

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MEETING

December 14, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Robert R. Setliff, Chairman	County of Hanover
Viktoria W. Badger	City of Richmond
Robert M. Berry	RMA
Malvern R. Butler	County of Goochland
Ralph J. "Joe" Emerson	County of Henrico
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
Paul E. Fisher	RRPDC
Thomas A. Hawthorne	VDOT
Russell E. Holland	County of Powhatan
Michael Holmes	County of Charles City
George Homewood	County of New Kent
John M. Lewis	GRTC Transit System
Eugene A. Mason	City of Richmond
William C. Nelson, Jr. (Nonvoting)	CTAC
Vanloan Nguyen	City of Richmond
William Pantele	City of Richmond
Faye O. Prichard	Town of Ashland
H. Charles Rasnick (Nonvoting)	MPO Chairman Citizen Appointee
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting)	FHWA
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate)	County of Chesterfield
Donald Sowder	County of Chesterfield
Stran L. Trout	County of New Kent
Joseph E. Vidunas	County of Hanover
David T. Williams (Alternate)	County of Powhatan
Felicia H. Woodruff (Nonvoting)	VDRPT

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

R. M. "Dickie" King, Vice Chairman	County of Chesterfield
Jameson Auten (Nonvoting)	RideFinders
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting)	EDAC
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting)	VDA
John Gordon	County of Hanover
Patricia A. Kampf (Nonvoting)	FTA
Joseph T. Lacy	County of Goochland
Sherman W. Litton	County of Chesterfield
John McCracken	County of Chesterfield
Patricia O'Bannon	County of Henrico
John Rutledge	CRAC

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

REPRESENTING

Frank Thornton County of Henrico
Carson L. Tucker County of Powhatan

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Daniel N. Lysy, **Secretary** (Alternate) RRPDC
James A. Carr Assistant Secretary of Transportation, State of Virginia
Nick Donohue State of Virginia
Gary A. DuVal (Alternate) City of Richmond
Lawrence C. Hagin (Alternate) GRTC Transit System
Adele MacLean Partnership for Smarter Growth and CTAC
Liz McAdory VDOT
Mark E. Riblett (Alternate) VDOT
Brenda “Sam” Snyder Planning Commission, County of New Kent
Lloyd J. Vye CTAC
Benjamin Berbert RRPDC
Jin Lee RRPDC
Barbara Nelson RRPDC
Archita Rajbhandary RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Jacqueline Stewart RRPDC
Lee Yolton RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman Robert R. Setliff called the December 14, 2006 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:35 p.m. in the large conference room of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC). All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Chairman Setliff introduced and welcomed new MPO members and alternates present as follows: The Honorable Donald D. Sowder, MPO member, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors; Viktoria W. Badger, MPO member, Principal Planner, City of Richmond; Joseph E. Vidunas, MPO member, Traffic Engineer, Hanover County; and Gary A. DuVal, MPO alternate member, Department of Public Works Manager, City of Richmond. Chairman Setliff also noted new MPO alternate members Jeffrey H. Powell, Director of Public Works, City of Richmond, and Torrence S. Robinson, Operations Manager, Traffic Division, City of Richmond, who were absent from the MPO meeting.

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 that agenda item III.C, Washington D.C. to Richmond Rail Corridor Third Track Study, was originally slated for distribution of the report at today's meeting with VDRPT's presentation and MPO action deferred until the February 8 MPO meeting. However, Mr. Lysy said Alan Tobias with VDRPT is present with a final copy of the report to provide a presentation on the report today. Mr. Lysy said the MPO has a choice of receiving the report and presentation and considering action today or receiving the information and deferring action until the February 8 MPO meeting. Chairman Setliff suggested that since Mr. Tobias is present at today's meeting, that the MPO go ahead and receive the report and Mr. Tobias' presentation and decide later in the meeting whether to take action now or to defer consideration of action to the February 8 MPO meeting. On motion of David Williams, seconded by Russ Holland, the MPO unanimously voted to amend agenda item III.C to receive the report and Mr. Tobias' presentation and to consider action following the presentation.

