

**RICHMOND AREA**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**December 8, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Malvern R. Butler, <b>Chairman</b> .....	County of Goochland
Robert R. Setliff, <b>Vice Chairman</b> .....	County of Hanover
Jack E. Apostolides (Nonvoting) .....	VDRPT
Jameson Auten (Nonvoting) .....	RideFinders
Viktoria Badger (Alternate) .....	City of Richmond
Edward Barber .....	County of Chesterfield
Robert M. Berry .....	RMA
Rebecca Draper .....	County of Hanover
E. Todd Eure .....	County of Henrico
Paul E. Fisher .....	RRPDC
Lawrence C. Hagin (Alternate).....	GRTC Transit System
Thomas A. Hawthorne .....	VDOT
Michael Holmes .....	County of Charles City
George Homewood .....	County of New Kent
R. M. "Dickie" King .....	County of Chesterfield
Joseph T. Lacy .....	County of Goochland
Sherman W. Litton.....	County of Chesterfield
Patricia O'Bannon.....	County of Henrico
William Pantele.....	City of Richmond
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting) .....	FHWA
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
Frank Thornton .....	County of Henrico
Stran L. Trout.....	County of New Kent
Carson L. Tucker .....	County of Powhatan
Joseph E. Vidunas (Alternate) .....	County of Hanover
David T. Williams (Alternate) .....	County of Powhatan

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting) .....	EDAC
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting) .....	VDA
Ralph J. "Joe" Emerson .....	County of Henrico
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover
William Henley.....	City of Richmond
Malcolm H. Hines (Nonvoting) .....	CTAC
Russell E. Holland .....	County of Powhatan
Patricia A. Kampf (Nonvoting).....	FTA

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)**

**REPRESENTING**

Angela LaCombe .....Town of Ashland  
John M. Lewis.....GRTC Transit System  
Eugene A. Mason.....City of Richmond  
John McCracken .....County of Chesterfield  
Vanloan Nguyen .....City of Richmond  
John Rutledge.....CRAC

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Daniel N. Lysy, **Secretary** (Alternate)..... RRPDC  
William R. Britton (Alternate)..... County of Charles City  
J. Sid DelCardayre ..... Van Go, Inc.  
Joan Girone ..... Chesterfield Business Council  
Adele MacLean.....Partnership for Smarter Growth  
William C. Nelson, Jr. (Nonvoting Alternate)..... CTAC  
Jim Ponticello..... VDOT  
Karen Reid .....Partnership for Smarter Growth  
Mark Riblett (Alternate) ..... VDOT  
Lloyd J. Vye.....CTAC  
Mike Clements ..... RRPDC  
Geleene Goffena ..... RRPDC  
Jin Lee..... RRPDC  
Livingston Lewis ..... RRPDC  
Liz McAdory..... RRPDC  
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC  
Sharon Robeson ..... RRPDC  
Patricia Villa ..... RRPDC

**CALL TO ORDER**

MPO Chairman Malvern R. “Rudy” Butler called the December 8, 2005 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:40 P.M. in the large conference room of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC).

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Certification by MPO Secretary of Meeting Quorum –**

Dan Lysy reported that a quorum was present.

**B. Additions to MPO Agenda –**

There were no requests for changes or additions to the agenda.

**C. Minutes of the October 13, 2005 MPO Meeting –**

On motion by Sherman Litton, seconded by Michael Holmes, the October 13, 2005 MPO meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**D. Open Public Comment Period –**

Chairman Butler opened the public comment period of the meeting and recognized Joan Girone, a Chesterfield County citizen representing the Long-Range Planning Committee of the Chesterfield Business Council, an arm of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce. She said the group has studied commuter rail for two years and respectfully requests that the MPO include study of a commuter rail line to serve the region when considering agenda item III.F, the MPO Regional Mass Transit Study. She said her group has studied a route identified in the June 2003 *Richmond Rail Transit Feasibility Study* and selected as one of several routes for more in-depth study. Ms. Girone said the group is open to other routes and is requesting that regional commuter rail be included in the proposed MPO regional mass transit study. Ms. Girone detailed endorsement by various groups in the region for this concept and offered to answer questions.

