

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

**May 12, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Russell E. Holland, <b>Chairman</b> .....	County of Powhatan
Malvern R. Butler, <b>Vice Chairman</b> .....	County of Goochland
Jack E. Apostolides (Non-voting) .....	VDRPT
Viktoria Badger (Alternate) .....	City of Richmond
Robert Bredehoft (Non-voting) .....	CTAC
William R. Britton (Alternate) .....	County of Charles City
Rebecca Draper .....	County of Hanover
Ralph J. "Joe" Emerson .....	County of Henrico
E. Todd Eure .....	County of Henrico
Paul E. Fisher .....	RRPDC
Robert Hodder .....	GRTC Transit System
George Homewood .....	County of New Kent
James B. Kennedy (Alternate) .....	RMA
R. M. "Dickie" King .....	County of Chesterfield
Angela LaCombe .....	Town of Ashland
Sherman W. Litton .....	County of Chesterfield
Eugene A. Mason .....	City of Richmond
Vanloan Nguyen .....	City of Richmond
Patricia O'Bannon .....	County of Henrico
William Pantele .....	City of Richmond
Mark Riblett (Alternate) .....	VDOT
Ivan Rucker (Non-voting) .....	FHWA
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate) .....	County of Chesterfield
Robert R. Setliff .....	County of Hanover
Frank Thornton .....	County of Henrico
Stran L. Trout .....	County of New Kent

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Edward Barber .....	County of Chesterfield
Robert Berry .....	RMA
Linda Broady-Myers (Non-voting) .....	EDAC
Cliff Burnette (Non-voting) .....	VDA
John Gordon .....	County of Hanover
Thomas A. Hawthorne .....	VDOT
William Henley .....	City of Richmond
Michael Holmes .....	County of Charles City

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)**

**REPRESENTING**

Pat Kampf (Non-voting) ..... FTA  
Joseph T. Lacy ..... County of Goochland  
Jon Mathiasen ..... CRAC  
John McCracken ..... County of Chesterfield  
Carson Tucker ..... County of Powhatan  
Von Tisdale (Non-voting) ..... RideFinders

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Dan Lysy, **Secretary** (Alternate) ..... RRPDC  
Susan Anderson ..... DMJM Harris  
Chip Badger ..... VDRPT  
Robert Crandol ..... VDOT  
Gary A. DuVal (Alternate) ..... City of Richmond  
Nancy Finch ..... VHSR  
Joan Girone ..... Citizen  
Mac Hines ..... CTAC  
Tom Holmes ..... VDOT  
Jan Newton ..... DMJM Harris  
Winston Phillips ..... VDRPT  
Kristin Tew ..... VDOT  
Alan Tobias ..... VDRPT  
David T. Williams (Alternate) ..... County of Powhatan  
Nick Britton ..... RRPDC  
Mike Clements ..... RRPDC  
Larry Hagin ..... RRPDC  
Jin Lee ..... RRPDC  
Sharon Robeson ..... RRPDC  
Patricia Villa ..... RRPDC

**CALL TO ORDER**

MPO Chairman Russell Holland called the May 12, 2005 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:15 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 –**

Mr. Lysy then reported on two requests to amend today's MPO meeting agenda. One was from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) for a TIP amendment, Expansion of Bus Service Proposal for Chesterfield County to be added to the agenda as new item III.B. (with the order for subsequent agenda items appropriately revised). The other request was for a TIP amendment from Chesterfield County and VDOT on the Lewis Road project, to be added to the agenda as consent Item III.A.2. On motion of Bill Pantele, seconded by Bill Britton, both items were added to the agenda as requested.

