

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

Minutes
July 12, 2007

- PRESENT: Ron Rordam - Town of Blacksburg
 Richard Ballengee - Town of Christiansburg
 Lance Terpenny - Town of Christiansburg
 Doug Marrs - Montgomery County
 Abigail Convery - NRV PDC
 Clay Goodman - Montgomery County
 Patrick Burton - VDOT (Salem)
 Steve Mouras - Virginia Tech
 Rebecca Martin - Blacksburg Transit
 Judy Kiser - Recording Secretary
- ABSENT: Adele Schirmer - Town of Blacksburg
 Unwanna Dabney - Federal Highway Administration
 Charles Badger - Department of Rail and Public Transportation
 Toni Cho - Federal Transit Administration
 Richard Caywood - VDOT (Salem)
 David Clarke - VDOT (Christiansburg)
 Michael St.Jean - VT Montgomery Regional Airport Authority

DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2007

On a motion by Ron Rordam, seconded by Doug Marrs and carried unanimously, the minutes of June 7, 2007 were approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008

In accordance with the bylaws of the MPO, officers are elected for a one-year term. Officers are eligible for re-election and each of the officers must be from different jurisdictions.

Current officers are: Lance Terpenny, Chairman
 Adele Schirmer, Vice Chairman

Chairman

Richard Ballengee made a motion, seconded by Ron Rordam to nominate Lance Terpenny for Chairman.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, seconded by Doug Marrs and carried unanimously, nominations for Chairman were closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Lance Terpenny be and hereby is, elected as Chairman of the MPO Policy Board for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, or until a successor is elected.

Lance Terpenny assumed the Chairman's duties at this time.

Vice Chairman

Richard Ballengee made a motion, seconded by Ron Rordam to nominate Adele Schirmer for Vice Chairman.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, seconded by Doug Marrs and carried unanimously, nominations for Vice Chairman were closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Adele Schirmer be and hereby is, elected as Vice Chairman of the MPO Policy Board for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, or until a successor is elected.

SELECTION OF REGULAR MEETING DATE

On a motion by Ron Rordam, seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously,

Be It Resolved, the regular meetings of the MPO Policy Board for the FY 2007-2008 shall be the 1st Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street in Christiansburg.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SESSION

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

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of MPO Public Participation Plan

A draft Public Participation Plan was approved by the Policy Board at the May 3, 2007 meeting. Comments on the draft Plan were solicited through newspaper advertisements and by distributing to the email list of Montgomery County and the MPO for over 45 days as required. The draft Plan was also sent to the MPO Interested Parties List as well as Governmental Regulatory Agencies on the MPO list. No comments were received. The TAC recommends approval of the Plan.

On a motion by Richard Ballengee, seconded by Ron Rordam and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, SAFETEA-LU requires all MPOs to develop a plan to encourage public participation in transportation; and

WHEREAS, the TAC has developed a draft Plan that meets SAFETEA-LU requirements; and

WHEREAS, public comment was solicited for over the 45 day requirement; and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval of the draft Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO approves the MPO Public Participation Plan dated July 12, 2007.

Approval of Amendment # 1 to the MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

A draft of Amendment # 1 was approved by the Policy Board at the May 3, 2007 meeting. Comments were solicited on the Amendment through newspaper advertisements and by distributing to the email list for Montgomery County and the MPO. Notices were also sent to Regulatory Agencies on the MPO list as well as those on the MPO Interested Parties list. Comments were solicited for over 45 days. Only one comment was received from the Karst Program within the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The TAC has incorporated this comment into the Amendment and recommends approval.

On a motion by Ron Rordam, seconded by Clay Goodman and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, provisions in SAFETEA-LU required modification to the MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the TAC, in consultation with State and Federal Regulatory Agencies, has developed an amendment to bring the LRP into compliance; and

WHEREAS, comments were solicited from the public, interested parties, and State and Federal regulatory agencies; and

WHEREAS, the TAC has reviewed the comment received and incorporated it into the amendment; and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO approves amendment #1 to the MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan dated July 12, 2007.

Route 460 Connector Corridor Study

The second Public meeting was held on February 14, 2007. Sixty two people attended the meeting and there were 130 comments received. The TAC has reviewed the comments and made suggestions on how to proceed with the study.

