

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

**Minutes**

**June 2, 2011**

PRESENT:	Craig Meadows	-Montgomery County
	Anne McClung	-Town of Blacksburg
	Kevin Byrd	-NRV Planning District Commission
	Leslie Hager-Smith	-Town of Blacksburg
	Richard Ballengee	-Town of Christiansburg
	Adam Carpenetti	-Town of Christiansburg
	Michael Gray	-VDoT (Salem)
	Richard Caywood	-VDoT (Salem)
	Michael St. Jean	-VA Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority
	Steve Mouras	-Virginia Tech
	Becky Martin	-Blacksburg Transit
	Dan Brugh	-BCMA MPO
	Randal Gwinn	-Recording Secretary
ABSENT:	Tony Cho	-Federal Transit Administration-Region 111
	Jeff Sizemore	-VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
	Krishna Chachra	-Town of Blacksburg
	Tammye Davis	-FhWA
	Doug Marrs	-Montgomery County

**I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Leslie Hager-Smith, seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously, the agenda dated June 2, 2011 was approved.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2011**

On a motion by Leslie Hager-Smith, seconded by Richard Caywood and carried unanimously, the minutes dated May 5, 2011 were approved.

**IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

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

## V. OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items to discuss.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Approval of FY 2012-15 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) ~ Dan Brugh

VDoT and DRPT supplied information to create the FY 2012-15 TIP and we are fairly confident it is correct. Some completed projects are still included, however VDOT prefers that they not be removed yet. An amendment will be necessary once VDoT approves the Six Year Plan to include the Route 460 Southgate Interchange project, the Route 114 Peppers Ferry Road project, and the intersection project in Blacksburg at Ramble Road/Industrial Park Drive/Route 460 ramps. The Draft has been reviewed by the TAC and they recommended approval.

There was no discussion after Dan's remarks and Craig opened the floor for a motion for approval.

### **Resolution Approving the FY12-15 TIP**

**On a motion by Anne McClung seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, a final draft of the Transportation Improvement Program has been prepared by the Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization of proposed transportation improvements for fiscal years 2012 thru 2015; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of transportation projects in the Transportation Improvement Program is a condition of federal participation in the funding of that project; and

WHEREAS, an approved Transportation Improvement Program is required to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the draft Transportation Improvement Program has been advertised for public comment and posted on the MPO website and no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the draft FY2012-15 TIP has been sent to the MPO Interested parties and Governmental Regulatory Agencies and no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed this document and has recommended that the Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization approve the Transportation Improvement Program for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby approve the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.

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

J. Dan Brugh  
Executive Director

**B. Annual Self Certification ~ Craig Meadows**

Each year the MPO is required to certify that it is in compliance with appropriate FhWA and FTA requirements. Dan and Michael stated that the MPO is in compliance to the best of their knowledge. The floor was opened for a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Self Certification Statement in attachment # 3.

**METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS SELF-CERTIFICATION**

**On a motion by Richard Caywood, seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously,**

BE IT RESOLVED, The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Blacksburg urbanized area(s) hereby certify that the transportation planning process for FY12-15 is addressing the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable regulations in accordance with 23 CFR 450.334:

- (1) 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
- (2) In nonattainment and maintenance areas, sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
- (3) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
- (4) 49 U.S.C. 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
- (5) Section 1101(b) of the SAFETEA-LU (Pub. L. 109-59) and 49 CFR part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in USDOT funded projects;
- (6) 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
- (7) The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.* ) and 49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38;
- (8) The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
- (9) Section 324 of title 23 U.S.C. regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
- (10) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR part 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

**Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area**

Metropolitan Planning Organization

State Department of Transportation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Craig Meadows  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Chairman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **C. Amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP) – Dan Brugh**

The Southgate Interchange Project is not currently in the constrained LRP due to funding limitations. An amendment to move the project into the constrained portion of the LRP has been advertised in the newspapers, sent out to the email list, posted on the website, sent to the Interested Parties list as well as the Environmental Regulatory Agencies and no comments were received. A copy of the amendment along with budget and scope documents is in the meeting handouts. VDoT and FhWA have reviewed the amendment and concur. We now need approval to make these changes to the 2035 LRP. Two items need to be approved, (1) the Amendment to the Plan, and(2) the scope and budget for our On Call consultant to amend the Plan.

There was no discussion after Dan’s remarks and Craig opened the floor for a motion to approve the listed items.

#### **Resolution to Approve Amendment # 1 to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan**

**On a motion by Anne McClung seconded by Adam Carpenetti, and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, provisions in SAFETEA-LU required that a project be listed in the MPO Long Range Plan before it can receive funding; and

WHEREAS, VDoT has indicated that funding will be designated for the Route 460 Interchange near Southgate Drive (Route 314); and

WHEREAS, comments were solicited from the public, interested parties, and State and Federal regulatory agencies and the proposed Amendment was posted on the MPO website and no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of Amendment #1 to the 2035 Long Range Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO approves Amendment #1 to the MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.