**C. Minutes of the April 14, 2005 MPO Meeting –**

On motion by Rudy Butler, seconded by Sherman Litton, the April 14, 2005 MPO meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**D. Open Public Comment Period –**

Frank Thornton inquired what efforts the MPO pursues to increase the public's knowledge of a public comment period at MPO meetings. Chairman Holland responded that many MPO items of business are of more interest to some areas of the region than others and it might be up to the localities to create better public awareness about what is coming up at MPO meetings. He also noted that having a public comment period at public meetings is standard practice. Mr. Lysy added that the MPO agenda is submitted to area news media and posted on the RRPDC web site. In addition, agendas are mailed and e-mailed to a rather extensive list of interested parties. Mr. Lysy noted that the MPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) and the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) also involve the public sector in the MPO process. Mr. Lysy noted that the MPO will begin holding annual public review meetings which will make a significant outreach effort to make the public aware of MPO plans and programs and to gain citizen involvement and input on various MPO activities. Mr. Lysy said the MPO has worked very hard to get citizens to attend MPO meetings and he understands Mr. Thornton's concern. Mr. Thornton said he appreciates staff effort to increase citizen awareness and involvement and said he will do his best to inform the public about the MPO because it helps us when the public becomes more versed about what we do. Chairman Holland concurred saying public awareness is an important issue and something we need to revisit on a periodic basis.

**E. MPO Chairman's Report –**

**1. Introduction of New MPO Members –**

Chairman Holland introduced Mr. David Williams, new MPO alternate member from Powhatan County and Ms. Vanloan Nguyen new MPO member from the City of Richmond. Chairman Holland also noted new MPO alternate members Mr. John Budesky from New Kent County, Mr. Carson Tucker from Powhatan County, and Mr. Khara from the City of Richmond, who are not in attendance at today's meeting.

**2. Resolution of Appreciation to Outgoing Member –**

Chairman Holland said MPO action is requested on a resolution for outgoing MPO member Richard Ayers noting his absence from today's meeting. Mr. Lysy said the resolution is in the agenda package and suggested suspending the reading of the resolution and taking action so that perhaps Mr. Ayers could be present at the July MPO meeting to hear and receive the resolution in person. On motion of Bill Britton, seconded by Pat O'Bannon, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Richard W. Ayers has provided valuable public service from February 2000 to April 2005 as a voting member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as a member of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates his contributions and effort;

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this twelfth day of May 2005, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

**3. Other Business –**

Chairman Holland had no other business items to report.

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

Mr. Lysy announced that a valuable staff member, Associate Planner Nick Britton, will be leaving the RRPDC on June 24 to pursue a second Master's degree in geography at the University of Utah.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was brought forward for consideration.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Consent Action Items –**

**1. Charles City County RSTP Funds Transfer and New Project –**

On motion of Bill Britton, seconded by Rudy Butler, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorizes the addition of a new Charles City County Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funded project, the Route 609 (Barretts Road) from Route 603 to Route 609, providing for reconstruction and allocation of \$392,550 in FY 07 RSTP funds (transferred from Charles City County RSTP project UPC# 8499); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that \$119,800 in FY 06 RSTP funds be transferred from the Charles City County RSTP project UPC #17763 to Charles City County RSTP project UPC #57167; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all of the above identified projects not fully funded at the start of the project review and selection process for allocation of RSTP funds (scheduled to start with the allocation of FY 08 RSTP funds) be subject to TAC's case-by-case assessment of continued funding needs for existing RSTP projects.

**2. FY 2005-2007 TIP Amendment Request –**

On motion of Sherman Litton, seconded by Dickie King, the MPO unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) revises the FY 2005-2007 Transportation

Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect the TIP amendment individually numbered 2005-35 and summarized in the table presented for MPO review and approval: *Richmond Area MPO Fiscal Year 2005-2007 TIP Amendment Proposal: 2005-35.*

