

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

**Minutes**

**April 2, 2015**

**MEMBERS**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Craig Meadows	-Montgomery County
	Anne McClung	-Town of Blacksburg
	Steve Ross	-Town of Blacksburg (Blacksburg Transit)
	Michael Barber	-Town of Christiansburg
	Adam Carpenetti	-Town of Christiansburg
	Steve Mouras	-Virginia Tech
	Brian Booth	-Radford Transit
	Kevin Byrd	-NRV PDC
	Ken King	-VDoT
	Danny Wilson	-Pulaski County
	James Perkins	-Radford University
	Dan Brugh	-NRV MPO
	Randal Gwinn	-Recording Secretary
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jim Hurt	-City of Radford
	Annette Perkins	-Montgomery County
	Tammye Davis	-FHWA
	Ranny O'Dell	-Pulaski County
	Bruce Brown	-City of Radford
	Gary Heinline	-Pulaski Transit
	Fritz Streff	-New River Community College
	Tony Cho	-Federal Transit Administration-Region 111
	Michael St. Jean	-VA Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority
	Michael Sutphin	-Town of Blacksburg
	Chris Arabia	-VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
<b>OTHERS</b>		
<b>PRESENT:</b>	David Clarke	-VDoT
	Michael Gray	-VDoT
	Elaine Bartku	-VDoT
	Vladimir Gavrilovic	-Renaissance Planning

## **DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Meadows declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Craig asked to hear a motion for approval of the meeting agenda.

**On a motion by Danny Wilson seconded by Michael Barber and carried unanimously, the proposed meeting agenda was approved.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2014 MEETING**

Craig asked for comments on or corrections to the meeting minutes from the November 6, 2014 Policy Board meeting. Hearing none he then called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Anne McClung and carried unanimously, the minutes dated November 6, 2014 were approved.**

## **PUBLIC ADDRESS**

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Policy Board at this meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Western Perimeter Road Study**

Dan advised that this study is nearing completion and Virginia Tech would like to have a professionally drawn rendering of what the road might look like in the vicinity of Smithfield Plantation. Our Consultant, Whitman, Requardt & Associates can provide one which will increase the cost of the study. Virginia Tech is requesting this be added to the existing Task Order with a provision that the cost not exceed \$5,000.00. This study is being financed by Virginia Tech. The TAC has not reviewed this request. A suggested resolution is included in the meeting materials.

Craig asked for discussion on the request and hearing none called for a motion on the suggested resolution.

**On a motion by Danny Wilson seconded by Anne McClung and carried unanimously, the resolution approving amending the existing contract with WRA for the Western Perimeter Road Corridor Study was approved and follows in its entirety:**

## ***New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization***

***April 2, 2015***

**Resolution to approve amending the existing contract with Whitman, Requardt, and Assoc. for the Western Perimeter Road Corridor Study on the Virginia Tech campus to include a rendering of what the road might look like in the vicinity of Smithfield Plantation with Virginia Tech financing the Study.**

**On a motion by Danny Wilson seconded by Anne McClung and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has requested the NRV MPO to conduct a study of a possible western perimeter road on the Virginia Tech Campus; and

WHEREAS, the NRV MPO approved conducting the study at its August 8, 2013 meeting, and

WHEREAS, the NRV MPO executed a contract with its “On Call” consultant, Whitman, Requardt and Associates to conduct this study, and

WHEREAS, the study is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has requested that a drawn rendering of what the road might look like in the vicinity of Smithfield Plantation, and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech will provide the necessary funding to prepare this rendering.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Policy Board approves this requested addition to the study; and

FURTHER, the NRV MPO authorizes the Executive Director to execute a contract amendment on behalf of the NRV MPO with Whitman, Requardt, and Associates for a “Not to Exceed cost of \$5,000.00 to prepare the rendering.

