

RICHMOND AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 10, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Daniel A. Gecker, Chairman	County of Chesterfield
Daniel N. Lysy, Secretary (Alternate)	RRPDC
Charles Badger (Nonvoting)	VDRPT
Viktoria W. Badger	City of Richmond
Robert M. Berry	RMA
Linda G. Broady-Myers (Nonvoting)	EDAC
Malvern R. Butler	County of Goochland
Karin Carmack	County of Powhatan
Deborah B. Coats (Alternate)	County of Hanover
Timothy W. Cotman	County of Charles City
Marleen K. Durfee	County of Chesterfield
Gary A. DuVal (Alternate)	City of Richmond
Ralph J. "Joe" Emerson	County of Henrico
E. Todd Eure	County of Henrico
Thomas E. Flynn	City of Richmond
James M. Holland	County of Chesterfield
George M. Homewood	County of New Kent
E. Martin Jewell	City of Richmond
John M. Lewis	GRTC Transit System
Robert P. Morris (Nonvoting)	CTAC
Patricia O'Bannon	County of Henrico
Charles H. Rasnick (Nonvoting)	Citizen Appointee
Mark E. Riblett (Alternate)	VDOT
Ellen F. Robertson	City of Richmond
Robert R. Setliff	County of Hanover
Barbara K. Smith (Alternate)	County of Chesterfield
Stran L. Trout	County of New Kent
Joseph E. Vidunas	County of Hanover
Joseph B. Walton	County of Powhatan

MEMBERS ABSENT

REPRESENTING

William J. Pantele, Vice Chairman	City of Richmond
Von Tisdale (Nonvoting)	RideFinders
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting)	VDA
Tony Cho (Nonvoting)	FTA
John Gordon	County of Hanover
Thomas A. Hawthorne	VDOT
John McCracken	County of Chesterfield

MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

REPRESENTING

Faye O. PrichardTown of Ashland
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting)FHWA
John Rutledge.....CRAC
Frank Thornton County of Henrico

OTHERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

John T. Benton Citizen
William R. Britton (Alternate)..... County of Charles City
Kathy Shaw ClaryGRTC Transit System
Lawrence C. Hagin (Alternate).....GRTC Transit System
Kelly Hickok.....EDAC
W. Dewey HurleyBranscome
Walter Johnson..... VDOT
Michael Knott VDRPT
Liz McAdory..... VDOT
C. Harold Padgett..... RRPDC Commissioner
Brandon Stidham (Alternate).....County of Powhatan
Carson Tucker (Alternate)County of Powhatan
Jin Lee RRPDC
Barbara Nelson..... RRPDC
Archita Rajbhandary RRPDC
Sharon Robeson RRPDC
Lee Yolton RRPDC

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chairman Dan Gecker, called the April 10, 2008 meeting of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at approximately 2:40 p.m. in the large conference room of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission offices.

INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Chairman Gecker introduced and welcomed new MPO members Karin Carmack representing Powhatan County, Thomas E. Flynn representing the City of Richmond and alternate member Councilman E. Martin Jewell, representing the City of Richmond.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by MPO Secretary of Meeting Quorum –

Dan Lysy reported that a quorum was present.

B. Additions to MPO Agenda –

Chairman Gecker reported that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) requested that the MPO address a resolution discussed at their meeting earlier today and requested the agenda to include this item as part of the Chairman's Report, Agenda Item I.F.3, Other Business. On motion of Robert R. Setliff, seconded by Deborah B. Coates, the April 10, 2008 the MPO voted unanimously to amend the agenda as requested.

C. Minutes of the March 13, 2008 MPO Meeting –

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Viktoria W. Badger, the MPO approved the minutes of the March 13, 2008 meeting as presented with all voting in favor and one abstention.

