

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

**September 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
Viktoria Badger (Alternate) .....	City of Richmond
James R. Banks (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
Robert M. Berry .....	RMA
Rebecca Draper .....	County of Hanover
E. Todd Eure .....	County of Henrico
Paul E. Fisher .....	RRPDC
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover
Michael Holmes .....	County of Charles City
George Homewood .....	County of New Kent
R. M. "Dickie" King .....	County of Chesterfield
John M. Lewis.....	GRTC Transit System
Sherman W. Litton.....	County of Chesterfield
Eugene A. Mason.....	City of Richmond
William C. Nelson, Jr. (Nonvoting Alternate).....	CTAC
Vanloan Nguyen .....	City of Richmond
William Pantele.....	City of Richmond
Mark Riblett (Alternate) .....	VDOT
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting) .....	FHWA
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
Stran L. Trout.....	County of New Kent
Carson L. Tucker .....	County of Powhatan
David T. Williams (Alternate) .....	County of Powhatan

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Edward Barber .....	County of Chesterfield
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting) .....	EDAC
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting) .....	VDA
Ralph J. "Joe" Emerson .....	County of Henrico
Thomas A. Hawthorne .....	VDOT
William Henley .....	City of Richmond
Malcolm H. Hines (Nonvoting) .....	CTAC
Russell E. Holland .....	County of Powhatan
Pat Kampf (Nonvoting).....	FTA
Angela LaCombe .....	Town of Ashland

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)**

**REPRESENTING**

Joseph T. Lacy ..... County of Goochland  
John McCracken ..... County of Chesterfield  
Patricia O’Bannon..... County of Henrico  
John Rutledge.....CRAC  
Frank Thornton ..... County of Henrico  
Von Tisdale (Nonvoting) ..... RideFinders

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Daniel N. Lysy, **Secretary** (Alternate)..... RRPDC  
Jameson Auten ..... RideFinders  
Marlene K. Durfee ..... Task Force for Responsible Growth  
Doug Ellis ..... Virginia Capital Trail Foundation  
Lawrence C. Hagin (Alternate)..... GRTC Transit System  
Laurie Henley..... VDOT  
Bob Herndon..... Citizen  
Jay B. Lafler..... Chesterfield Business Council  
Kristin Mazur ..... VDOT  
Adele MacLean..... Partnership for Smart Growth

James P. Ponticello ..... VDOT  
Julian Walker ..... Richmond Times-Dispatch  
Christopher L. Winstead ..... VDOT  
Mike Clements ..... RRPDC  
Geleene Goffena ..... RRPDC  
Jin Lee..... RRPDC  
Livingston Lewis ..... RRPDC  
Liz McAdory..... RRPDC  
Sharon Robeson ..... RRPDC  
Patricia Villa ..... RRPDC

**CALL TO ORDER**

MPO Chairman Malvern R. “Rudy” Butler called the September 8, 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. At Chairman Butler’s request, all present rose for a moment of silence in remembrance of those

in the Gulf coast area struggling with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, those suffering and those assisting in saving lives, protecting property, clean-up, and reconstruction. Mr. Butler requested that following the moment of silence, the pledge of allegiance be said as a reminder of the great country we live in, and those present recited the pledge of allegiance in unison.

**B. Additions to MPO Agenda –**

Mr. Lysy reported that staff received a request from VDOT to amend the Transportation Improvement Program to include five statewide CMAQ-funded safety and traffic operations projects. He requested that the MPO consider adding this as Consent Action Item III.A.2 with discussion. No questions or comments were voiced and this item was added to the agenda as requested. Staff distributed an informational handout on this item for consideration at the appropriate time in the agenda.

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

On motion by Sherman Litton, seconded by Michael Holmes, the July 14, 2005 MPO meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**D. Open Public Comment Period –**

Jay Lafler of Midlothian, with the Chesterfield Business Council, a part of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, addressed the MPO noting the Council's representation of over 1,000 employees working for hundreds of member businesses in Chesterfield County. Mr. Lafler noted high gasoline prices, congestion, air pollution, and sprawl in Chesterfield County and urged the MPO to help Chesterfield County residents with their transportation needs by voting affirmatively for the previously twice-deferred TIP amendment for funding of an express bus route in Chesterfield County. Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Lafler for his comments.

