

**RICHMOND AREA**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**November 8, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

R. M. “Dickie” King, **Chairman**.....County of Chesterfield  
Daniel N. Lysy, **Secretary** (Alternate)..... RRPDC  
Malvern R. Butler .....County of Goochland  
Gary A. DuVal (Alternate) .....City of Richmond  
E. Todd Eure ..... County of Henrico  
Lawrence C. Hagin (Alternate).....GRTC Transit System  
Michael Holmes ..... County of Charles City  
George Homewood ..... County of New Kent  
Robert P. Morris (Nonvoting).....CTAC  
Patricia O’Bannon..... County of Henrico  
Mark E. Riblett (Alternate)..... VDOT  
Ellen F. Robertson .....City of Richmond  
Robert R. Setliff .....County of Hanover  
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate).....County of Chesterfield  
Donald D. Sowder.....County of Chesterfield  
Frank Thornton ..... County of Henrico  
Stran L. Trout..... County of New Kent  
Joseph E. Vidunas.....County of Hanover

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**REPRESENTING**

William Pantele, **Vice Chairman**.....City of Richmond  
Jameson T. Auten (Nonvoting)..... RideFinders  
Viktoria W. Badger .....City of Richmond  
Charles Badger (Nonvoting)..... VDRPT  
Robert M. Berry ..... RMA  
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting) .....EDAC  
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting) ..... VDA  
Tony Cho (Nonvoting)..... FTA  
Ralph J. “Joe” Emerson ..... County of Henrico  
John Gordon.....County of Hanover  
Thomas A. Hawthorne ..... VDOT  
Russell E. Holland .....County of Powhatan  
Joseph T. Lacy .....County of Goochland  
John M. Lewis.....GRTC Transit System  
Sherman W. Litton.....County of Chesterfield  
John McCracken .....County of Chesterfield  
Faye O. Prichard .....Town of Ashland

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)**

**REPRESENTING**

Charles H. Rasnick (Nonvoting)..... Citizen Appointee  
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting) .....FHWA  
John Rutledge.....CRAC  
David T. Williams.....County of Powhatan

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Susan Anderson ..... VDRPT  
Tom Flynn.....City of Richmond  
Meredith Judy ..... VDRPT  
Liz McAdory..... VDOT  
Marty Moynihan ..... Port of Richmond  
Sam Snyder ..... Commissioner, RRPDC  
Stephen Story ..... James River Bus Lines  
Allyson Finchum..... RRPDC  
Jin Lee..... RRPDC  
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC  
Archita Rajbhandary ..... RRPDC  
Sharon Robeson ..... RRPDC  
Sarah Smith..... RRPDC  
Lee Yolton ..... RRPDC

**CALL TO ORDER**

MPO Chairman R. M. “Dickie” King, Jr. called the November 8, 2007 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 offices.

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Certification by MPO Secretary of Meeting Quorum –**

Dan Lysy reported that a quorum was present.

**B. Additions to MPO Agenda –**

There were no requests for additions or other changes to the agenda.

**C. Minutes of the August 9, 2007 MPO Meeting –**

On motion of Rudy Butler, seconded by Donald Sowder, the MPO unanimously approved the minutes of the September 27, 2007 meeting as presented.

**D. Open Public Comment Period –**

There were no requests to address the MPO and Chairman King closed the open public comment period of the meeting.

**E. MPO Chairman's Report –**

Chairman King cancelled the December 13 MPO meeting due to lack of pressing MPO business and in light of the need for a lengthy December PDC meeting.

Chairman King noted that in 2008 several members will not be returning and there will be several new members on the MPO Board including his position as MPO Chairman. He said he has appointed Rudy Butler, Stran Trout, and John Gordon to serve on the nominating committee to provide a nomination for chairman at the next MPO meeting.

Chairman King reported that he is hopeful the MPO, the PDC, and the whole organization will benefit as a result of decisions made at today's PDC meeting.

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

**1. 2031 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Status Report –**

Dan Lysy noted the brief report in the agenda package on the status of work on the Long-Range Transportation Plan which demonstrates progress and he noted that the Socioeconomic Data Report will be considered later in today's agenda, one month ahead of schedule. Mr. Lysy reported the first Long-Range Transportation Plan Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, at 1:00 p.m. and the agenda has been sent out.

