

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MEETING

February 2, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Malvern R. Butler, Chairman	County of Goochland
Jack E. Apostolides (Nonvoting)	VDRPT
Viktoria Badger (Alternate)	City of Richmond
Edward Barber	County of Chesterfield
Robert M. Berry	RMA
Rebecca Draper	County of Hanover
Ralph J. “Joe” Emerson	County of Henrico
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
Paul E. Fisher	RRPDC
Lawrence C. Hagin (Alternate).....	GRTC Transit System
Brooke D. Hardin (Alternate)	City of Richmond
Thomas A. Hawthorne	VDOT
Malcolm H. Hines (Nonvoting)	CTAC
Russell E. Holland	County of Powhatan
Michael Holmes	County of Charles City
George Homewood	County of New Kent
R. M. “Dickie” King	County of Chesterfield
Angela LaCombe	Town of Ashland
Sherman W. Litton.....	County of Chesterfield
Eugene A. Mason.....	City of Richmond
Patricia O’Bannon.....	County of Henrico
William Pantele.....	City of Richmond
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting)	FHWA
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate).....	County of Chesterfield
Frank Thornton	County of Henrico
Stran L. Trout.....	County of New Kent
Joseph E. Vidunas (Alternate)	County of Hanover
David T. Williams (Alternate)	County of Powhatan

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

Robert R. Setliff, Vice Chairman	County of Hanover
Jameson Auten (Nonvoting)	RideFinders
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting)	EDAC
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting)	VDA
John Gordon.....	County of Hanover
William Henley.....	City of Richmond
Patricia A. Kampf (Nonvoting).....	FTA
Joseph T. Lacy	County of Goochland

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

REPRESENTING

John M. Lewis.....GRTC Transit System
John McCrackenCounty of Chesterfield
Vanloan NguyenCity of Richmond
John Rutledge.....CRAC
Carson L. TuckerCounty of Powhatan

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Daniel N. Lysy, **Secretary** (Alternate)..... RRPDC
Travis Bridewell..... VDOT
William R. Britton (Alternate)..... County of Charles City
Robert Cosby Powhatan County
Mike Davis..... Ashland
Dave Dreis VDOT
Jim Dunn..... Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce
Liz McAdory..... VDOT
Ron Mustain..... VDOT
William C. Nelson, Jr. (Nonvoting Alternate)..... CTAC
Mark Riblett (Alternate) VDOT
Cherika Ruffin (Alternate)..... RideFinders
Ron Svejkovsky VDOT
Von S. Tisdale.....GRTC Transit System
Mike Clements RRPDC
Jin Lee..... RRPDC
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Patricia Villa RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman Malvern R. “Rudy” Butler called the February 2, 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).

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by MPO Secretary of Meeting Quorum –

Dan Lysy reported that a quorum was present.

B. Additions to MPO Agenda –

Angela LaCombe requested the addition of an agenda item, a request from the Town of Ashland for RSTP funds for the Hill Carter Parkway project

which was discussed at today's Executive Committee meeting. Ms. LaCombe asked if it could be added as the first item of business under New Business. In addition, Dan Lysy requested that Old Business Item II.A, Regional Mass Transit Study be revised to substitute the memo sent to the MPO on Monday, January 30, for amendment action as requested by VDOT. There were no objections to either change and the MPO agreed by consensus to amend the agenda and adjust the agenda order accordingly.

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

On motion by Pat O'Bannon, seconded by Ed Barber, 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 he and Paul Fisher attended the Regional Transportation Summit follow-up meeting that the Chamber held with Governor Baliles last Friday [January 27] and said he thought it was a very productive meeting. He said it appears that Governor Kaine and the Senate want to address transportation statewide and fix it for the future and that the House would prefer a band-aid approach noting that the Tidewater region and Northern Virginia voters indicated a preference for the state to address transportation problems rather than having purely regional solutions.

1. Introduction of New MPO Alternate Member –

Chairman Butler introduced and welcomed new MPO alternate member Brook Hardin representing the City of Richmond. Mr. Hardin thanked Chairman Butler and noted that a new Director of Community Development has been hired by the City and he is no longer working in the capacity of Interim Director for that department. Mr. Hardin said he looks forward to serving on the MPO.