C. Minutes of the October 12, 2006 MPO Meeting –

On motion by William Pantele, seconded by Russell Holland, the October 12, 2006 MPO meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

D. Open Public Comment Period –

There were no comments offered and Chairman Setliff closed the Public Comment Period.

E. MPO Chairman's Report –

Chairman Setliff reported that the MPO Regional Priority Transportation Projects selected at the October 12 MPO meeting were reported to the Commonwealth Transportation Board at its preallocation public meeting on October 24. He said he and Mr. Lysy attended the meeting and spoke with new VDOT Commissioner David Ekern and with Richmond District CTB member Gerald McCarthy. He said Mr. McCarthy is enthusiastic about the Regional Mass Transit Study and is eager to help with implementation once the study is complete. Chairman Setliff said there was a good crowd in attendance at the meeting and noted that Barbara Nelson and Lee Yolton also attended the CTB public meeting and staffed an information booth on the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.

F. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

Mr. Lysy had nothing to report and extended wishes for a happy holiday season to all.

II. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forward for consideration.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Item –

1. MPO Endorsement of Applications for FTA Section 5310 Funds -

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

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 and subject to any further action as may be required by the MPO's adopted Human Services Public Transportation Coordination Plan, which is currently under development.

B. Virginia Capital Trail Project –

Dan Lysy introduced James A. Carr, Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Virginia, and expressed pleasure for his being present to provide an update on the Virginia Capital Trail project. Secretary Carr thanked the MPO for the opportunity to provide an update on the project and noted that conceptually, the trail has existed since 1957 when consideration was being given to extending the Colonial Parkway from Williamsburg to Jamestown and it was suggested that the trail be continued all the way to Richmond along Route 5. Assistant Secretary Carr provided a PowerPoint presentation with the following slides:

- The Virginia Capital Trail (cover/title slide)
- Project History
- Project Objectives
- Project Corridor (description with photos)
- Virginia Capital Trail (map)
- The Project (cross section drawing of trail)
- The Project (photos)
- Project Advancement
- Greensprings Phase (includes map and photos)
- Chickahominy Riverfront Phase (includes map and photos)
- Sherwood Forest Phase (includes map and photo)

- Charles City Courthouse Phase (includes map and photos)
- New Market Heights Phase (includes map and photo)
- Four-Mile Creek Trailhead (includes map and diagram)
- Randolph Landing Phase (includes map, photo, and diagram)
- Richmond Riverfront Phase (rendering showing segments 1, 2, and 3)
- Richmond Riverfront – Section 3 (includes map and photos)
- Richmond Riverfront – Section 2 (includes map and rendering)
- Richmond Riverfront – Section 1 (includes map and diagram)
- Richmond Riverfront – Section 1 (continuation of previous slide with diagram and photos)
- Richmond Riverfront Phase (includes map and photos)
- Virginia Capital Trail Foundation
- Next Steps
- Advancement Timeline (includes news articles)
- The Virginia Capital Trail (closing slide)

Assistant Secretary Carr offered to take questions and there were none. Bill Pantele commented that the Virginia Capital Trail is rich in historic sites and the project blends historic preservation and economic development by providing authentic sites of interest which will attract millions of visitors to this area of the Commonwealth. Mr. Pantele commended the Commonwealth for its leadership on this project and the various jurisdictions, private parties, and all who have worked together to make this project happen. Chairman Setliff concurred and expressed appreciation to Assistant Secretary Carr for his update on the project.

C. Washington D.C. to Richmond Rail Corridor Third Track Study –

Alan Tobias from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation explained that he would provide the same presentation being made earlier today to the Commonwealth Transportation Board by VDRPT Director Matt Tucker. Mr. Tobias found Mr. Carr's presentation on the Virginia Capital Trail interesting saying that the timelines of the two projects roughly paralleled one another, but noting that the Trail project will be completed long before the third track from Washington, D.C. to Richmond is completed. Mr. Tobias gave his PowerPoint presentation which included the following slides:

- I-95 Rail Corridor Study Update (cover slide)
- I-95 Rail Corridor, Why is it Important?
- Background, I-95 Rail Corridor
- History of Passenger Rail Operations
- I-95 Rail Corridor Traffic Summary
- I-95 Rail Corridor, Previous Studies
- Washington, DC to Richmond Corridor
- Projects Funded Through VTA 2000

