

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

**April 13, 2006**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Malvern R. Butler, <b>Chairman</b> .....	County of Goochland
Robert R. Setliff, <b>Vice Chairman</b> .....	County of Hanover
Daniel N. Lysy, <b>Secretary</b> (Alternate).....	RRPDC
Jack E. Apostolides (Nonvoting).....	VDRPT
Jameson T. Auten (Nonvoting).....	RideFinders
William R. Britton (Alternate).....	County of Charles City
E. Todd Eure.....	County of Henrico
Malcolm H. Hines (Nonvoting).....	CTAC
Russell E. Holland.....	County of Powhatan
George Homewood.....	County of New Kent
James B. Kennedy (Alternate).....	RMA
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
Faye O. Prichard (Alternate).....	Town of Ashland
Mark Riblett (Alternate).....	VDOT
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting).....	FHWA
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
Frank Thornton.....	County of Henrico
Stran L. Trout.....	County of New Kent
Joseph E. Vidunas (Alternate).....	County of Hanover

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Edward Barber.....	County of Chesterfield
Robert M. Berry.....	RMA
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting).....	EDAC
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting).....	VDA
Rebecca Draper.....	County of Hanover
Ralph J. “Joe” Emerson.....	County of Henrico
Paul E. Fisher.....	RRPDC
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover
Thomas A. Hawthorne.....	VDOT
Michael Holmes.....	County of Charles City
Patricia A. Kampf (Nonvoting).....	FTA
R. M. “Dickie” King.....	County of Chesterfield
Angela LaCombe.....	Town of Ashland

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)**

**REPRESENTING**

Joseph T. Lacy ..... County of Goochland  
John M. Lewis..... GRTC Transit System  
John McCracken ..... County of Chesterfield  
John Rutledge..... CRAC  
Carson L. Tucker ..... County of Powhatan

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Travis Bridewell..... VDOT  
Adele MacLean..... Partnership for Smarter Growth  
Liz McAdory..... VDOT  
Jim Ponticello..... VDOT  
Taylor Whitehouse..... VDOT  
Jo Evans ..... RRPDC  
Jin Lee..... RRPDC  
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC  
Sharon Robeson ..... RRPDC

**CALL TO ORDER**

MPO Chairman Malvern R. “Rudy” Butler called the April 13, 2006 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:25 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 –**

Dan Lysy reported a change to agenda item III.E, Proposed RSTP and CMAQ Projects under tab number seven. He said staff would distribute a revised list of projects based on the City of Richmond’s request to change its list of projects and address this item when this agenda item is up for discussion. He also noted that under Old Business, agenda item II.A, Changes in Regional Traffic Patterns Following Completion of Route 288, that VDOT Traffic Engineer Dave Dreis was unable to attend the MPO meeting due to staff miscommunication and Mr. Lysy noted this item is requested to be deferred to the June MPO meeting. Russell Holland requested that VDOT include in their briefing how they use the changes in regional traffic patterns data that was collected and Mr. Lysy said he would communicate that request to Mr. Dreis.

**C. Minutes of the February 2, 2006 MPO Meeting –**

On motion by Bill Pantele, seconded by Pat O'Bannon, the February 2, 2006 MPO meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**D. Open Public Comment Period –**

There were no public comments offered and Chairman Butler closed the Public Comment Period of the meeting.

**E. MPO Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Butler reported that traffic problems resulting from Rt. 288 where it meets I-64 need to be addressed. He said there have been a lot of accidents in that area since Route 288 opened which effect both Goochland and Henrico counties and there appears to be several projects being considered for this stretch of highway. Pat O'Bannon said the flyover to get people from Route 288 to I-295 will address what has become a major traffic issue with traffic backing up on Broad Street.

Chairman Butler noted the lack of Virginia General Assembly action on a transportation funding bill and urged MPO members to contact their representatives in the House and Senate to urge compromise and action to pass a transportation bill that will provide a permanent source of transportation funding. He said the lack of a transportation funding bill is a matter of great concern to many throughout the state including the Secretary of Transportation and the Governor.

**1. MPO Nominating Committee –**

Chairman Butler appointed Pat O'Bannon, Bill Pantele, and Russ Holland to serve as the nominating committee to present a slate of officers at the June MPO meeting for FY 07 MPO Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**2. Other Business –**

No other business was brought forward for consideration.

