

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 27, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

R. M. "Dickie" King, Chairman	County of Chesterfield
Daniel N. Lysy, Secretary (Alternate).....	RRPDC
Jameson T. Auten (Nonvoting).....	RideFinders
Viktoria W. Badger.....	City of Richmond
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting).....	EDAC
Malvern R. Butler.....	County of Goochland
Ralph J. "Joe" Emerson.....	County of Henrico
E. Todd Eure.....	County of Henrico
J. Michael Flagg (Alternate).....	County of Hanover
Michael Holmes.....	County of Charles City
George Homewood.....	County of New Kent
Sherman W. Litton.....	County of Chesterfield
Patricia O'Bannon.....	County of Henrico
Mark E. Riblett (Alternate).....	VDOT
Ellen F. Robertson.....	City of Richmond
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
David T. Williams.....	County of Powhatan

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

William Pantele, Vice Chairman	City of Richmond
Charles Badger (Nonvoting).....	VDRPT
Robert M. Berry.....	RMA
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting).....	VDA
Tony Cho (Nonvoting).....	FTA
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
John McCracken.....	County of Chesterfield
Robert P. Morris (Nonvoting Alternate).....	CTAC
Faye O. Prichard.....	Town of Ashland

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

REPRESENTING

Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting) FHWA
John Rutledge.....CRAC
Robert R. SetliffCounty of Hanover

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

John Amos (RRPDC Legal Counsel) Amos & Amos
David Anspacher..... VHB
Scott ClarkGRTC Transit System
Jim Dunn..... Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce
Liz McAdory..... VDOT
Gerald McCarthyCommonwealth Transportation Board
Cassandra Peters Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce
Jeremy Raw..... VDOT
Steven Rich..... Van Go
Alan Tobias.....HNTB
Rob Banta..... RRPDC
Anne Darby..... RRPDC
Allyson Finchum..... RRPDC
Jin Lee..... RRPDC
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC
Archita Rajbhandary RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Sarah Smith..... RRPDC
Patricia Villa RRPDC
Lee Yolton RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman R. M. “Dickie” King, Jr. called the September 27, 2007 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 1:05 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 –

Mr. Lysy reported a request from VDOT to add an item to the agenda for MPO consideration, VDOT TIP Amendment Request for Pedestrian

Refuge and Signal Modification at Fairfield Way and Mechanicsville Turnpike. Mr. Lysy said this project was intended to be included in the projects being considered under agenda item III.E and asked that this item be considered as item III.F.; the original agenda item III.F would be renumbered as item III.G. On motion of Rudy Butler, seconded by Vickey Badger, the MPO voted unanimously to amend the agenda as requested.

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

On motion of Rudy Butler, seconded by Michael Holmes, the MPO voted to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2007 MPO meeting with all voting in favor except David Williams voting no.

Dan Lysy requested that RRPDC Legal Counsel John Amos report on how votes of abstention should be interpreted versus how they have been interpreted by the MPO in the past. Mr. Amos, speaking in the context of the vote taken at the August 9 MPO meeting regarding Powhatan County's request for expansion of their MPO study area, noted that Henrico County voted against that expansion request. He said he has outlined in a letter to Mr. Lysy what the next steps are should the process with Powhatan's request continue. Mr. Amos said that if VDOT moves the request for expansion of the Powhatan MPO study area forward, then that matter will come back to the MPO for a vote since the MPO must concur with the expansion. Mr. Amos explained that federal regulations that went into effect last March require a supermajority vote of approval by the MPO, in other words a favorable vote by 75 percent of the affected population in the MPO. Federal regulations also require that such a favorable vote must include the region's largest incorporated city (i.e., central city), in this case the City of Richmond. Mr. Amos noted that there had been an abstention by Hanover County when voting on the expansion request and there was a question about how to count abstentions in the vote. Mr. Amos stated that an abstention cannot be counted as it is neither a vote for or against the matter at hand. Mr. Lysy noted that in the past, the MPO has considered an abstention to mean to go along with the majority vote and he said that in the future, abstentions will be counted neither for nor against and he apologized for incorrect interpretations of past abstention votes.