- Additional Funds for VTA 2000 Projects
- Importance of Completing VTA 2000 Projects
- 2006 General Assembly Report
- 2006 General Assembly Report Key Findings
- Current and Ongoing Challenges
- I-95 Rail Corridor, Future Strategic Approach
- DRPT (closing slide with DRPT contact information)

Chairman Setliff called for questions and none were voiced. He thanked Mr. Tobias for his presentation noting that the “third track” study is badly needed. Chairman Setliff directed MPO attention to the resolution under agenda package tab three, side two of the first page, which had been anticipated for MPO action at the February 8 meeting. He noted that since Mr. Tobias was able to provide the presentation today, he would entertain a motion for proposed MPO action. Discussion ensued and Russ Holland inquired why the presentation is limited to passenger rail service. Chairman Setliff noted that Mr. Tobias mentioned that even though CSX is not participating, they will be using the third rail and that the three rails will be for both passenger and freight service. Russ Holland offered a motion, seconded by David Williams, suggesting a change in the wording of the proposed motion in the agenda package in the fourth line following “Virginia General Assembly fully fund” inserting “construction of a third track and” to clarify that support for construction of the third track is intended by the MPO. Chairman Setliff called for comments and Faye Prichard noted that in Ashland the railroad is the center of economic development and that while Ashland supports the third track, they are always concerned about a rail bypass and the economic effect it would have on the Town. Chairman Setliff said his impression was that a bypass is not practical and Ms. Prichard concurred that it is not imminent. Mr. Holland’s original motion was construed as a motion to amend the motion proposed in the agenda package, which passed unanimously, and so a second motion was made to approve the motion in the agenda package as amended.

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

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) supports fast, reliable, and frequent passenger rail service in the Washington, D.C. to Main Street Station, Richmond, Virginia corridor, and to that end, the Virginia General Assembly fully fund construction of a third track and other corridor track improvements as recommended in the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Rail Corridor Third Track Study.

Chairman Setliff noted that the MPO's action would be submitted as a letter from him to Richmond area General Assembly members.

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

CTAC Chairman Bill Nelson noted the report under tab four of the agenda package on the November 28 CTAC meeting and reported that the primary topic of discussion at the meeting was the composition of the Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) Study Advisory Committee (SAC). He said CTAC adopted a resolution requesting that two additional members be added in addition to the four CTAC members from at-large member organizations. He offered to answer questions and none were voiced.

E. MPO Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) –

Dan Lysy noted that Lee Yolton, RMTS Project Manager, would provide a brief update on the study status and then the MPO would discuss the budget amendment and establishment of the study advisory committee. The video equipment malfunctioned briefly and while functionality was being restored, Chairman Setliff called on Bill Pantele to report on a development that the PDC had just acted on at the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Pantele reported as a matter of interest that the Planning District Commission in its meeting this afternoon unanimously, save one abstention, voted to execute a lease on new office space of the PDC and MPO in the Stony Point shopping center off of Huguenot Road behind the Ukrop's shopping center in what he described as a beautiful, first class office park which is served by public transportation. Mr. Pantele said PDC staff will be working out the office space layout plan and that it is anticipated to provide a superior meeting space with better acoustics as well as providing more work space for staff and on-site storage. Mr. Pantele reported the anticipated move date would be in late May or early June of 2007.

1. Study Status –

Mr. Yolton said he would provide an overview of the Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) and how work would proceed on the study before asking the MPO to consider action to allocate funds in the Unified Work Program (UWP) and to take action establishing a study advisory committee. Mr. Yolton provided a PowerPoint presentation with the following slides:

- Richmond Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) Overview/Status Report (cover slide)

- RMTS Overview
- RMTS Overview: Study Objectives
- RMTS Project Status
- Establish RMTS Study Advisory Committee (SAC)
- RMTS Overview: Meetings/Public Input
- RMTS Overview: Elements of Public Outreach