D. Open Public Comment Period –

Chairman Gecker opened the Public Comment Period and recognized John Benton from Midlothian. Mr. Benton said he would speak to a technical issue regarding agenda item III.G, FY 09 Unified Work Program (UWP) and the MPO Multimodal Transportation Plan which has been cut from the UWP. He indicated that this comprehensive vision plan is very important and suggested that there may be other items in the UWP that could be cut instead of the Multimodal Transportation Plan. Mr. Benton indicated that the MPO should take a technical lead in the region and put together a plan that would be meaningful and serve the region well.

Chairman Gecker thanked Mr. Benton for his comments. There being no additional requests to address the MPO, Chairman Gecker closed the public comment period.

E. Resolution of Appreciation to Outgoing Member –

Chairman Gecker called for action on the resolution. He also indicated that in the future, he would like action and presentation of such resolutions in the same meeting.

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Patricia S. O'Bannon, the MPO unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, David T. Williams has provided valuable public service from May 2005 to March 2008 as both an alternate and a voting member to the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, he has offered his dedicated support and commitment to serving the citizens of the Richmond area in his capacity as a member of the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization sincerely appreciates the contributions and efforts of David T. Williams;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, this tenth day of April 2008, acknowledges and commends his dedicated service to the citizens of the Richmond region.

F. MPO Chairman's Report –

1. MPO Nominating Committee –

The MPO agreed by consensus action to establish a Nominating Committee for FY 09 MPO Chairman and Vice Chairman nominations with a report to be presented at the next MPO meeting.

2. MPO Nominating Committee Appointments –

Chairman Gecker appointed Robert Setliff to serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and appointed Stran Trout and Joe Walton, all of whom have agreed to serve.

3. Other Business – RRPDC Draft Resolution, State Funding for Transportation –

Staff distributed copies of the proposed resolution and Dan Lysy noted this resolution was passed at the RRPDC meeting earlier today. Concern was expressed over the ability to fund highway projects and bridges for the area, a matter which came to the Commission from the CAOs of the region's large jurisdictions. Mr. Lysy said that it was his impression that the General Assembly is trying more and more to pass the burden of transportation projects to area local governments. The resolution was summarized and the last paragraph read aloud. Rudy Butler moved the motion, seconded by Marleen Durfee, noting it would be sent to every member of the General Assembly including the two committees that represent transportation, one in the Senate and one in the House. Chairman Gecker called for discussion and Joe Walton suggested it be sent to other PDCs and MPOs. Chairman Gecker said that the last paragraph of the resolution states that the RRPDC is submitting this resolution, but that will be changed to reflect it as the MPO's. John Lewis noted that the resolution alludes to road projects and asked if that was a conscious effort or whether the intent of the resolution is to address projects in general, to include other modes of transportation such as public transit. Both Mr. Butler and Ms. Durfee agreed to accept a friendly amendment to add a "Whereas" addressing the reduction in state transit funding. Chairman Gecker called the question.

On motion of Malvern R. Butler, seconded by Marleen K. Durfee, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Richmond Region has a growing list of unfunded transportation projects totaling as much as \$3 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has been unable to adequately fund priority projects as identified in the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long-Range Transportation Plan and local jurisdictions' transportation plans; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recently announced a reduction of 44 percent for funding of already underfunded Primary, Secondary and Urban systems; and

WHEREAS, state funds for transit have also been reduced by approximately 10 percent; and

WHEREAS, widely fluctuating state budgets cause transportation funds to be expended on designs which cannot be advanced resulting in waste and inefficiencies and cause additional stress on localities' real estate tax resources to compensate for inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has been unsuccessful in its latest attempt to provide adequate and sustainable funding for transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, recent efforts have been to shift the responsibility for establishing taxes to support the transportation system to local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of VDOT has indicated that "due to changes in VDOT's business philosophy and mandates from the General Assembly, Virginia's transportation program delivery continues to evolve to include increasing roles and responsibilities by local governments";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby express its concern that the responsibility for adequately funding the Commonwealth's transportation needs is being passed on to localities and urges the Governor, General Assembly, Commonwealth Transportation Board and State Transportation Agencies to establish and fund a program to address state transportation needs while preserving local government's role in project prioritization of local roads and without a reduction in local government authority.

