

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

**Minutes**

**November 6, 2014**

**MEMBERS**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Anne McClung	-Town of Blacksburg
	Steve Ross	-Town of Blacksburg (Blacksburg Transit)
	Michael Sutphin	-Town of Blacksburg
	Michael Barber	-Town of Christiansburg
	Adam Carpenetti	-Town of Christiansburg
	Steve Mouras	-Virginia Tech
	Kevin Byrd	-NRV PDC
	Ken King	-VDoT
	Danny Wilson	-Pulaski County
	James Perkins	-Radford University
	Chris Arabia	-VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
	Dan Brugh	-NRV MPO
	Randal Gwinn	-Recording Secretary

<b>ABSENT:</b>	Craig Meadows	-Montgomery County
	Jim Hurt	-City of Radford
	Annette Perkins	-Montgomery County
	Josh Baker	-Radford Transit
	Rob Cary	-VDoT
	Tammye Davis	-FHWA
	Ranny O'Dell	-Pulaski County
	Bruce Brown	-City of Radford
	Gary Heinline	-Pulaski Transit
	Fritz Streff	-New River Community College
	Tony Cho	-Federal Transit Administration-Region 111
	Michael St. Jean	-VA Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority

**OTHERS**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Erik Olsen	-NRV MPO
	David Clarke	-VDoT
	Michael Gray	-VDoT
	Debby Freed	-Virginia Tech

## **DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Meadows being absent, Vice Chair Anne McClung declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Anne asked to hear a motion for approval of the meeting agenda.

**On a motion by Danny Wilson seconded by Adam Carpenetti and carried unanimously, the proposed meeting agenda was approved.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2014 MEETING**

Anne asked for comments on or corrections to the meeting minutes from the August 7, 2014 Policy Board meeting. One minor correction was identified and hearing no more she then called for a motion to approve the minutes as revised.

**On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the minutes dated August 7, 2014 were approved as amended.**

## **PUBLIC ADDRESS**

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Policy Board at this meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There were no items of old business for discussion on the agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

### **Amendment # 1 to the 2015-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Dan explained that due to VDRPT finding some funding for preventive maintenance that was about to lapse Blacksburg Transit will receive additional funding in the amount of \$100,115. This required an amendment to the MPO 2015-18 TIP therefore Amendment # 1 was advertised for public comment, sent to the MPO Interested Parties and Governmental Review Agencies and posted on the MPO website. No comments were received. The TAC has reviewed and recommends approval. A copy of the revised 2015-18 TIP with Amendment # 1's update is included in the meeting materials along with a suggested resolution.

Danny asked if a portion of these funds would go to Radford Transit. Steve Ross explained why these funds are not included in those that are being split between Blacksburg Transit and Radford Transit, basically these funds are being given by DRPT to Blacksburg Transit to assist them in catching up on preventive maintenance items.

Discussion having ended Anne asked for a motion on the suggested resolution.

**On a motion by Danny Wilson seconded by Adam Carpenetti and carried unanimously, the resolution approving Amendment # 1 for the 2015-2018 TIP was approved and follows in its entirety:**

*New River Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization*

*November 6, 2014*

**Resolution Approving Amendment #1 for the 2015-18 TIP**

**On a motion by Danny Wilson seconded by Adam Carpenetti and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, the MPO approved the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in June, 2014, and

WHEREAS, additional preventive maintenance funding was found by VDRPT that could be utilized by Blacksburg Transit in the amount of \$100,115 and this additional funding needs to be included in the MPO TIP, and

WHEREAS, Amendment #1 was advertised for public comment, sent to the MPO email list, posted it on the MPO website, and sent it to the MPO Interested Parties and Governmental Review Agencies, and

WHEREAS, no comments were received,

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization approves Amendment # 1 to the 2015-18 TIP.

