliciting public input on transportation priorities for the Richmond region. The workshops were held between 4 P.M. and 8 P.M. on the following dates and locations as follows:

December 3 at the Children's Museum of Richmond
December 4 at the Chesterfield County Administration Building
December 8 at Short Pump Elementary School

A summary of citizen comments that were received during the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) public workshops and considered by the LRTP Advisory Task Force follows.

MC/

Comment Form

Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) public workshops:

The following comment form on the LRTP update will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Your comments will be used to provide guidance to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in developing the updated 2026 LRTP document. Thank you for your time.

About the LRTP:

1. Do you have any suggestions on how travel can be improved in the Richmond region?

Comments received at December 3 Workshop, Children's Museum of Richmond:

- -- Make Boulevard bridge good for fire truck/GRTC bus and separate walk v.s. bicycle lanes.
- -- Informative signs/radio/media about bicycle laws, congested/diverting traffic.
- -- Coordinate traffic signals for smooth flow (with night flash or sensor when traffic very light).
- -- When road narrows, have passing (left) lane disappear rather than primary (right) lane.

- Add rail as an option
 1. Light rail
 2. Commuter rail
 3. High-speed rail – eventually

- More rail, less roads.

- -- Bicycle and pedestrian use need to be made safer and friendlier including driver education (courtesy and tolerance!)
- -- Stoplights EVERYWHERE need to be timed. It saves gas, pollution, time and frustration!

- -- CONTROL SPRAWL! which overloads all roads and increases car travel.
- -- More non-car transportation modes equal safe sidewalks, rail, more useful suburb-to-suburb routes for buses.

- Moratorium on road building and set a development boundary.

Comments from December 4 Workshop at Chesterfield Co. Administration Building:

- More routes linking Chesterfield to downtown Richmond – many people work in the city from the counties.

- Widening roads. Making more freeways or highways to lessen congestion in Midlothian and Hull Street Rd.

RETURN BY 12/15/03 TO:

Michael Clements

Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, 2104 West Laburnum Avenue, Suite 101, Richmond, VA 23227

Phone: (804) 367-6001 • Fax: (804) 367-4375 www.richmondregional.org

Workshop Date: _____

- Well I am originally from New York and in New York they had a great bus system. You could literally find a bus at every street corner. I would like to see our bus service expanded so that I can be just as independent here as I was in New York.
- Vans that connect the county to the city.

Comments received at December 8 Workshop, Short Pump Elementary School:

- -- Continue to increase attention on pedestrian and bicycle modes as integral to transportation and livable communities, not as an ancillary frill.
-- New development needs to accommodate pedestrian as well as motor transport.
- -- We need more sidewalks (means less car use).
-- Keep more commercial development out – insist it be in already commercial spots.
- Increase realistic availability of bicycling routes. Add enough shoulder to Route 5 to enable safe cycling from Shockoe to approximately 295. Ultimately a realistic and safe route should exist from Richmond to Jamestown/Williamsburg.

2. List the top five (5) transportation projects/programs in the Richmond region that you think should be a priority.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Comments received at December 3 Workshop, Children’s Museum of Richmond:

- 1. Make Boulevard bridge good for fire truck/GRTC bus and separate walk v.s. bicycle lanes and separate walk v.s. bicycle lanes (75,000 pounds, 10 times the posted weight load).
 - 2. System to communicate congested, closed, diverting traffic to public approaching area.
 - 3. When road narrows, have passing (left) lane disappear rather than primary (right) lane.
 - 4. Coordinate mass transit with school buses and combine some services.
 - 5. Encourage diversifying some big work times to spread “rush hour” traffic.
- 1. Light rail
 - 2. Commuter rail
- 1. Commuter rail
 - 2. Trolleys
 - 3. Support improvement to existing rail to Jamestown.

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- 1. Bike and pedestrian.
- 2. Public transportation of all kinds.
- 3. More incentive NOT to drive.

- 1. Traffic signal networking to improve phasing.
- 2. Local rail system needed.
- 3. Re-engineer highway 95 through city; confusing and easily congested.
- 4. Inter-suburb buses.