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J. Dan Brugh, Executive Director

#### **Resolution approving scope of work for Amendment # 1 to the 2035 Long Range Plan**

**On a motion by Anne McClung seconded by Adam Carpenetti and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, federal law, SAFETEA-LU, requires that projects be included in the Long Range Plan to receive funding; and

WHEREAS, VDoT has indicated that funding will be designated for the Route 460 project near Southgate Drive (Route 314); and

WHEREAS, a scope of work and budget has been secured to accomplish this work from Parsons Transportation Group; and

WHEREAS, VDoT has given tentative approval to the contract; and

WHEREAS, the TAC has reviewed the budget and scope of work and recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area MPO approves the Budget and Scope of Work submitted by Parsons Transportation Group.

FURTHER, the Executive Director is authorized to finalize negotiations with Parsons and authorize the work to be done.

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Craig Meadows, Chairman

**D. Acceptance of Final Report on the Route 460 Interchange Project near Southgate Drive (Route 314) ~ Dan Brugh**

The purpose of this study was to secure information to assist VDoT with preparation of an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) The study is finalized and ready to give to VDoT for further action.

Following Dan's remarks the group discussed Blacksburg's request to emphasize grade separated crossings for the Huckleberry Trail. Following the discussion Craig opened the floor for a motion to accept the final report.

**Resolution to accept the Final Report of a Transportation Planning Study and Analysis for an Interchange on the Route 460 Bypass near Southgate Drive ( Route 314) with Virginia Tech financing the Study.**

**On a motion by Anne McClung seconded by Leslie Hager-Smith and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has requested the BCM MPO to conduct a study and analysis of an Interchange on the Route 460 Bypass at Southgate Drive ( Route 314) to determine the type of interchange, cost data, and data to assist VDOT in preparing an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) for FhWA; and

WHEREAS, VDoT concurred that this study could be done by the BCM MPO, and

WHEREAS, the BCM MPO "On Call" consultant, Parsons Transportation Group has completed this study, and

WHEREAS, two public meetings were held during the study process to obtain citizen input and the study was posted on the MPO website throughout the development of the study; and

WHEREAS, the TAC has reviewed the Final Report and recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Policy Board approves the Final Report of a Transportation Planning Study and Analysis for an Interchange on the Route 460 Bypass near Southgate Drive ( Route 314); and

FURTHER, that it authorizes the Executive Director to send this completed study to VDOT with the recommendation that any crossings of the Huckleberry Trail within this project be grade separated.

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Craig Meadows, Chairman

## **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ~ Dan Brugh**

### **a) SmartWay bus Update**

We received the third quarter SmartWay report and a copy is included in the meeting packets. Dan emphasized the graph showing the number of passengers per day by month. Ridership is up and March was higher than any month since the SmartWay has been operating. It is expected that the fourth quarter will show further increases. This should be a record setting year.

### **b) Exit 118 Park and Ride Lot Update**

Several efforts are ongoing to improve the Exit 118 Park & Ride lot. Repainting of parking spaces, installation of a portable toilet, installation of a shelter with benches, new signage and police patrols should be happening soon.

Discussions after Dan's comments:

Craig spoke to the importance of this facility to the community and the fear that it will rapidly be outgrown going forward.

Michael advised that VDoT will be applying for grant funds to increase the size and features of both the Exit 118 and Exit 140 Park & Ride lots as they have become the number one priority in the Salem district. Richard added that it has been a seven year effort pursuing improvements for both the Exit 118 & 140 Park & Ride lots and that the grant application is slated for filing on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **c) VAMPO Update**

During the May 24<sup>th</sup> VAMPO meeting held in Charlottesville, VA, officials informed the members that federal policymakers have targeted all MPO's representing populations below 200,000 for elimination. Dan stated that the MPO Staff cannot take action on this, however he recommended that the localities represented by the MPO start contacting the US Virginia delegation as soon as possible in an effort to retain smaller MPOs.

Discussions after Dan's comments:

The group discussed the legitimacy of this news and what actions to take going forward.

### **d) Other Items**

The group discussed projects and timelines, primarily focusing on the Southgate Interchange. VDoT is

already working on the early stages of the project. Due to its anticipated “Design/Build” nature, it’s possible to have a start date in 2013. In consideration to the number of interested parties involved and the desire to insure continuity in building, Richard and Steve agreed that it would be good to form a stakeholders group once project development begins. Dan advised that about 75% of the Environmental work has already been done by the VT Executive Airport, the CRC with Phase 2, and VDOT during the earlier Interchange project study. Michael indicated that VDOT was aware of this already.

Richard Ballengee informed the group that Christiansburg recently approved a new budget and would be funding their bus service another year.

The group discussed Radford’s new bus service and the concern that there would be an attempt to extend service into the BCM MPO without first coordinating this with the MPO. Personnel changes within DRPT may influence this as well.

Richard Caywood stated that during work on the I-81 truck climbing lanes, VDOT was making every effort to not delay traffic any more than absolutely necessary. Steve and Richard then discussed the duration of the project (about one year) and concerns for traffic issues during Virginia Tech events. Richard Ballengee asked if blasting could be done at night and Richard Caywood explained the difficulties of attempting to do so. Richard Caywood ended the discussion by saying that VDOT continues to look at alternatives to keep traffic flowing between the valleys and will be sensitive to scheduled events at Virginia Tech.

Adam asked about ridership on the Megabus service as it appears there are fewer buses stopping. Dan and Becky were of the impression that the buses that are stopping were always full but Dan committed to trying to get some ridership data from Megabus.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **IX. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is July 7, 2011.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM

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

**Craig Meadows, Chairman**