2. Proposed Unified Work Program (UWP) Budget Amendment –

Barb Smith inquired as to which UWP task would be reduced in order to fund the RMTS study budget increase and Mr. Lysy responded that there are \$98,589 in FY 06 FTA Section 5303 funds that were not spent. He said the FY 06 audit is complete and the MPO now has an exact figure on carryover funds that are now available for programming. He said staff is proposing that an additional \$55,000 be programmed for the study consultant; an additional \$10,000 for staff on study work activities; and the remaining \$33,589 be programmed under MPO Maintenance. Chairman Setliff passed out the Executive Committee report containing its recommendations voted on earlier in the day. Bill Pantele suggested that at certain appropriate stages in the study there be a series of public discussions about the process and solicitation of public comments from average citizens throughout the region to help involve more people and create more grass roots support for a sensible mass transit program. Mr. Lysy noted that there are two public input meetings programmed in the study, the first being just prior to the consultant developing preferred alternatives and the second being review of the final recommended plan with public comment on a recommended alternative. Mr. Pantele pointed out that the more public involvement you have, the more clarity you are likely to gain as to what the public needs and wants in public transportation, which also provides greater visibility for the study itself providing general awareness that may help with political decisions that may need to be made down the road. Russ Holland and Paul Fisher both noted that staff and the study advisory committee could accomplish public input activities and report results to the consultant. Felicia Woodruff noted that in preliminary discussion of how work on the study would flow, suggestions were made to expand the stakeholder list, link the study web site to localities' home pages on the internet, use local TV programs, expand the media list, and other activities that provide opportunities for greater visibility and participation.

3. Proposed RMTS Study Advisory Committee –

Chairman Setliff noted the Executive Committee report just distributed and Mr. Lysy reported that the Executive Committee took action to recommend amending the Unified Work Program as presented in the agenda package and also made a recommendation on establishment of

the RMTS Advisory Committee. Mr. Lysy referred the MPO to the resolution presented on page four of the cover memo under tab five in the agenda package noting the proposed change of wording in the resolution at the end of the last sentence to say “as reported by the Executive Committee” instead of “as recommended by the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission staff.” Russ Holland moved the resolution presented in the agenda package with the revised wording “as reported by the Executive Committee” and the motion was seconded by Vickey Badger. After an additional reading of the resolution for clarity, Chairman Setliff opened the floor for questions. Barbara Smith asked if the Executive Committee discussed the \$330,000 cost of the study for consultant services and expressed concern about selecting the VDRPT study consultant without a competitive bidding process, which might have yielded a lower study cost. She also expressed concern for what appeared to be a \$60,000 increase in cost for the addition of six meetings. Mr. Lysy responded that the Executive Committee had discussed the cost of the study and also the importance of this study to the region as one of our regional priority projects. He said the study will be useful in the future in planning for mass transit services and noted that VDOT provided \$125,000 extra in State Transportation Planning Grant Funds for the study and so the Executive Committee felt like the time was right to recommend the study for MPO approval. In addition, Mr. Lysy explained that RRPDC staff had originally budgeted \$275,000 for consultant services; however, the consultant’s initial proposal came in at \$302,000 which included some changes in scope including six study advisory committee meetings and two public review meetings, but no MPO meetings. Staff responded to this proposal that there needed to be at least three MPO meetings and also two joint meetings with CTAC and EDAC prior to study advisory committee meetings as well as other slight changes, which boosted the cost up to \$330,000. So, Mr. Lysy noted that the final cost was about \$30,000 over the consultant’s original proposal of \$302,000, which was \$25,000 over staff original study budget amount of \$275,000. Paul Fisher noted that he shared some of Ms. Smith’s concerns, but the start of the study is expedited by several months by using the VDRPT on-call consultant so that it may be completed sooner, a factor that is important to CTB member Gerald McCarthy and others.

There being no further questions, Chairman Setliff called the question and the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the FY 2007 Unified Work Program (UWP) to program \$98,589 in FY 2006 Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 carryover funds and to shift Federal Highway Administration PL

funds from UWP task 1.1, MPO Maintenance/Special Studies to UWP task 5.5, Regional Mass Transit Study as presented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO establishes the Regional Mass Transit Study Advisory Committee as reported by the MPO Executive Committee.

