

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MEETING

April 10, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Michael Holmes, Chairman	County of Charles City
Rebecca Ringley, Vice Chairman	County of New Kent
Richard W. Ayers	County of Powhatan
Viktoria Badger	City of Richmond
James R. Banks (Alternate)	County of Chesterfield
Robert Berry	RMA
Joseph Brooks	City of Richmond
Malvern R. Butler	County of Goochland
Rebecca Draper.....	County of Hanover
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
Paul E. Fisher	RRPDC
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover
Roy Harrison.....	County of Powhatan
Robert Hodder (Alternate).....	GRTC Transit System
W. R. Mustain (Alternate)	VDOT
Steven E. Simonson (Alternate)	County of Chesterfield
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
James T. Taylor	County of Goochland
Frank Thornton.....	County of Henrico
Julien Williams (Non-voting)	CTAC
Felicia Woodruff (Non-voting).....	Ridefinders
John Zeugner (Non-voting)	Citizen Appointee

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

Jack E. Apostolides (Non-voting).....	VDRPT
Rollo Axton	GRTC Transit System
Edward Barber	County of Chesterfield
Cliff Burnette (Non-voting).....	VDA
W. R. Davis.....	County of New Kent
Pat Kampf (Non-voting)	FTA
Angela LaCombe	Town of Ashland
K. E. Lantz.....	VDOT
Diane Linderman	City of Richmond

MEMBERS ABSENT (cont.)

REPRESENTING

Jon Mathiasen..... CRAC
R. John McCracken County of Chesterfield
Jack McHale County of Chesterfield
Kelly Miller County of Chesterfield
Patricia O'Bannon County of Henrico
William Pantele City of Richmond
Ivan Rucker (Non-voting)..... FHWA
Randall R. Silber..... County of Henrico
J. T. "Jack" Ward County of Hanover

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Dan Lysy, **Secretary** RRPDC
Ahmet Anday..... VDOT
W. R. Britton (Alternate) County of Charles City
Thomas A. Hawthorne VDOT
Herbert Pegram..... VDOT
Mark Riblett VDOT
Lee Yolton Hunton & Williams
Mike Clements RRPDC
Jeanette N. DeRenne RRPDC
Jo Evans RRPDC
Larry Hagin..... RRPDC
Jin Lee..... RRPDC
Sharon Robeson..... RRPDC
Brad Shelton RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Michael Holmes called the April 10 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:15 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Minutes of the March 13 Meeting –

On motion by Joe Brooks, seconded by James Taylor, the MPO unanimously approved the minutes of the March 13, 2003 meeting as presented.

B. Open Public Comment Period –

There were no comments and Chairman Holmes closed the public comment period of the meeting.

C. MPO Chairman's Report –

1. Introduction of New MPO Member –

William J. Pantele, new MPO member from the City of Richmond, was not present for introduction.

2. Other Business –

Chairman Holmes reported he, RRPDC Executive Director Paul Fisher, and a number of PDC members attended the national conference of the American Planning Association in Denver in early April. He reported that many of the workshops and information items pertained to transportation and that numerous localities and regional planning organizations are tackling the rail situation as we are in the greater Richmond area. He said the rail study would be on the June MPO agenda that perhaps information gleaned at the APA conference could be incorporated in that effort.

Chairman Holmes informed MPO members that if there were no pressing objections, the June MPO meeting would be held at 11:00 A.M. due to scheduling conflicts.

D. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

1. Introduction of New RRPDC Principal Planner –

Dan Lysy introduced two new staff members, new Principal Planner Michael Clements and Intern Jeanette DeRenne. Mr. Clements is a registered professional engineer with an MS degree in civil engineering, and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and City Planning Undergraduate Certificate of Urban Policy, all earned at Georgia Tech. Mr. Lysy said Mr. Clements worked as senior project engineer and project manager for six years in the consulting firm of McMahon Associates in Boston and noted that Mr. Clements has also worked in the Florida Department of Transportation as a transportation planning engineer. Mr. Lysy said that Mr. Clements is the project manager on the Long-Range Plan. Ms. DeRenne is a first year graduate student at VCU in the Urban Regional Planning Program and holds a Bachelor's

degree in geography from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

II. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought forward for consideration.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Item –

1. GRTC TIP Amendment Request –

On motion by Vickey Badger, seconded by Joe Brooks, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization amends the FY 02/03 – 04/05 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add to the Public Transportation section the new project on “Capital Cost of Contracting – Vanpools” as presented.

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

CTAC Chairman Julien Williams reported on two main topics from the April 25 CTAC meeting. One, he said, was an interesting discussion with Todd Eure, Henrico County Transportation Development Engineer, and Mark Riblett, VDOT Transportation Engineer, about the background, origins, and needs of the Parham Road/Patterson Avenue intersection. Mr. Williams said this discussion was a result of discussion at a previous CTAC meeting on concerns about traffic congestion and what might be done to relieve that problem in the interim before construction begins on the future Parham/Patterson urban interchange. He said Mr. Eure and Mr. Riblett provided positive commentary on plans for traffic signal systems upgrades and communication and coordination between Henrico and VDOT on this matter. They also discussed preparation for assessing the impact of the opening of Route 288 on traffic through the intersection.

Mr. Williams reported CTAC had spirited discussion on continuation of the GRTC Chesterfield Link service. He noted the CTAC resolution in the MPO agenda package urging the MPO and RRPDC staff to work with Chesterfield to find funding for continuation of the Link program. Mr.

Williams noted the report in the morning paper indicating Chesterfield County would take a closer look at continuation of the Link service and cited comments in a *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article by Gordon Rainey extolling the economic benefits of a program like the Link. He said CTAC respectfully requests that the MPO take positive action on the resolution offered.

Rudy Butler noted there was no elected official from Chesterfield present at the meeting and moved to table the resolution until an elected official from Chesterfield could be present to comment on the matter. Joe Brooks noted that public transportation and moving people within a region is of particular importance to regions all over the country noting the presentation given by Paul Fisher at the Executive Committee meeting on the Denver, Colorado area. He said while it was not the task of the MPO to browbeat any one jurisdiction, he thinks it is the MPO's responsibility to bring to the forefront the critical nature of what mass and public transportation is going to mean as this area develops as a region. Mr. Butler pointed out that the local elected officials from Chesterfield County will have to appropriate the money and they are not present to comment. At the request of Chairman Holmes, the MPO took unanimous action (except for Robert Hodder who voted to abstain) to table consideration of the following resolution (included in the MPO agenda as part of the CTAC Meeting Report) until the next MPO meeting:

WHEREAS, good public transportation is important to the economic vitality of the Richmond region; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly, in 2000, authorized a special allocation to fund an expansion of GRTC Transit Service into Chesterfield, comprised of local and express bus service; and

WHEREAS, the GRTC LINK service expansion into Chesterfield has showed initial successes, and ridership has been steadily increasing; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly funding of the 2000 session for the GRTC LINK service expansion into Chesterfield expires in June 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly offered to fund \$900,000 for the GRTC LINK service in Chesterfield County, provided Chesterfield County arrange to match this funding amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) respectfully urges the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Richmond

Regional Planning District Commission to work with Chesterfield County to identify and appropriate any available federal, state, and local funds to continue the GRTC LINK service in FY 2004 and beyond.

C. Proposed RSTP and CMAQ Projects –

Mr. Lysy said RRPDC staff member Larry Hagin would present the proposed regional RSTP and CMAQ projects and noted that complete copies of these project lists were mailed to the MPO to replace the incomplete lists in the agenda package.

