

**Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization
755 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073**

**Minutes
April 1, 2010**

PRESENT:	Lance Terpenney	-Town of Christiansburg
	Richard Ballengee	-Town of Christiansburg
	Krishna Chachra	-Town of Blacksburg
	Anne McClung	-Town of Blacksburg (for Adele Schirmer)
	Doug Marrs	-Montgomery County
	Craig Meadows	-Montgomery County
	Debbie Swetnam	-Blacksburg Transit (for Becky Martin)
	Steve Mouras	-Virginia Tech
	Richard Caywood	-VDoT (Salem)
	Kevin Byrd	-NRV Planning District Commission
	Tammye Davis	-FhWA (by telephone)
	Dan Brugh	-BCM MPO
	Judy Kiser	-Recording Secretary
ABSENT:	Adele Schirmer	-Town of Blacksburg
	Becky Martin	-Blacksburg Transit
	Michael St. Jean	-VA Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority
	Tony Cho	-Federal Transit Administration-Region 111
	Jeff Sizemore	-VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
NON-MPO PRESENT:		
	David Clarke	-VDoT (Christiansburg)

DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Brugh asked that the agenda be amended to include the following item under New Business:

C. Approval of Contract Addition with Parsons Transportation

On a motion by Richard Ballengee, seconded by Doug Marrs and carried unanimously, the agenda dated April 1, 2010 was approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2009

On a motion by Richard Ballengee, seconded by Craig Meadows and carried unanimously, the minutes dated November 5, 2009 were approved.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

There being no speakers, the Public Address session was closed.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of Final Report of the Franklin Street/Cambria Street Interchange Study

Resolution Accepting the Final Report of the Franklin Street/Cambria Street Interchange Study

On a motion by Doug Marrs, seconded by Craig Meadows and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, the Christiansburg Town Council requested the BCM MPO to perform an intersection study of the Franklin Street/Cambria Street intersection and recommend improvements; and

WHEREAS, the BCM MPO accepted the request and directed the MPO's On-Call Consultant to perform the study; and

WHEREAS, the study was conducted and alternatives developed with TAC oversight; and

WHEREAS, the BCM MPO has an "on call" consultant to conduct this type of study; and

WHEREAS, an information meeting was held in December 2009; and

WHEREAS, comments received were reviewed and incorporated into the report; and

WHEREAS, the TAC has reviewed the report and recommends acceptance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BCM MPO accepts the final draft of the Intersection Planning Study of the Franklin Street and Cambria Street intersections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO Executive Director is instructed to send the final report to the Christiansburg Town Council.

Mr. Meadows asked what the next step would be now that the Final Report has been accepted by the MPO. Mr. Brugh responded that the next step would be a construction project if funding was available.

2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

A draft of the 2010-2011 UPWP was developed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and provided to members of the MPO Policy Board. The Plan is currently being advertised for public comments. Public comments will be received until April 14, 2010. The TAC will review the comments and make a recommendation to the Policy Board at the May meeting. Mr. Brugh provided a brief overview of the draft document, pointing out two special studies that are included in the Plan as follows:

- MPO staff will work with member jurisdictions to identify transportation issues that warrant further planning study. The MPO will coordinate specific planning projects with VDoT, VDRPT, FTA and FhWA for review and approval. Selected studies will be incorporated into the UPWP by amendment. All planning studies will be performed by the MPO on-call consultant, an approved agency under contract with the Planning District Commission. If funds are not utilized, they will be carried forward for future use.
- An interchange study on Route 460 near Southgate Drive (Route 314) will be completed this year with funding provided by Virginia Tech. This study is being conducted by the MPO's on-call consultant.

Mr. Brugh also explained the FY 2010-2011 Proposed Revenues and Expenditures by Federal, State, and Local Sources.

Approval of Contract Addition with Parsons Transportation-Modeling and Analysis of New Roadway Connections in South Blacksburg

As part of its work effort in developing the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update for the MPO, Parsons previously defined analysis of the traffic impacts of several potential roadway connections as identified by the South Blacksburg Transportation Task Force. The analysis is intended to assess the traffic impacts of six combinations of alternative connection concepts at eleven intersections identified by the Task Force as follows:

1. Main Street/Ellet Road (counts available from previous Plan, updated).
2. Main Street/Country Club Drive (counts available from previous Plan, updated).
3. Main Street/Airport Road (counts available from previous Plan, updated).
4. Main Street/Marlington Street (county from WRA).
5. Country Club Drive/Airport Road
6. Southgate Drive/Airport Road

7. Spring Street/Southgate Drive/Tech Center Drive (counts available from previous Plan, updated).
8. Duck Pond Drive/Southgate Drive (counts available from previous Plan, updated).
9. Draper Road/Washington Street (count from WRA).
10. Washington Street/Kent Street.
11. Ramble Road and Exit 3a (Ramble Road at Industrial Park Road).