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**F. Craig Meadows, Chairman**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Development of comments for HB2 (House Bill Two)**

Dan reported that a draft version of the implementation guidelines is out for comment and has been provided previously. The TAC has reviewed and suggests making some comments on the guidelines. The NRV MPO is a small MPO that is currently designated as a Category B in the draft HB2 guidelines and, since we are under 200,000 in population, we have the choice of whether to use Land Use as a scoring factor. After discussion, the TAC feels that Land Use would not benefit us and that more emphasis on Safety would make our projects score better. The TAC recommends sending a request to the Secretary’s Office to either move the 15% from Land Use to Safety or move the MPO from Category B to Category C. A suggested resolution is included in the meeting materials.

A brief discussion following Dan’s comments and when ended, Craig asked for a motion on the suggested resolution.

**On a motion by Michael Barber seconded by Danny Wilson and carried unanimously, the resolution approving submittal of comments on the HB2 draft implementation procedures passed and follows in its entirety:**

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**Resolution submitting comments on the HB2 draft Implementation Procedures.**

**On a motion by D. Michael Barber seconded by Danny Wilson and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, the Office of the Secretary of Transportation has been developing procedures for implementation of HB2 for prioritization of transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, stakeholder meetings have been held to receive comments and suggestions prior to developing procedures and guidelines, and

WHEREAS, a draft version of the procedures with measures and typologies for MPOs and PDCs including weighting factors has been released for comment, and

WHEREAS, the NRV MPO has reviewed the information provided and developed comments; and

WHEREAS, the NRV MPO is being shown in Category B which has a Land Use Factor of 15%, and

WHEREAS, since the NRV is under 200,000 in population and does not desire to use the Land Use Factor, and

WHEREAS, the NRV MPO thinks that Safety is the most important factor in scoring our projects.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Policy Board requests the Office of the Secretary of Transportation to either move the NRV MPO to Category C or leave the MPO in Category B and move the 15% from Land Use to Safety making it 30%.

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**F. Craig Meadows, Chairman**

**VTRANS 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan**

Dan reported that the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment is beginning development of the 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan that will replace the 2035 Surface Transportation Plan. The consulting firm of Renaissance Planning will be working on this with all MPOs throughout the state during the process. Vladimir Gavrilovic of Renaissance Planning is in attendance today. Vlad will be presenting an overview of the processes that will be used to complete the plan. Should the Policy Board desire, future working sessions will be with the TAC.

Vlad then presented his materials and answered questions from the group. He will be returning soon to work with the TAC as the VTRANS study has a deadline for completion in July of 2015.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Update on VDOT projects – Ken King

Ken commented that insofar as VDOT's Locality Update is concerned the awarding of the Southgate Interchange project is the only change from his report at the last meeting.

Dan reported on the following MPO items:

### **MPO Planning project updates**

The Long Range Plan Update efforts will accelerate now that most of the fieldwork has been done. We had a good response on the survey and an April 23<sup>rd</sup> public meeting will be held to gather additional comments.

The Western Perimeter Road Concept Study will probably be finished in another month.

The Route 11 Study public meeting will be held at the new Riverlawn School in Fairlawn on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **MPO Transit Planning project update**

Kevin reported that Eli is hard at work gathering data for the Passenger Rail Study and a public survey will be launched sometime in the next two weeks. The survey will remain open until this fall in order to capture returning student input. Dan added that there is a need to identify additional sites in the NRV that would be suitable for a passenger station.

### **SmartWay pilot program for connection to VT CRI**

Dan reported that the pilot service has a significant number of riders, however the data is still being evaluated.

### **2015-16 UPWP**

Dan commented that the final draft of the 2015-16 UPWP will be presented to the Policy Board at the May meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Craig asked about the progress of the permanent Park & Ride lot at Exit 118. Ken responded that the project is still progressing with a November 2015 advertisement for construction bids.

David Clarke reported that Rt. 603 will close to through traffic about April 30<sup>th</sup> and will probably remain closed up to 300 days while construction takes place.

## **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

Craig announced that the next scheduled meeting is May 7, 2015 at 2:00 PM in the Montgomery County Government Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further agenda items to discuss, Craig adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

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

**F. Craig Meadows, Chairman**