Mr. Hagin said staff is seeking MPO action to authorize the submittal of the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program and the Regional Surface Transportation Program project lists to VDOT for Commonwealth Transportation Board consideration and inclusion in the upcoming Six Year Program. He said staff would also use these project lists for the regional air quality conformity analysis and the environmental justice analysis. Mr. Hagin indicated TAC voted at its March 20 meeting to recommend the lists for MPO approval and that staff also recommends approval. Vickey Badger commended MPO staff Dan Lysy, Larry Hagin and Jin Lee for their hard work on this very complicated process and for helping TAC work together as a region. Rudy Butler said he believed there was a correction to the cost estimates for one of the Goochland projects and that the \$9,277,000 figure should be reduced to a little over \$7 million leaving a different balance and that should be corrected. Mr. Lysy thanked Mr. Butler saying staff would make that change. He said that one reason the process has taken so long is that staff kept getting different numbers. He said staff keeps a very close record of MPO allocations and that VDOT relies on MPO staff to advise them as to the amounts of funds that are allocated. Mr. Lysy said cost estimates change frequently.

On motion by Rebecca Ringley, seconded by Rebecca Draper, the MPO unanimously passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorizes the submission of proposed Regional Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality projects for consideration by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, inclusion in the VDOT Six Year Program, and for air quality conformity and environmental justice analyses.

D. Unified Work Program (UWP) –

Mr. Lysy said action on the FY 04 UWP involves three actions. He said the FY 04 UWP was developed working through the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). He said staff provided the TAC UWP Subcommittee information on staff budget and work program activities, and staff time allocations all of which were used to derive the proposed list of work tasks. He said that this year, for the first time, PL funds are distributed differently due to the merging of the Richmond and Petersburg urbanized areas into one area which now includes both the Richmond Area MPO and the Tri-Cities Area MPO. Mr. Lysy said that VDOT allocates planning PL funds on an urbanized area basis and a method for distributing those funds was agreed upon by the two MPO staffs. That procedure, found on page one of tab five in the agenda package, provides that the \$50,000 federal funds base allocation is split evenly between the two MPOs. Remaining funds allocated to the Richmond Urbanized Area are then distributed on a per capita basis according to the 2000 census population for that part of the urbanized area that is within each MPO's respective study area (which is 86.375 percent going to the Richmond Area MPO and 13.625 percent going to the Tri-Cities Area MPO). Mr. Lysy indicated this procedure would remain in place until the 2010 census numbers are available and that this is the first part of the resolution presented for action.

Two other parts of the resolution are adopting the work program as presented and providing for the transfer of \$17,000 in PL funds from the FY 03 UWP to the FY 04 UWP for the Chesterfield County UWP task 2.3, Public Involvement Media. Mr. Lysy said TAC recommends approval of staff's FY 04 budget and time allocations, the distribution procedures, and the transfer of funds as presented. He said staff supports that recommendation and offered to answer questions. Rudy Butler inquired what the \$139,900 under MPO Citizen Participation is spent for. Mr. Lysy said that money was spent primarily for staff time and that some, perhaps \$10,000 to \$15,000, is spent on direct costs such as publications and various public notices. Mr. Lysy explained that federal certification requires us to be proactive in our citizen participation efforts. Mr. Butler expressed concern saying that he believes taxpayers would prefer to have pavement or a bike path or something tangible. Rebecca Ringley agreed that it is a lot of money, but said those efforts are necessary for recertification. Paul Fisher said that figure also includes a lot of staff time which is spent administrating the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee.

On motion of Vickey Badger, seconded by Rebecca Ringley, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization adopts the FY 04 Unified Work Program (UWP) as presented; and

RESOLVED, that \$17,000 in FHWA/PL funds is transferred from the FY 03 UWP to the FY 04 UWP to provide funding for UWP task 2.3, Chesterfield County Public Involvement Media, and that the FY 03 UWP is appropriately amended; and

RESOLVED, that the MPO approves the staff report on “Procedure for the Distribution of PL funds Between the Richmond Area and Tri-Cities Area MPOs.”

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward for discussion.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:40 P.M.