Chesterfield resident Bob Herndon said he is speaking on behalf of Chesterfield residents in the western portion of Chesterfield County west of Rt. 288 along the Rt. 360 corridor. Mr. Herndon said that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) has provided an opportunity to address regional transportation, land use, environmental, economic and quality of life issues by reinstating the Link bus service in that area of Chesterfield County. Mr. Herndon said the Link service was successful with bus route #82 at Rt. 360 and Winterpock Road increasing ridership 55 percent in the first 10 months of operation and continuing to increase through the last day of operation. Mr. Herndon noted a 238 percent traffic increase in the area from Skinquarter Rd. to Rt. 288 over

the last seven years; significant increases in gasoline prices; the marginal nonattainment status of the region's air quality; and the future impact of traffic from new developments approved for west of Winterpock Rd. He said there are nine vanpools operating in the Midlothian area with six of those originating in the western corridor of Route 360 and that 55 of those vanpool riders are former Link riders. Chairman Butler asked Mr. Herndon to sum up his remarks due to the time limit. Mr. Herndon stated that GRTC reports increases in ridership for buses and vanpools and that funding has been identified to provide for the Jeff Davis route. He urged the MPO to act in the best interest of the Richmond region by approving the proposed Chesterfield bus service for inclusion in the TIP. Mr. Herndon thanked the MPO for the opportunity to speak and expressed appreciation for its thoughtful consideration of this project. Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Herndon for his comments and hearing no additional requests to comment, closed the public comment period of the meeting.

**E. MPO Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Butler introduced himself as the FY 06 MPO Chairman noting this is the second time he has had the privilege of serving as MPO Chairman. He said he would like the meetings to be informative so that members leave with knowledge about transportation issues that will help them in their own jurisdictions and agencies. Mr. Butler indicated he would like suggestions for speakers on various transportation topics of interest. Mr. Butler said transportation is a major issue this year for the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and he believes transportation will be a major issue in the upcoming General Assembly. He noted that transportation needs and priorities are probably going to change for the federal government as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Butler encouraged input from MPO members regarding transportation needs not only for highways, but for all travel modes. He said we need a strong transportation system to promote central Virginia in attracting industry and need to impress on the General Assembly our needs for transportation funding. As an example, he noted that Rt. 288 opened with around 40,000 vehicles per day and traffic has increased to around 47,000 vehicles per day. Mr. Butler said he notices park and ride lots are much fuller since recent gasoline price increases and noted that transportation costs impact the economy by affecting the amount of disposable income available to purchase other items.

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

Chairman Butler introduced and welcomed new MPO member John M. Lewis and new MPO alternate member Lawrence C. Hagin, both representing GRTC Transit System. Chairman Butler noted that new MPO member John Rutledge and new MPO alternate member John E.

Mathiasen, both representing Capital Region Airport Commission, are absent from today's meeting.

**2. Presentation of Resolutions of Appreciation –**

Chairman Butler noted the absence of all three resolution recipients, former MPO Chairman Russell E. Holland, former MPO member Richard W. Ayers, and former CTAC Chairman Robert F. Bredehoft.

**3. MPO Executive Committee Appointments –**

Chairman Butler announced appointments he has made for FY 06 Richmond Area MPO Executive Committee members as follows:

Malvern R. "Rudy" Butler	Goochland County
Angela L. LaCombe	Town of Ashland
Michael L. Holmes	Charles City County
Edward B. Barber	Chesterfield County
Robert R. Setliff	Hanover County
Patricia S. O'Bannon	Henrico County
Stran L. Trout	New Kent County
Russell E. Holland	Powhatan County
William J. Pantele	City of Richmond

Chairman Butler expressed appreciation to Executive Committee members for coming early to meet prior to the PDC and MPO meetings and encouraged MPO members to refer items to Executive Committee members or to him for that Committee's consideration.

**4. Other Business –**

Chairman Butler had no other business to report.

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

**1. VDOT Fall Transportation Meetings –**

Dan Lysy reported that VDOT has announced the schedule for the Fall Transportation Meetings, or preallocation public hearings, and the Richmond District meeting will be held on Monday, October 17 at 4:00 P.M. at the Petersburg Train Station. Mr. Lysy said there will be a special session for local elected officials and General Assembly members beginning at 3:00 P.M. Mr. Lysy introduced Chris Winstead, Acting District Administrator for the VDOT Richmond District, and asked if he would care to mention any information about the meeting. Mr. Winstead encouraged attendance and participation in

the meeting saying it is very important that the public speak about the needs and changes they want to see in the primary and interstate Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Chairman Butler noted a return to the former method of meeting by district this year and expressed appreciation for this system rather than having the entire state participate at one meeting. Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Winstead for his comments.