2. Resolution of Appreciation –

Chairman Butler asked Von Tisdale, former RideFinders Executive Director and former MPO member, to come forward and he read aloud the resolution in appreciation for Ms. Tisdale (included in the agenda package) as follows:

WHEREAS, Von S. Tisdale has served with distinction as RideFinders representative to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) from August 2003 to November 2005; and

WHEREAS, Von S. Tisdale has been an active member of the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee, the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study Advisory Committee, and the Long-Range Transportation Plan Advisory Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Von S. Tisdale has distinguished herself as an outstanding member of the MPO through her active participation as a non-voting member and through her exemplary leadership as Chairman of the MPO's Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study Advisory Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby commend and express its sincere gratitude this second day of February, 2006 to Von S. Tisdale for her outstanding service as RideFinders' representative to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Applause followed and Ms. Tisdale said she was honored to have been entrusted to serve as a member of the MPO. On motion of Angela LaCombe, seconded by Pat O'Bannon, the MPO unanimously approved the resolution in appreciation of Ms. Tisdale.

3. Other Business –

Chairman Butler reported that the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and the Virginia Municipal League (VML) consider transportation to be a major issue this year and have a joint committee that meets each Thursday to discuss transportation. He said the committee has four Richmond region representatives, Bill Pantele from the City of Richmond, Dave Kaechele from Henrico County, Robert Setliff from Hanover County and himself from Goochland County. Chairman Butler reported that the committee has received reports on the Governor's plan and the Senate plan, but that the House has not yet presented a plan. He expressed concern about legislation that would effect land use and advised that it bears watching and he also suggested contacting House members to urge them to develop a transportation plan rather than relying on surplus funds each year to meet Virginia's transportation funding needs.

F. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

Transportation Director Dan Lysy had nothing to report.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. MPO Regional Mass Transit Study –

Dan Lysy reported that the MPO Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS), which the MPO added as a regional priority project in October, was originally on this month's agenda as a status report item since staff had not yet received PL and RSTP funding information from VDOT. Staff presented a work scope to the MPO in December and the MPO expressed concern at that time about how the study might be funded. On Friday, January 27, staff received funding information from VDOT that indicated enough MPO planning funds would be available to provide for staff support in FY 07 (should not need RRPDC overmatch/local funds to support MPO staff) and provide \$150,000 for consultant work on the study. Therefore, staff is recommending this item for MPO action today. The Technical Advisory Committee met yesterday and took unanimous action to recommend adding the RMTS to the FY 06 UWP to the MPO. Mr. Lysy explained that what the MPO has before it is a request to amend the current work program to add this Regional Mass Transit Study as presented. Mr. Lysy noted two minor corrections on the handout and offered to answer questions. Chairman Butler inquired if this money is coming out of the agency planning (PL) funds and Mr. Lysy confirmed that a significant part is coming from PL funds, but noted that the state has also committed \$125,000 in State Transportation Planning Grant funds, so the consultant side of the study would be budgeted at \$150,000 in PL and \$125,000 in State Transportation Planning Grant (STPG) funds for a total consultant effort of \$275,000. He said that additional agency PL funds would be used primarily for contract administration and oversight and for such informational assistance as the consultants may require. Chairman Butler asked Mr. Lysy if use of these funds would effect any other project and Mr. Lysy responded that it would not. Mr. Lysy did clarify that there may be a need for use of some small amount of RSTP funds for consultant work to address considerations under SAFETEA-LU, but those funds would be minimal. Chairman Butler noted that the MPO would have a right to vote on the use of any MPO funds at the appropriate time.

Russell Holland inquired as to how far into the future the study would project and Mr. Lysy responded that the work scope asks that three ranges be addressed, short-term, mid-term about 10 to 20 years, and long-term, about 20 years and beyond. Chairman Butler recognized Jim Dunn, President of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, who expressed appreciation for the work that the MPO and staff have done since October. Mr. Dunn noted that there is a call at the General Assembly for funds for public transit and rail-related needs and he said he believes it is appropriate to get this study underway in order to be able to capture some of the new funds that might become available. Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Dunn for his comments. There was no further discussion and on

motion of Ed Barber, seconded by Russell Holland, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the FY 06 Unified Work Program (UWP) to add task 5.5, Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) as presented and corrected.

