

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

Minutes

November 5, 2015

MEMBERS

PRESENT:	Craig Meadows	-Montgomery County
	Michael Sutphin	-Town of Blacksburg
	Tom Fox	-Town of Blacksburg (Blacksburg Transit)
	Steve Ross	-Town of Blacksburg (Blacksburg Transit)
	Ken King	-VDoT
	Michael Barber	-Town of Christiansburg
	Adam Carpenetti	-Town of Christiansburg
	Steve Mouras	-Virginia Tech
	Kevin Byrd	-NRVRC
	Jim Hurt	-City of Radford
	Monica Musick	-Pulaski Transit
	James Perkins	-Radford University
	Dan Brugh	-NRV MPO
	Randal Gwinn	-Recording Secretary
ABSENT:	Anne McClung	-Town of Blacksburg
	Danny Wilson	-Pulaski County
	Brian Booth	-Radford Transit
	Fritz Streff	-New River Community College
	Tammye Davis	-FHWA
	Ranny O'Dell	-Pulaski County
	Bruce Brown	-City of Radford
	Tony Cho	-Federal Transit Administration-Region 111
	Annette Perkins	-Montgomery County
	Michael St. Jean	-VA Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority
	Chris Arabia	-VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
OTHERS		
PRESENT:	Erik Olsen	-MPO
	David Clarke	-VDoT
	Andrew Warren	-Town of Blacksburg
	Laura Harman	-Radford University

DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Craig asked for comments on the proposed agenda with one addendum added to it before meeting time. Hearing none, he asked to hear a motion for approval of the agenda.

On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Andrew Warren and carried unanimously, the proposed meeting agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 9, 2015 MEETING

Craig asked for comments on or corrections to the meeting minutes from the July 9, 2015 Policy Board meeting. Hearing none he then called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the minutes dated July 9, 2015 were approved.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

There were no citizens wishing to address the group however at Craig's request Steve Ross introduced Tom Fox, the new Director of Blacksburg Transit, to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of old business needing addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Dan reported on the efforts made to finalize an acceptable 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Unfortunately the introduction of HB2 this year has prevented completion of the plan update in the usual fashion. The LRP must be fiscally constrained and VDOT has not yet been able to supply MPO's with funding projections and also will not be able to supply Travel Demand Model information for our MPO until the middle part of next year. The FhWA will not extend the current 2035 LRP so in order to meet the required November 5, 2015 deadline, our interim solution has been the development of a Draft 2040 LRP containing the items of information that we do have with a best estimate for the fiscal constraint. The Draft plan meets the minimal requirements from the FhWA and we will revisit and fully complete the 2040 LRP next year once the data that it is missing becomes available. The Draft 2040 LRP has been advertised for comments in the local papers, posted in the locality offices and emailed to interested parties and environmental groups with no comments received. The TAC has reviewed and recommends approval of the interim plan.

Following completion of Dan's report Craig asked for questions or discussion on the 2040 LRP. There was no further discussion and Michael Barber moved to accept the plan.

On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Ken King and carried unanimously, the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan was approved and follows in its entirety:

***New River Valley
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Resolution Approving the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

On a motion by Michael Barber, seconded by Ken King, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, a public meeting was advertised, and was held to solicit input for the development of the 2040, and

WHEREAS, the MPO Consultant, W R & A, has compiled demographic data and developed 2040 employment and population projections, and

WHEREAS, a survey was also conducted to determine the needs of the general public and obtain priorities for types of improvements desired, and

WHEREAS, comments received were used in developing the draft 2040 Long Range Plan, and

WHEREAS, a draft Plan was advertised for public comment, sent to the MPO Interested Parties List and the Environmental Regulatory Agencies for comment, sent to the MPO Email List, and posted on the MPO website, and

WHEREAS, there were no comments received on the draft 2040 Long Range Plan, and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of the 2040 Long Range Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NRV MPO approves the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan dated November 5, 2015.

