

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

Minutes

November 1, 2012

PRESENT:	Craig Meadows	-Montgomery County
	Anne McClung	-Town of Blacksburg
	Michael Sutphin	-Town of Blacksburg
	Adam Carpenetti	-Town of Christiansburg
	Rob Cary	-VDoT (Salem)
	Kevin Byrd	-NRV Planning District Commission
	Becky Martin	-Blacksburg Transit
	Chris Arabia	-VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
	Jim Quesenberry	-Radford University
	Jim Hurt	-City of Radford
	Fritz Streff	-New River Community College
	Steve Sandy	-Montgomery County
	Dan Brugh	-BCMA MPO
	Randal Gwinn	-Recording Secretary
ABSENT:	Tony Cho	-Federal Transit Administration-Region 111
	Tammye Davis	-FHWA
	Richard Ballengee	-Town of Christiansburg
	Barry Helms	-Town of Christiansburg
	Annette Perkins	-Montgomery County
	Steve Mouras	-Virginia Tech
	Michael St. Jean	-VA Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority
	Bruce Brown	-City of Radford
	Pete Huber	-Pulaski County

DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman 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. Hearing none he called for a motion to approve the agenda.

On a motion by Anne McClung seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the agenda dated November 1, 2012 was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2012 MEETING

Craig asked for comments on the meeting minutes from the September 6, 2012 Policy Board meeting. Hearing none he called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On a motion by Anne McClung, seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the minutes dated September 6, 2012 were approved.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

There were no public speakers seeking to address the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of the revised MPO Title VI and Public Participation Plans

Dan summarized the process of revising these plans. The TAC completed drafts of the revised plans which have been advertised for public comments in the local papers, on the MPO website, and by emailing our lists of interested parties. No comments were received and the TAC recommends approval by the Policy Board.

Jim asked if the wording of the 3rd sentence of the Public Participation Plan should include a reference to MAP21 as well as SAFETEA-LU as MAP21 is in its early stages of implementation. It was agreed to edit the document as suggested.

Hearing no further discussion on these items, Craig asked for a motion to approve the draft Title VI Plan recommended by the TAC.

On a motion by Anne McClung, seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, the MPO is required to comply with Title VI requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and other federal legislation; and

WHEREAS, the current MPO Title VI Policy needed revision and updating; and

WHEREAS, the MPO TAC has developed a revised Title VI Policy and advertised it for public comment for 45 days, and

WHEREAS, comments were also solicited from the MPO Interested parties and Government Regulatory Agencies; and

WHEREAS, no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of the Title VI Policy dated November 1, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley MPO approves the MPO Title VI Policy dated November 1, 2012.

Craig next asked for a motion to approve the draft Public Participation Plan recommended by the TAC.

On a motion by Anne McClung, seconded by Michael Sutphin, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, federal legislation requires MPOs to have a plan to encourage the public and other interested parties to participate in transportation planning and

WHEREAS, the Plan needs modification based on MPO expansion; and

WHEREAS, the TAC has reviewed and modified the existing MPO Public Involvement Plan, and

WHEREAS, the draft revised Plan was advertised for 45 days for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the MPO requested comments from the MPO Interested Parties and Governmental Regulatory Agencies; and

WHEREAS, no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of the Public Participation Plan dated November 1, 2012.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the New River Valley MPO approves the Public Participation Plan dated November 1, 2012.

J. Dan Brugh, Executive Director

NEW BUSINESS

MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan

Dan explained that the NRV MPO is the only one in the state that doesn't have a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and probably should. In the past there wasn't available funding to pursue creation of this plan; however we now have enough in our Special Study fund to cover the expense. The NRV PDC is willing to conduct the study on behalf of the MPO and has submitted a task order document which is included in the meeting packets. The TAC has discussed conducting this study and recommends approval by the Policy Board.

Kevin then gave a brief overview of the process that the PDC will use to conduct the study and received suggestions from Anne on how to choose participants for the necessary committee.

Discussions on the topic concluded, Craig called to hear a motion for approval of the study.

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

WHEREAS, use of Alternative Transportation is a focus of MAP21 federal legislation; and

WHEREAS, the MPO does not have an approved Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and would benefit from having a comprehensive plan and strategy, and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC) is capable of developing a Plan for the MPO because of its work in bicycle/pedestrian transportation, and

WHEREAS, the NRVPDC has submitted a Task Order to accomplish this for a maximum compensation of \$30,000 - \$15,000 in 2012-13 and \$15,000 in 2013-2014, and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of the Task Order.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New River Valley MPO agrees to the Task Order and authorizes it's Executive Director to execute the Task Order on behalf of the MPO.

Craig Meadows, Chairman

Support of applications for Safe Routes to School grants by Montgomery County and the Town of Christiansburg

Dan explained that this is the last year to receive 100% grant funding under the Safe Routes to Schools program, next year funding will become 80/20. Both Montgomery County and the Town of Christiansburg have identified projects that they would like to apply to VDOT for funding under SRTS and ask for the support of the MPO in doing so.

Steve gave a brief overview of the two projects identified by Montgomery County, the Auburn Campus and Belview Elementary site. Montgomery County has already sent a Travel Plan to VDOT for review and would like to file a grant application for \$500k in January. The amount asked for is the maximum allowed and will fund phase one of these projects. Future grants will be needed to complete the desired improvements.