G. RRPDC Transportation Director's Report –

In the interest of time, Mr. Lysy mentioned that had no report.

II. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forward for consideration.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Action Item –

1. FY 09 Unified Work Program (UWP) Budget Amendments –

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) amends the *FY 2008 Unified Work Program* (UWP) to shift Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) PL funds among various RRPDC staff work tasks as presented in the attached table "Proposed PL Funds Budget Amendments for RRPDC staff and Consultant Work Tasks" and to transfer \$100,000 in FHWA/PL funds to the FY 2009 UWP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO amends the FY 2008 UWP to program \$125,000 in State Transportation Planning Grant (STPG) funds on UWP task 5.5, Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) for support of work conducted by the RMTS consultants.

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

Mr. Lysy noted the CTAC Meeting report included in the agenda package and CTAC Chairman Robert Morris had nothing further to report.

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

EDAC Chairman Linda Broady-Myers said her report to the MPO is to recognize RRPDC staff member Sharon Robeson, Administrative Secretary, who ensures that the blind and vision impaired members of EDAC have all the information for meetings ahead of time by making sure that all materials that possibly can be are converted into an accessible format and e-mailed so that they can be informed about and prepared to

discuss the business at hand when they arrive at meetings. She noted that it is difficult to discuss an item that you cannot see, such as the resolution on state transportation funding that was just distributed, which she said is what typically happens at meetings. Ms. Broady-Myers said Ms. Robeson makes sure the information is converted into a format that their screen readers (the voice of their computers) can read. She said she has a letter of commendation for Sharon and asked that Dan Lysy read it aloud because she doesn't have a copy in accessible format since it wasn't given to Sharon first. Mr. Lysy read Ms. Broady-Myers' letter aloud which was followed by a round of applause. Chairman Gecker thanked Ms. Broady-Myers for bringing this to the MPO's attention and asked Ms. Robeson if she had any comments. Ms. Robeson thanked Ms. Broady-Myers for her kind recognition and noted that Ms. Broady-Myers has much to contribute and that it is a pleasure to be able to facilitate the contributions of the blind and vision impaired members of the EDAC community.

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

Lee Yolton noted the report included under tab 6 of the agenda package on the development of the 2031 LRTP and noted that the next LRTP Advisory Committee meeting is tentatively rescheduled for April 24. He said the list of projects authorized by the MPO at its March meeting was forwarded to VDOT and the modeling team is coding in the projects in order to test the future transportation network for air quality impacts and for where congestion may occur on that network. Mr. Yolton reported that the air quality and congestion analyses are scheduled to be complete in approximately two weeks. Mr. Yolton said when the air quality determination is released by VDOT, it will be provided to TAC for its review and authorization to submit the results for public review and review by federal and state resource agencies. Mr. Yolton said staff has continued to work on updating other portions of the 2031 LRTP including updating accident data, transit ridership information, and freight shipping trends. He said staff has developed maps showing accident data collected from DMV, has mapped truck freight flow through the region, and has prepared technical documentation for the congestion management system. He said according to the annual *Urban Mobility Report* from Texas A&M University, the Richmond area is one of the least congested of mid-size urban areas in the United States ranking number 21 out of 30 mid-size urban areas with a population of 500,000 to one million. Mr. Yolton said staff is on track to complete the 2031 LRTP update for MPO consideration and action in July. Mr. Yolton offered to answer questions and there were none. Chairman Gecker thanked Mr. Yolton for his report.