Attest: _____

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

Support for Projects Submitted under HB2 to VDOT by member localities

Dan reported that under HB2 localities can submit applications for projects either under statewide high priority funding or under the district grant program however if the MPO submits the project applications for the localities then those applications will only be considered under statewide high priority funding. Given this information the localities would benefit from submitting their own projects in order to keep them eligible for both funding sources. Project applications that need endorsement by the MPO are those that fall under corridors of statewide significance which in our case would be those on RT 460 and I-81. There is one project on RT 460 at the intersection with North Main Street which is being requested by the Town of Blacksburg and requires MPO endorsement. The TAC recommends that the Policy Board endorse all project requests submitted by the

localities and the agenda packet has suggested resolutions for endorsing the Town of Blacksburg project request as well as three project requests from the Town of Christiansburg and one project request from the City of Radford.

Following completion of Dan's report Craig asked for questions or discussion on the suggested resolutions of support for the localities' project requests to VDOT. Hearing none Craig suggested moving on the resolutions as a group. Michael Barber then made a motion to approve the resolutions of support.

On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the suggested resolutions of support for Projects submitted under HB2 to VDOT by member localities were approved and follow in their entirety:

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Resolution of support for a request to VDOT under HB2 for funding of the Intersection Improvements on Route 460 in the Town of Blacksburg.

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

WHEREAS, HB2 required development of guidelines for requests for transportation projects, and

WHEREAS, Virginia has developed these guidelines in order to prioritize projects statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Blacksburg has requested funding for improvements to the intersection of Route 460 and North Main Street (Route 460 Business); and

WHEREAS, Route 460 is one of the Corridors of Statewide Significance (COSS), and

WHEREAS, MPO support is needed for requests on a Corridor of Statewide Significance, and

WHEREAS, this request is identified as need "E" on Segment E2 of the Heartland Corridor and this intersection is also identified as a Top 100 Fatal and Injury location; and

WHEREAS, this project would add and lengthen turn lanes and limit some left turn movements, and

WHEREAS, this project is in the MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board hereby endorses the request from the Town of Blacksburg and supports it's consideration under both the Statewide High Priority Program Funding and the Salem District Grant Funding.

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

***New River Valley
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November 5, 2015

Resolution of support for a request to VDOT under HB2 for funding of the Connector Road Phase I in the Town of Christiansburg

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

WHEREAS, HB2 required development of guidelines for requests for transportation projects, and

WHEREAS, Virginia has developed these guidelines in order to prioritize projects statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Christiansburg has requested funding for Phase I of a project known as the Connector Road; and

WHEREAS, this request is for a new 4 lane divided highway with controlled access between Pepper's Ferry Road (Route 114) and Cambria Street; and

WHEREAS, this project is in the MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board hereby endorses the request from the Town of Christiansburg and supports it's consideration under both the Statewide High Priority Program Funding and the Salem District Grant Funding.

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

***New River Valley
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November 5, 2015

Resolution of support for a request to VDOT under HB2 for funding of the Connector Road Phase II in the Town of Christiansburg

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

WHEREAS, HB2 required development of guidelines for requests for transportation projects, and

WHEREAS, Virginia has developed these guidelines in order to prioritize projects statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Christiansburg has requested funding for Phase II of a project known as the Connector Road; and

WHEREAS, this request is for a new 4 lane divided highway with controlled access between Cambria Street and Franklin Street (Route 460 Business); and

WHEREAS, this project is in the MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board hereby endorses the request from the Town of Christiansburg and supports it's consideration under both the Statewide High Priority Program Funding and the Salem District Grant Funding.

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

***New River Valley
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November 5, 2015

Resolution of support for a request to VDOT under HB2 for funding of intersection improvements and corridor upgrades in the Town of Christiansburg

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

WHEREAS, HB2 required development of guidelines for requests for transportation projects, and

WHEREAS, Virginia has developed these guidelines in order to prioritize projects statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Christiansburg has requested funding for North Franklin Street (Route 460 Business) improvements; and

WHEREAS, this request is to realign the intersection of North Franklin Street (Route 460 Business) and Cambria Street, as well as Access Management and other safety improvements between Cambria Street and Independence Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, this project is in the MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board hereby endorses the request from the Town of Christiansburg and supports it's consideration under both the Statewide High Priority Program Funding and the Salem District Grant Funding.