**2. 2031 LRTP Public Comment Meeting –**

Mr. Lysy reported that a public comment meeting for the 2031 LRTP is scheduled for Saturday, November 17 in the PDC offices and that great effort has been expended making people aware of the meeting and inviting the public to attend with notices mailed and e-mailed to numerous interested parties, a news release distributed to the media, and ads placed in regional and many local papers.

**3. Regional Mass Transit Study Public Meeting –**

Mr. Lysy encouraged attendance at the Regional Mass Transit Study public meeting being held this evening at the Children's Museum from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. with a formal presentation being made at 7:00 p.m.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

### A. **Socioeconomic Data Report –**

Dan Lysy noted that the Socioeconomic Data Report was included as an enclosure with the agenda package and referenced information also included under tab three of the agenda package. Mr. Lysy reviewed the MPO's direction from its August 9 meeting where staff was directed to develop revised 2031 population and population-based forecasts using more recent VEC forecasts. He noted the chart under tab three which shows the differences in population forecasts by jurisdiction, which he said are substantial for some of the smaller localities varying from a 12 percent to a 31 percent increase, while the larger jurisdiction populations did not vary so significantly. He said he believes this was a worthwhile exercise and expressed thanks to RRPDC staff Sarah Smith who took the lead in preparing the data and working with the localities and also to project manager Allyson Finchum for her efforts in seeing that the report was completed early.

George Homewood moved approval of the Socioeconomic Data Report as presented and Joseph Vidunas seconded the motion. Chairman King called for discussion and several points were clarified by questions and answer as follows:

- The population numbers in the Socioeconomic Data Report are lower than the numbers in the new Hanover County Comprehensive Plan; however, the Socioeconomic Data Report is based on and constrained by the numbers received from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) as required by the state and as adjusted in accordance with VDOT's policy of allowing up to an additional ten percent increase in the population numbers.
- Forecasts for automobiles per person are based on population using a factor to increase the number in proportion to the growth and population as provided by the census and using VEC population forecasts.

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approves the *Socioeconomic Data Report; 2000 and 2031* as presented and authorizes the use of data and forecasts provided in the report for MPO plans, studies, reports, and programs.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Consent Action Item –**

##### 1. Authorization for Staff Travel, TRB Annual Conference –

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Robert R. Setliff, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorizes up to two Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) staff to attend the Annual Transportation Research Board Conference in Washington, D.C., January 13-17, 2008.

#### **B. MPO Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) Meetings Report –**

In the absence of EDAC Chairman Linda Broady-Myers, Dan Lysy provided a brief report of the October 24 EDAC meeting. Main agenda items included a presentation by Larry Hagin on GRTC Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) findings, which will be reported to the MPO at a future meeting, and the Human Services Public Transportation Coordination Plan (HSPTCP), a new SAFETEA-LU requirement. Work on the HSPTCP is led by study consultants under contract to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) and the study area includes the Crater Planning District Commission and the Tri-Cities MPO. A workshop is set for December 5 at the RRPDC offices with various social service agencies to review an analysis of strategies and gaps in services and to consider recommendations for inclusion in the plan. Chairman Broady-Myers mentioned that she and other members of the elderly and disabled community are working hard to be sure that the new expanded CARE service becomes an ongoing budget item for the City of Richmond.

Pat O'Bannon noted the CARE complaints report included in the agenda package and inquired if that was an unusual number of complaints. Mr. Lysy responded that the complaints numbers fluctuate and noted that CARE has been going through some transition in scheduling software and also staff changes. He said he believes the complaint numbers may be a little higher than usual, but noted that their ridership has increased significantly also. In response to a question, Mr. Lysy said that CARE service was provided by Laidlaw Transit and Larry Hagin reported that Laidlaw was bought out and is now First Transit, which is among the largest providers in the transit industry.

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

CTAC Chairman Robert Morris reported briefly on the October 23 CTAC meeting noting CTAC received three very informative presentations and had many questions regarding the presentations; he noted the full CTAC meeting report under tab six of the agenda package. Mr. Morris said one of the presentations, the Maritime Highway Presentation, is on today's MPO agenda. He said CTAC is not scheduled to meet in November. Chairman King thanked Mr. Morris for his report.