## **2. Other Business –**

Dan Lysy asked Jameson Auten, Program Manager with RideFinders to speak about a new upcoming program of interest. Mr. Auten reported that RideFinders' new outreach program, Try Transit, would begin with a 30-minute television show on Channel 6 at 7:30 P.M. that evening that will show what area organizations are doing with public transportation and how they're recognizing it as a vital and viable solution for employees. He also noted RideFinders will host a lunchtime celebration at Kanawha Plaza in downtown Richmond for those who ride transit during the Try Transit week promotion.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. FY 2005 – 2007 TIP Amendment Request: Chesterfield County Bus Service Expansion –**

Mr. Lysy noted this item was first introduced at the May MPO meeting, was deferred to the July MPO meeting, and again carried over to today's meeting. He said the item is a request submitted by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) for a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment request, Chesterfield County Bus Service Expansion, as presented in tab four of the agenda package. Chairman Butler said he hopes in the future that state agencies will inform the local governments in advance about proposals for projects in their jurisdictions. He said he believes this item was carried over because officials in Chesterfield were not informed prior to the amendment request being submitted to the MPO. Dickie King noted the high gas prices resulting from Hurricane Katrina and said he is a proponent of multi-modal public transit, but Chesterfield was never informed of the proposed TIP amendment and had no input into it. Mr. King said his concern is for how tax dollars are best spent noting that people in the Bermuda District, along the Jeff Davis corridor, are the people of greatest need for public transit in Chesterfield County. He said he needs clarification before voting as to whether a stop at John Tyler Community College in Chester will be added to the downtown Richmond to Petersburg express service. He echoed Chairman Butler's comments

about informing and involving the localities affected. Mr. King requested that Barbara Smith propose an amendment to include the John Tyler service addition saying that without that amendment being added, he would not support the proposed resolution.

Barbara Smith reported that Chesterfield County met with VDRPT to discuss the John Tyler stop on the express service route to Petersburg and so she would propose an amendment to the TIP amendment request that would change the description to include “express service from between Petersburg and downtown with a stop at John Tyler Community College.” Jack Apostolides said it was his understanding that the John Tyler stop would be added to the Petersburg express route, but that such an addition to the TIP amendment itself is not necessary since the TIP amendment only involves CMAQ funds for the new service on the route 360 corridor to Richmond. He said it is just a matter of changing the route structure to provide the John Tyler service. Mr. Lewis noted the John Tyler service comes from a different funding stream which will be available as a result of the new bus service along the Hull Street corridor (i.e., from Lowe’s in the Brandermill/Woodlake area in Chesterfield to downtown Richmond), though the conversations about the John Tyler service and the Hull Street corridor service were concurrent and one project is dependent on the other. Ms. Smith summarized stating that the TIP needs to be amended to include the CMAQ funds set aside for expanding service in the Hull Street corridor, while addition of the John Tyler stop to the Richmond/Petersburg express route can be done without need for mention in the TIP amendment because the Petersburg express route is existing service that would not be eligible for CMAQ funds. John Lewis and Jack Apostolides concurred.

Extensive discussion ensued addressing the following points:

- The proposed TIP amendment is only for the allocation of CMAQ funds for the first three years of service. The amendment does not include any commitment beyond the first three years which are funded by statewide allocated CMAQ funds.
- Following three years of CMAQ funding, the state Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) shows VDOT Richmond District primary funds as the source of funding for the next three years. However, at the end of the CMAQ funding, the issue can be revisited to determine the source of continued funding of the Hull Street corridor bus service.
- Concerns were expressed about setting the precedent for using Richmond District primary funds for this project and opening the door for other projects to be funded in this manner, thereby reducing the

already small amount of primary funds available for other jurisdictions.

- There is a possibility that some additional state funds from other sources could be used to partially fund operation of the route beyond the three-year CMAQ period of funding.
- Primary system roads in the VDOT Richmond District, which covers a large area down to the North Carolina line and west to Lunenburg, are eligible for state primary funds and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has the discretion to use funds for projects anywhere in the district. There is no guarantee that these funds will be allocated by the CTB to primary system projects in the Richmond MPO area.
- If the federal government, as result of hurricane devastation and the need to rebuild roads in the Gulf Coast disaster areas, reduces the amount of CMAQ funds available for this project, then Chesterfield County, VDRPT, and GRTC would need to discuss how to fund the project.
- CMAQ funds allocations are well defined by formula in the new transportation legislation, SAFETEA-LU, and it would require an act of Congress to change that legislation, so that CMAQ funds at this point are reasonably reliable.

