

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MEETING

September 11, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Rebecca Ringley, Chairman	County of New Kent
Roy Harrison, Vice Chairman	County of Powhatan
Jack E. Apostolides (Non-voting).....	VDRPT
Richard W. Ayers.....	County of Powhatan
Viktoria Badger.....	City of Richmond
Edward Barber.....	County of Chesterfield
Robert Berry.....	RMA
Malvern R. Butler.....	County of Goochland
E. Todd Eure.....	County of Henrico
Paul E. Fisher.....	RRPDC
Robert Hodder (Alternate).....	GRTC Transit System
Michael Holmes.....	County of Charles City
Angela LaCombe.....	Town of Ashland
Jack McHale.....	County of Chesterfield
Kelly Miller.....	County of Chesterfield
W. R. Mustain, II (Alternate).....	VDOT
Patricia O'Bannon.....	County of Henrico
William Pantele.....	City of Richmond
Barbara Smith (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
Frank Thornton.....	County of Henrico
Von Tisdale (Non-voting).....	RideFinders
J. T. "Jack" Ward.....	County of Hanover

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

Rollo Axton.....	GRTC Transit System
Cliff Burnette (Non-voting).....	VDA
W. R. Davis.....	County of New Kent
Rebecca Draper.....	County of Hanover
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover
Pat Kampf (Non-voting).....	FTA
K. E. Lantz.....	VDOT
Diane Linderman.....	City of Richmond
Jon Mathiasen.....	CRAC
John McCracken.....	County of Chesterfield

MEMBERS ABSENT (cont.)

REPRESENTING

Barbara Nelson (Non-voting) CTAC Chairman
Ivan Rucker (Non-voting)..... FHWA
Randall R. Silber County of Henrico
James T. Taylor..... County of Goochland

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Dan Lysy, **Secretary** RRPDC
William R. Britton (Alternate)..... Charles City County
Willard Andrews VHSR
Rob Crandol VDOT Ashland Residency
Bambi Davidson..... Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce
Tom Hawthorne VDOT
Margaret-Anne Hilliard Hanover County Airport
Herbert Pegram VDOT
Mark Riblett VDOT
John Rutledge..... CRAC
Stephen Story James River Bus Lines
Julien Williams Citizen and CTAC member
Felicia Woodruff..... GRTC Transit System
Mike Clements RRPDC
Larry Hagin RRPDC
Jin Lee RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Brad Shelton..... RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman Rebecca Ringley called the September 11 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 June 12 Meeting –

Dan Lysy reported the minutes of the June 12 meeting had been presented in the July 10 MPO meeting agenda package; however, due to the lack of a quorum, the MPO was unable to take action at that meeting. On motion by Jack McHale, seconded by William Pantele, the minutes of the June 12, 2003 MPO meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

B. Minutes of the July 10 Meeting –

On motion by Jack McHale, seconded by Michael Holmes, the minutes of the July 10, 2003 MPO meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

C. Open Public Comment Period –

No public comments were offered and Chairman Ringley closed the public comment period of the meeting.

D. MPO Chairman's Report –

1. Resolutions in Appreciation of The Honorable Joseph E. Brooks to Mrs. Pauline Brooks and City of Richmond–

Chairman Ringley noted there were a number of resolutions for MPO adoption and suggested they all be adopted with one motion and presented individually to those present at today's meeting with presentation of resolutions regarding Joe Brooks slated for a future meeting. Rudy Butler suggested that the resolutions honoring former MPO member Joseph E. Brooks receive separate MPO action and Chairman Ringley thanked Mr. Butler for his suggestion saying that could certainly be done. On motion of Mr. Butler, seconded by Roy Harrison, the MPO unanimously passed the following resolutions in appreciation of The Honorable Joseph E. Brooks, the first for presentation to Mrs. Pauline Brooks and the second for presentation to the City or Richmond:

WHEREAS, the Honorable Joseph E. Brooks provided his valuable leadership and insight to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization from his appointment in September 1994 until June 2003; and

WHEREAS, he provided immeasurable leadership to the Richmond Area MPO Board by his diligent attendance, wisdom, fostering of regional cooperation, and building consensus for action; and

WHEREAS, he also imparted immeasurable guidance to the Richmond Area MPO staff, providing valuable service and assistance critical to the success of the agency; and

WHEREAS, his confident, optimistic philosophy was reflected in every issue addressed; and

WHEREAS, his unwavering public commitment to advancing the MPO's visions was demonstrated wholly and sincerely, serving the

region with dedication and advocating legislative and community support for all that was best for the region;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this 11th day of September 2003, acknowledges and commends his dedicated efforts;

AND, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that his passing comes as a great sorrow to all who knew and worked with this extraordinary person;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization extends our sincere appreciation to you for sharing Mr. Brooks with the region.

