

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MEETING

June 12, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Michael Holmes, Chairman	County of Charles City
Rebecca Ringley, Vice Chairman	County of New Kent
Jack Apostolides (Non-voting)	VDRPT
Rollo Axton.....	GRTC Transit System
Richard W. Ayers.....	County of Powhatan
Viktoria Badger.....	City of Richmond
James R. Banks (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
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
Roy Harrison.....	County of Powhatan
William Henley (Alternate)	City of Richmond
James Kennedy (Alternate).....	RMA
Angela LaCombe	Town of Ashland
R. John McCracken.....	County of Chesterfield
John McHale	County of Chesterfield
W. R. Mustain (Alternate)	VDOT
Patricia O'Bannon.....	County of Henrico
Randall Silber.....	County of Henrico
James Taylor	County of Goochland
Steven E. Simonson (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
Julien Williams (Non-voting)	CTAC
Felicia Woodruff (Non-voting).....	Ridefinders
John Zeugner (Non-voting).....	Citizen Appointee

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

Edward Barber	County of Chesterfield
Robert Berry.....	RMA
Cliff Burnette (Non-voting)	VDA
Ray Davis.....	County of New Kent
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover

MEMBERS ABSENT (cont.)

REPRESENTING

Pat Kampf (Non-voting) FTA
K. E. Lantz VDOT
Diane Linderman City of Richmond
Jon Mathiasen CRAC
Kelly Miller County of Chesterfield
William Pantele City of Richmond
Ivan Rucker (Non-voting) FHWA
J. T. "Jack" Ward County of Hanover

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Dan Lysy, **Secretary** RRPDC
Robert Hodder (Alternate) GRTC Transit System
Willard Andrews Virginia High Speed Rail
Richard Beadles Richmond Friends of Rail
Scott Carter RRPDC
Mike Clements RRPDC
Cora Dickerson EDAC
Jo Evans RRPDC
Mike Fendrick Parsons, Brinckerhoff
Joan Girone Long & Foster Commercial
Tony Greulich RRPDC
Larry Hagin RRPDC
Anne Holmes Citizen
Jin Lee RRPDC
R.C. Lockwood VHB
Hebert Pegram VDOT
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Jeanette De Renne RRPDC
Brad Shelton RRPDC
Scott Silsdorf Parsons, Brinckerhoff
Jared Ulmer County of Henrico

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Michael Holmes called the June 12, 2003 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 11:05 A.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Minutes of the April 10, 2003 MPO Meeting –

On motion of Malvern (Rudy) Butler, seconded by Rebecca Ringley, the minutes of the April 10, 2003 MPO meeting was approved as presented.

B. Open Public Comment Period –

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

C. MPO Chairman's Report –

1. Introduction of New MPO Alternate Member –

Chairman Holmes announced that Mr. Chet Parsons is a new alternate member for Goochland County replacing Doug Harvey. Mr. Parsons was not present.

2. Other Business –

Chairman Holmes had no other business to report.

D. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

Dan Lysy stated that he had nothing to report.

E. MPO Nominating Committee Report -

Chairman Holmes asked Dan Lysy, MPO Secretary, to provide the Committee's report (Angela LaCombe, Committee Chairman was not present at the time this item was reported). Mr. Lysy referred the MPO to tab two which provided the Committee's report. The Committee unanimously recommends FY 04 MPO officers as Rebecca M. Ringley, New Kent County Board of Supervisors as MPO Chairman, and Roy J. Harrison, Jr., Powhatan County Board of Supervisors as MPO Vice- Chairman. Pat O'Bannon noted that the Committee was informed that Ms. Ringley would not be running for reelection to the New Kent County Board of Supervisors so she would not be able to serve the full term as MPO Chairman. Joe Brooks noted that the Committee agreed that it should reconvene in December and address this situation at that time.

On motion of Rudy Butler, seconded by Pat O'Bannon, the MPO voted unanimously to approve the report of the MPO Nominating Committee as presented.

II. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought forward for consideration.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Item –

On motion by Rollo Axton, seconded by Pat O'Bannon, the following consent agenda items were approved as presented:

1. GRTC TIP Amendments Request –

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization amends the FY 02/03 – 04/05 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to revise and update the FY 2003 Public Transportation Improvement Program table on page 98 to insert updated project cost and funding information, and to update project descriptions as provided by GRTC Transit System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the “Expansion of Current Maintenance Facility” and “Renovation of Transportation Facility” projects found on page 90 of the TIP are renamed as the “Maintenance Facility Project” and these two projects are consolidated into one project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the “Maintenance Facility Expansion” project on pages 98-1 and 98-2 of the TIP are renamed as the “Maintenance Facility Project.”

2. FY 03 UWP Amendment –

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization amends the FY 03 Unified Work Program (UWP) to shift funds among various RRPDC staff work task budgets as follows:

UWP Task No./ Description	Current Budget	Shift	Revised Budget
1.1 MPO Maintenance/Spec. S.	339,608	+29,000	368,000
1.3 UWP	35,000	-3,000	32,000
2.5 Trans./GIS	90,000	-12,000	78,000
3.1 CMS	45,000	+8,000	53,000
3.2 Access Management	25,000	-21,000	4,000
4.1 TIP	90,000	+15,000	105,000
6.1 Intermodal	15,000	-12,000	3,000
7.1 Air Quality	16,000	-4,000	12,000

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

Cora Dickerson, EDAC Chairman, presented the report for the April 23, 2003 EDAC meeting (copy of the report included in the MPO agenda attachments). Ms. Dickerson briefly reported the major discussion topics from the EDAC meeting and reported the EDAC action requesting that the MPO take action to appoint Richmond Goodwill Industries as an EDAC member organization replacing the Richmond Chapter, National Caucus and Center on the Black Aged. (NCCBA). Ms. Dickerson noted that NCCBA member has not attended an EDAC meeting in quite some time, and Richmond Goodwill Industries has expressed an interest in serving on EDAC. Members of EDAC feel that Goodwill can make a significant contribution to EDAC meetings based on its service programs and mission. On motion of Pat O'Bannon, seconded by Rebecca Draper, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) appoints Richmond Goodwill Industries to the MPO's Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) replacing the Richmond Chapter, National Caucus and Center on the Black Aged.

Ms. Dickerson thanked the MPO for taking action on this matter as requested by EDAC. Chairman Holmes thanked Ms. Dickerson for her report.

C. MPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report -

Julien Williams, CTAC Chairman, presented the report for the May 29, 2003 CTAC meeting (copy of the report included in the MPO agenda attachments). Mr. Williams first reported that during the May 29 CTAC

meeting's open public comment period, Mr. Urchie Ellis, a citizen in the City of Richmond, brought to CTAC's attention a continuing need for aesthetic improvements to the Huguenot Bridge. Mr. Williams noted that the bridge was painted last summer by VDOT work crews and Mr. Ellis and others on CTAC expressed their thanks for VDOT's fine work, and their innovative approach in conducting this work which resulted in considerable savings for tax payers. Mr. Williams noted that repair and maintenance of the Huguenot Bridge is a continuing need that comes before CTAC, and it is one of CTAC's recommended top regional priority projects. As to Mr. Ellis' and CTAC's concerns over aesthetic improvements, CTAC will place this item on its agenda for discussion at the next CTAC meeting.

Mr. Williams also reported that action was taken at its May 29 meeting to elect the FY 04 officers. Ms. Barbara Nelson with the Town of Ashland, will serve as CTAC Chairman, and Mr. Robert Bredehoft, with New Kent County, will serve as CTAC Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Williams also reported CTAC's resolution on the GRTC/Chesterfield Link public transportation service that was reported at the MPO's April 10 meeting, and tabled for further discussion until today's meetings (CTAC resolution included in the agenda attachments). Mr. Williams noted that Chesterfield County had recently taken action to extend this service for 30 days (it was scheduled to end in early June), and he expressed his appreciation for this extension. The Link is a very important and viable service that needs to continue if it is at all possible. Members of CTAC are asking that the MPO work with Chesterfield County and whomever possible to keep the Link alive, and provide the funding needed to keep it going. Mr. Williams further noted that with the tight budget situation that state and local government are in, this will be difficult, but it is important for people who depend on this service, for helping to improve the region's air quality, and other reasons. Mr. Williams thanked the MPO for its consideration of CTAC's resolution.