**D. Maritime Highway Presentation –**

Martin "Marty" J. Moynihan, Executive Director of the Port of Richmond, introduced himself and said the Port of Richmond is owned by the City of Richmond, but is run as an independent enterprise agency receiving international and domestic maritime rail and truck cargo at the Port facility along the James River. Mr. Moynihan said he will speak today about a freight transportation initiative that has significant economic and environmental impact not only in this MPO region, but also in the Hampton Roads and Crater MPO regions as well. This initiative will provide for a more economical and efficient means for movement of freight and how it can alleviate some of the problems we have on our highways. He said this proposal is a marine highway initiative, the James River Barge Line. Mr. Moynihan used the following slides in his PowerPoint presentation:

- James River Barge Line (cover slide with photo)
- James River Barge Line
- Why barge?
- Port Growth
- Congestion Release Valve (with photo)
- The Market – 30 mile radius from the Port of Richmond (photo)
- VIP Model (with map and photo)
- Hampton Roads Traffic Congestion
- Estimated Costs of Traffic Congestion in Hampton Roads (bar graph)
- Severely Congested Lane Miles (bar graph)
- Congestion Causes Negative Environmental Impact (photo)
- Fuel Usage Per Ton-Mile (bar graph)
- Pounds of Emissions Per Ton-Mile (chart with photos)
- Current Trucking Industry (photo)
- Trucking Rates (photo)
- Barge Line Costs (photo)
- Rate of \$400 per box; Income vs. Expenses (graph)
- 2007 Barge Versus Truck Costs; 600 TEU Barge (graph)
- Annual Volume Projections

- James River Barge Line (photo)
- Questions? (photo)

[Please note the first meeting tape ended toward the end of Mr. Moynihan's presentation and the second tape did not record. Therefore, there is no taped record of the remainder of Mr. Moynihan's presentation, the ensuing questions, answers, and discussion, and closing remarks at the end of the meeting. The remainder of these minutes is prepared from staff notes.]

Following his presentation, Mr. Moynihan offered to answer questions and discussion ensued. The following major points were brought forward during discussion:

- Right now, it takes three to five days to get cargo off the dock in Hampton Roads and trucks cannot accomplish this any faster than a barge could.
- Moving freight from the Port of Richmond as opposed to trucking freight on I-64 or Route 460 may create congestion along local and regional/interstate roads and would require evaluation and possibly scheduling adjustments that would utilize non-peak hours in order to avoid capacity constraints.
- A congestion issue is having large tractor trailers hauling only half-loads or smaller to delivery destination rather than breaking down loads at the Port of Richmond into smaller loads according to destination and delivering to regional distributions centers with a fleet of smaller, clean-fuel trucks.
- Security is an area of major emphasis and ships are boarded at sea before they arrive in Hampton Roads, the containers are scanned in Hampton Roads and can be scanned again at the Port of Richmond.
- The start-up cost could be as much as \$1 million a year for two to three years depending on constraints of the grant, the number of containers/customers at start-up, the rate of business growth, and other variables.
- The Virginia Port Authority does not own barges.
- Initial funding could amount to a subsidy depending on how the business plan is structured. Should the marine highway project be eligible for CMAQ funds, then those funds may be available for up to a three-year period.
- The metropolitan Richmond area is currently designated an air quality maintenance area and the Metropolitan Richmond Air Quality Committee (MRAQC) has developed a contingency plan to look at ethanol and other measures to reduce emissions. Development of a marine highway merits consideration as an emissions control measure to prevent our region from again being designated a non-attainment area subject to tougher regulation.

- U.S. Maritime Administrator Sean Connaughton met with Barb Nelson at an AMPO meeting in October and discussed marine highway opportunities. A U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) team from Washington, D.C. will meet soon with Port of Richmond and other officials to discuss the marine highway proposal in light of federal pilot money that may be available for new projects. Richmond is one of two locations being given serious consideration for this pilot program by MARAD.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman King expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as MPO Chairman and thanked the MPO for their support during his term of office. He noted this is his last MPO meeting as mentioned earlier in the meeting. Mr. King said he believes recent meetings of the RRPDC large and small jurisdiction committees have been productive and that a new direction for the RRPDC has been established that will embrace regional cooperation.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman King adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:10 p.m.