And the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Honorable Joseph E. Brooks provided his valuable leadership and insight to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization from his appointment in September 1994 until June 2003; and

WHEREAS, he provided immeasurable leadership to the Richmond Area MPO Board by his diligent attendance, wisdom, fostering of regional cooperation, and building consensus for action; and

WHEREAS, he also imparted immeasurable guidance to the Richmond Area MPO staff, providing valuable service and assistance critical to the success of the agency; and

WHEREAS, his confident, optimistic philosophy was reflected in every issue addressed; and

WHEREAS, his unwavering public commitment to advancing the MPO's visions was demonstrated wholly and sincerely, serving the region with dedication and advocating legislative and community support for all that was best for the region;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his important contributions and leadership as a member and past Chairman;

AND, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that his passing comes as a great sorrow to all who knew and worked with this extraordinary person;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this 11th day of September 2003, acknowledges and commends his dedicated efforts.

Chairman Ringley then requested a motion for approval of the resolutions presented in items I.D.2 through I.D.5 of the agenda package, resolutions of appreciation for Outgoing FY 03 MPO Chairman Michael L. Holmes, Outgoing FY 03 CTAC Chairman Julien Williams, Outgoing FY 02 and FY 03 MPO Chairman Citizen Appointee John Zeugner, and Former MPO Non-voting Member Felicia H. Woodruff. On motion of Pat O'Bannon, seconded by Jack Ward, the MPO unanimously approved the resolutions as presented in agenda items I.D.2 through I.D.5 detailed below.

2. Resolution of Appreciation for Outgoing FY 03 MPO Chairman –

On motion of Pat O'Bannon, seconded by Jack Ward, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Michael L. Holmes serves as the Charles City County member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); and

WHEREAS, Michael L. Holmes has served as MPO Chairman from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Michael L. Holmes during his tenure as MPO Chairman has provided exceptional commitment, guidance and direction for the MPO;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby express its sincere appreciation and gratitude this eleventh day of September, 2003 to Michael L. Holmes for his leadership and outstanding service as MPO Chairman.

Chairman Ringley read the resolution and presented a framed copy to former MPO Chairman Michael Holmes. Mr. Holmes thanked Chairman Ringley and the MPO.

3. Resolution of Appreciation for Outgoing FY 03 CTAC Chairman –

On motion of Pat O'Bannon, seconded by Jack Ward, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Julien Williams serves as a City of Richmond member to the MPO's Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC); and

WHEREAS, Julien Williams has served as CTAC Chairman from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003;

WHEREAS, Julien Williams during his tenure as CTAC Chairman represented to the best of his ability the interests of CTAC and the citizens of the Richmond area; and

WHEREAS, the members of the MPO wish to express their sincere appreciation to Julien Williams;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby express its sincere appreciation and gratitude this eleventh day of September, 2003 to Julien Williams for his leadership and outstanding service as CTAC Chairman.

Chairman Ringley read the resolution and presented a framed copy to former CTAC Chairman Julien Williams. Mr. Williams thanked Chairman Ringley and the MPO.

4. Resolution of Appreciation for Outgoing FY 02 and FY 03 MPO Chairman Citizen Appointee –

On motion of Pat O'Bannon, seconded by Jack Ward, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, John Zeugner was appointed by past MPO Chairman Angela L. LaCombe and reappointed by immediate past MPO Chairman Michael L. Holmes as one of the MPO Chairman's citizen appointees to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); and

WHEREAS, John Zeugner has been a diligent and active non-voting member of the MPO during his two terms as MPO Chairman citizen appointee; and

WHEREAS, the members of the MPO wish to express their sincere appreciation to John Zeugner;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby express its sincere appreciation and gratitude this eleventh day of September, 2003 to

John Zeugner for his service to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

John Zeugner was not present at the MPO meeting and Chairman Ringley asked that staff make sure that Mr. Zeugner receives the framed and signed copy of the resolution.