George Homewood moved the motion in the agenda package with the following addition: "Be it further resolved, that the existing Petersburg express route be enhanced to provide a stop at John Tyler Community College." John Gordon seconded the motion. Bill Pantele thanked Chesterfield representatives for looking at expanding the service and asked if this amendment is sufficient to meet the concerns they had raised. Sherman Litton responded affirmatively saying it's a great deal for Chesterfield County, noting, however, that in fairness to other jurisdictions who stand to lose primary money three years down the road, it would be understandable if they vote no. Bill Pantele thanked Mr. Litton for his comment and noted the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the freight industry that will likely have a significant impact on our interstate highways. He asked that MPO members think as a region in terms of congestion mitigation, air quality, and transport to and from jobs. He expressed appreciation that the state has provided funding for three years, which is the limit of this particular funding source and motion, and to GRTC for finding a way to get this service funded at no cost to Chesterfield County. He said he hopes that as a result of the New Orleans disaster, there will be a renewed priority nationally for passenger rail, mass transit, and multimodal delivery of people and goods. He

encouraged the MPO to take advantage of the funding that's been provided for three years because it's the right thing to do.

Ms. Draper stated that while a quarter million dollars is a small portion of the \$20 to \$40 million or so in Richmond District primary funds allocation, the MPO should not forget the rural counties noting that a small amount goes a long way toward high bang-for-the-buck highway improvements such as reflectorized pavement marking improvements and shoulder wedging projects. Chris Winstead provided assurance that funds are included in the current SYIP for the kinds of safety projects Ms. Draper referenced. Michael Holmes said projects that reduce air pollution in Chesterfield and Henrico counties help Charles City County achieve better air quality since Charles City is downwind from these areas where pollutants are generated, and therefore this project would be advantageous to Charles City. Chairman Butler said he believes wording as to what will happen at the end of CMAQ funding should be in the resolution to avoid, at some point in the future, the appearance of tacit approval of the use of primary funds to continue this project since these funds are shown in the current SYIP as the future source. Stran Trout said that as the resolution reads, this project will not be funded at the end of CMAQ funds unless some other funding source is identified. Mr. King stated that though he still disputes the route, he will support the project because with the stop at John Tyler Community College, it will be of benefit to the people of his district; however, he would understand if other jurisdictions chose to vote against this project because of the primary funds issue.

Several attempts were made at defining and refining the wording of the motion and a friendly amendment regarding funding beyond the availability of CMAQ funds was offered and accepted. In response to a question, John Lewis confirmed that the Petersburg express route buses will stop at John Tyler Community College three times in the morning and three times in the afternoon. Chairman Butler called for a vote on the motion as amended and as read by Dan Lysy and the MPO voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Chesterfield County bus service expansion project as shown in the table *Richmond Area MPO Fiscal Year 2005-2007 TIP Amendment Proposal: 2005-55* as presented to the MPO; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the existing GRTC Transit System Richmond/Petersburg express route be enhanced to provide a stop at John Tyler Community College in Chester; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that it is understood that there is no financial commitment beyond the period of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funding for this project.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Consent Action Items –**

Following the presentation on the Virginia Capital Trail by Doug Ellis (Item III.B below), the MPO considered the following consent action items.

##### **1. Transportation Enhancement Funds Application Endorsement –**

On motion of Michael Holmes, seconded by George Homewood, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization endorses those applications for Transportation Enhancement funds that are endorsed by area local governments or by quasi-jurisdictional entities in the region.

##### **2. VDOT Proposed TIP Amendment; Statewide CMAQ Funded Safety and Traffic Operations Projects –**

Dan Lysy referenced the handout distributed earlier on this VDOT TIP amendment request noting that this amendment would add five new projects to the TIP funded by statewide allocated CMAQ funds made available for projects in the Richmond District. He said VDOT Richmond District had these safety and traffic operations projects ready and available to go and were able to respond quickly when additional funds became available. He noted that TAC reviewed and recommended approval of the amendment with one change (included in the handout information) at yesterday's special called TAC meeting and expressed a desire to be in communication with the District office to advise on projects that may be ready to move forward in their jurisdictions. Mr. Lysy noted that there were no large, high-cost items included among these projects.

On motion of Barbara Smith, seconded by George Homewood, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the *FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* to add five (5) new Statewide CMAQ funded safety and traffic operations projects as shown in the table “Richmond Area MPO Fiscal Year 2005-2007 TIP Amendments Proposal: 2005-56-60.”

**B. Virginia Capital Trail Project –**

Following item II.A above, Dan Lysy introduced Doug Ellis, Executive Director of the Virginia Capital Trail Foundation, who would provide a presentation on a current regional project, the Virginia Capital Trail Greenway project. Mr. Ellis said he would expedite his presentation and offered to answer questions both during the presentation and following the meeting. Mr. Ellis’ presentation covered various aspects of the Virginia Capital Trail project including background information on the project’s history, trail location, information on its economic benefits to the region, and slides showing current conditions and how it would look as a completed trail. There were no questions and Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Ellis for his presentation.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was brought forward for discussion.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

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