Patricia O'Bannon stated that in reading over the resolution, she felt that CTAC has touched on some important issues and that the funding which made the Link service possible was also responsible for helping Henrico County expand its bus service. In view of this, she felt that a substitute motion was in order urging not only Chesterfield County, but Henrico County and the City of Richmond as well to work with the MPO in identifying available funds and working with them to provide for the continuation of the Link service, and the recent Henrico route extensions as well. Ms. O'Bannon proposed a revised CTAC resolution to read as follows:

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 expansion of GRTC Transit Service into Chesterfield, comprised of local and express bus service; and in 2002, authorized a special allocation to fund an expansion of existing service in Henrico County; and

WHEREAS, the GRTC LINK service and the Henrico Extensions have show 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 funding for the Henrico Extensions service expires in July 2004; 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; and allocated \$2 million for funding the Henrico Extensions service in Henrico County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) respectfully urges the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to work with Chesterfield County, Henrico County, and the City of Richmond to identify and appropriate any available federal, state, and local funds to continue the GRTC Link service, the Henrico Extensions service, and all other GRTC service in FY 2004 and beyond.

Mr. Williams thanked Ms. O'Bannon for her revised resolution. There was discussion over how the MPO would accept this as resolution by the MPO. Mr. Lysy stated that the MPO's action would be to accept the CTAC resolution as amended, and to modify the MPO resolution as appropriate to include other jurisdictions (proposed MPO resolution included at the end of staff's report on the CTAC resolution in the MPO agenda attachments). On motion of Patricia O' Bannon, seconded by Joe Brooks the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) accepts the MPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) resolution on GRTC LINK service

funding as modified by the MPO and directs it's submission to Chesterfield County, Henrico County, the City of Richmond, and other organizations as appropriate.

Chairman Holmes thanked Mr. Williams for his report.

D. Richmond Rail Transit Feasibility Study –

Dan Lysy introduced Scott Silsdorf and Mike Fendrick, with the consulting firm of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quale and Douglas, Inc., (PB), the lead consultants for this study. Mr. Lysy noted that PB is one of VDOT's on-call consulting firms, and he thanked VDOT for making them available to the MPO for this study. Mr. Lysy said that the MPO would receive a presentation from the study consultants, followed by a report on review comments provided by TAC and CTAC. Following discussion, the MPO is requested to take action on the study.

Mr. Silsdorf proceeded to provide a power point presentation covering the following topics:

- ❖ Today's Meeting (overview of major topics in presentation)
- ❖ Project Overview
- ❖ Ten Preliminary Corridors (Commuter Rail and Light Rail)
- ❖ Demand Analysis: Background
- ❖ Demand Analysis: Results
- ❖ Light Rail: Ridership Comparison
- ❖ Commuter Rail: Ridership Comparison
- ❖ Capital Cost Assumptions
- ❖ Capital Costs: Commuter Rail
- ❖ Capital Costs: Light Rail
- ❖ Screening of Alternatives
- ❖ Corridor Analysis Results
- ❖ Corridor Analysis Ranking
- ❖ Four Screened Alternatives
- ❖ Midlothian Commuter Rail
- ❖ Richmond International Airport Light Rail
- ❖ Short Pump Light Rail
- ❖ Operations & Maintenance
- ❖ Four Screened Alternatives; Summary
- ❖ New Starts Program
- ❖ New Starts Planning Process
- ❖ New Starts Planning Process (flow chart)
- ❖ System Planning
- ❖ Preliminary Engineering
- ❖ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

❖ Recommendations

During the presentation, there were several questions related to commuter and light rail in other regions and four screened alternatives selected for the phase two planning analysis which the consultant addressed. Chairman Holmes thanked the consultants for their presentation.

Julien Williams proceeded to give a report on CTAC's comments. Mr. Williams reported that at the May 29 CTAC meeting, CTAC had Virginia Secretary of Transportation Whittington W. Clement, Virginia State Senator John C. Watkins, and Richmond District Commonwealth Transportation Board Member and former CTAC member Gerald P. McCarthy, as special guests who provided CTAC with their comments and observations following the study consultant's presentation (a summary of their comments was provided in the MPO agenda attachments). Mr. Williams said that Secretary Clement's message was that while the state and local governments are currently in a budget crunch, we need to move forward with these plans. Secretary Clement also stated that we operate under an outdated allocation formula which channels most dollars to highways. This system will likely change some day and put more money towards transit benefiting those regions that are ready to embrace these changes and move ahead. He also noted that we need to think and act more as a region and until state funding allocations change, do what we can to pursue funds at the federal level. He also noted that 2007 (i.e. Jamestown celebration) will be here very soon and we as a region need to be prepared for a massive influx of visitors to our region and the state. We will need to effectively handle all these visitors and mass transit will be the key.