5. Resolution of Appreciation for Felicia H. Woodruff, Former MPO Non-Voting Member –

On motion of Pat O'Bannon, seconded by Jack Ward, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Felicia H. Woodruff has served with distinction as RideFinders representative to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) from January 1998 to August 2003; and

WHEREAS, Felicia H. Woodruff has been an active member of the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee, the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study Advisory Committee, and the Long-Range Transportation Plan Advisory Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Felicia H. Woodruff has distinguished herself as an outstanding member of the MPO through her active participation as a non-voting member and through her exemplary leadership as Chairman of the MPO's Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study Advisory Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby commend and express its sincere gratitude this eleventh day of September, 2003 to Felicia H. Woodruff for her outstanding service as RideFinders' representative to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Chairman Ringley read the resolution and presented a framed copy to Felicia Woodruff who thanked Chairman Ringley and the MPO.

5. Introduction of New MPO Non-voting Members and Alternates –

Chairman Ringley introduced new MPO non-voting member Von Tisdale, Acting Executive Director of RideFinders. Ms. Tisdale announced that her title had changed the previous day to Executive Director. Both Dan Lysy and Chairman Ringley congratulated Ms. Tisdale and welcomed her to the MPO. Chairman Ringley also announced that Barbara Nelson, FY 04 CTAC chairman, and Robert F.

Bredehoft, FY 04 CTAC Vice Chairman, (both absent from the meeting) would serve on the MPO as non-voting member and alternate respectively representing CTAC.

6. MPO Executive Committee –

At the request of Chairman Ringley, the MPO took consensus action to establish the MPO Executive Committee. Chairman Ringley announced the MPO Executive Committee appointees by jurisdiction as follows:

Town of Ashland	Angela LaCombe
Charles City County	Michael Holmes
Chesterfield County	Ed Barber
Goochland County	Rudy Butler
Hanover County	John Gordon
Henrico County	Pat O'Bannon
New Kent County	Rebecca Ringley
Powhatan County	Roy Harrison
City of Richmond	Bill Pantele

Chairman Ringley welcomed Mr. Pantele as a new member of the MPO Executive Committee.

7. MPO Non-voting Citizen Member Appointments –

Chairman Ringley said she did not have a non-voting citizen member appointment to announce at this time.

8. Other Business –

No other business was brought forward for consideration.

D. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

The RRPDC Director of Transportation had nothing to report.

II. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought forward for consideration.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Items –

Dan Lysy requested that if there were no comments or questions, the first four consent action items be considered together and that item five be considered separately so that a correction could be noted for the record. On motion of Jack McHale, seconded by Michael Holmes, the following consent agenda items were unanimously approved as presented in items one through four:

1. GRTC Transit System UWP Amendment Request –

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization amends the FY 04 Unified Work Program (UWP) to revise UWP task 5.3, Downtown Circulator Study, as presented, subject to the task budget including information on the total study budget (i.e., \$180,000 in federal CMAQ funds and \$45,000 in GRTC local match funds, for a total study budget of \$225,000).

2. MPO Designated Urbanized Area Boundary –

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization adopts the year 2000 MPO designated urbanized area as presented.

3. GRTC Transit System TIP Amendment Request for Job Access and Reverse Commute Funds –

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization amends the FY 02/03 – FY 04/05 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to program FY 02/03 actual allocation of \$2,275,000 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) funds and State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) match funds, and to program FY 03/04 projected allocation of \$1,831,042 in FTA JARC funds and state TANF match funds.

4. Hanover County and Town of Ashland TIP Amendments Requests –

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization amends the FY 02/03 – FY 04/05 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as follows:

A. Hanover County CMAQ Funded Projects –

- \$63,000 in unspent federal CMAQ funds (from the Leadbetter/Sliding Hill Road turn lane project, UPC #16926) is transferred and programmed on the new Route 156 turn lane project (at the intersection of Walnut Grove Drive, UPC #17527).
- \$16,000 in matching funds are provided by Hanover County providing for a total of \$79,000 in federal and state/local funds transferred to the new Route 156 turn lane project (UPC #17527).