Adam and Dan explained the Town of Christiansburg's progress on a new Travel Plan which should be completed in time to apply for a grant for the Christiansburg Elementary and Christiansburg Primary schools.

Blacksburg and Radford will not be applying for further grants under Safe Routes to Schools this year. Radford currently has a project underway.

Discussions on the topic concluded, Craig called to hear a motion for approval of a resolution supporting the applications for Safe Routes to School grants by Montgomery County and the Town of Christiansburg.

On a motion by Anne McClung, seconded by Michael Sutphin, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, VDOT administers grant funding for the Safe Routes to School Program, and

WHEREAS, this program is intended to provide options that allow children to walk and bicycle to school safely, and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County desires to pursue funding to support education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, and development of engineering strategies to improve safety, increase community awareness, change community attitudes regarding the safety of walking/bicycling to school, and to increase the number of students walking to school at Belview Elementary School and the Auburn School Campus.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NRV MPO supports Montgomery County's request and encourages VDOT to fund this program in Montgomery County.

Attest: _____

Dan Brugh, Executive Director

On a motion by Anne McClung, seconded by Michael Sutphin, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, VDOT administers grant funding for the Safe Routes to School Program, and

WHEREAS, this program is intended to provide options that allow children to walk and bicycle to school safely, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Christiansburg desires to pursue funding to support education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, and development of engineering strategies to improve safety, increase community awareness, change community attitudes regarding the safety of walking/bicycling to school, and to increase the number of students walking to school at Christiansburg Elementary School and Christiansburg Primary.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NRV MPO supports the Town of Christiansburg's request and encourages VDOT to fund this program in the Town of Christiansburg.

Attest: _____

Dan Brugh, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VDOT Project Report – Rob Cary

Rob gave a brief update on the projects currently underway or being readied in the area. Included were: Rt. 114, the New River Bridge at Peppers Ferry, the New River Bridge at Narrows, the Southgate Connector, the replacement of the New River Bridges on I-81 at Radford, upgrades to the Park & Ride lots at Exits 118 and 140, the Dirt Glue trial on Old Sourwood Road and the I-81 Truck Climbing Lanes. He closed his remarks by reminding everyone that VDOT would be hosting a multimodal meeting on November 7th and encouraging those who could to participate.

Livability Project Update – Kevin Byrd

Kevin reported that the Consortium Steering Committee released an interim report in September and now will be taking the report back to the PDC Commission to update them. Kevin also would like to do a presentation to the MPO Policy Board at a future meeting as the numbers in the report are quite revealing of trends that have developed in the study area.

SmartWay Bus update

The SmartWay services ended the last fiscal year on a strong note with the SmartWay Bus service again setting a new record. First quarter numbers haven't been sent to us yet but we will distribute them once we have them.

Ride Solutions update

The Ride Solutions program continues to expand and do well and we've included a copy of their last quarterly report in the meeting packets for your review.

MAP 21 update

MAP 21 information is becoming available. Dan committed to emailing out a link to the website where it is being posted in the near future.

Christiansburg Transit Update – Becky Martin

Commuter route 240 has been adjusted and continues to show good ridership numbers. A second commuter route was recently added and thus far ridership is good for a startup service. It's been noted that students in Christiansburg have really been utilizing our transit services and really like having them. The Warm Hearth service is doing ok

Radford Transit update – Josh Baker

Radford Transit services continue to do well with current ridership numbers trending 35% above those for the same time period last year. The official 1st qtr. report needs to be approved by the stakeholders and then it will be emailed out to the MPO. The Commuter service to Christiansburg is also seeing strong ridership and there is enough demand to justify Radford Transit and Blacksburg Transit to work toward growing the service. Traffic has been moving both ways with the heaviest offloading occurring at the NRV Mall. Radford Transit is trying to develop a reporting system to support compiling a Commuter service ridership report for the MPO to review and Dan suggested that Josh enlist Blacksburg Transit to co-author the report.

Other items -

Revision of VDOT Funding Formulas for MPO's

Dan reported that VDOT reviews their MPO funding formulas every ten years and discussions are ongoing now for the next revision. Currently there are four options on the table and a final decision should be forthcoming in the near future. Our MPO received \$183k last year and this amount may decrease to \$181k or increase to \$189k depending on the final option chosen. Items that have been discussed include Danville's population (which has fallen below the 50k census threshold which typically would mean that they would lose their MPO, however the Feds have asked VDOT to let it remain for now as they are only short by 600 citizens), a new MPO being formed in Waynesboro, and possibly pro-rating base payments to match Virginia populations contained by three existing MPO's currently receiving full base payments from multiple states. Looks like our MPO will remain about the same on funding but more to follow as the final decisions get made.

OTHER BUSINESS

Becky commented that Blacksburg Transit is working on a multimodal project and hope that their consultants will have conceptual drawings of what it will look like in about two months. Once the conceptual drawings are completed Becky would like to present them to the MPO Policy Board.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is December 6, 2012 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 2:55 PM.

Approved: _____

Craig Meadows, Chairman