**B. FY 2005-2007 TIP AMENDMENT REQUEST: Amendment 2005-36**

Dan Lysy said this new agenda item is a request from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) to amend the TIP for Chesterfield County Bus Service Expansion and that he would turn discussion over to Jack Aposotolides. Mr. Apostolides introduced Chip Badger, Director of Public Transportation for VDRPT, who would answer any questions on this proposed expansion of transit services in Chesterfield County. Mr. Lysy noted that copies of material previously mailed to MPO members and alternates is being handed out. Rudy Butler moved to postpone consideration of this item for 60 days to provide an opportunity for the MPO and for Chesterfield County to fully consider the matter. Dickie King seconded the motion. Chairman Holland called for discussion and Vickey Badger inquired as to the rationale and reasoning for tabling the request. Sherman Litton said he would appreciate information from VDRPT as to how this request was developed and why since Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors and the county administrator had not received information on this matter. Rudy Butler said that discussion during the Executive Committee discussion it was determined that there had not been enough time for appropriate MPO consideration and that Chesterfield County hasn't had an opportunity to fully consider the matter. Chairman Holland noted that one concern with the TIP amendment request is the funding which uses CMAQ money for the first three years and then proposes to use Primary System funds (based on project funding as shown in VDOT's tentative Six-Year Improvement Program). He said there are just too many questions to be digested at the last minute. Dickie King pointed out that Chesterfield County is half owner of GRTC and yet plans were made and the route selected without consulting the County. Noting that he is new to the MPO, Eugene Mason said he didn't understand how a state agency would propose to do something of this significance in a locality without involving the elected officials.

Chairman Holland recognized Chip Badger who was involved in the development of this proposal to address the concerns expressed. Mr. Badger explained that late in the Six-Year Improvement Program's (SYIP's) development, the Commissioner and the CTB expressed a desire to advance a number of public transportation projects that were purely state initiatives using special CMAQ money available to the state. He said projects in three areas of the state were selected either because they had operated in the past and proven successful or they were in the mill but had

not yet been included in the TIP for funding. Mr. Badger said Chesterfield County staff was aware of this effort and he had spoken to them by phone in early April. Mr. Badger said perhaps this matter was not introduced in time for everybody involved to be fully informed and he apologized for that saying the administration has been very supportive of multi-modal systems throughout the Commonwealth, but having the state step forward with funding for specific initiatives is rather unique. Mr. Badger said they thought Chesterfield County was familiar with the route because it had operated before (under the Link program) and had shown promise with ridership growing substantially in the ten months it operated. He said VDRPT was looking for a success, something they could demonstrate commitment to so that people who need to use it can have some assurance it's going to be there long-term. Mr. Badger said that use of CMAQ funds is restricted to three years and that the SYIP shows funding for the entire six years with the last three years to come from primary road funds or alternative funding sources that may become available before that time.

Chairman Holland recognized Kelly Miller, a member of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors and a former MPO member. Mr. Miller said the Link service was not a success if you look at the raw data and that he has never seen the state operate in this fashion. He said this proposal represents a poor piece of planning and that not having the courtesy to contact the locality where they plan a project, a matter which Chesterfield County has addressed on a number of occasions, does a disservice to all involved and he hopes it never happens again. Mr. Miller thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak.

Rudy Butler noted that primary road funds are VDOT Richmond District funds and he asked Mr. Badger if the operating funds for this project would come off the top of the district allocation so that all in the district will receive less funds on account of this project. Mr. Badger responded that it would come off the top noting that they received a one-time surge of transportation funds this year from the General Assembly. He said a lot of it came directly to the Richmond District to pay for 288 and other important projects and that this funding is additional money directed toward a project so that no locality would lose funds. Angela LaCombe inquired if the proposed project funds would be put in jeopardy by a 60-day deferral and if so, how and Mr. Badger responded that he wouldn't expect that the funding or project is jeopardized by that action. Eugene Mason asked about how the MPO would proceed with consideration of this matter asking what would need to happen in the 60-day period. Mr. Lysy said he believed action would rest primarily with discussion between Chesterfield and VDRPT and probably the City of Richmond would have an interest in participating in that process. Chairman Holland said he believes the process will work itself out before it comes back to this regional body. Chairman Holland called for a vote on Mr. Butler's

motion to defer consideration of the request to amend the TIP for Chesterfield County Bus Service Expansion for 60 days and the motion carried unanimously.