B. Town of Ashland CMAQ Funded Projects –

- \$68,000 in unspent federal CMAQ funds (from the Route 1 and Route 54 sidewalks project, UPC# 13461) and \$56,000 in unspent federal CMAQ funds (from the Route 1 at Junction Drive and Route 54 at Cottage Drive project, UPC #13462) is transferred and programmed on the current Route 1 and Route 54 intersection turn lanes project (UPC #13463).
- A total of \$31,000 in matching funds are to be provided by the Town of Ashland providing for a total of \$155,000 in federal and state/local funds transferred to the current Route 1 and Route 54 intersection turn lane project (UPC #13463).

5. City of Richmond TIP Amendments Request –

Mr. Lysy said that item five needed correction to the first project description under C. on page 23 under tab four. He said that “Main Street Station Operating Funds and Channelization” should read “Belvidere at Broad St. Signalization and Channelization.” Mr. Lysy indicated the information received from the City of Richmond was accurate, but that it had been transferred incorrectly. Mr. Lysy asked for a motion to approve as corrected if there were no questions on the project. On motion of Jack Ward, seconded by Bill Pantele, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization amends the FY 02/03 – FY 04/05 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as follows:

A. Main Street Station Capital Funding –

Provide for the addition of \$2,902,000 in newly apportioned FY 03 FTA Section 5309 funds as actual allocation (page 76 of TIP)

B. FY 03/04 – FY 05/06 CMAQ Allocations –

Provide for programming of FY 03/04, FY 04/05, and FY 05/06 federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds (matching funds to be provided by the City of Richmond) and for the addition of a new project, City of Richmond Employee Trip Reduction Program, as follows:

<u>Project Description</u>	<u>FY 03/04</u>	<u>FY 04/05</u>	<u>FY 05/06</u>
Main Street Station Operating Funds	\$609,000	\$468,000	
Richmond Signal System Enhancement	\$256,000	\$237,000	\$494,000
City of Richmond Employee Trip Reduction Program	\$182,000	\$200,000	\$215,000

C. FY 03/04 – FY 04/05 RSTP Allocations –

Provide for programming of FY 03/04, FY 04/05, and FY 05/06 federal and state Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds and for the addition of a new project, Main Street Station Signal, as follows:

<u>Project Description</u>	<u>FY 03/04</u>	<u>FY 04/05</u>	<u>FY 05/06</u>
Belvidere at Broad Street, Signalization and Channelization	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
N. Boulevard Median Improvements: Westwood Ave. to Grace St.	\$268,000	\$0	\$0
Main Street Station Signal: Main Street from 15th St. to 17th St.	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
14th Street Corridor Improvements: Main St. to Dock St.	\$550,000	\$0	\$0

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

Mr. Lysy said he had spoken with CTAC Chairman Barbara Nelson who had a tight schedule and was not able to attend today to give the CTAC report. Chairman Ringley noted that the agenda package contained a report and Mr. Lysy advised that there were information items only and no items for MPO action.

C. Downtown Richmond Streetcar Study Phase One –

Chairman Ringley introduced Robert Hodder, GRTC Transit System Director of Planning, who would give a presentation on Phase One of the *Downtown Richmond Streetcar Study*. Mr. Hodder thanked Chairman Ringley and said he would provide a brief overview of where the streetcar planning process stands and then would answer questions. Mr. Hodder said Richmond operated the first commercially successful streetcar system in the United States in 1888 and the streetcar is a part of Richmond's cultural heritage. Designed by Frank Julian Sprague whose innovations made streetcars practical, Mr. Hodder said the Richmond streetcar system is a very famous piece of history and received international recognition as a milestone in electrical engineering in its day. Mr. Hodder continued with a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics:

- the Richmond Streetcar (artistic representation of streetcar in today's historic area of downtown Richmond)
- Downtown Richmond Streetcar Study, Phase 1 – Streetcar Study Steering Committee
- 1888 – Frank Julian Sprague
- Streetcar Project Goals (two slides)
- Downtown Activity Centers (map locating hotels, parking, and areas of interest)
- Heritage Streetcars
- Recommended Conceptual Alternatives (map outlining two concept routes)
- Potential Economic Impacts in Richmond
- Streetcar Track Construction
- Streetcar Cost Estimates
- Streetcar Fares (One Trip, Adult)
- Potential Funding Sources
- Streetcar Funding Scenario: Prospective Grant Funding and Financing
- Streetcar Funding Scenario: Operating Assumptions
- Streetcar Benefits for Downtown Richmond (two slides)
- Committee Recommendations
- Next Steps