F. VDOT TIP Amendment Request; GRTC Bus Purchase with RSTP Bonus Funds –

Barbara Nelson explained that the MPO is requested to approve a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment request from VDOT for a GRTC bus purchase project with RSTP bonus funds. Ms. Nelson said the request was received in October and staff was unaware at that time of the redistribution of RSTP funds and therefore requested additional background information from both GRTC and VDOT as to what constitutes RSTP bonus redistribution funds and more information on the project. At its November meeting, TAC heard an explanation of the additional RSTP redistribution bonus funds which included the fact that if MPO did not provide approval for inclusion of the project in the TIP, the funds could be reallocated to another project, possibly outside the Richmond region. Therefore, TAC took action to recommend approval of the VDOT TIP amendment request with four comments provided for MPO consideration. Ms. Nelson reviewed TAC comments which were included in tab six of the agenda package on page two of the cover memo which expressed concern about the lack of consultation by VDOT with the MPO about the availability of funds for obligation; requested VDOT to provide an explanation of how bonus funds are obligated, why they were programmed as RSTP funds, and why the CTB has discretion to allocate these bonus RSTP funds to other MPOs; noted the importance for MPO action to amend the TIP as requested by VDOT due to time constraints and the risk of losing the bonus funds; and noting there is already a GRTC bus replacement project currently programmed in the TIP, which, in view of this amendment, should be reconsidered during the TIP update process. Ms. Nelson reported that staff supports the TAC recommendation, with comments, and further recommends that the MPO take separate action to request the MPO Chairman to send a letter to the Governor expressing the MPO's concern over the way the MPO was consulted and advised about the availability of these funds and that the Governor respond as to how such consultation should be handled in the future. Ms. Nelson noted the two resolutions on pages two and three of the cover memo under tab six of the agenda package.

Chairman Setliff called for questions and Mark Riblett offered comments on behalf of the VDOT Programming Division to help clarify some of TAC's concerns. Key points included that this project was identified as a potential recipient of redistribution of obligation authority made available to Virginia several months ago and though the redistribution funds were

not specifically RSTP or CMAQ, and because STP apportionment was not available, RSTP apportionment was proposed. Mr. Riblett also noted that if the MPO were to choose not to support this TIP amendment request, the VDOT Programming Division would need to find another project that would be available and that could be promptly advanced to utilize the additional obligation authority since there is a very quick turnaround process on the additional redistribution dollars. Mr. Riblett conveyed that there is a commitment from the Programming Division to engage all MPOs across the state prior to this process next year to make sure that these same kinds of concerns do not arise. He reiterated that the goal is to make sure that the redistribution of obligation authority is utilized on behalf of the Commonwealth. Mr. Lysy expressed appreciation to Mr. Riblett for some clarification on this issue, but said he still has questions about how the funds became RSTP funds noting that RSTP funds are usually formula basis funds.

Speaking to the process and not the particular issue at hand, Charles Rasnick, former VDOT Programming Director, explained that other states lose federal funds every year, though Virginia has never lost the use of federal funds. He said the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) provide VDOT an opportunity to obligate those funds, but he said you must show them what projects you plan to use them on and you don't have any time to decide. He said VDOT Programming must determine right then if they have the availability of projects in the right funding categories ready for obligation. Mr. Rasnick said he would view these funds as a bonus to the area. Ivan Rucker agreed that the funds are a bonus distribution, but noted that when the decision was made to label these monies as Regional STP funds (RSTP), VDOT should have had the understanding that there needed to be some type of coordination taking place between VDOT and the MPO. Mr. Rasnick suggested one thing the MPO could do in the future is set up the TIP so that there are several projects prioritized and ready to go should VDOT receive additional spending authority. Barbara Smith said that the state has promised before that they will coordinate with the MPO, noting a recent issue with CMAQ funds where the state apologized for not communicating with the MPO ahead of time. Ms. Smith further noted that it would have been easy for VDOT to call and look at projects on the books that have deficits or are under funded and would have been in line with VDOT's philosophy of paying off deficits and funding projects that are on the books first. Todd Eure noted that with the new competitive process being implemented in FY 08 for RSTP funds allocation, perhaps TAC can come up with an ongoing ranking system of projects that are ready to go for future opportunities.