**C. RSTP and CMAQ Project Review and Selection Process Policy Committee Report –**

Chairman Holland asked Rudy Butler, Chairman of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Project Review and Selection Process Policy Committee, to provide the committee's report. Mr. Butler said the report is contained in the agenda package under tab four. The committee took unanimous action to report to the MPO that we move forward with this new process and refine it as necessary as we move ahead. Mr. Butler asked for questions and there were none. Chairman Holland thanked Mr. Butler for his report.

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

Mr. Lysy noted that the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Report is contained in the agenda package and asked CTAC Chairman Robert Bredehoft if he would like to add anything to the report. Mr. Bredehoft reported two major actions by CTAC, the election of Malcolm Hines and William Nelson to Chairman and vice Chairman, respectively, and consideration of alternatives presented by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) on the *Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study*. Mr. Bredehoft said that following the VDRPT presentation, significant discussion ensued on a variety of issues including consideration of TAC's action on this matter. Mr. Bredehoft reported that CTAC took action to recommend to the MPO endorsement of continued study of all reasonable and affordable alternatives. Chairman Holland thanked Mr. Bredehoft for his report.

**E. Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study –**

Dan Lysy introduced Winston Phillips and Alan Tobias with VDRPT who would provide a presentation on the Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study and answer questions regarding the Environmental Impact Statement that VDRPT is currently conducting. Winston Phillips noted that Alan Tobias is the manager of the Study and introduced study consultants (with DMJM Harris) Jan Newton, project manager, and Susan Anderson, lead for the environmental effort in the study. Mr. Phillips said he would review where they've been with the study and show how they plan to proceed. Mr. Phillips provided an informational PowerPoint presentation with the following slides:

- Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study (photo)
- Introduction to the Project
- National High-Speed Rail Network (map)
- Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor (map)
- Project Corridor (detailed map)
- Project Plan
- Project Scoping
- Scoping Needs
- Outreach
- Alternatives
- Wide Range of Alternatives (diagram)
- No Action/Build Alternative
- Peninsula/CSX Alternative (map)
- Southside/NS Alternative (map)
- James River Alternative (map)
- James River – Isle of Wight Route (map)
- Travel Demand Input Data
- Population in Station Areas (chart)
- Employment in Station Areas (chart)
- Alternatives Evaluation
- Evaluation Criteria
- Projected Ridership (chart)
- Estimated Cost (chart)
- Travel time (chart)
- James River Summary
- James River Recommendation
- Project Schedule
- Design, R/W Acquisition, Construction, Operations
- Thank You! (web address, phone numbers)

Extensive discussion ensued with Mr. Phillips and Mr. Tobias answering many questions and clarifying many issues including the following major points:

- Mag lev was eliminated from consideration because it does not provide compatibility with the Southeast High Speed Rail Project and would require passengers to change trains thereby losing time. It was also noted that mag lev is not a proven technology at this time.
- VDRPT is seeking input from the MPO regarding alternatives with particular consideration to elimination of alternative three, the James River alternative.

- The possibility of a third James River crossing project in Hampton Roads exists conceptually and would include four general purpose travel lanes and a multimodal facility which is thought to include rail for which there is no money at this time but which still remains a high priority for Hampton Roads
- Concern was expressed about this study ignoring the possibility of a Hampton Roads third crossing project, which is thought likely to occur in the future and several MPO members expressed a desire to keep the options open to a third James River crossing.
- Several Richmond Area MPO jurisdictions would gain more benefit from a route south of the river and most of the Department of Defense (DOD) facilities both in this area and in Hampton Roads are on the south side of the James River.
- Crater MPO will consider the alternatives at their meeting later this evening and the Hampton Roads MPO will consider the alternatives at its June or July meeting. Action taken by these two MPOs would be an important consideration in the Richmond Area MPO's action regarding elimination of a route.
- While the possibility of a third James River crossing exists, it cannot be considered in this study based on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines since it is not programmed in the Hampton Roads Area MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan at this time. A portion of this possible crossing, the phase from the Monitor-Merrimac Bridge to Norfolk, is included in this study because it is programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), but the rail portion is not programmed in the Long-Range Plan.
- The James River alternative is very different than an alternative that would include the new third crossing which would have a completely different alignment.
- While an environmental impact analysis will be done for the corridor down the North side of the James River, which would also have to be done for the James River crossing alternative, evaluating the environmental impact of improving an existing rail corridor is relatively small and inexpensive compared to the very expensive cost of evaluating the environmental impact of a new bridge facility with over 15 miles of new track through or near the Great Dismal Swamp.
- The VDRPT Study Technical Work Group has representatives from each of the three MPO staffs as well as representatives from each of