- Downtown Richmond Streetcar Study, Phase II Steering Committee
- the Richmond Streetcar (artistic representation of heritage streetcar in contemporary area of downtown Richmond)

Mr. Hodder concluded his presentation saying that the streetcar is not proposed just to service the Convention Center, but that it is meant to serve all of the areas touched by the streetcar line. Mr. Hodder offered to answer questions. Bambi Davidson of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce inquired if there were plans to have a universal swipe fare card that could be used both for GRTC Transit System buses and the streetcar. Mr. Hodder indicated that was one of the things that would have to be developed, but this had been discussed. Angela LaCombe asked what the timeline for implementation would be if the study shows that it is feasible to implement the project. Mr. Hodder said that following the study and assuming the supporting funding was available, it would probably be two to three years before construction would be underway with opening probably in 2007.

Steven Story with James River Bus Lines asked how the previous ridership for Richmond shuttles and trolleys compares with projections for this streetcar project. Mr. Hodder said the ridership for the rubber wheel trolleys of the 1990s varied based upon the level of service, route, and funding, all of which fluctuated. He said the rail streetcar offers a different service than the rubber wheel trolley vehicles as perceived by riders and noted that visitors to a community are much more likely to ride a vehicle that runs on rails because they know its exact route and destination and they are not as likely to get lost in a strange city as they might on a rubber wheel vehicle that can go anywhere. He said looking at the ridership for the rubber wheel trolley is not a good indicator of ridership for streetcars. Bill Pantele inquired if the committee considered leasing rubber wheel trolleys to run proposed routes as a pilot to test ridership and develop a viable route and network while funding is being sought. Mr. Hodder responded that the second phase of the study had not yet gotten underway and that was certainly something the committee would seriously consider. There were no additional questions and Chairman Ringley thanked Mr. Hodder for his presentation.

D. VDOT Report on Upcoming Six-Year Improvement Program Meetings –

Chairman Ringley introduced Tom Hawthorne, VDOT Richmond District Administrator. Mr. Hawthorne said Mr. Lysy had asked him to speak about the upcoming Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) preallocation public hearing scheduled for September 25 and to respond to four questions regarding the process. The first question had to do with details on the new format of the public hearings. Mr. Hawthorne said the

hearings will begin the update process for the SYIP for the primary urban and interstate systems noting that the process was different this year in two ways. One, he said, is that the process is beginning in the fall instead of as traditionally done in the spring. And secondly, he said the format would be different with a two-part meeting which would begin at 5:00 P.M. with an informal meeting and move to a formal hearing at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Hawthorne referred the MPO to Secretary Clement's memo in the agenda package and related that the Secretary's intent was to increase citizen participation and involvement in these hearings statewide. Mr. Hawthorne said that having them in the evenings certainly makes them more accessible to a wider segment of the population. He said during the information meeting, VDOT staff would have maps, displays, copies of the SYIP, and would be available to answer questions and talk with citizens on a one-on-one basis. He said a court reporter would be available from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. to take comments for the record from individuals, and that during this informal period, individuals might also sign up to speak during the hearing formally addressing comments directly to the Secretary of Transportation, the VDOT Commissioner, and the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Mr. Hawthorne explained that the formal hearing would begin at 7:00 P.M. and would continue until all speakers were heard.

Mr. Hawthorne said the second question asked concerned what VDOT expects of the MPO and he said that VDOT expected the MPO would provide recommendations on regional priorities as in the past, and that VDOT would specifically look for recommendations for funds allocation during the last year of the SYIP which provides the first opportunity to address or to include new projects.

The third question asked how MPO and public input would be used in the Six-Year Program update process. Mr. Hawthorne said that the CTB and VDOT staff will assess the input, make decisions on the priorities for allocation of dollars based on that input, and assign the dollars to those priority projects. He said the final result will constitute the revised *Six-Year Improvement Program* that the CTB will adopt in June of 2004.