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J. Dan Brugh, Executive Director

**Approval to Conduct a Corridor Study on Route 11 between Route 114 and the New River Bridge in Pulaski County**

Dan reported that there were two study requests submitted to the MPO for consideration this year. The first request was to study the extension of Parkway Drive in the Falling Branch Industrial Park however PL funds for special studies are limited so Montgomery County has agreed to wait until the next fiscal year for this. The second request came from Pulaski County who desires recommendations for improvements on RT. 11 from Rt. 626 (Hazel Hollow Road) to the intersection with Rt. 114 (Peppers Ferry Road). The TAC has reviewed and recommends the Route 11 study; a scope of work, budget, and suggested resolution is included in the meeting materials. Due to funding constraints the funding of this study will be spread across two fiscal years. Work will begin next spring and be completed next fall.

Adam asked that the schedule in the scope of work be revised to reflect the splitting of funding across two years and Dan agreed to have this done by WR&A. A revised scope of work will be distributed once the change is made.

Kevin asked that traffic counts for the study be conducted while Radford University is in session and Dan agreed to insure that they do.

Discussions having ended Anne asked for a motion on the suggested resolution.

**On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the resolution approving a Corridor Study on Route 11 between Route 114 and the New River Bridge in Fairlawn was approved and follows in its entirety:**

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

***November 6, 2014***

**Resolution to approve conducting a Corridor Study on Route 11 between Route 114 and the New River Bridge in Fairlawn.**

**On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, Pulaski County has requested the NRV MPO to conduct a study of Route 11 between Route 114 and the New River Bridge in Fairlawn; and

WHEREAS, VDoT and FhWA have concurred that this request can be done by the NRV MPO, and

WHEREAS, the NRV MPO has an “On Call” consultant to conduct this type of study, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director has obtained a proposal from Whitman, Requardt and Associates for this request; and

WHEREAS, the funding will come from the “Special Studies” budget item in the 2013-14 UPWP, and

WHEREAS, the TAC has reviewed and recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Policy Board approves this requested study; 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.

**Approved** \_\_\_\_\_

**F. Craig Meadows, Chairman**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Update on VDOT projects – Ken King

Ken handed out VDOT's Locality Update and an Exit 118 Park & Ride brochure and briefly commented on the progress of ongoing projects. Included items were:

The replacement Rt. 114 Bridge over New River at Peppers Ferry is essentially complete.

Widening of Rt. 114, Peppers Ferry Road, from Rt. 460 to the west town limits of Christiansburg is nearly complete as are the overhead bridges for the Huckleberry Trail. All new traffic patterns will be in place prior to the holiday shopping season commencing.

Research Center Drive base paving, curb and gutter work is under way on the left of the road going toward the CRC, and once done, similar work will proceed on the right side.

The temporary Exit 118 Park & Ride Lot is completed and being heavily used by commuters as well as bus passengers and the pavement has been completely removed from the old lot at Falling Branch. Planning for the permanent lot is currently in progress with advertisement planned for next May. Ken distributed a handout of the proposed layout and schedule to the group. The question of restroom facilities at the new lot arose and Ken responded that there will be no restrooms included.

Closure of the Rt. 603 Ironto-Elliston Connector is scheduled for late January or early February of 2015 to allow for eight to ten months of construction work on the road. A temporary EMS facility is being located beside the Shell station off the Ironto exit prior to closing Rt. 603. Project completion is slated for the summer of 2016.

Substructure replacement for the bridge on Rt. 773 (Cannery Road) is underway. This bridge crosses the Roanoke River and is one of the last remaining large overhead truss structures.

Requests for bids for construction of the Rt. 460 Southgate Connector and road relocation associated with airport expansion will be going out in December.

Route 693 spot improvements in Pulaski County are going to advertisement this month. Work on these improvements will probably take one year. David Clark commented that items included are improvements to Whitehouse Bridge and road improvements from Allisonia to the Hoover Color Plant. This will be funded by Pulaski County's Federal Secondary allocations.