the jurisdictions affected by the study though they are technical representatives and not political representatives (i.e., elected officials).

On motion of Sherman Litton, seconded by George Homewood, the Richmond Area MPO voted unanimously to defer this item for 60 days (to the July MPO meeting).

**F. VDOT Guidelines on Obligation and Expenditure of CMAQ Funds –**

Dan Lysy called on VDOT representative Mark Riblett to provide a status report on the next three agenda items, the first of which is VDOT Guidelines on Obligation and Expenditure of CMAQ Funds as requested by the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its March meeting. Mr. Riblett said VDOT's Planning and Programming divisions are currently focused on completing the SYIP for CTB consideration, but will make the requested guidelines a front-burner issue following that activity. The Programming Division has agreed to include this item on their agenda for the meeting with the state's MPO staffs, scheduled for May 24 in Petersburg, and to share their thoughts on this topic. Mr. Lysy provided additional background on the topic saying that in 2004 the General Assembly acted to require that CMAQ funds shall be authorized or obligated within two years and expended within four years so there is some urgency in getting these guidelines from VDOT to make sure that funds are expended before the deadline so that they are not returned to the CTB to be spent on other projects, possibly in other areas of the state. Mr. Lysy said it is encouraging to note that the guidelines will be on the May 24 meeting agenda for discussion with MPOs from across the state. In response to a question, Mr. Lysy said the deadline for expenditure of these funds is not clear because the law is subject to interpretation on various points and that's why the guidelines are needed to pin down some of the finer points and details of this legislation's requirements.

**G. STIP/TIP Reconciliation and TIP Amendments –**

Mark Riblett noted that the original schedule submitted several months ago by VDOT to provide amendments to the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect changes in previous obligations programmed in the TIP and to provide for the addition of maintenance as a funded line item was very ambitious. He said they have been working with MPO staff to develop a simplified format that's easy to read and to understand and identify for each jurisdiction what projects this reconciliation will involve. He said he hopes to have the final draft ready for TAC action in June and for MPO consideration at its July meeting. Mr. Riblett expressed appreciation to the MPO staff for working so closely with VDOT on this significant effort. Chairman Holland asked if Mr. Riblett thinks the information will be ready to be forwarded to MPO

members about 10 days prior to the MPO meeting for their review and reflection before the meeting and Mr. Riblett responded that he expects to have the working version to TAC by the end of May and that should provide plenty of time for review and comment.

**H. TIP Development Schedule –**

Mr. Riblett said the original intent of the VDOT Planning and Programming divisions' May 24 meeting was to review and gain feedback from all the MPOs across the state on the proposed TIP development schedule for the upcoming 2006 TIP and STIP. Mr. Riblett noted that last year the MPO approved the TIP in the summer, but that the VDOT Programming Division is advising all districts that the anticipated TIP and STIP development schedule is going to be pushed back until sometime in the fall and with the draft TIP submitted to the MPO in early FY 06. He said the TIP development schedule will be the main topic of the May 24 meeting and that details of that schedule will be discussed at that meeting.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

Vickey Badger noted that one of the MPOs talented members, Rob Hodder, will be leaving GRTC Transit System having accepted a position with AARP in Washington, D.C. as a senior policy advisor working on livable communities and said she wanted the MPO to recognize him at his last meeting before his departure. Chairman Holland noted that Mr. Hodder would certainly be missed by the MPO and wished him well on behalf of all present. Mr. Hodder expressed appreciation for the good wishes and recognition.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Holland adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:35 P.M.