The final question was what other opportunities might the MPO have for input into the process and Mr. Hawthorne's response indicated the MPO's input is welcome at any time between now and adoption of the revised SYIP; however, this might be the only formal public hearing opportunity to address the CTB at the beginning of the process. Mr. Hawthorne said it has not yet been decided if there will be another formal hearing prior to adoption action in June 2004.

Mr. Hawthorne then offered to answer questions and Bambi Davidson, Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, inquired about the purpose of

moving the public hearing from the spring to the fall. Mr. Hawthorne said moving the hearings to the fall has been under consideration for several years for three basic reasons. First, the time period for the process has been too compressed. The statewide public hearing process takes a full month leaving VDOT staff only about a month to put together the SYIP for CTB consideration in May. Second, moving hearings to the fall allows them to logically coincide with the secondary six-year plan process going on at that time. And third, fall hearings tie in better with the federal planning processes VDOT must work with.

As there were no additional questions, Chairman Ringley thanked Mr. Hawthorne for his presentation.

E. Reaffirmation of MPO Regional Priority Transportation Projects for CTB Review and Consideration –

Referring the MPO to the staff report and recommendation under tab eight of the agenda package, Chairman Ringley noted Mr. Hawthorne had just indicated the CTB would expect input from the MPO and that last spring the MPO had adopted regional transportation priorities. Rudy Butler asked how many of the top five priority projects and the additional regionally significant projects on the list have funds available for construction or planning. Dan Lysy said almost all of the top five projects are at least partially funded or will receive funds in the final year of the SYIP. He said the Huguenot Bridge reconstruction was finally included in the SYIP for the first time this year noting there was limited funding for several of the additional priority projects on the list and none for others such as the RMA and Powhite extension toll removal. Mr. Butler asked why projects that have some money programmed to planning or engineering shouldn't be moved up on the list and projects with no funding removed. Mr. Lysy said that some sort of preliminary engineering had been done for most of those projects, but that when funds are finally allocated for the projects, some of that work will have to be re-done and so they don't want to move too far ahead on these projects. Rudy Butler indicated that a project in Goochland County will have over half the needed funding next year and he said he believed that job should be higher on the list than those that have no funding.

Mr. Butler then asked when Main Street Station would come off the priorities list. Vickey Badger said that having this regionally significant transit project as one of the MPO's top priorities helps considerably on securing federal funds and Pat O'Bannon concurred saying that part of the airport funding came as a result of being a top regional priority. Ms. Badger added that additional funds are needed to complete the second and third phases of Main Street Station. Ms. Ringley indicated that with the short notice that the CTB provided, staff has recommended continuing the

current regional priority projects because of the length of time the process takes to revisit it and change it. She said the MPO knows what the schedule is for next year. Mr. Butler indicated he felt Goochland County is left out of the major regional funding process because it is so far out and isn't really a part of regional efforts such as the Capital Region Airport Commission or the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Dan Lysy pointed out that the region also has full and complete funding of the Route 288 and I-95/Atlee-Elmont Interchange projects, which are both nearing completion, though they will require funds for quite some time. Mr. Lysy also said that the CTB is looking to do as much as it can on the projects currently underway and is not looking to expand to new projects. He concurred with Ms. Badger saying the federal reauthorization of funds will likely be continued to next year so that continuity of priorities helps us in terms of moving forward on a federal level. He said if we add projects to the list, it would not be well received at this point. Mr. Butler speculated that the day will come when we either have tolls or raise gasoline taxes to build these projects. Mr. Lysy indicated staff had recently received a proposal for consideration of a further extension of Powhite Parkway as a toll facility under the PPTA and that Mr. Butler could be quite accurate.

Chairman Ringley asked if it would be the MPO's pleasure for her to present the regional priority projects list to the CTB and suggested action on the resolution would be necessary. On motion of Michael Holmes, seconded by Angela LaCombe, the MPO passed the following resolution with all votes in favor except one abstention:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization reaffirms its list of regional priority transportation projects as approved at the March 13, 2003 MPO meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO Chairman present the MPO's list of regional priority transportation projects at the September 25, 2003 FY 2005 – 2010 Six-Year Improvement Program Update hearing.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward for consideration.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 P.M.