Mr. Amos continued saying, in the context of the MPO vote on Powhatan's expansion, if any of the larger jurisdictions vote no, the resolution dies because there will not be a 75 percent affirmative vote. In answering questions, Mr. Amos clarified that the 75 percent affirmative vote refers to the total affected population, in other words the current total MPO study area population, and that there must be an affirmative vote from the City of Richmond. Mr. Amos noted the possibility that, with all

voting affirmatively, it would be possible that one of the smaller jurisdictions could vote against and still have the resolution pass, but said an almost a unanimous decision is required because if any of the larger jurisdictions vote against it, the request will fail. Chairman King thanked Mr. Amos for his counsel on this matter.

Just prior to the Open Public Comment Period of the meeting, Chairman King recognized Pat O'Bannon who wished to make a statement.

D. Open Public Comment Period –

Chairman King opened the Public Comment Period of the meeting. Pat O'Bannon requested to address an issue that had just come up and said she has a comment that is very, very important. John Amos called a point of order saying that Ms. O'Bannon is not speaking as a member of the public, but rather as a representative of her county. Chairman King granted Ms. O'Bannon an opportunity to speak under his prerogative as chairman and said he would return to the Open Public Comment Period of the meeting following her comment.

Ms. O'Bannon said she was going to make a comment concerning Russ Holland and requested that since Mr. Holland is not present at the meeting, he be sent the audio tapes of the meeting so he can listen to her comments and she said she would try to speak into the microphone. Ms. O'Bannon noted that at the last MPO meeting there was a tremendous amount of discussion about Powhatan's request to extend the MPO study area in their county. Ms. O'Bannon said that at that time she made several strong arguments as to why the MPO should not approve this request. She said Mr. Holland was able to convince the rest of the MPO to vote favorably on Powhatan's request and she said that was fine. Ms. O'Bannon said that on Friday [the day after the August 9 MPO meeting] she happened to meet Mr. Holland in the hall around 1:00 p.m. while attending a Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) meeting and she talked with him briefly again pressing the case that she thought expansion of the MPO study area at this time was a bad idea. Ms. O'Bannon said her concern is that on Saturday morning at 10:15 a.m. [two days after the August 9 MPO meeting], Mr. Holland's personal attorney, Patrick McSweeney called her at home, apparently on Mr. Holland's instruction. She said after about five minutes of listening to Mr. McSweeney saying she was spreading rumors about his client and was spreading lies to other people, which Ms. O'Bannon said she had not done, she told Mr. McSweeney to stop talking and she would not listen to any more of this intimidating language from him. She said she went on to tell Mr. McSweeney that she would not take this from him on behalf of his client or from anyone and said she had good reasons to make her arguments. Ms. O'Bannon said that after about an hour of very calm, cogent discussion by her to Mr. McSweeney, who she

said interrupted her on many occasions, she said Mr. McSweeney said he would call Mr. Holland and talk to him. Ms. O'Bannon noted that since Mr. McSweeney was apparently making this call for his client, she assumed he was taping the conversation and she felt the conversation on that tape could be made available to the MPO. Ms. O'Bannon said on Sunday afternoon, she chose to call Mr. Holland and told him that she did not appreciate him having his personal attorney call her to harass her on Saturday morning about an issue that was in front of a public body and in which she was doing her duty as a Henrico County Supervisor. Ms. O'Bannon stated that she was not doing anything personal against Mr. Holland. Ms. O'Bannon said she wants this body [the MPO] to know that she is not intimidated by Mr. Holland's attorney or Mr. Holland's actions in this matter. She said she was trying to do her job as a member of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors and that she would continue to do her job to the best of her ability. Ms. O'Bannon said she hopes that Mr. Holland will take this to heart. She said he may wish to respond and she hopes he will listen to this [meeting tapes] and will respond to this organization saying she believes the MPO needs to hear what Mr. Holland has to say about this matter. Ms. O'Bannon thanked the MPO for listening. Chairman King said Ms. O'Bannon's comments would be duly noted.

Mr. King opened the public comment period of the meeting and there were no requests to address the MPO. Chairman King closed the public comment period.