Pat O'Bannon inquired about the basis for a statement in the first line of one of the resolutions presented naming the Central Virginia metropolitan region as the only such region in the United States of over 1,000,000 in population without a public transportation system. Ms. O'Bannon expressed concern that the region's bus service and other transit services are not being recognized as public transportation and Ms. Girone clarified that "system" is the key word and that there is no comprehensive public transportation system that links various modes of transit together in the region. Ms. Girone said she took that statement from the MPO's *Richmond Rail Transit Feasibility Study*. Mr. Lysy clarified that the study didn't mention other modes of transit because it was a rail transit study. Chairman Butler pointed out that the third bullet in the Scope of Work for this study, included in the agenda package, appears to already include consideration for this type of transit under regional mass transit study objectives bullet number three and Mr. Lysy confirmed that it is already included in the study scope of work which will be addressed later in the agenda. Chairman Butler thanked Ms. Girone for her comments and called on Sid DelCardayre.

Mr. DelCardayre introduced himself as the owner of Van Go Incorporated of Richmond, the largest private medical and non-emergency medical transportation service in this area. He noted that Van Go provides services in Chesterfield, Henrico and Hanover counties and that they hope to provide similar services in Powhatan and Goochland counties in the

future. He said that the MPO would learn about Van Go's services through one of today's agenda items and he wanted to let MPO members know how to get in touch with him to answer any questions. Mr. DelCardayre also noted that in the past the availability of FTA Section 5310 funds applications was advertised and he hadn't seen ads in recent years. He said he believes it is important to let private operators know about these requests and provide an opportunity to comment to the MPO as indicated that he believes SAFETEA-LU will require advertisement of applications for Section 5310 funds in the future. Chairman Butler thanked Mr. DelCardayre for his comments.

**E. MPO Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Butler reported that he and Paul Fisher attended the Regional Transportation Summit follow-up meeting that the Chamber held with Governor Baliles last Friday and said he thought it was a very productive meeting. He said it appears that Governor Elect Kaine and the Senate want to address transportation statewide and fix it for the future and that the House would prefer a band-aid approach noting that the Tidewater region and Northern Virginia voters indicated a preference for the state to address transportation problems rather than having purely regional solutions.

**1. Introduction of New Member and Alternate –**

Chairman Butler introduced and welcomed new MPO nonvoting member James Auten representing RideFinders and noted that Miss Cherika Ruffin, absent from today's meeting, will serve as the alternate nonvoting member for RideFinders.

**2. Other Business –**

Chairman Butler noted that in traveling about the state and here in the Richmond region he has noticed that park and ride facilities seem full and appear not to be well maintained and expressed a desire for VDOT and RideFinders to work together to expand these facilities and to do a better job of upgrading and maintaining them.

**F. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –**

**1. Introduction of New RRPDC Staff –**

Dan Lysy introduced new RRPDC Transportation Planner Barbara Nelson who assumed Larry Hagin's position in October. He said Ms. Nelson has years of planning experience having worked as planner for the Town of Ashland and as Executive Director of Virginia Trails

Council and having served as a CTAC member representing the Town of Ashland. Chairman Butler welcomed Ms. Nelson.