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

Transportation Director Dan Lysy reported that RRPDC staff member Mike Clements has recently left to accept a position at VDOT and that a replacement is being sought with ads placed on the RRPDC web site and in several national trade journals.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Changes in Regional Traffic Patterns Following Completion of Route 288 –**

Based on Mr. Lysy's earlier report, Chairman Butler deferred this item to the June MPO meeting.

### **B. Development of Potential Traffic Operations and Safety Projects on the Primary System –**

VDOT Richmond District Traffic Engineer Travis Bridewell said that he will talk about several important aspects of his job, part of which is helping to develop proposed safety projects for the Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) which covers 14 counties (i.e., Richmond District) in central Virginia. Mr. Bridewell used a PowerPoint slide show as the basis for his presentation with slide addressing the following points:

- Introduction (two slides)
- Development of Potential Traffic Operations and Safety Projects on the Primary System (Title)
- Expected Outcomes - Improved safety (two slides)
- Expected Outcomes - Methodology
- Condition Assessment
- Identify and Implement short term fixes through available funds
- Identify deficiencies and recommend future roadway projects for the SYIP
- Federal Safety Programs
- Safety Study Process
- Rte. 360 & Harbour Pointe Pkwy (chart)
- Traffic signal system time space diagram
- Further evaluations for intersection improvements (two slides)
- Opportunities to improve safety and mobility and to partner with localities
- Some documented benefits
- Route 360 – Amelia County Corridor Study Access Management (map)
- Index to Conceptual Plans – (indexed map)
- Route 360 - Crossover Study – Amelia County (keyed drawing)
- Access Management Benefits – Accident Reduction (bar chart)
- Access Management Benefits – Increased Capacity (bar chart)
- Accident Summary – Route 157 and the commercial entrance at the SE corner of Routes 250 and 157 (diagram)
- Improvements – SE corner of Routes 250 and 157 (photos)
- Accidents, Before/After Improvements

- Traffic Signal Systems – Benefits from good coordination (two slides)
- Richmond District – (synchro runs chart)
- VDOT (closing slide)

During the presentation, Mr. Bridewell answered several questions regarding new developments and timing of placing a traffic light, even when the developer is paying for the signal. Mr. Bridewell explained that a completed project may be designed for 20 years out and even though the plan calls for a signal, it may not be needed for another 10 years. Russ Holland requested a meeting with Mr. Bridewell on a particular situation with a subdivision in Powhatan County and Mr. Bridewell agreed to meet with Mr. Holland. Sherman Litton expressed concern about not being able to use projected traffic counts to justify a signal since they are used to justify roads, turn lanes and other traffic remedies. Mr. Bridewell mentioned that they are bound by the Uniform Traffic Control Device manual to some extent in deciding when to put up a signal or other traffic control device. Chairman Butler indicated that the Governor and the Secretary of Transportation are trying to refine some of these issues, especially where developers are willing to pay for improvements that may save the Commonwealth some money.

Frank Thornton suggested a traffic problem area that he has received calls and letters about for years, the need for signalization at the intersection of Nine Mile Road and Pleasants Street. Mr. Bridewell said this is one of problem areas he identified with data analysis and one of two projects he got approved last year. He advised Mr. Thornton that VDOT is planning a right turn lane and overhead flashing beacon at that intersection. Mr. Thornton thanked Mr. Bridewell for the information.

Dan Lysy inquired about how far out VDOT times sequence signalized intersections on corridors such as Route 60, Broad Street, or Route 1. Mr. Bridewell responded that signal spaces (systems) are about half a mile long, though traditionally they are only a quarter of a mile. He said there are about 52 signal systems and confirmed that the timing is based on speed limit and is set to maximize traffic flow on the main roadway. Mr. Bridewell said the signals are totally traffic responsive and as traffic changes throughout the day, so do the timing patterns. He said he has four employees constantly looking at these signals, tweaking them to get maximum traffic flow benefit.

Following his presentation, Mr. Bridewell answered additional questions. Mr. Setliff inquired about traffic flow at Rt. 301 in Hanover County and Mr. Bridewell responded that project is in the preliminary design stage and an additional lane will be added on Atlee Road. Stran Trout inquired about how to preserve right-of-way where it will be needed in the future for road interchanges, turn lanes, an additional loop in a cloverleaf. Mr.