E. MPO Chairman's Report –

1. Reappointment of H. Charles Rasnick as MPO Chairman's Citizen Appointee –

Chairman King announced that he appointed H. Charles Rasnick to serve another year as the MPO Chairman's Citizen Appointee and that Mr. Rasnick had agreed to serve.

2. Other Business –

Chairman King encouraged attendance at the upcoming RRPDC Open House, for which he said Mr. Lysy would provide additional details in his report.

Chairman King commented that for the sake of brevity, he would hope that today's meeting would not be as long as the last (August 9, 2007) meeting had been.

Chairman King recognized and welcomed distinguished guests Gerald McCarthy, Richmond District Member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and Jim Dunn, President of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

F. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

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

Dan Lysy noted that as follow-up to a request at the last MPO meeting, included in the agenda package is a brief status report on work underway on our Long-Range Transportation Plan and he called on Barbara Nelson to announce the upcoming public meeting on the plan. Ms. Nelson said there will be an opportunity for public comment on the regional transportation vision prior to development of the 2031 Long-Range Transportation Plan at a public meeting planned for November 17 at the Planning District Commission offices. She noted this meeting is part of a bigger program of annual public review meetings that will begin with the CTB preallocation public meeting on October 16. She said she is working with RRPDC Communications Coordinator and Legislative Liaison staff to coordinate ads in local as well as regional newspapers, listings in community calendars, news releases, and other efforts to seek and provide opportunities for public comment. In response to questions from Linda Broady-Myers, Ms. Nelson said the November 17 public meeting would be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and agreed to include the Virginia Voice in the notification so that the blind community can hear the notification.

2. Other Business –

Dan Lysy reported that the RRPDC Open House will be held on Wednesday, October 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lots of food and an opportunity to tour the new office facilities.

Mr. Lysy introduced and welcomed two new interns recently hired to work in transportation planning assisting with the long-range plan and other work tasks. He said Anne Darby is a graduate student in the planning program at VCU and Rob Banta is a graduate student in a joint program under the VCU planning department and the University of Richmond law school.

II. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forward for consideration.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Item –

1. FY 08 UWP Amendments; Tasks 1.1, 2.1, and 5.5 –

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

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) amends the *FY 2008 Unified Work Program* (UWP) to program \$147,641 in FY 2007 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 carryover planning funds in support of RRPDC staff under UWP task 1.1, MPO Maintenance/Special Studies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO amends the FY 2008 UWP to provide for the shift of FHWA/PL funds among UWP tasks 1.1, 2.1 (Socioeconomic Data Development) and 5.5 (Regional Mass Transit Study) as presented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO amends the FY 2008 UWP to revise descriptions of Background and Schedule information for task 5.5; and Background, End Products, Work Elements, and Schedule information for task 2.1 as presented.

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

EDAC Chairman Linda Broady-Myers noted she was absent from the last MPO meeting but that Dan Lysy had graciously relayed her thanks, which she would now offer in person. Ms. Broady-Myers expressed sincere thanks from the disabled community for the MPO's resolution supporting paratransit services in the region. She said the resolution did carry some weight and helped in obtaining the extended paratransit service on evenings, holidays, and weekends for disabled City of Richmond residents into Henrico County. She said service hours are now from 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., seven days a week, 365 days a year. Ms. Broady-Myers reported that now those who need medical care, particularly dialysis patients, can get to their necessary destination in a timely manner to sustain a healthy life. Ms. Broady-Myers also said that those who need to work late, work in the evenings, or work on weekends can now do so and that the disabled community can now enjoy broadened social opportunities such as shopping and entertainment that add to quality of life. She said GRTC has been a great asset and the Mayor and City Council went far

beyond what was expected to make this service available and she again thanked the MPO for their support. Chairman King thanked Ms. Broady-Myers for her report.