B. Public Transportation for the Elderly, Disabled and Low-Income; Phase I – Needs Assessment Report –

Mike Clements noted that the bulb on the projector burned out earlier in the meeting and he requested that handouts of his PowerPoint presentation slides be distributed. Mr. Clements noted that the needs assessment report for public transportation disadvantaged was presented at the December MPO meeting and the MPO requested that staff take a second look at a couple of items and update the report based on the findings. Mr. Clements said he would not review the entire report today, but simply provide an update on the changes. Mr. Clements' report addressed the following points through copies of his PowerPoint presentation slides:

- Public Transportation for the Elderly, Disabled, and Low-Income Phase I: Needs Assessment Report (title page with photos)
- Purpose:
- Definitions: (circle graph)
- Updates, Comments from December MPO Meeting:
- Consistent Population Data (chart)
- Disadvantaged Combinations (circle graph)
- Additional Transportation Providers – Bay Transit
- Additional Transportation Providers – Goochland Fellowship and Family Services
- Transportation Provider Updates – Disadvantaged Transportation Services by Providers (chart)
- Transportation Provider Updates – Disadvantaged Transportation Services to Local Jurisdictions by Providers (chart)
- Findings Update – Summary of Available Access to Transportation for Disadvantaged Persons (chart)
- Findings Update – Summary of Access Limitations to Transportation for Disadvantaged Persons (chart)
- Findings Update – Findings (two slides)
- Next Step; Phase II – Recommendations and Strategies

During and following the presentation, Mr. Clements answered questions and the following points were addressed:

- Ashland demographic data is included in the Hanover County data because that is how the data, mainly census data, was available.
- VanGo is included in the report as a provider for Chesterfield County for the county's Access Chesterfield program, but VanGo is not included as a provider for the region because it is a private provider more like a taxi service and it's private service is not subsidized, while its Access Chesterfield service is operated under contract to Chesterfield County.
- E-mails and letters requesting information about transportation services provided were sent to numerous human service providers in the region and the major providers responded with information. Of those responding, most did not provide information quantifying unmet need, though some noted they could provide more service with more volunteers.
- The *RRPDC Transportation Operators Inventory* includes service information about private social service agency operators, taxi cabs, and other transportation providers. The survey response rate for this Inventory was about 18 percent. This Inventory served as a starting point for reaching transportation providers for the Needs Assessment Study.
- The Phase I Report only addresses current services and current needs; Phase II will address ways to meet those needs and to overcome some of the limitations. Phase II is where the smaller providers will be most helpful in trying to develop a coordinated transportation service system.
- Phase II of this report dovetails with the new SAFETEA-LU requirement to develop a regional human services agencies public transportation coordination plan, something staff will be working to develop over the next six to eight months.
- Quantifying the unmet need for public transportation services for transportation disadvantaged groups is difficult and will need to be addressed in the future.

On motion of Ed Barber, seconded by Pat O'Bannon, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) accepts the *Public Transportation for the Elderly, Disabled, and Low-Income: Phase I – Needs Assessment Report* as presented.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Town of Ashland RSTP Funding Request for Hill Carter Parkway –

Angela LaCombe related a critical need that has arisen for the Town of Ashland in the last month regarding funding for the Hill Carter Parkway project. She said Ashland began saving RSTP funds 13 years ago for this project, has completed utility relocation, right-of-way acquisition, all the engineering, and has bid the project four times finally receiving a quality bid that expires in March. Ms. LaCombe said Ashland had 70 percent of the funding in hand, all that was previously required by VDOT. In December, VDOT advised the Town that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) would no longer consider projects with less than 100 per funding. Due to changes in the MPO's RSTP project review and selection process, FY 08 funds have not yet been allocated and therefore the Town is left with a need to demonstrate to the CTB they have the remaining funds available to the project before the bid expires in March. Ms. LaCombe distributed a letter from Ashland Director of Public Works Mike Davis to Dan Lysy requesting MPO action to preallocate FY 08 RSTP funds to the Town of Ashland. However, in the past couple of days, Ms. LaCombe said that staff has been informed by VDOT that the actual FY 07 regional allocation will be \$1.3 million more than originally projected and noted that the extra funds were not yet allocated. She requested that the MPO consider allocating \$887,000 from this additional \$1.3 million to the Town of Ashland in lieu of allocating any funds to the Town in FY 08.

