

**New River Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization
755 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073**

Minutes

January 9, 2014

PRESENT: Craig Meadows -Montgomery County
Anne McClung -Town of Blacksburg
Michael Sutphin -Town of Blacksburg
Adam Carpenetti -Town of Christiansburg
Steve Mouras -Virginia Tech
Josh Baker -Radford Transit
Rebecca Martin -Blacksburg Transit
Kevin Byrd -NRV PDC
Danny Wilson -Pulaski County
Rob Cary -VDoT
James Perkins -Radford University
Jim Hurt -City of Radford
Chris Arabia -VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Dan Brugh -NRV MPO
Randal Gwinn -Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Tammye Davis -FHWA
Ranny O'Dell -Pulaski County
Bruce Brown -City of Radford
Fritz Streff -New River Community College
Gary Heinline -Pulaski Transit
Annette Perkins -Montgomery County
Tony Cho -Federal Transit Administration-Region 111
Michael St. Jean -VA Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority

OTHERS PRESENT:
Steve Ross -Town of Blacksburg
Richard Ballengee -Town of Christiansburg
Richard McCoy -Virginia Tech
Brian Booth -Radford Transit
Tommy DiGiulian -VDoT
David Ridpath -City of Radford

DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Craig Meadows declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

In consideration of Richard Ballengee, Craig recommended moving the first item of new business on the agenda to immediately follow the public address then asked for further comments on the proposed agenda. Hearing none he asked to hear a motion for approval of the agenda as suggested.

On a motion by Anne McClung seconded by Adam Carpenetti and carried unanimously, the suggested meeting agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 MEETING

Craig asked for comments on or corrections to the meeting minutes from the September 5, 2013 Policy Board meeting. Hearing none he then called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On a motion by Michael Sutphin seconded by Rob Cary and carried unanimously, the minutes dated September 5, 2013 were approved.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

There were no public speakers seeking to address the Board.

FIRST ITEM OF DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDED AGENDA

A. Resolution of appreciation for Richard Ballengee

Craig explained that Richard's recent retirement as Mayor of the Town of Christiansburg necessitates that he also leave the MPO Policy Board, a position in which he has served admirably since creation of the MPO in 2003. Craig offered his personal appreciation for Richard's wisdom and leadership throughout the years and then read the suggested resolution of appreciation to the group before asking to hear a motion to accept the resolution.

On a motion by Adam Carpenetti seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously the resolution was approved and follows in its entirety on the next page.

Craig then presented Richard with a framed copy of the resolution and a plaque expressing the gratitude of the Policy Board for Richard's years of service.

Richard briefly spoke of the pleasure he has experienced while serving on the MPO Policy Board and thanked the group for allowing him the opportunity contribute to the group's efforts throughout the years.

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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Richard G. Ballengee

January 9, 2014

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION HELD ON THE 9th DAY OF JANUARY 2014 AT 2:00 PM IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION MEETING ROOM OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER:

On a motion by Adam Carpenetti seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, Richard G. Ballengee has served the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization with dedication and integrity since January 2003; and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization recognizes his years of service, hard work, and dedication to the MPO.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Policy Board of the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby extends a unanimous vote of appreciation and gratitude to **Richard G. Ballengee** for his outstanding professional public service and dedication to the MPO and gives their best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the original of this resolution be presented to **Richard G. Ballengee** as a testimonial of the high esteem and appreciation in which he is regarded by the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board and that a copy be a part of the official minutes of the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Attest: _____
F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

Following Richard's farewell remarks Craig returned to the remaining items on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Transit Funding Split Study Approval

Dan summarized the efforts taken by DRPT, the consultants at KFH Group, and the committee appointed by the Chairman of the Policy Board to oversee the study on how to split FTA 5307 transit funding between Blacksburg Transit and Radford Transit. The results of the study are due back to DRPT by February 3, 2014, and today we need to act on the tasks that KFG has completed work on as they are the items pertinent to funding. KFH will complete the rest of the study by the end of January 2014 and we will meet to discuss approval of those items and the entire study at a later date. Dan then closed his remarks by offering the interim report prepared by KFH and the recommendation developed by the committee for consideration.