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

***New River Valley
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Resolution of support for a request to VDOT under HB2 for funding of a new Connector Road in the City of Radford.

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

WHEREAS, HB2 required development of guidelines for requests for transportation projects, and

WHEREAS, Virginia has developed these guidelines in order to prioritize projects statewide; and

WHEREAS, the City of Radford has requested funding for a project known as the new 2 Lane Connector; and

WHEREAS, this request is for a new 2 lane highway between Tyler Avenue (Route 177) and East Main Street (Route 11); and

WHEREAS, this project is in the MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board hereby endorses the request from the City of Radford and supports it's consideration under both the Statewide High Priority Program Funding and the Salem District Grant Funding.

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

Agenda Addendum: Support of Transportation Alternative Applications for the Town of Christiansburg

Craig next presented the items listed under the agenda addendum. These are two suggested resolutions in support of TAP funding requests from Montgomery County for Phase III of the Huckleberry Trail and from the Town of Christiansburg for Phase III of the Downtown Christiansburg Enhancement project. The TAC has not reviewed these however the deadline for submission of the requests will pass before the TAC meets again and

these are ongoing projects that the TAC has recommended in the past so support is recommended.

Craig then opened the floor for a motion to approve the suggested resolutions as presented.

On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the suggested resolutions of support for TAP funding requests by member localities were approved and follow in their entirety:

***New River Valley
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November 5, 2015

Resolution in support of Phase III of the Downtown Christiansburg Enhancement Project.

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

WHEREAS, in accordance with Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures, local Metropolitan Planning Organization endorsement is required in order that the Virginia Department of Transportation program a transportation enhancement project in the Town of Christiansburg; and,

WHEREAS, Downtown Christiansburg is home to the Christiansburg Downtown Historic District, the East Main Street Historic District, the South Franklin Street Historic District, the U.S. Post Office, the Phlegar Building, and the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church (all of which are listed on both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places and lie within the overall Downtown Project area); and,

WHEREAS, Downtown Christiansburg is home to the many major civic functions in the community, including the Montgomery County seat and Montgomery County Courthouse, Montgomery County Emergency Services Building, Christiansburg Town Hall, Christiansburg Police Department, Christiansburg Fire Department, Christiansburg Rescue Squad, Montgomery County Sheriff's office and County Jail, the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, many of the Town's oldest religious institutions, and a collection of retail establishments, offices, restaurants, residences, and public outdoor spaces; and,

WHEREAS, Downtown Christiansburg is a major interface between the commercial, residential, and public uses of the local community; and,

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Downtown Christiansburg Enhancement Project, Phase 3 will help promote and enhance Downtown Christiansburg; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Downtown Christiansburg Enhancement Project, Phase 3 is supported by the Town of Christiansburg's 2013 Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the NRV in its Long Range Plan supports improvements that enhance pedestrian access and promote walkable communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization supports this project request and requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund the Transportation

ATTEST: _____

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

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Resolution in Support of Transportation Alternative Program Funding Application for the Huckleberry Trail Phase 3 Project by Montgomery County

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

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures, local Metropolitan Planning Organization endorsement is required in order that the Virginia Department of Transportation program a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) project for the extension of Phase 3 of the Huckleberry Trail to Downtown Christiansburg; and,

WHEREAS, the extension allows pedestrians a connection between Downtown Christiansburg and Downtown Blacksburg; and,

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Huckleberry Trail, Phase 3 Project is supported by the Town of Christiansburg's 2013 Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Huckleberry Trail is shown in the NRV MPO Long Range Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization supports this request and requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board to approve funding for the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Huckleberry Trail, Phase 3 Project.

ATTEST: _____

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

VDOT Project Update

Ken King reported on a variety of VDOT projects:

The count of applications submitted for project funding under HB2 statewide is 321 asking for a total of 13.17 billion dollars and competing for .5 billion dollars so project selection will be challenging. Thus far the efforts of everyone involved in making the new process work have been commendable. Hopefully financial projections for the 2040 Long Range Plan will be soon be forthcoming.