David also commented that improvements to Rt. 8 in Riner continue to await funding since the estimate exceeded the allocation. It may be possible to do the turning lanes, sidewalks and storm water management near the Post Office with the funds in hand. Ideally these would be tied into the school project, however, adequate funding may prohibit that now.

Rt. 600 (Piney Woods Road) improvements are scheduled for advertisement this winter with construction to begin in the spring. Right of Way acquisition is currently underway and must be completed before advertising.

Dan reported on the following MPO Planning Projects:

Passenger Rail Study. The scope of work is being finalized and the PDC will kick off the study in January. It's anticipated that this study will take most of 2015 to complete.

Western Perimeter Road Study. This study has been extended past its October end date in order to evaluate adding additional secondary access to the visitor's center. Steve Mouras plans to meet with Adele Schirmer to review the results when they become available.

Long Range Plan work continues with WRA meeting with the localities to gather information. We will send out a report of their progress in the near future. The TAC will be working with the consultants to do a survey in January and schedule public meetings possible in the spring and late summer. The deadline for a finished plan is November 2015.

Ken asked that requests for replacing the at grade intersection of Rt. 460 and North Main Street Blacksburg be included in the Long Range Plan considerations as these areas have drawn increasing interest from various parties due to ongoing concerns about safety.

Erik reported on the following MPO Transit Planning Projects:

Blacksburg Transit Route Analysis (not funded by the MPO). After presenting a slide show on the purpose and progress of the study Erik commented that a report on the deliverables identified in the study will soon be released. Feedback on the study will then be solicited from management in the Town of Blacksburg, Blacksburg Transit, the TAC, the Policy Board and various other stakeholders. More to follow as work on this study progresses.

Erik also shared news on the RFP issued for the Transit/Bicycle/Pedestrian Access Plan in Blacksburg. Four responses were received and will soon be reviewed by Erik, Dan, Eli Sharpe, Kali Casper and Debbie Swetnam with hopes of kicking off the study before Thanksgiving. The study is estimated to take until June of 2015 to complete.

Work on the Regional Cost Model continues as well, with plans for additional site visits being made.

Dan reported on the following miscellaneous items:

The Governor's Transportation Conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke on November 12-14.

The report from FhWA regarding MPO operation is included in the meeting materials and says that the MPO is operating as it should. There were some suggestions included in the report's comment section mainly for working with VDOT and efforts will be made to address those items.

We recently sent out the Rideshare quarterly report which reveals that the program continues to operate as expected, however, falling fuel prices are eroding the number of participants.

A proposed Beaches to Bluegrass Trail has been announced. What information we have on this is included in the meeting materials. The sponsors are asking for comments from interested parties should any localities desire to submit them. Michael Grey spoke of the goal of the study, the sponsors hope to connect existing trails and make an off road trail that crosses the state. The proposed trail currently includes some sections of roads but it is hoped to eventually have the entire trail off road. Submitting feedback is encouraged.

The next VAMPO meeting will be held November 12, 2014 at the Roanoke MPO with the primary topic of discussion being HB2 and prioritization. An update will be sent out once the meeting has occurred should there be any updates we haven't heard.

A Town Hall meeting hosted by Senator John Edwards will be held on November 10, 2014 5:30-7 pm at the O. Winston Link Museum with the primary topic of discussion being passenger rail service to Roanoke.

Other items

The PDC meeting with the region's CTB members occurred last week and went really well. Court Rosen expressed a desire to meet with Dan and discuss the direction of prioritization and William Fralin will be working on formulating items for solicitation of comments. At this point everyone agrees that it will take a significant effort to achieve consensus across the board on how to apply prioritization.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The was no other business discussed

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

Anne announced that the next scheduled meeting is December 4, 2014 at 2:00 PM in the Montgomery County Government Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further agenda items to discuss, Anne adjourned the meeting at 2:54 PM.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Anne McClung, Vice-Chairman**