Bridewell said he has already looked at all the interchanges on I-64 in New Kent County and that he already has concepts on them. Mr. Trout responded that those concepts should be enough to prevent construction on those properties and Mr. Bridewell said he would provide those concepts to New Kent County. There were no additional questions and Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Bridewell for his presentation.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Consent Action Items –

##### 1. FY 06 UWP Task Budget Amendments –

On motion of George Homewood, seconded by Pat O’Bannon, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the *FY 2006 Unified Work Program* (UWP) to shift Federal Highway Administration PL funds among various RRPDC staff work tasks as presented.

##### 2. MPO Study Area Expansion: New Kent County

On motion of George Homewood, seconded by Pat O’Bannon, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorizes expanding the MPO study area boundary in New Kent County as requested providing for a revised study area boundary in New Kent County as follows:

Dispatch Road (VA 613) east from Hanover County line to  
Quaker Road (VA 611)  
Quaker Road east to Norfolk Southern railroad line  
Norfolk Southern railroad line east to Black Creek  
Black Creek east to Old Church Road (VA 606)  
Old Church Road east to Old Church Road (VA 609)  
Old Church Road south to New Kent Highway (VA 249)  
New Kent Highway east to North Courthouse Road (VA 155)  
North Courthouse Road (VA 155) south from New Kent  
Highway (VA 249) to I-64  
I-64 east to Diascund Creek  
Diascund Creek east to Mount Pleasant Road (VA 628)  
Mount Pleasant Road south to Pocahontas Trail (US 60)  
Pocahontas Trail west to Boulevard Road

Boulevard Road west to Townsend Road  
Townsend Road south to South Courthouse Road (VA 155)  
South Courthouse Road south to the Chickahominy River/  
Charles City County line

3. FY 2005 – 2007 TIP Amendment Request: City of Richmond

On motion of George Homewood, seconded by Pat O'Bannon, 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 new projects 2005-62 and 2005-63 as requested by the City of Richmond and as presented.

4. FY 2005 – 2007 TIP Amendment Requests: VDOT Projects

On motion of George Homewood, seconded by Pat O'Bannon, 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 new projects 2005-64 to 2005-83 as requested by VDOT and as presented.

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

CTAC Chairman Malcolm Hines provided a brief report on the March 23 CTAC meeting when VDOT Traffic Engineer Dave Dreis provided a presentation on changes in regional traffic patterns following completion of Route 288. Mr. Hines said it was a very interesting presentation which showed significant effects of Route 288 on local traffic and noted that several CTAC members indicated it would be helpful to have traffic count data for other roads adjacent to the 288 corridor. It was requested that CTAC's comments on the Route 288 presentation be included for consideration at the June 8 MPO meeting. Mr. Hines said CTAC also heard a staff presentation on SAFETEA-LU planning requirements and that meeting details could be found under tab four of the MPO agenda package. Mr. Hines offered to answer questions and none were voiced. Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Hines for his report.

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

Chairman Butler noted the absence of EDAC Chairman Linda Broady-Myers and said staff's report on the EDAC meeting is included in tab five of the agenda package. He called for questions on the report and there were none voiced.

**D. FY 07 Unified Work Program (UWP) –**

Dan Lysy reported the *Fiscal Year 2007 Unified Work Program* incorporates requirements from SAFETEA-LU, the new federal transportation reauthorization legislation, and several new work tasks such as the Regional Mass Transit Study, the newly required Coordinated Public Transit Plan for Human Service Agencies and Organizations, and it breaks out Intelligent Transportation Systems from the Congestion Management System (task 3.1) as a separate work task. He said that for the first time in several years, due to an increase in federal PL funds and 5303 funds, the MPO will be able to budget the UWP without RRPDC overmatch funds, local funds that are committed to the MPO work program above and beyond the matching requirements for these funding programs. Mr. Lysy noted a requirement for work task 5.6, Coordinated Public Transit Plan for Human Service Agencies and Organizations to be complete by October 1, the beginning of the federal fiscal year, in order for agencies and organizations in the region to be eligible for three federal funding programs which deal mostly with the elderly and disabled and social service type programs. He said this will be a major commitment early in FY 07 for staff and noted that the Long-Range Transportation Plan will be a challenge for staff to complete by the expiration of the current plan in April of 2007 due to project manager Mike Clements leaving the RRPDC staff. Mr. Lysy indicated ads have been placed on the RRPDC web site and in national journals and web sites to locate a new principal planner and there is a possibility of the need to hire additional staff as well to meet the additional SAFETEA-LU requirements for LRTP and other work tasks.