- 1. Trolley
- 2. High-speed rail

- 1. Bike lanes on every major secondary road.
- 2. Build the first rail line at least from Main St. Station to VCU
- 3. Cooperate with high-speed rail to other cities.
- 4. CUT ALL FUNDING FOR NEW ROADS.
- 5. NO ROAD WIDENINGS EXCEPT FOR SAFETY PURPOSES (i.e., Rt. 33 in NW Hanover).

Comments received at December 4 Workshop, Chesterfield Co. Administration Building:

- 1. Transportation in Chesterfield
- 2. Sidewalks
- 3. More schools so children are not on buses for a long time
- 4. Transportation for the disabled.

- 1. Reinstating the Link services (funding) for transportation for the elderly and disabled.
- 2. Make sure that the transportation is affordable to all consumers.

- 1. More buses.
- 2. More sidewalks.
- 3. More ramps (VERY) important.
- 4. Transportation that is affordable to people with low/fixed income.
- 5. A separate carpool specifically for disabled who want to attend college.

- 1. Sidewalks
- 2. Van to link county to city
- 3. Schools
- 4. Road expansion
- 5. Door-to-door

Comments received at December 8 Workshop, Short Pump Elementary School:

- 1. Lane widenings at Three Chopt, N. Gayton, other Short Pump region including sidewalk, pedestrian cross-walk, bicycle accommodations
- 2. Pedestrian nodes corridors plan

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3. Intelligent highway initiatives
 4. Consider expansion of transit – Short Pump, West Creek
- 1. More sidewalks
 - 2. Raised, enclosed pedestrian crossovers that are see-through.
3. Any additional thoughts or comments?

Comments received at December 3 Workshop, Children's Museum of Richmond:

- -- Your map shows Riverside Drive and Boulevard bridge as bicycle tour route – Poor/unsafe without substantial changes.
 - -- Should get localities to include notice about meeting with water (utility) bill, signs at toll booths, billboards along highway, etc. to better reach public.
 - -- Attending staff should wear sign indicating agency representing.
 - -- Relay to appropriate officials to change mailing address, etc. to clearly identify site as part of Richmond City v.s. Henrico or Chesterfield County.
- Stop building highways to nowhere.
 - VDOT needs to look at regularly congested areas and make plans to fix them. Sometimes this can be simply changing light timing, sometimes a complete re-engineer of the area.
 - Any money spent on widening roads of more than four lanes or on new road is wasted. It should be spent instead on bike paths and rail and buses. I'm ticked off as a taxpayer that 82 percent of my transport dollars goes toward roads. The road money should be maintenance only – 50 percent, perhaps, tops of all transport dollars.

Comments received at December 4 Workshop, Chesterfield Co. Administration Building:

- I would like to see there be transportation for people who live alone and need to be taken to the grocery store. Cabs are too expensive and aren't spacious enough.

Comments received at December 8 Workshop, Short Pump Elementary School:

- Again, integration of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit mode in all development planning.
- This [Raised, enclosed pedestrian crossovers that are see-through.] should pertain particularly to the Pump and Broad area and the Three Chopt and Church areas as they intersect with Cox and Broad.

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About this meeting:

4. How did you find out about today's meeting?

Comments received at December 3 Workshop, Children's Museum of Richmond:

- Free Press ?or Voice (localities should note with utility bill for better system to inform customers of such events).
- Richmond Times-Dispatch
- Newspaper (T-D)
- Newspaper; radio
- E-mail from a friend.
- E-mail, my friend Alan Tuck who saw it in the 12-3 Times-Dispatch.

Comments received at December 4 Workshop, Chesterfield Co. Administration Building:

- Information through county administrator.
- Independent Living Center
- Through the Independent Living Center.
- CVILC [Central Virginia Independent Living Center, now called Resources for Independent Living]

Comments received at December 8 Workshop, Short Pump Elementary School:

- E-mail notice
- Newspaper
- Newspaper

5. Did you come away from the meeting with an understanding of the LRTP process?

Comments received at December 3 Workshop, Children's Museum of Richmond:

- Yes – Already aware of similar/broader process through attending Richmond City's "Neighborhood Team" meetings.
- Yes

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- Yes
- Yes, but it seems to be only a band-aid to fix old mistakes.
- A little bit.
- Slightly
- Yes

Comments received at December 4 Workshop, Chesterfield Co. Administration Building:

- It was too advanced for most people to understand.
- Yes.
- Yes, I understood everything.
- Yes. Too detailed.