Seven of the eleven locations have traffic counts available from other sources. For the remaining four, Parsons will perform turning movement counts covering the a.m. and p.m. peak periods (7:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.). These will be weekday counts and will cover all turning movements, including u-turns as well as pedestrians and bicycles. Upon completion of the counts, Parsons will summarize and input the count data into spreadsheets. The documents should be completed and provided to the MPO the first part of May 2010.

Resolution to Approve Securing Traffic Counts to be Used in Traffic Modeling and Analysis of Intersections and Possible New Roadways in Blacksburg

On a motion by Richard Ballengee, seconded by Doug Marrs and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, Parsons Transportation is performing traffic modeling and analysis of intersections and possible new roadways in south Blacksburg for the Town of Blacksburg in conjunction with updating the MPO Long Range Plan; and

WHEREAS, turning movements are needed at 5 intersections to thoroughly analyze the possible new roadways and 11 affected intersections; and

WHEREAS, this analysis may be beneficial to the MPO; and

WHEREAS, the BCM MPO “on call” consultant (Parsons Transportation) can provide these counts under the current contract to update the 2035 Long Range Plan at a cost of \$2,800; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDoT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FhWA) have concurred in this work being performed by the MPO under this contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MPO Policy Board approves this requested work not to exceed \$2,800; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BCM MPO authorizes the Executive Director to work with Montgomery County to add this work to the current contract with Parsons Transportation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Update on Transit Service expansion in Christiansburg Debbie Swetnam, designee for Becky Martin, reported the transit service expansion in Christiansburg is going well. Following two months of free ridership, there was a slight drop when the fees kicked in, which was expected. Blacksburg Transit is reviewing data and talking with the bus drivers. The drivers have suggested some good ideas, such as 1-day reservations. The \$2 round trip fare is confusing to some riders. They are looking at going back to the \$1 fare. Mr. Terpenney has advised Becky Martin that one of Christiansburg's Town Council members suggests that the committee meet again to review the ideas and suggestions that have been made.

Update on the Warm Hearth Area Transit Study Ms. Swetnam reported that 600 surveys had been sent out to residents and employees. Of the 600 surveys sent out, 131 were returned. 73% of those who returned the survey indicated they would use the bus service if it was offered at Warm Hearth. Focus groups will be organized by the end of April, and a final report is expected to be completed by July 1st.

Update on 2035 Long Range Plan Development Dan distributed a chart depicting the 2035 Long Range Plan Development schedule to completion. He explained that projections for 2035 have been made and planning staff (Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Montgomery County) are currently reviewing and expect to get the general feel for VDoT's model development efforts within the next few days. Hopefully, a final document will be available by October.

Update on SmartWay Bus The new SmartWay buses went into service the first of the year, as well as the fare increase. Cost of a one-way fare increased from \$3 to \$4, and cost for a monthly pass increased from \$100 to \$120. First quarter reports should be available within the next few days. According to Valley Metro, the increase in the fares has not resulted in a significant drop in ridership.

Steve Mouras said at first Tech saw maybe a 10% or so decline in ridership but it is coming back up now. Richard Caywood explained that the new buses are creating the need for more work on the parking. Since the new buses weigh quite a bit more than the old ones, they are creating some ruts in the parking lot pavement.

Other Items

Southgate Interchange Study Public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2010 from 4-6 P.M. at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Dan will do a short video giving an overview of the study, and put it on u-tube. The idea for a video came from a briefing the National Weather Service in Blacksburg did on winter storms last year. The video explained, in approximately 8-9 minutes, how they do their forecasting, and included a significant amount of detail. Dan would like to try using a video for the study to see if there is any benefit. County staff will do the filming.

Hybrid Buses for Blacksburg Transit Ms. Swetnam reported that Blacksburg Transit will be receiving their first hybrid buses. They are expecting delivery of two of the buses on April 19th and two on April 23rd.

NEXT MEETING

The next MPO Policy Board meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lance Terpenney, Chairman