In response to a question by Pat O'Bannon, Mr. Lysy detailed some of the funding programs that would be effected by not being SAFETEA-LU compliant, which include a new program, the New Freedom Program, that will make an extra \$210,000 available in additional funds for ADA type programs that go above and beyond current service levels or provide service to new areas of the region. Also effected would be the availability of FTA Section 5310 Capital Grant Program funds for social service agencies to buy vans and small buses and GRTC's job access, reverse commute funds. Mr. Lysy noted that there are new consultation requirements that will have to be addressed as part of the LRTP and the TIP.

George Homewood noted a concern about LRTP development saying that due to required limits on population projections (to the year 2031), the socioeconomic data that is being developed will artificially keep these projections well below a level that existing approved development is absolutely going to produce and suggested adopting a multiple scenario for developing low, medium, and high projections.

There being no additional questions or comments, Chairman Butler called the question. On motion of Pat O'Bannon, seconded by Robert Setliff, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) adopts the Fiscal Year 2007 Unified Work Program document as presented.

It was requested that staff prepare a summary of new SAFETEA-LU planning requirements included in the FY 2007 UWP and Mr. Lysy agreed to provide this to the MPO at the next MPO meeting.

**E. Proposed RSTP and CMAQ Projects –**

Staff distributed revised copies of the CMAQ and RSTP projects list that differ slightly from the list in the agenda package and Barbara Nelson said staff is requesting MPO authorization to submit this list of RSTP and CMAQ projects to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for inclusion in the state Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) noting that these projects will also be included in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Nelson explained that in late January, the staff received the region's actual allocation numbers which resulted in an additional \$1.3 million in RSTP funds for the region and approximately \$4.9 million in additional CMAQ funds. She said based on the MPO-approved process for distributing these funds, this translated into an approximate \$38,000 reduction in RSTP funds for Chesterfield, Henrico, and Hanover counties, the City of Richmond, GRTC, and the Capital Region Airport Commission. However, Ms. Nelson noted there are major increases in FY 07 CMAQ funds. She said the revised list just distributed notes a change for the City of Richmond which elected to shift two of their proposed new CMAQ projects out of consideration and to apply their CMAQ funds to an existing project. Ms. Nelson noted that the list was distributed to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on April 10 for review and staff had not received comments that would effect endorsement of the revised projects list. She offered to answer questions and there were none. Dan Lysy noted the revised resolution was included in the information just distributed.

On motion of Russell Holland, seconded by Stran Trout, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorizes submission of proposed FY 2007 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and FY 2007 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects as distributed at the April 13, 2006 MPO meeting for Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) consideration and inclusion in the VDOT Six Year Improvement Program and for air quality conformity analysis and public review as part of the MPO's upcoming (FY 2007 to FY 2010) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**F. FY 06 – FY 08 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Status –**

Barbara Nelson provided an update on development of the TIP saying that the work schedule presented to the MPO last fall showed the TIP moving through the federal approval process by April of 2006. She said that while some target dates were met, other major benchmarks were missed due to delays in receiving project information and then concerns over some of the allocation and obligation numbers that relate to projects proposed in the TIP, specifically 24 projects out the nearly two hundred in the TIP that staff identified as having notable problems. She said the problems relate to questions in allocations that have resulted in questionable obligations and as the TIP is a financial document, it needs to have such information correct. Ms. Nelson reported on what staff believes to be a very productive meeting on Tuesday, April 11, with FHWA, VDOT and MPO staff, TAC Chairman Joe Vidunas, and Joe Vinsh from the Tri-Cities MPO to discuss the problem with allocations and obligations and to come up with a blueprint for resolving the inconsistencies. She said staff is optimistic that there will be a draft blueprint by the April 20 TAC meeting or at least the end of April that will allow for TAC to review of the TIP at its May meeting and MPO review and action in June and to move forward with federal conformity in July. Ms. Nelson noted the current TIP does not expire until the end of September and she said that in the fall, the competitive selection process for the next cycle of RSTP and CMAQ funds will begin. Without resolution on RSTP and CMAQ funds allocation records, the region won't be able to move forward with this new process. Ms. Nelson offered to answer questions and there were none. Chairman Butler thanked Ms. Nelson for her report.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Butler reminded everyone that there is still no Virginia General Assembly action on a transportation funding bill. He noted the need to provide

permanent transportation funding for all modes of transportation and urged all to contact their Delegates and Senators to find a compromise on transportation funding.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Butler adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:25 p.m.