E. Report on Financial Close-Out of Previous Allocations for RSTP and CMAQ Funded Projects –

Mark Riblett noted the letter included in the agenda package from Reta Busher, VDOT Chief Financial Officer, and highlighted key points from her

letter. He said the reconciliation effort is not complete yet and noted VDOT Director of Programming Diane Mitchell's comments when she met with TAC a couple of weeks ago. He said Ms. Mitchell brought out two key points: 1) the Richmond MPO reconciliation effort is the first one occurring in the state and it is being used as the example to move forward with reconciliation statewide, and 2) VDOT staff is making sure that the conclusions and the methodology are complete and accurate as a method for use throughout the state. Mr. Riblett said the Richmond Area MPO is first in line, but the reconciliation is not done yet.

Chairman Gecker said he really doesn't understand why this process could take so long and asked what is so complicated about this particular exercise that seems like a reasonably straightforward process to accomplish. Mr. Riblett responded that VDOT is dealing with allocations, obligations and expenditures that go back more than 15 years or longer on projects that have multiple funding sources and in record-keeping systems that are not always the same over that period of years. Mr. Riblett said it is difficult to determine what expenditures occurred out of what categories, not only the funding sources but what percentages are federal, state, and local. In addition, Mr. Riblett noted that the MPO is concerned with RSTP and CMAQ funding, but many of the projects have many other funding sources tied to them as well and determining which dollars from which funding source came out of that pot first is complex. Chairman Gecker asked what the outer time frame for completion would be and Mr. Riblett said Reta Busher and Diane Mitchell are nearly finished reviewing the findings of the report resulting from countless hours of staff work, but that no estimate is available for finalizing the report. Chairman Gecker asked if it would be possible to invite Ms. Busher to the next MPO meeting to provide some clarification on where she is in the process. Mr. Lysy noted that the report was completed in January and that VDOT staff has been reviewing the report for three months and so it may be best for Ms. Busher to answer questions regarding completion. Mr. Riblett stated that one reason the Richmond Area MPO was selected to be first in this process was not only that there was a strong request from the MPO for that work to be done, but the data and records here at the MPO were extremely good to work with. Chairman Gecker thanked Mr. Riblett for his comments.

F. Proposed FY 09 – FY 12 RSTP and CMAQ Allocation –

Barbara Nelson reported that the MPO is being asked to take action to authorize the submission of the RSTP and CMAQ projects and allocations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for inclusion in the state's upcoming Six-Year Improvement Program. She said the projects would also be considered for air quality conformity and inclusion in the upcoming FY 09 – FY 12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) currently under development. Ms. Nelson indicated that a considerable amount of information is included under agenda tab eight, much of which was provided and reviewed at the March 13 MPO meeting as a way of

introducing the project selection process. Ms. Nelson offered to answer questions and none were asked, so she proceeded with presentation of the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation on projects to receive allocations of RSTP and CMAQ funds for the FY 09 – 12 TIP. Ms. Nelson explained the process followed in selecting the projects and noted the TAC action included on pages 3-4 of the staff report under agenda tab eight and noted that all projects are detailed on pages 13 through 16 which Ms. Nelson also presented as PowerPoint slides on screen. Ms. Nelson noted that all FY 09 CMAQ funds are fully allocated with various amounts being unallocated in the out years. She indicated that due to very recent VDOT allocation increases in RSTP funds, TAC is recommending that those funds be carried to the next year for allocation at the beginning of that process and noted that a small unallocated balance is being carried for the out years with a considerably larger balance in FY 12. Ms. Nelson indicated that on an annual basis, the MPO receives approximately \$9 million in CMAQ funds for allocation and approximately between \$14 to \$15 million in RSTP funds for allocation. Ms. Nelson noted the resolution included on page four of the staff report for MPO review and action and offered to answer questions regarding the selection process applied or on any of the projects recommended for funding. Chairman Gecker thanked Ms. Nelson and asked for questions. None were asked and Chairman Gecker called for a motion and second.

On motion of George M. Homewood, 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 the submission of FYs 2009 to 2012 RSTP and CMAQ project allocations as shown in the attached tables for submission to VDOT for inclusion in VDOT's Final Six-Year Improvement Program and for inclusion in the draft *MPO FY 2009 to 2012 Transportation Improvement Program*.