**2. Other Business –**

There was no other business to report.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was brought forward for consideration.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Consent Action Items –**

Dan Lysy asked if there was a request to discuss any of the consent action items and there was not. On motion of Edward Barber, seconded by Sherman Litton, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following consent agenda items:

**1. FTA Section 5310 Funds Application Endorsement –**

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) endorses those applications for Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funds as requested and authorizes their inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program subject to their selection for funding by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

**2. MPO/VDOT Annual Statement of Certification –**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Richmond, Virginia Urbanized Area, hereby certify that the transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

- I. 49 U.S.C. Section 5323(k) and 23 U.S.C. 134;
- II. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI Assurance executed by each State under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794;

III. Section 1101 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Pub. L. 105-178) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in the FHWA and the FTA funded project (Sec. 105(f), Pub. L. 97-424, 96 Stat. 2100, 49 CFR part 23);

IV. The provision of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, as amended) and the U.S. DOT implementing regulation;

V. The provision of 49 CFR part 20 regarding restrictions on influencing certain activities; and

VI. Sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 750(c) and (d)).

**3. Staff Travel Request; TRB Annual Conference –**

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorizes up to two Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) staff to attend the Annual Transportation Research Board Conference in Washington, D.C., January 22-26, 2006.

**B. SAFETEA-LU, Summary of Key Provisions for Metropolitan Planning –**

Dan Lysy introduced and welcomed Ivan Rucker, with the Virginia Office of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Rucker for coming today to address the MPO. Mr. Rucker said he appreciated being here to provide an overview of the new transportation bill recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush. He said the \$286.4 billion dollar SAFETEA-LU legislation represents the largest transportation investment in our nation's history and will continue to fund surface transportation programs and projects over the next five years. He said the legislation will effect the MPO in a positive way from a financial standpoint and will impact the MPO through its various policies and regulations. Mr. Rucker said his presentation today is a summary of what's in the new law but that regulations that speak to how the law will be administered will take another six to nine months to be developed and written. He indicated that at some point during that process the MPO would have an opportunity to comment on those regulations. Mr. Rucker provided a PowerPoint presentation with the following slides:

- Safe, Affordable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (cover slide)
- SAFETEA-LU

- Funding, National
- Virginia Share, Highway
- Earmarks – Nationwide, Highway and Transit
- Earmarks – Nationwide; Growth – 1982 to 2005 (bar chart)
- Core SAFETEA-LU programs
- Highway Safety Improvement Programs (HSIP)
- Safe Routes to School
- SR2S Eligible Projects and Activities
- Virginia FY 06 Apportionment
- Metropolitan Planning Provisions in SAFETEA-LU
- MPO Funding
- Planning Factors
- Plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Consultation and Coordination
- Plan and TIP Consultation and Coordination (three slides)
- Public Participation
- Obligated Projects

During his PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Rucker noted that there are over 6,000 earmark projects in the bill with a total of \$24 billion and he noted that the projects descriptions are very general in nature. Mr. Rucker said he would provide Mr. Lysy with a copy of the projects list for distribution to the MPO. Mr. Rucker said that he learned at a videoconference today that all TIPs, STIPs and plans adopted or amended, revised, or updated after July 1, 2007 must comply with SAFETEA-LU planning provisions and he noted that doesn't give the MPO much time to learn the new provisions and regulations of the law. Mr. Lysy noted that deadline also provides less time for FHWA and FTA to develop the regulations. Mr. Rucker said FHWA will work with MPOs to interpret and highlight areas that need improvement to comply with the new regulations and said he envisions providing additional presentations to the MPO over coming months. Mr. Rucker offered to answer questions.

Vickey Badger asked how the Highway Safety Improvement Program funds would be distributed and Mr. Rucker said through the MPO. He said funds would also be distributed at the state and local level and provided a handout with information about program criteria. Ms. Badger also inquired about whether earmarks are separate from allocations and Mr. Rucker said he needs to look into that. Joe Vidunas inquired if the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) would replace the Hazard Elimination Safety Program (HES) and Mr. Rucker said he believes the HES program still exists separately. In response to a question, Mr. Lysy said he would provide a copy of the earmarks projects in Virginia list to whoever wants them. Responding to a question about the match on Safe Routes to School projects, Mr. Rucker said Safe Routes to School projects

are funded at 100 percent. There being no further questions, Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Rucker for his presentation.