Comments received at December 8 Workshop, Short Pump Elementary School:

- Yes, though I had heard about process last year.
- Yes. Hope its not just a process and will actually be used to formulate plans.

6. Are there any ways in which we can make the LRTP easier to use and/or understand?

Comments received at December 3 Workshop, Children's Museum of Richmond:

- Since long-range, have DMV include note when driver license renewal, at voting places, and other public gathering/service sties. Have web links on state and localities' sites for public to learn details and provide input.
- Pretty good now – good methods of public input.
- Post projects on the internet with a click-on map; include on internet suggestion box.
- Is the process on-line?
- -- Take control of the weather away from Dudge (a Lilo and Stitch reference) (smiley face).
- -- More detail on rail and bicycle maps (i.e., accompanying written description).

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Comments received at December 4 Workshop, Chesterfield Co. Administration Building:

- Presentation that is less technical.
- No.
- Yes, I understood everything.

Comments received at December 8 Workshop, Short Pump Elementary School:

- Post on-line.

Hand-written comment (not on comment form) received at December 3 Workshop, Children's Museum of Richmond:

Relieve traffic congestion as follows:

In the City of Richmond:

1. 7th St./Duval St. at I95 southbound on-ramp, 4 p.m. peak period – Need interchange modification.
2. 7th St. and Byrd St. at Virginia 195 eastbound exit ramp, a.m. peak period – need interchange modification.
3. Boulevard at I-95 northbound on-ramp – Need interchange modification with dual left turn onto northbound Boulevard to westbound I-95/I-64 on-ramp.
4. 4th St. and Maury St. at I-95 ramps –
 - a. Need short-term interchange modification; less than \$500,000.
 - b. Need long-term interchange modification; one \$1 million to \$3 million.

In western Henrico County:

1. Patterson area and Parham Road –
 - a. Need short-term (3- to 5-year project life) – dual left turns northwest and southeast; east-north and west-south channelized bays, 11-foot through lanes (consider use of rubber curbed medians).
 - b. Need long-term interchange modification for Parham and Patterson.
2. Mayland Dr. and Parham Rd. – jug-handle left turn movement in northeast quad for cars exiting from I-64 westbound and desiring to proceed westbound on Mayland.

At Boulevard, Leigh (VDOT) and Moore:

1. Extend Leigh St. westward from Myers St. to Boulevard as a four-lane facility.
2. Provide double left from southbound Boulevard to Leigh St..
3. Construct Museum/Transit/Sports Information Center parking structure in southeast quad (acronym "MASTIC") for this possible development project.

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Typed comment (not on comment form) received at December 3 Workshop, Children's Museum of Richmond:

Issues of Concern for the Disabled Population:

- Approximately 75 percent of disabled residents are unemployed in Chesterfield and surrounding counties.
- Disabled consumers have no affordable transportation to jobs, to access educational institutions, which would make them more marketable to prospective employers, no transportation to job fairs and other public "on-site" employment opportunities.
- No affordable transportation to medical appointments and necessary health related opportunities.
- No affordable transportation to church services, community services and other "human need" opportunities. (Isolation from the general population).
- Of the 120+ consumers coming to Resources for Independent Living (formerly Central Virginia Independent Living Center) more than the majority need **AFFORDABLE** transportation to access and benefit from the many services available to them.
- The average transportation services in Chesterfield County, Hanover, New Kent, Charles City and the surrounding counties cost \$40.00. This is cost prohibitive for disabled persons many of whom are living on \$600.00/month.

We ask you to consider that available and affordable transportation is key to getting the 75 percent of disabled persons living in these areas to the services that they need to become more employable, independent, productive, tax-paying citizens.

Comment received by fax:

- (Excerpt from faxed letter received 12-8-03)
 1. Expanded bus service
 2. Less traffic congestion
 3. Toll free roads
 4. Improved roadway safety

These projects should take priority in our region.

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