Following adoption of the resolution, Robert Setliff commented that going forward with this process, he believes that the faster the unallocated balances can be allocated, the faster projects can move forward, and the more money everyone will save by avoiding escalating costs over time.

G. FY 2009 Unified Work Program (UWP) –

Mr. Lysy briefly reviewed the highlights of the draft FY 09 Unified Work Program. He said under MPO Maintenance there is a task providing technical assistance to the PDC and its work to come up with recommendations for future transportation funding sources. Under Socioeconomic Data Development, staff will initiate work on developing new base year and forecast year data for the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan in FY 09 and a major overhaul of the region's travel

demand model is part of that effort. Mr. Lysy said VDOT will be conducting an intense random sample household travel survey throughout the region to determine and quantify individual travel habits, an important component of calibrating the region's travel demand model. Mr. Lysy said the current household survey used in our model was last done in 1964. Mr. Lysy also noted that staff needs to look at doing a multimodal transportation plan for the region noting there are currently \$300,000 in RSTP funds programmed for that effort. He said TAC requested staff to prepare a detailed report on staffing the regional travel demand model and come up with some options and indicated this would be one of the first major tasks that staff starts in this coming year. He said staff will try to set up the model so that it is more sensitive to transit for demand estimates, and will look at income and other data required for such modeling and forecasting. Mr. Lysy also noted that the RMTS will be completed at the May MPO meeting, and that recommendations resulting from that study should be of great interest to the region and so funds are set aside in the FY 09 UWP for distributing literature, providing presentations and developing information to follow up on the study. Mr. Lysy noted that most of the other items in the draft FY 09 UWP are standard items included each year noting that the draft document was mailed out separately from the agenda package. Mr. Lysy offered to answer questions and none were voiced. Chairman Gecker called for a motion and second.

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

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) adopts the FY 2009 Unified Work Program as submitted.

H. Improving Richmond Public Transportation –

Chairman Gecker recognized John M. Lewis, GRTC Transit System Chief Executive Officer, to provide his presentation on findings and recommendations from the recently completed GRTC Comprehensive Operations Analysis. Mr. Lewis said the study was commissioned by the GRTC Board of Directors nearly two years ago and the study began about 18 months ago as a consultant conducted study. He said transit companies conduct this kind of study every five to 10 years, but this study was commissioned to be conducted to create a system as if no system currently existed. He said the study at GRTC's current operating area, the City of Richmond and Henrico and Chesterfield counties with only a three-year horizon in contrast to the MPO Regional Mass Transit Study (RMTS) which encompassed the entire region and projected out twenty years into the future. Mr. Lewis said there are similar themes in both studies regarding recommendations how we should move forward into the future and how these recommendations dovetail with the RMTS. Mr. Lewis used the following PowerPoint slides as a basis for his presentation:

- Improving Richmond Public Transportation; Findings and Recommendations from the GRTC Comprehensive Operations Analysis (cover slide)
- Background
- Process
- What We Learned: Service Area (map)
- What We Learned: Operations
- Ridership
- What We Learned: Customer Survey
- What We Learned: Peer Review (chart)
- What We Learned: Peer Review, Transportation/Vehicle Efficiency (chart)
- What We Learned: Peer Review, Service Effectiveness (chart)
- What We Learned: Peer Review, Service Span (chart)
- What We Learned: Peer Review Financial Efficiency (chart)
- What We Learned: Peer Review, Cost Effectiveness (chart)
- What We Learned: Peer Review, Revenue Generation (chart)
- What We Learned: Peer Review, Conclusion
- Major Products of the COA
- New Express Service (map)
- Current Bus Stops (photo of bus stop sign)
- New Communication Tools (photos)
- Transfer Center
- Major Downtown Transfer Locations (map)
- Transfer Center Concept (map)
- Bus Rapid Transit (photos)
- What is BRT? (photos)
- Richmond BRT Concept (diagram)
- Why BRT Along Broad Street?
- BRT Examples
- Fund Source for BRT, FTA Very Small Starts Capital Grant
- Fund Source for BRT, Project Qualifications (photo)
- BRT Plan
- Thank you (closing slide with contact information)

