

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

Minutes
May 3, 2007

PRESENT: Clay Goodman - Montgomery County
Doug Marrs - Montgomery County
Steve Mouras - Virginia Tech
Susan Anderson - Town of Blacksburg
Michael Gray - VDOT (Salem)
Richard Ballengee - Town of Christiansburg
Ken Tucker - Blacksburg Transit
Kevin Byrd - NRVPDC
Lance Terpenney - Town of Christiansburg
Michael St.Jean - VT Montgomery Regional Airport Authority
Jennifer Hamblin - Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Abigail Convery - NRV PDC
Ron Rordam - Town of Blacksburg
Unwanna Dabney - Federal Highway Administration
Rebecca Martin - Blacksburg Transit
Richard Caywood - VDOT (Salem)
Adele Schirmer - Town of Blacksburg
Melissa Barlow - Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Patricia Kampf - Federal Transit Administration
Dan Brugh - MPO Executive Director

DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Susan Anderson, seconded by Clay Goodman and carried unanimously, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2007

On a motion by Richard Caywood, seconded by Doug Marrs and carried unanimously, the minutes of April 5, 2007 were approved as amended.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SESSION

There being no speakers, the public address session was closed.

OLD BUSINESS

Interested Parties

The MPO has administratively developed an Interested Parties Contact List and VDOT has developed an Environmental Contact list of Regulatory Agencies. If any others need to be added to either list, please notify the Executive Director.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, and seconded Michael Gray, and carried unanimously, the Policy Board accepted the lists as presented.

Draft Unified Planning Work Program

The TAC has developed a draft UPWP for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The draft has been reviewed by VDOT and FhWA and meets requirements as set forth in SAFETEA-LU. The UPWP will need to be advertised for public comment and sent to the MPO "Interested Parties" list as well as the regulatory agencies for review and possible comment. Approval is needed at the June MPO meeting. The TAC recommends approval of the draft for advertisement.

Some minor adjustments were reported by Blacksburg Transit and should be received by Friday. Susan Anderson also suggested some grammatical changes.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, seconded by Richard Ballengee, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee has developed a draft 2007-08 UPWP; and

WHEREAS, this Plan was developed after public input and notification to the MPO Interested Parties and State and Federal Regulatory Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends the Plan that has been developed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BCM MPO approves the draft 2007-08 UPWP as amended; and

FURTHER, that the MPO Policy Board directs the MPO Executive Director to solicit comments from the public; and

FURTHER, that the TAC will review the comments received and make a recommendation to the Policy Board at the June 7, 2007 meeting.

Draft Public Participation Plan

The TAC has developed a Public Participation Plan as required under SAFETEA-LU. The initial draft has been reviewed by the MPO "Interested Parties" as well as federal and state regulatory agencies. This initial Plan was developed from and will replace the current Public Involvement Policy of the MPO. This needs to be advertised for 45 days prior to approval. Therefore, approval is scheduled for the July 5, 2007 meeting. The MPO "Interested Parties" and regulatory agencies will be contacted again during the contact period. The TAC recommends approval of the draft Public Participation Plan.

Susan Anderson recommended some minor grammatical changes and one wording change.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, seconded by Richard Ballengee, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, federal legislation (SAFETEA-LU) requires MPOs to develop a plan to encourage the public and other interested parties to participate in transportation planning and

WHEREAS, the TAC has modified the MPO Public Involvement Policy to comply with SAFETEA-LU requirements, and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of the draft Public Participation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO approves the draft Public Participation Plan as amended, and

FURTHER, the Executive Director is directed to advertise and contact interested parties for comment, and

FURTHER, that this comment period will be 45 days, and

FURTHER, the TAC review any comments received and make a recommendation to the Policy Board at the July 5, 2007 meeting.

Draft Amendment to the 2030 Long Range Plan

In order to be compliant with SAFETEA-LU, an amendment needs to be made to the current LRP. The TAC has developed this draft amendment to bring the MPO into compliance. All of the items except one do this. The one item that does not involve SAFETEA-LU adds the truck climbing lanes on southbound I 81 to the Long Range Plan. Right now, it is not envisioned that any of the project will be within the MPO, but this saves a possible amendment at a later date. Advertisement for comment will be on the same schedule as the Public Participation Plan. Approval is scheduled for the July 5, 2007 meeting. The TAC recommends approval.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, seconded by Susan Anderson, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, federal legislation (SAFETEA-LU) requires that modifications be made to the current to be compliant, and

WHEREAS, the TAC has developed an amendment to fulfill these requirements and has consulted preliminarily with Interested Parties and Environmental Regulatory Agencies, and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of the draft LRP amendment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO approves the draft LRP Amendment #1, and

FURTHER, that the MPO Policy Board directs the MPO Executive Director to solicit comments from the public; and

FURTHER, that the TAC will review the comments received and make a recommendation to the Policy Board at the June 7, 2007 meeting.

Letter of Support for Route 114 expansion

At the April meeting, it was the consensus of the Board that a letter should be sent to VDOT supporting the addition of the proposed Route 114 widening project to VDOT's Six Year Plan should funding allow. The Board requested the Executive Director to prepare a letter for this meeting.

Susan Anderson pointed out one change on page 2 of the letters.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, seconded by Richard Ballengee, and carried unanimously, the Policy Board approved the letters to send as amended.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

No schedule for this update has been established yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Freight Study Proposal

One of the focus areas in SAFETEA-LU concerns movement of freight. While it does not appear that we have significant freight movement within the MPO, until a detailed review is done, we do not know for sure. VDOT is doing a broad statewide study which will have some information within the MPO which will be completed later this year. A more extensive look needs to be taken. The New River Valley Planning District is able to provide us with an initial evaluation of freight movement within the MPO. The cost is capped at \$6,000. The TAC has reviewed the Task Order submitted by the NRVPCD and recommends approval of the study. VDOT and FhWA have also concurred in the study.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS one of the four areas in SAFETEA-LU is freight transportation, and

WHEREAS, there is no data available on freight movement within the MPO, and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC) can secure information regarding freight movement within the MPO and evaluate it, and

WHEREAS, the NRVPDC has submitted a Task Order to accomplish this for a maximum compensation of \$6,000, and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of the Task Order.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO agrees to the Task Order and authorizes it's Chairman to execute the Task Order on behalf of the MPO.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TIP Adjustment #6

A TIP adjustment was sent out for statewide projects that are already in the TIP, but required some funding

adjustments.

SmartWay Bus Update

Quarterly reports for FY 06-07 Quarter 3 were recently distributed. Virginia Tech is interested in doing a study to show the amount of Virginia Tech traffic on the SmartWay Bus and the make up of those boarding and alighting at the 3 stops near Virginia Tech. If anyone else is interested in having some other areas studied, it could possibly be arranged to be done at the same time as the Virginia Tech data collection.

Rideshare Update

It was recommended that the Ride Share consultant gather data that can be passed along to the localities showing growth in the program. This program is on a 2 year grant and when that money runs out it will be up to the localities to fund it. It was also recommended that draft proposals for minimum goals and quarterly reporting be developed.

OTHER ITEMS - None

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is June 7, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Lance Terpenney, Chairman