Mr. Williams then gave a summary of Senator Watkins remarks. Senator Watkins highlighted the fact the both Northern Virginia and the Tidewater regions were both late getting started in their planning for mass transit. Central Virginia is also on the verge of being in the same situation unless we push this concept into action. He also noted that mass transit does not work without regional cooperation between state and all local governments working together, to design, build, and support a regional public transportation system. He commended the MPO for taking this first step. He also suggested that we continue to work on intercity rail service connections with Main Street Station, especially with service between Richmond and Williamsburg as we approved the 2007 Jamestown celebration.

Mr. Williams finally gave a summary of Mr. McCarthy's remarks. The theme of Mr. McCarthy's remarks was for the region to "make no small

plans". He had some concerns that our study did not go far enough in identifying potential corridors which is important at this early stage.

Mr. McCarthy also endorsed the remarks of Secretary Clement and Senator Watkins, and noted that VDOT's current Six Year Improvement Program has a significantly higher allocation of funds for mass transit.

Mr. Williams stated that overall CTAC was pleased with the study, and they were thrilled to have Secretary Clement, Senator Watkins, and Mr. McCarthy as their special guests encouraging CTAC and the MPO to continue their efforts. Chairman Holmes thanked Mr. Williams' for his report.

Following Mr. Williams' report, there were several questions which the study consultants addressed. Mr. Lysy noted that TAC had several comments on the draft final study document ((TAC comments included in the MPO agenda attachments) and that the MPO is requested to accept the study as presented subject to the incorporation of these comments. Mr. Silsdorf said that he has reviewed these comments and they will be glad to make these changes for the final report. Mr. Butler then made a motion, seconded by Viktoria Badger to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization accepts the Richmond Rail Transit Feasibility Study as presented subject to the incorporation of comments submitted by the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee.

Following this action, a citizen asked if she could briefly address the MPO on a matter involving this study. Chairman Holmes agreed and Ms. Joan Girone introduce herself as a former MPO member, former member of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, and currently working with the real estate firm of Long and Foster. Ms. Girone stated that while she was with the MPO, she had worked to get the Powhite Parkway Extension constructed, and a major issue and cost was the purchase of right-of-way. The study looks at establishing commuter rail along the Norfolk and Southern line through Bon-Air and Midlothian. The area west of Midlothian village is growing rapidly and if we are serious about establishing this service and stations, we should look into it as soon as possible since much of this property is not yet developed but will likely be developed very soon. Chairman Holmes thanked Mrs. Girone for her remarks.

E. Revised TIP Development Schedule –

Larry Hagin gave a brief report to the MPO on the revised schedule for developing the upcoming Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that VDOT had recently advised the MPO that instead of preparing a new TIP document, we would be amending the current one. TIP's review valid for two years. Since this will be the second year of the TIP, VDOT is requesting that we only amend the current document. A revised TIP development schedule submitted by VDOT and staff's detailed schedule which is based on VDOT's schedule was included in the agenda attachments. Based on this schedule and assuming that we do not have to perform an air quality conformity analysis (due to the lack of major new or revised projects) the MPO would get an amended TIP document for review and action at the September 11 MPO meeting.

There were no question and Chairman Holmes thanked Mr. Hagin for his report.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Viktoria Badger reported that staff recently initiated public review meetings for citizen comments and suggestions on the MPO's Year 2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and announced the upcoming meeting dates and locations.

Paul Fisher stated that the Commission board meeting will start soon, that lunch is being provided and all are invited to take advantage. He asked that those MPO members not on the Commission to please clear from the tables to make room for arriving Commission members.

Chairman Holmes stated that this was his last meeting as MPO Chairman, and he wanted to thank everyone for helping expedite the meeting during this past year.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.