The following points were brought forward through questions and discussion during the presentation:

- Express bus service is a type of Park and Ride service.
- GRTC is looking at alternate fuels throughout the fleet and tried a bio-diesel pilot program last year. There was difficulty with consistency of the blend which caused mechanical problems and GRTC is working with the supplier for a more consistent blend. As the fleet is replaced, GRTC plans to acquire hybrid vehicles. Compressed natural gas vehicles have been discussed, but the preference is for hybrid vehicles as the cost is expected to decrease.

Mr. Lewis concluded his presentation offering to answer questions, and he received a round of applause from the MPO. No questions were voiced and Chairman Gecker thanked Mr. Lewis for his presentation.

I. Statewide Rail Plan and Current Rail Initiatives –

Chairman Gecker introduced Mike Knott, VDRPT Manager of Rail Development, who utilized the following PowerPoint slides in his presentation:

- Statewide Rail Plan & Current Rail Initiatives, Status Update (cover slide)
- Freight Flows in Virginia (map)
- Overview
- Passenger Rail (map)
- Class I Freight Railroads (map)
- Shortline Railroad System
- Components
- Passenger Rail Plan
- Shortline RR Improvement Program
- Class 1 Rail Improvement Program, Freight and Passenger
- Statewide Rail Plan Schedule
- Richmond Area Improvement Passenger Rail Study (section cover slide)
- Study Description (includes photo of Acca Yard)
- Study Area (map)
- Study Schedule
- Southeast High Speed Rail Project Update (Raleigh to Richmond) (section cover slide)
- “Higher” Speed Rail in Virginia
- Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor
- Project Overview
- Primary Outcomes from Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Tier II EIS, Richmond to Raleigh (map)
- Petersburg: Key EIS Study Area
- Tier II EIS, Richmond to Raleigh Milestones
- Southeast High Speed Rail Next Steps
- Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study (section cover slide)
- Study Corridors (map)
- Tier I EIS Service Alternatives
- Study Schedule
- DRPT (closing slide with web site address)

Mr. Knott concluded his presentation and offered to answer questions.

The following points were discussed or clarified as a result of questions during and following the presentation:

- The Richmond Area Improvement Passenger Rail Study is looking at ways to improve the flow of passenger rail traffic either through or bypassing Acca Yard on an alternative route (i.e., Buckingham Branch line) east of the City of Richmond and through central Hanover County (meeting back up with the CSX main line at Doswell). Both alternatives are in environmental assessment right now and no decision has been made.
- If the Acca Yard bypass route is selected, that would mean closing Staples Mill Station for passenger service. Ms. O'Bannon said her survey indicates people will drive to Fredericksburg rather than to a station in Hanover County east of I-95. Ms. O'Bannon further indicated the Staples Mill Station is scheduled to become a multi-modal center for Henrico County and expressed concern that the train mode would be removed from that location.
- Robert Setliff noted that due to congestion at Acca Yard, the trains aren't on time and said he would prefer that Acca be fixed, but acknowledged that if the trains continue to be off schedule, passenger rail traffic will wane.
- The cost of operating electric trains is prohibitive even in the long-term and state-of-the-art clean diesel engines are significantly more efficient and cost effective.
- The abandoned portion of the line between Raleigh and Richmond is primarily on the Virginia side of the line. This is the old Southern Rail route. The total cost of a rail system from Raleigh to Richmond is estimated at \$7.5 to \$10 million a mile which includes grade separations for road intersections and bypasses around certain cities required to operate high-speed rail. Chairman Gecker thanked Mr. Knott for his presentation.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward for consideration.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gecker adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:20 p.m.