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

Chairman Butler recognized CTAC Vice Chairman Bill Nelson who noted the report in the agenda package and briefly reported that at the October meeting CTAC primarily reviewed the Public Transportation Needs Assessment Report and at the November meeting, CTAC heard reports about rail transportation from VDRPT Director Karen Rae and Henrico Supervisor Pat O'Bannon. Mr. Nelson said CTAC also voted unanimously to support a resolution presented by Joan Girone to study commuter rail service from Amelia County into Richmond. There were no questions and Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Nelson for his report.

**D. MPO Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) Meeting Report –**

Mr. Lysy said Ms. Broady-Myers was recovering from an accident and absent from the meeting and he reported that EDAC did not have a quorum at its last meeting but they did review and discuss the Public Transportation Needs Assessment Report for the Elderly, Disabled and Low Income and that a brief report is contained in the agenda package. There were no questions on the report.

**E. Public Transportation for the Elderly, Disabled and Low-Income: Phase I – Needs Assessment Report –**

Chairman Butler recognized RRPDC Principal Planner Mike Clements to report on the transportation disadvantaged needs assessment study report. Mr. Clements said staff has been working on this study for the past eight to nine months and explained that it deals with the mobility needs for elderly, disabled and low income people in our region. Mr. Clements provided a PowerPoint presentation with the following slides:

- Public Transportation for the Elderly, Disabled, and Low-Income (cover slide with photos)
- Purpose:
- Definitions: (text and circle graph)
- Elderly Population (charts)
- Elderly Population (map)
- Disabled Population (charts)
- Disabled Population (map)
- Low-Income Population (charts)
- Low-Income Population (map)

- Disadvantaged Combinations (circle graph)
- Mode of Transportation to Work (chart)
- Mode of Transportation to Work (pie charts)
- Disadvantaged Transportation Services by Providers (chart)
- Disadvantaged Transportation Services to Local Jurisdictions by Providers (chart)
- Transportation Providers (chart)
- Travel Destinations (Medical Locations)
- Travel Destinations (Major Employment Locations)
- Travel Destinations (Retail Locations)
- Travel Destinations (Government Facilities)
- Summary of Transportation Disadvantaged Limitations
- Summary of Needs and Issues, Cost, Service
- Summary of Needs and Issues (continued), Policy and Guidelines and The Built Environment
- Summary of Needs and Issues (continued), Outside Factors
- Findings (two slides)
- Next Step
- Thank You! Questions? (closing slide)

Mr. Clements offered to answer questions and during this period the following points were brought forward:

- New Kent and Charles City counties will have a new transportation service provider, Bay Area Transit, in the next couple of months and should be included in the draft study report.
- Goochland Fellowship and Family Services should be contacted to see what transportation services they provide in Goochland and Powhatan counties and be considered for addition to the draft study report.
- For rural counties, population figures include only the population in areas included in the MPO study area.
- The report appears to contain some inconsistencies in population numbers based on the format presented. For the disabled population, the census only includes ages five and up, so population figures in that chart will vary from the chart showing the elderly population.
- Clarification should be made on the charts as to what the population figure represents with additional information provided to make total population figures consistent throughout the report.
- The written report contains ridership numbers for Access Chesterfield that were not included in today's presentation.

Staff agreed to make the additions and clarifications recommended at today's meeting and on motion of Ed Barber, seconded by Michael Holmes, the MPO voted to defer consideration of the report to the February 2006 meeting.