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

In the absence of CTAC Chairman Bob Morris, Barb Nelson noted the report under tab five of the agenda package and briefly reviewed action taken at the August 28 CTAC meeting to support the 2006 CTAC list of regional priority transportation projects with the following four changes or modifications, 1) clarifying that rail between Richmond and Washington, D.C. should originate at Main Street Station and end at Union Station; 2) deleting the Richmond International Airport Access and Expansion Improvements from the list of regional priority projects since they are already funded; 3) removal of the Regional Mass Transit Study since it is already well underway; and 4) deleting the Removal of Tolls from the RMA and Powhite Parkway as a regional priority project. Ms. Nelson said Bud Vye, Richmond Area Bicycling Association representative on CTAC, was appointed to replace Bob Basham as CTAC's representative on the Long-Range Transportation Plan Advisory Committee noting that Mr. Basham has moved out of Henrico County and so was no longer able to represent the county. Ms. Nelson also reported that the agenda report includes a list of future meeting topics that CTAC will explore in the coming months. Ms. Nelson offered to answer question and there were none. Chairman King thanked Ms. Nelson for her report.

D. MPO Regional Priority Transportation Projects –

Prior to consideration of MPO Regional Priority Transportation Projects, Chairman King took time to note that many of the regional priority projects have been funded and accomplished due to the hard work of Richmond District Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) member Gerald McCarthy. Chairman King offered sincere thanks to Mr. McCarthy on behalf of the MPO board for his hard work on behalf of the local jurisdictions to enable funding of so many projects in the region. Chairman King asked Mr. McCarthy if he would like to make any comments. Mr. McCarthy said it was an unexpected pleasure for a CTB member to be thanked instead of receiving complaints about not doing enough and he offered heartfelt thanks. Mr. McCarthy said he has a two-point comment, one being he hopes everyone could attend the October 16 VDOT preallocation meeting being held at the Convention Center in downtown Richmond beginning with a session at 5:00 p.m. for local government officials to meet with the Virginia Secretary of Transportation and CTB members to review the proposed list of new projects. Mr. McCarthy noted this is the first time there have been new projects

proposed in quite a while. Secondly, Mr. McCarthy advised that sometimes small can really be good. He noted that discussion at the June CTB meeting indicated a strong feeling that the time of the mega-project is waning and there is a desire to see more smaller projects that can actually make a difference in everyday folks driving experience such as adding turn lanes and other relatively low-cost projects. He said more projects in the one to 20 million dollar range would get accomplished in real time as opposed to projects that cost \$100 million and up, which are harder to fund over a sustainable period of time. Mr. McCarthy said it has been a treat to be able to fulfill most of the MPO's priority list while acknowledging that there are still \$4.5 billion dollars needed to fund projects in the Richmond District alone that are currently in the plan. Mr. McCarthy urged that the Regional Mass Transit Study be completed as a forward-looking twenty-first century plan that accommodates a mobile population. He said we've got to be flexible, convenient, and affordable because a majority of people live outside the City of Richmond and don't have transit. Mr. McCarthy said that if we took one person every other week off the road on a bus, jitney, or other mass transit mode, that alone would cut traffic by 10 percent and is so much cheaper than trying to build huge expensive projects. He said with an aging population, driving around in a single occupant vehicle isn't going to meet our mobility needs in the next 20 or 30 years. He said the region should try to anticipate a transit plan that will adjust to the demographic and financial realities of the future and try to anticipate smaller projects that can actually be funded. Mr. McCarthy thanked Chairman King for the time to speak. Chairman King expressed heartfelt appreciation to Mr. McCarthy.

Chairman King asked Dan Lysy to give a brief description of the Executive Committee Report on MPO Regional Priority Transportation Projects. Mr. Lysy noted that a quorum was not present at the Executive Committee meeting; however, he said those members present recommended that the MPO stay the course with its current list of projects, taking Mr. McCarthy's comments to heart. He said much of the funding in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) is for projects currently on the list and that's the recommendation of the Executive Committee members present at the meeting, to get those projects fully funded. He noted that staff has just handed out the list recommended by the MPO Executive Committee members present and asked Barb Nelson for comments. Ms. Nelson said there are 15 projects on the regional priority project list and of those, seven are fully funded through Fiscal Year 2013, which includes actual and projected allocations. She said it is very important for these projects to continue to receive allocations in order for them to stay on track to completion. Ms. Nelson noted of the eight remaining projects, four have a balance of \$70 million while four have nearly a billion dollars in balance and those include two rail projects and the Parham/Patterson interchange.