Chairman Setliff called for a motion and George Homewood moved approval of both resolutions One and Two, which was seconded by Michael Holmes. On objection of Bill Pantele noting he was considering voting no to the second resolution because some resolution to TAC's

questions appears to have been identified, Mr. Homewood changed his motion to move approval of Resolution One and Mr. Holmes agreed to second the new motion. The MPO voted unanimously, with one abstention, to approve the following resolution:

Resolution One:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the *FY 2006 – 2008 Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) to add the project T4314 with an FY 06 obligation of \$5.3 million in RSTP federal and state matching funds for the purchase of GRTC buses.

George Homewood moved approval of Resolution Two and David Williams seconded the motion. Bill Pantele stated that from the earlier discussion he heard a solution in coming up with a ranking system and a policy of moving those projects along by communicating them to VDOT and said he'd rather not write the Governor a letter complaining about a defect in the process that we can fix ourselves. Mr. Williams noted that VDOT follow-through with advance communication has failed a couple of times and there's no assurance that even if the MPO goes through the project identification process that VDOT will communicate with the MPO on priorities. Mr. Pantele responded that if the MPO has prepared a plan anticipating some contingent funding and VDOT goes in a different direction, then that is a different matter and a different letter to the Governor. Discussion ensued as to the tone and content of the letter. After some clarification as to motion and second, the MPO voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

Resolution Two:

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) express in writing to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the MPO's concern over the way in which the MPO was consulted and advised about the availability of federal fiscal year 2006 bonus redistribution funds for use by the MPO as RSTP funds, and that the Governor respond as to how such consultations with the MPO are to take place in the future over federal bonus redistribution RSTP and CMAQ funds.

G. Proposed MPO Area Functional Classification –

Lee Yolton advised the MPO that every 10 years states are asked to update the functional classification system of roadways and that VDOT is in the process of doing that now. He said VDOT has reviewed roadway networks in each jurisdiction suggesting certain changes to the functional classification and TAC members have responded to VDOT's suggested changes with the result of about 85 percent of the local jurisdiction

comments provided through TAC being accepted by VDOT. Mr. Yolton said that VDOT and TAC members will need to reconcile the remaining differences so that everyone is comfortable with the new functional classification and he said that task will be taken care of at the TAC level with no action required by the MPO. Mr. Yolton noted the web site available on the FHWA web site (listed at the end of the second paragraph of the cover memo under tab 7) that would provide extensive information about functional classification. In response to a question, Mr. Lysy said that VDOT has a certain amount of roadways throughout the state that can be functionally classified at certain levels and that they have to look at all classifications in total before making decisions as to classifications for particular roads. Several questions were asked as to why reclassification of roads in rapid growth areas can't be done more frequently than 10 years and Mark Riblett noted that volume is not the only consideration in functional classification. Mr. Riblett said he would be happy to bring additional information on functional classification to TAC and the MPO.

H. SAFETEA-LU Compliant MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) –

In the interest of time, Lee Yolton gave a brief report on the need to revise the *2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)* and the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to make them compliant with SAFETEA-LU, the new transportation reauthorization legislation, by July 1, 2007. He said if they are not compliant by that date, then neither the LRTP nor the TIP can be amended to add or make changes to existing projects. Mr. Yolton reported that final federal guidelines are expected by the end of February and that staff plans to "patch" the current LRTP and add one year onto the end of the TIP making it a four-year horizon document in order that both documents may be SAFETEA-LU compliant by the July 1, 2007 deadline. In addition, Mr. Yolton explained that staff will begin work on the 2031 LRTP for completion by April 2008.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. 2007 RRPDC and MPO Meetings Schedule –

Mr. Lysy noted briefly that a copy of the 2007 RRPDC and MPO Meetings Schedule showing calendar year 2007 meeting dates was included with the agenda package. He also noted that Chairman Setliff mentioned the MPO will cancel the January MPO meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Setliff adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:40 p.m.