Craig followed Dan's remarks by reading the suggested resolution to the group and then calling for a second on the recommendation. Anne McClung provided the second and Craig opened the floor for discussion.

David Ridpath spoke of the City of Radford's gratitude to all those who assisted with the effort to minimize the reduction of funding for Radford Transit and asked for continued support going forward in their attempts to maintain the present level of service.

Dan suggested that David place a call to the new Salem District CTB Representative William Fralin to discuss Radford's dilemma as Mr. Fralin expressed an interest in the situation when Dan spoke to him at the recent PDC meeting they attended.

Steve Ross expressed Blacksburg's desire to continue joining Radford in the effort to convince DRPT to make the funding corrections necessary to remove the hardships imposed on Radford Transit.

Jim Hurt next asked if there was anything else that the MPO could do on Radford's behalf in an effort to encourage DRPT to reconsider next year's allocations. Steve Mouras suggested that a meeting between representatives from the MPO and the incoming Director of DRPT Jennifer Mitchell may prove to be beneficial and Dan agreed to attempt setting up a meeting with Ms. Mitchell as soon as she is available.

Discussion then turned to the wording of the suggested resolution, specifically what changes in funding would cause the Policy board to again review the funding formula. It was agreed that any 5307 funding changes would be brought before the Policy Board and the funding formula reviewed by the Transit Funding Committee if the Policy Board felt there was merit in doing so. Consequently the last line of the suggested resolution was stricken and Craig called for a motion to amend the suggested resolution.

On a motion by Anne McClung, seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the line reading "FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that should significant additional FTA 5307 formula funding be designated for the MPO, that the MPO split formula will be reviewed by the MPO." was struck from the suggested resolution.

Discussion having ended, Craig called for a vote to approve the suggested resolution as amended. The resolution carried by unanimous vote and follows in its entirety on the next page.

***New River Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization
January 9, 2014***

Resolution accepting the interim report prepared by KFH Group on how to split transit funding, FTA 5307, in the MPO between the two transit providers eligible for funding.

On a recommendation by the NRV MPO Transit Funding Split Study Committee seconded by Anne McClung and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) supplied funding for the MPO to hire a consultant to review and make recommendations on an appropriate method to split funding between the two transit providers in the MPO, and

WHEREAS, the need for this study is a result of reduction of funding for the two transit providers brought about by the change of Radford Transit from rural to urban and the change in the funding formula that VDRPT uses to distribute Federal funding (5307), and

WHEREAS, KFH Group has conducted a very thorough and transparent study and has worked with the MPO Study Committee to arrive at a distribution that was unanimously accepted by the Study Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley MPO accepts the interim report from KFH Group.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the interim report is to be sent to VDRPT with the recommendation that future 5307 funding be split 79% for Blacksburg Transit and 21% for Radford Transit to be phased in from the current split over a 3 year period as indicated in the report.

Attest: _____
F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Amendment # 1 to the 2013-14 UPWP

Dan explained that the 2013-14 Unified Planning Work Program needed amended in order to include specific planning study projects approved by the MPO. All required steps to advertise for comments were completed and the TAC has reviewed and recommends the suggested resolution included in the meeting materials.

Craig followed Dan's remarks by calling for a second on the recommendation made by the TAC and Danny Wilson provided the second. Craig then opened the floor for discussion and hearing none called for a vote to approve the suggested resolution. The resolution carried by unanimous vote and follows in its entirety.