Chairman King called for discussion and Rudy Butler made a motion to approve the list as presented with next year's list being presented to indicate fully funded projects, partially funded or unfunded projects, and smaller projects by separate categories, which might assist the CTB and provide them some guidelines when considering the priorities list. George Homewood seconded Mr. Butler's motion and thanked him for his suggestion saying that TAC discussed doing precisely what Mr. Butler has suggested.

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

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approves the report of the MPO Executive Committee on Regional Priority Transportation Projects establishing this list as the MPO's updated list of Regional Priority Transportation Projects and authorizes the submission of this list to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for its review and consideration in selecting transportation projects and allocating state and federal funds in the upcoming Virginia Department of Transportation Six-Year Improvement Program.

(Regional priority transportation projects are identified and ranked as follows):

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Project</u>
1	RIC Expansion and Access Improvements
2	Main Street Station, High-Speed Intercity Rail, GRTC Improvements
3	Route 360 East of I-295 (Hanover) and Route 10 Widening (Route 1-Meadowville Rd, Chesterfield)
4	Parham Road/Patterson Avenue Urban Interchange (Henrico)
5	Huguenot Bridge Reconstruction
6	Route 250 Widening from Rt. 623 to Rt. 621 (Goochland)

Other Regional Priority Projects

- I-64 Widening to New Kent/James City County Line and Rail Improvements, Richmond to Hampton Roads
- Route 360 Widening (Chesterfield)

- Widening of I-64 between from Route 288 to 1.6 km west of Route 623 to six lanes (Henrico-Goochland County)
- Virginia Capital Trail project (Richmond to Williamsburg)
- I-95/Lewistown Road Interchange Improvements (Hanover)

and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that next year projects are grouped such that all fully funded projects (i.e., projects with previous, actual and scheduled allocations equal to the project's current estimated cost) are shown separately; that projects with balances to complete or that are unfunded be shown separately; that provisions are made for identifying new regional priority projects; and that small scale projects with a cumulative significant impact also be identified and submitted for consideration by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

**E. FY 09 – FY 10 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Addendum for SAFETEA-LU Compliant TIP –**

Barb Nelson noted MPO action at its August 9 meeting to approve a resolution concurring on a strategy submitted by VDOT to move forward on achieving a SAFETEA-LU TIP. The MPO resolution constituted the first step in the process. The second step is to provide for a four-year program of projects and planned obligations whereas previously the TIP only covered three years. VDOT submitted for MPO review and action a list of 44 projects, 23 of which staff has processed and approve as administrative modifications. The remaining 21 projects require amendment action and were submitted to TAC at its August 16 meeting for review. In addition, staff has made modifications to the TIP project list format including showing FY 06 obligations as previous obligations; adding the state ID number for easier access to information in the federal accounting system; and changing the obligation table to reflect FY 07 – FY 10 planned or programmed obligations which meets the four-year requirement. In addition, Ms. Nelson said staff has submitted for MPO review and action six new projects resulting from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 program providing capital grant funds for the purchase of vehicles and other equipment to serve the transportation needs of the elderly and disabled. Ms. Nelson reviewed the six organizations receiving grants for the Richmond region. Ms. Nelson said staff concurs with the TAC recommendation of moving forward with incorporation of the 21 projects to achieve SAFETEA-LU compliance as well as the six projects which are included in the Six-Year Improvement Program for paratransit vehicles, and she noted the proposed resolution included on page two of tab seven in the agenda package. Rudy Butler moved the resolution and Frank Thornton seconded the motion. Ellen

Robertson inquired as to how the projects are selected. Barb Nelson said the projects were recommended by VDOT Programming Division and Transportation and Mobility Planning Division. Mr. Lysy added that the projects in the TIP have already gone through an allocation process in being selected and that the TIP is saying now we have the funds so let's program them to move these projects forward. Mr. Lysy said this review at this stage also gives the MPO a last opportunity to evaluate the projects.