The Southgate Interchange project has been awaiting FAA approval for the installation of a crane necessary for the project. That approval has been received and soon some piers and abutments should be going into place. There is a Phase 1 milestone coming up in December for the Huckleberry Trail and that work is on track to be completed on time.

I-81 bridge work in Pulaski County continues as a solution to the cracking of the thin overlay on all four bridges is still being sought. Traffic in that area will continue to be congested as rework is done. We are currently looking for a four day window of opportunity to close one lane on each side until the work is completed.

RT 603 work continues with blasting and material removal. Progress is being made however it's anticipated that it will be April before the excavation work begins to wind down and other types of work begins on the project.

Design work continues on the I-81 Bridges over RT 8 and the deck design is being done in a fashion that will offer flexibility insofar as matching up to whatever final interchange design may be in the future. A request for HB2 funding in order to incorporate interchange improvements along with the bridge replacements was made by the MPO.

Finally in an effort to extend the life of our roads VDOT has increased the use of slurry seal and latex surface treatments. Slurry surface treatment is a tar and sand mix used to seal the road surfaces and keep water damage to a minimum. Latex treatments use a larger gravel for aggregate and the public has the mistaken opinion that it is paving of poor quality due to its roughness when applied. In actuality it is not new pavement, just a method of stretching out the life of the road surface and it generally smoothes to a better surface after six months of traffic. One benefit realized with latex treatments is a great improvement in skid resistance on wet roads so if anyone mentions the higher noise levels on roads with latex treatments let them know that the additional traction comes at the cost of higher road noise. Help us educate the public on this if you have an opportunity.

Route 11 in Fairlawn Study Update

Dan reported that the second public meeting for the study will be held at the NRV Regional Commission building on November 10, 4:00 – 7:00 pm. We will be emailing the display boards and recommendations to be used at the meeting by the end of the week. This will be the meeting where we present the recommendations for improvements to the public.

Transit Planning Projects update

Erik reported on the following:

The bus stop safety and accessibility study in Blacksburg was completed this summer and now we are now disseminating the information and will be having a work session with the Blacksburg Town Counsel in January to give them an overview.

There is a new GIS intern who is working on the GIS Portal Project which we stopped working on eight months ago when our last intern left. This program has a budget of \$6,000 and has paid off well for us. Paid and unpaid interns are now entering data on static bus stops in Pulaski and Radford to what we already have collected for most of the rest of our region.

Work on the Regional Cost Model update at Blacksburg Transit continues with completion of the project projected for this spring.

The Regional Transit Study project continues its ridership survey through next week and has received a high number of responses from a good cross section of riders, especially those using Radford Transit.

Updates to Transit Development Plans are due to begin in July of next year since they run on a five year cycle. The MPO is in discussions with VDRPT to consider using the same consultant to do the plans for all three of our transit operators as that would offer more consistent results and should also come at a lower cost than using three different consultants. More discussions will follow on this as the time approaches.

Passenger Rail Study update

Kevin reported on the Passenger Rail Study. The survey launched in April has now closed with 6,000+ responses received. Data analysis shows interest in using passenger rail is high and we are confident that an annual ridership number of 40,000 is very attainable. "In person" surveys are currently ongoing at the Lynchburg Amtrak station and also Megabus riders are being interviewed at the Park & Ride lot.

The station site selection process has narrowed the candidate sites down to three, two in Christiansburg and one in Radford. Detailed analysis of those sites is ongoing to determine which would be the best selection. The regional support committee next meets the afternoon of December 17th after the MPO TAC meets in the morning and hopefully finalizes the site selection. Meanwhile early discussions have started with Jennifer Mitchell at DRPT concerning the next steps to be taken.

Completion date for the study is the end of December.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ken mentioned that the Roanoke Transportation Planning Organization is looking at a Long Range Transit Vision Plan and having public meetings on the topic this week and that he will pass on any information that he learns about the effort.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Craig announced that the next scheduled meeting is December 3, 2015 at 2:00 PM in the Montgomery County Government Center.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further agenda items to discuss, Craig adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

Attest: _____

F. Craig Meadows, Chairman