**F. MPO Regional Mass Transit Study –**

Chairman Butler recognized Dan Lysy to make a presentation on the proposed MPO Regional Mass Transit Study. Mr. Lysy said staff prepared a report recommending how the MPO should move forward to conduct a regional mass transit study. He noted that the draft Scope of Work for this study is included in the agenda package and that staff recommends the work scope for MPO endorsement. Mr. Lysy proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation presenting the following slides:

- MPO Regional Mass Transit Study (cover slide)
- MPO Meeting, October 13, 2005
- RMTS Objectives (three slides)
- GRTC COA Coordination
- RMTS Scope of Work, Area development and service demand
- RMTS Scope of Work, Assessment of Influencing Factors (two slides)
- RMTS Scope of Work, Peer Group Review
- RMTS Scope of Work (alternatives analysis, preferred alternative, final recommendation)
- RMTS Next Steps (two slides)

Mr. Lysy concluded his presentation and offered to answer questions. Discussion ensued and the following points were brought forward:

- GRTC Transit System will proceed with its COA development ahead of the MPO Regional Mass Transit Study and therefore there will need to be coordination between consultants or consideration may be given to using the same consultant for both studies. There will be close coordination with GRTC to make use of their results.
- RSTP funds can be used to conduct this study and concern was expressed that this money not be used to pay for a regional planning study, but rather that other funds be identified for such purpose.
- PL and 5303 funds will cover to a large degree staff support activities for the study and VDOT will provide a significant amount from State Transportation Planning Pilot Grant funds leaving a gap as to where to come up with additional funds. This year's work program budgets about \$120,000 in PDC local "overmatch" funds and staff is hoping

for a significant increase in PL funds, but RSTP funds are one major source of funds that can be used for this sort of study.

- VDRPT is providing significant assistance to GRTC Transit System for the COA which will provide significant data needed for the Regional Mass Transit Study.
- The total study is anticipated to cost approximately \$400,000; \$275,000 for the consultant, \$125,000 for staff including staff support for contract administration, technical/information assistance to the study consultants, and study administration.
- VDOT is working diligently to find a substantial amount of money to contribute for this project.

Mr. Lysy explained that MPO action requested today is endorsement of the Scope of Work for the study. He said the next step is funding the study and while many of the questions being raised at today's meeting are questions that need to be answered, staff cannot answer them yet. There were no changes to the Scope of Work, but Barbara Smith offered a motion, seconded by Sherman Litton, for an amended version of the resolution presented in the agenda package as follows:

Resolved that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) endorses the Regional Mass Transit Study Scope of Work with the changes presented: inclusion of Amelia to RIC commuter rail line and any others; funded using PL and Section 5303 funds along with any other sources specifically for studies and or transit and not including RSTP, and directs that staff prepare for MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review and recommendation and for MPO review and action a proposed amendment to the *FY 07 Unified Work Program (UWP)* and if appropriate, a proposed amendment to the *FY 05 – 07 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, based on this scope of work and providing budget, funding source, and other information as needed.

Pat O'Bannon inquired what would be the effect of such a motion on the study and Mr. Lysy replied that if other funding is not found, it would be difficult to put together an in-depth Scope of Work needed to conduct the kind of comprehensive analysis of this important regional issue. Todd Eure brought forward the point that if we do not use RSTP funds, it may not be necessary to amend the TIP and Dan Lysy concurred that depending on the funding used, it may only be necessary to amend the UWP. Robert Setliff offered to make a substitute motion, to defer action to the February meeting when VDOT will have had time to respond with a number on the MPO's upcoming allocations of planning and project funds, and staff will have had time to explore other funding options. He

also noted that it may not be proper to consider only one rail line rather than considering all that were identified in the regional rail study and Michael Holmes agreed. Barbara Smith agreed to withdraw her motion and Mr. Litton agreed to withdraw his second. Chairman Butler recognized Mr. Setliff's motion and it was seconded by Pat O'Bannon. Vickey Badger inquired if Mr. Lysy needed endorsement action on the Scope of Study today and Mr. Lysy said it was not required; however, staff would proceed to prepare a draft UWP amendment which will specify funding sources and budget information, and this draft amendment would be based on the work scope presented today. Ms. Badger noted that Richmond District representative on the Commonwealth Transportation Board, Mr. Gerald McCarthy, may be able to provide some help in finding funds. The MPO unanimously voted to defer consideration of this item until the February MPO meeting.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was brought forward for consideration.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Butler adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:05 p.m.