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

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be amended adding twenty-one projects identified on the "STIP Addendum" dated June 1, 2007 programming obligations for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to comply with the adopted strategy for developing a SAFETEA-LU compliant TIP and adding six new transit projects from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 program grant awards to Richmond area agencies and organizations for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

F. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) TIP Amendment Request for Pedestrian Refuge and Signal Modification at Fairfield Way and Mechanicsville Turnpike –

Barbara Nelson reported that staff has received a request from VDOT to add a new project to the existing TIP which would construct a pedestrian refuge island and modify the existing traffic signal at Mechanicsville Turnpike and Fairfield Way in the City of Richmond. She said the City has reviewed the project and they support the amendment. She also reported that the project has been reviewed by TAC and TAC has provided favorable comment recommending in favor of this amendment. She said there is a proposed resolution presented for MPO consideration that would obligate \$45,000 in preliminary engineering in FY 07 and would obligate \$405,000 for construction of these improvements in FY 08. Linda Broady-Myers inquired if there would be an audible traffic signal at this intersection so that it would be accessible to the visually impaired. She said she remembers asking when she first came on board that whenever there's a traffic signal or intersection re-done or added, that it always include an audible traffic signal so that the vision impaired can use the intersection safely. Mark Riblett thanked Ms. Broady-Myers for her question and said that design for the project is not complete yet and that he can pass along her request to include that as a part of the design. He said this stage of the project is actually obligating funds so that the design work can be done and he said he will certainly pass that suggestion along to the project manager to see if they can accommodate that request. Ms. Broady-

Myers said it would be nice for the intersection to be fully accessible to everyone who pays taxes and would like to use the intersection noting that the audible signal only costs about \$150 if it's done initially. In response to a question by Chairman King, Ms. Broady-Myers said that the cost of an audible signal is roughly an additional \$150 to \$200, depending on the vendor. She noted that the timing for some signals is too fast not allowing enough time for the vision impaired to cross.

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

RESOLVED that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (RAMPO) amends the *FY 2007 – 2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* to add the project UPC 81346 obligating \$45,000 for preliminary engineering in fiscal year 2007 and obligating \$405,000 for construction in fiscal year 2008 subject to assurances by VDOT that the project is designed to include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility accommodations such as audible traffic signal, sidewalk curb ramps, and other features which address the mobility needs of visually impaired and other disabled pedestrians.

G. Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) Presentation –

Lee Yolton, RRPDC Principal Planner and RMTS Project Manager, introduced Regional Mass Transit Study consultants Alan Tobias, with HNTB, the lead study consultant, and David Anspacher with VHB, a sub-consultant, who are working on the study. Mr. Yolton noted that the study is not at a stage where there are specific recommendations, but he said that Mr. Tobias and Mr. Anspacher would update the MPO on study progress to date and review some of the items they are currently looking at. Handouts of the PowerPoint presentation were distributed during Mr. Yolton's introduction.

Alan Tobias thanked Mr. McCarthy saying the study is being done in large part due to his efforts to promote the study and find funding for it. He said the study is essentially a 25-year plan and so one thing they have tried to do is project into the future to envision the region 25 years from now and consider the role public transportation can play. Mr. Tobias began the PowerPoint presentation addressing points from the following slides:

- Richmond Regional Mass Transit Study (cover slide)
- Agenda (list of items to be covered in presentation)
- Study Objectives
- Surface Public Transportation Modes (list and photos)
- Study Area (map)

- Scope of Services
- Changes to Schedule
- Revised Schedule
- Meeting Schedule

Mr. Tobias turned the presentation over to David Anspacher, consultant with VHB, who presented information based on the following PowerPoint slides:

- Technical Memorandum #1
- Regional Growth (bar graph)
- Population Growth (bar graph)
- Employment Growth (bar graph)
- Indicators of Appropriate Transit Services
- Guidelines for Transit (chart)
- Minimum Levels for Consideration of Transit (chart)
- Households per Acre (2006) (map)
- Households per Acre (2016) (map)
- Households per Acre (2031) (map)
- Year 2031 Highway Ling VC Ratio (map)
- Richmond Spider Network Year 2031 Travel Demand (map)
- Review of Existing Plans

Mr. Anspacher turned the presentation back over to Mr. Tobias who continued review and discussion of study issues from the following slides:

- Technical Memorandum #2
- Local Land Use Parameters Support of Transit (chart)
- Review of Local Land Use Parameters
- Transit Operating Performance Measures (chart)
- Typical Transit and Highway Construction Costs
- Transit Funding
- Potential Institutions for Transit Management and Operations
- Potential Institutional Options for Non-Farebox Funding
- Graphical TOD Guidelines (diagram)
- Graphical TOD Guidelines (diagrams)
- Technical Memorandum #3
- Peer Group Review
- Next Steps
- Concept 1: Existing Service (map)
- Concept 2: Moderate Service Expansion (map)
- (Enlargement of map in previous slide)
- Concept 3: Significant Service Expansion (map)
- Enlargement of map in previous slide)

- Richmond Regional Mass Transit Study (closing slide)

Mr. Tobias ended the consultant's presentation noting this is an ongoing project and they would be coming back with additional information and more specific recommendations. He thanked the MPO and offered to answer questions. Mr. Butler said he has been on the MPO for 16 years and in that time there have been two or three mass transit studies and yet nothing has been done. He expressed frustration with spending a lot of taxpayer money for these studies, the last of which was the Light Rail Study, and never getting anything done. Linda Broady-Myer inquired if the consultants consulted with the blind, hearing impaired, or wheelchair communities noting that what a person without a disability would consider walkable is usually dangerous for these disabled groups. Mr. Tobias said they are certainly taking those issues and concerns into account, but pointed out that they are not at the point where specific designs for specific locations are being considered. He said Ms. Broady-Myers is absolutely right noting that the issue is not walkability but accessibility, which means looking at how the disabled can access public transit facilities and meeting ADA requirements. Ms. Broady-Myers noted that ADA is only a foundation for guidelines but said that as the baby-boomers age, and as people continue to live longer with various diseases and conditions of the elderly, it would be a logical thing to do to make sure transit services are accessible. She said if public transportation were accessible, for example, with safe terrain to get to a bus stop, many would choose to use it instead of paratransit services, which would cut back on the expense of paratransit.

Mr. McCarthy thanked Rudy Butler for telling it like it is and said the CTB does not want to see any more studies. He said they want to see definite, specific, concrete recommendations, however imperfect they may be, for projects that can be put into the Six-Year Improvement Plan. He said they will do everything possible to find the money to make these projects a reality. Ms. O'Bannon said that Henrico County has the statistical data and recommendations for service in Henrico. Mr. McCarthy suggested that jurisdictions connect what will work in their area with what works in neighboring jurisdictions to meet the complex patterns people have developed of working, playing, and shopping outside the jurisdiction where they may live. Mr. Tobias said that while consultants can make specific recommendations, they need to know each jurisdiction's vision for their community. David Williams commented that the Transportation Needs for the Elderly, Disabled, and Low-Income persons document wasn't a plan but only a documentation of existing services. He said the document didn't go the next step to determine unmet need and so he is cautious about using that document as a basis for determining transportation needs of the disabled. Secondly, Mr. Williams commented that because of the transportation act passed by the General Assembly in

its 2007 session, Powhatan County's land use plan will change and so use of the existing comprehensive plan may not reflect the future. Mr. Tobias said those are the kinds of things they are looking at noting VDOT's efforts to incorporate the land use and transportation planning processes together. There was no more discussion and Chairman King asked Mr. Yolton for concluding comments. Mr. Yolton reminded that the study will be getting to more specific analysis of future needs and will look at more detailed data such as Ms. O'Bannon was speaking of in determining specific recommendations for future service.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman King recognized Frank Thornton who said he is concerned that the public comment period of the meeting is always at a time of day and when the typical citizen doesn't have an opportunity to be present. He suggested that the MPO seriously consider this matter and look for alternate times to meet when the public can be present, perhaps in the evenings, to vent their concerns about transportation. Mr. Butler said he feels like we do that when we have public input meetings and provide materials at local libraries advertise various planning efforts according to federal requirements. Chairman King said perhaps Mr. Lysy could put together something and we could poll the Board. He said Mr. Thornton's comments are duly noted.

Chairman King said Mr. Homewood brought to his attention something that he concurs with, and he asked Mr. Riblett if he would consider requesting that pedestrian improvement projects, those talked about today and those in the future, include consideration for the ADA requirements. Ms. Broady-Myers added that VDOT also tap into the people who have the disability to truly determine what the needs are.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman King adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:45 p.m.