Discussion ensued with questions clarifying the request. Ms. LaCombe noted that Hill Carter Parkway is a very important road to Ashland that would connect to the portion Wal-Mart built connecting the Town's nicest industrial park to I-95, which would enhance economic opportunities in the Town and enhance traffic flow with important safety improvements. Several suggestions were offered but none that could be executed in the short time-frame the Town faces. Chairman Butler noted that the Rt. 250 project in Goochland County is still about \$1.5 million short and said he hopes that the allocation this year will cover the remaining cost of the project and admonished VDOT to provide state funds to assist completion of the Rt. 150 project. Tom Hawthorne noted that funding for the Goochland Rt. 250 project is included in the Six Year Plan. On motion of Bill Pantele, seconded by Ed Barber, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) allocates \$887,000 off the top of its Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 allocation of additional Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for the Town of Ashland Hill Carter Parkway Project (VDOT UPC# 14651) for a revised FY 07 allocation of \$1,672,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Ashland agrees not to submit any requests for Fiscal Year 2008 RSTP funded projects.

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

Dan Lysy noted that EDAC Chairman Linda Broady-Myers is in surgery at this time and noted the report in the agenda package.

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

CTAC Chairman Mac Hines reported that at the January 26 CTAC meeting Ivan Rucker provided a report on SAFETEA-LU similar to that provided the MPO in December. He said CTAC also saw the balance of a presentation on the Siemens maglev train system that was deferred from the November meeting. Mr. Hines reported on CTAC's action that would have CTAC meet in February with a General Assembly member or their staff invited to update CTAC on what was taking place with respect to transportation in the General Assembly. Mr. Hines noted staff's recommendation against trying to get a General Assembly representative to address CTAC during this very busy time. Mr. Hines reported there was a split vote on this matter and said he seeks MPO response as to whether to pursue this matter. Chairman Butler noted discussion of this matter at the Executive Committee meeting earlier and said that it would be extremely tough to even get a legislative aide to a CTAC meeting to talk about highway funding while they're in session and he advised that the MPO wouldn't support that effort at this time. Mr. Hines thanked Chairman Butler saying he would cancel the February CTAC meeting. He noted that CTAC may follow another course of action suggested at the meeting to have representatives from the House and/or Senate visit this spring after the General Assembly has adjourned to relate what was accomplished and what is being proposed for the next session, with follow-up in the fall. Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Hines for his report.

D. Interstate Bicycle Routes 1 and 76 Proposed Realignments –

Barbara Nelson provided a progress report on staff efforts to meet with Bud Vye, CTAC and RABA member, to evaluate alignment concerns of Interstate Bike Routes 1 and 76 in the region. Ms. Nelson said AASHTO acted in May 2005 to approve the changes recommended for the City of Richmond, but due to changes at VDOT, RRPDC staff was not made aware of AASHTO's approval of the City's request until December 2005. Ms. Nelson reported that Chesterfield County reviewed and considered the recommended alignment changes within their jurisdiction and passed a resolution recommending the changes at a Board of Supervisors meeting in January. She said the Henrico County Board of Supervisors is set to

meet to consider a similar resolution on February 13 and both the Chesterfield and Henrico resolutions will be forwarded to VDOT for preparation of an application to AASHTO for consideration in March requesting that the changes be finalized and approved. In response to a question about mapping the changes, Ms. Nelson noted that staff is working through VDOT with Venture Cycling who does the national maps. Ms. Nelson responded to additional questions about safety improvements for bicyclers on the roads along the new routes saying that the *Richmond Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* spells out a number of changes and improvements for cyclist safety.

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

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) supports the realignment of U.S. Bicycle Routes 1 and 76 in the Richmond area as presented.

E. Changes in Regional Traffic Patterns Following Completion of Route 288 –

Chairman Butler announced that since the projector is required for the last two agenda items (items III-E. and III-F.) and since the bulb popped during the meeting, consideration of these agenda items will be deferred until the next MPO meeting.

F. Development of Potential Traffic Operations and Safety Projects on the Primary System –

See Item III-E. above.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Butler reported that Senator Watkins requested MPO adoption of either the Senate transportation plan or the Governor's transportation plan, preferably the Senate plan. However, after Executive Committee discussion of this request, Chairman Butler said the MPO doesn't have the information needed to adequately consider either plan at this time.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Butler adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:40 p.m.