***New River Valley
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January 9, 2014

Resolution approving Amendment # 1 to the NRV MPO FY 2013-14 Unified Planning Work Program

On a recommendation by the NRV MPO TAC seconded by Daniel Wilson and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, the 2013-14 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) serves as the basis for all Federal (FHWA) funding participation and will be included in all requests for transportation planning funds, and

WHEREAS, the UPWP details all transportation and transportation related planning activities anticipated in the upcoming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, specific study projects have been approved by the MPO and need to be included in the UPWP, and

WHEREAS, the Request for comment was advertised in The Roanoke Times and News Messenger for thirty days; and

WHEREAS, Comments were also solicited from the MPO Email list, the MPO Interested Parties, and the Governmental Regulatory Agencies; and

WHEREAS, No public comments were received, and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board hereby approves Amendment # 1 to the FY 2013-14 Unified Planning Work Program, attached, and authorizes the Executive Director to submit the document to VDOT and VDRPT.

Attest: _____
F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

B. Approval of Consultant Proposal for development of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Dan explained that the Long Range Transportation Plan is a minimum twenty year fiscally constrained transit planning study document that MPO's are tasked to develop and update every five years. The current LRP goes out to 2035 which means a new one needs to be in place by November of 2015. In order to spread the cost of the next update of the Long Range Plan over three years we need to get started now. This update will take additional work to include employment and population numbers for the City of Radford and parts of Pulaski County and will for the first time also include some scenario planning. Our on call consultant, WRA has provided a scope of work and cost estimates which VDOT has reviewed and approved. These materials are included in the meeting materials and the TAC has also reviewed and recommends the Policy Board approve the study.

Craig followed Dan's remarks by calling for a second on the recommendation made by the TAC and Rob Cary provided the second. Craig then opened the floor for discussion and hearing none called for a vote to approve the suggested resolution. The resolution carried by unanimous vote and follows in its entirety.

***New River Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization***

January 9, 2014

Resolution to approve an update to the MPO Long Range Plan.

On a recommendation by the NRV MPO TAC seconded by Rob Cary and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, the current MPO 2035 Long Range Plan (LRP) is scheduled to be updated by 2015 with a new horizon date of 2040; and

WHEREAS, the MPO on call consultant Whitman, Requardt & Associates, W,R&A, have submitted a scope of work and budget to accomplish the update, and

WHEREAS, VDOT has reviewed the scope of work and budget and concurs that this meets the necessary requirements, and

WHEREAS, the funding will come from the Long Range Plan budget item in the 2013-14, 14-15, and 15-16 UPWPs, and

WHEREAS, the TAC has reviewed and recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Policy Board approves the scope of work and budget for updating the MPO Long Range Plan; and

FURTHER, the NRV MPO authorizes the Executive Director to execute a contract on behalf of the NRV MPO with Whitman, Requardt, and Associates to accomplish this work.

**Attest: _____
F. Craig Meadows, Chairman**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Update on Exit 118 Park & Ride lot

Craig commented on the efforts to relocate the Exit 118 Park & Ride lot as a long range solution to the issues experienced at the present site. Montgomery County, VDOT, DRPT and a private property owner continue to have discussions and the conversations so far have been very positive. Eventually the elected officials will have to get involved and appropriate funds to support the effort. There will be more updates to follow as a plan develops.

B. Update on VDOT projects

Rob commented on the following items:

- Long term vision for the Exit 118 Park & Ride lot. If anything this lot has been too successful and VDOT would like to develop a plan that will prevent a repeat of the issues.
- Once he takes office Governor McAuliffe may introduce changes in administration and VDOT is awaiting news to that effect. The District Administrators at VDOT have been asked to meet with Governor McAuliffe and the CTB on January 15th and there will be more to report once that has occurred.
- The I-81 Truck Climbing Lane project is now considered complete for all practical purposes.
- The improvements to Route 114 near the New River Mall are moving ahead and should be complete in the fall of 2014
- The New River Bridge on Route 114 at Peppers Ferry is nearing completion, hope to be done in November of 2014.
- Planning for the Southgate Interchange is ongoing with startup of the project anticipated to be in the spring of 2015 and completion in the spring of 2017.
- The Research Center Drive project is being advertised on the 14th of January 2014 with startup of the work sometime in the spring and completion anticipated in the fall of this year.
- The northbound I-81 bridge over New River near Radford is slated for advertisement in June of 2016 with completion anticipated in the fall of 2019. Design work is continuing on three bridges in this area; the northbound, southbound, and Rt. 232 over I-81 in order to be prepared should funding for the last two be found. Right now there is only funding for the northbound bridge.
- The replacement of the I-81 bridges over Route 8 near Christiansburg will go to advertisement in the spring of 2018 with completion anticipated in the fall of 2019.
- The Ironto/Elliston Connector, Route 603, will be advertised later this spring and should be completed in the spring of 2016. There were a few environmental issues that slowed the planning but those have now been addressed.
- Planning for Route 8 improvements consisting of turn lanes at Rt. 669 near Riner continues and if funding becomes available the project is slated for advertisement in the spring of 2016.

- The Tier II Environmental Study on I-81 between Christiansburg and Troutville should be complete in December of 2014. The timeline lengthened somewhat with the extension of the study into Troutville however with the amount of commuter traffic at southbound exit 150 it was felt that the additional time was well spent.
- Rob closed his comments by saying that VDOT is championing maintenance and improvements to I-81 and also a plan for funding these items. Rob calculated that fixing all the known issues on I-81 would take thirty-three years if done at a rate of ten miles a year which is roughly ten times the current amount being done.

C. Update on MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan

Kevin gave a brief update on the Bike/Ped Plan development. Eli Sharp continues to push for a March completion of the plan. A staffing change in the GIS arena caused a slight delay but all is back on track. ARC GIS Online software has been purchased and will be leveraged as a tool to grant all the partner organizations accessibility to maps and shape files real time as they are developed. Eli has been working with the MPO TAC and stakeholder group on the project and the plan is already in draft form. A number of small group discussions are planned in both January and February with wrap up of the work anticipated in March.

D. Update on Livability project

Kevin reported that the Information Exchange meeting was held November 12th and had over one hundred people in attendance. The draft plan for the Livability Initiative was released for public comments on November 12th as well. A small number of comments were received during the month long comment period and all have since been addressed. Preparation of the draft for final art work prior to printing is underway and distribution of hardcopies of the plan is anticipated in late February or early March. Informational presentations are also planned for the spring timeframe.

A partnership between the PDC and the Community Foundation of the New River Valley has been formed and the project will transition to them long term with the PDC continuing to track data against benchmarks to gauge performance over time. The Foundation has already realigned their grant making based on deficiencies in the region identified during this process so it's hoped that there will be some local funding to deal with some of the local issues going forward.

E. Report on meeting with William Fralin, CTB member

Dan reported that he recently met with the new Salem District CTB member William Fralin at a meeting scheduled by the PDC with localities. The MPO will invite Mr. Fralin to attend a Policy Board meeting in the spring. The focus of the discussion was transit funding and other MPO priority projects, however Dan would like to familiarize Mr. Fralin with the needs of the NRV MPO and our road projects.

F. Other Items

Dan reported that the TAC will soon start work on updates to the UPWP and asked that any requests for transit or road planning studies be sent to him by March.

Kevin reported that a PDC request for MPO funding for a study on bringing a passenger rail extension into the NRV may be upcoming in the near future as there appears to be a lot of interest in proving that sufficient demand for the service exists in the New River Valley.

Kevin also reported on activities pertinent to the Roanoke MPO's Intermodal Study. AECOM has been retained to conduct the study and plans a series of meetings with distributors, logistics, and rail service users in an effort to gauge the amount of demand that exists for an intermodal facility.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is February 6, 2013 at 2:00 PM in the Montgomery County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further agenda items to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.

Attest: _____

Craig Meadows, Chairman