On a motion by Clay Goodman, seconded by Doug Marrs and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, a second public meeting was held February 14, 2007 for the Route 460 Connector Corridor Study; and

WHEREAS, 130 comments were received regarding the study as a result of the public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the TAC has reviewed the comments received and developed recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO accepts and concurs with the recommendations of the TAC and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is directed to forward these comments to the consultant conducting the study.

NEW BUSINESS

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

SAFETEA-LU requires that a Coordinated Human Services Plan be developed for the MPO and surrounding areas although there is no requirement as to who specifically is to develop it. The New River Valley Planning District Commission will develop a Plan for the PDC as well as the MPO. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) study funds, Section 5303, will be used to pay for the study. These funds are normally administered by Blacksburg Transit under authority of the MPO. This study will be handled that way as well.

Passenger Survey for the SmartWay Bus

Virginia Tech has requested that a survey be done this year of riders to obtain some information about the riders. This has been discussed at previous MPO meetings as well as the SmartWay Advisory Committee. This request has been reviewed by VDOT and FhWA and they concur that this is an acceptable use of MPO funding.

On a motion by Richard Ballengee, seconded by Ron Rordam and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has requested funding to conduct a passenger survey for the SmartWay Bus; and

WHEREAS, this information will be useful to evaluate the service the bus provides; and

WHEREAS, VDoT and FhWA concur that this is an acceptable use of MPO funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Policy Board of the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO approves the study to be conducted by Virginia Tech for a maximum amount of \$520; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that payment will be made to Virginia Tech upon completion of the study and submission to the MPO of the results for actual costs incurred up to a maximum of \$520.

TIP Amendment Schedule

VDoT has released a strategy for incorporating FY2009-10 addendum into the FY2006-08 TIP. Concurrence in this approach is requested by VDoT. As of the time the agenda was created, it is not yet determined whether an amendment or adjustment is needed. VDoT will clarify at the meeting.

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

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in cooperation with the State and affected public transportation operators, is required to prepare a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, this TIP documents a cooperatively developed program of projects and planned obligations scheduled for implementation during a projected four year period; and

WHEREAS, this TIP is consistent with the regionally adopted Long-Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the MPO concurs with the strategy set forth by the Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration for compliance with SAFETEA-LU regulations; and

WHEREAS, this strategy includes working toward adoption of the project listing addendum, identifying obligation by project phase for the FY2009-2010 years through either administrative modification or amendment to the FY2006-2008 TIP, and the completion of all required public participation activities associated with amending the FY 2006-2008 TIP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MPO does hereby approve and endorse the strategy to incorporate the project listing addendum to the FY 2006-2008 TIP.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rideshare Program Update

The TAC has requested some data regarding what is going on with the New River Valley ridership. The data was provided and is included in the packet for review.

Census Changes

There are concerns about the new proposed increase in the minimum threshold for block groups (BGs) from the 2000 level of 600 population to the proposed 2010 level of 1,200 population and 480 housing units. This large increase would make Census Data less detailed and useful for transportation planning analysis than it was from the 2000 and prior censuses. It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter of concern regarding these changes.

Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations

Third session regarding Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations was held Wednesday, July 11, 2007.

LRP Map Update

Amendment #1 was just passed and Blacksburg Transit will be providing a Transit plan for the MPO later in the year. At that point in time we will need to update the Long Range Plan Map. We would like to use a consultant off of our contract for the map update.

INTO CLOSED MEETING

On a motion by Doug Marrs, seconded by Ron Rordam and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The MPO Policy Board hereby enters into Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following:

Section 2.1-3711 (1) Discussion, Consideration, or Interviews of Prospective Candidates for Employment; Assignment, Appointment, Promotion, Performance, Demotion, Salaries, Disciplining or Resignation of Specific Officers, Appointees or Employees of Any Public Body

1. Personnel Matter

OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

On a motion by Doug Marrs, seconded by Ron Rordam and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The MPO Policy Board hereby ends their Closed Meeting to return to Regular Session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

On a motion by Ron Rordam, seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, The MPO Policy Board has convened a Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Policy Board that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the MPO Policy Board hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion conveying the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Policy Board.

VOTE

AYES

Ron Rordam
Richard Ballengee
Lance Terpenney
Clay Goodman
Doug Mars

NAYS

None

ABSENT DURING VOTE

Richard Caywood
Adele Schirmer

ABSENT DURING MEETING

Richard Caywood
Adele Schirmer

Approve Salary Increase for MPO Executive Director

On a motion by Ron Rordam, seconded by Richard Ballengee and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The MPO Policy Board hereby authorizes a 4% salary increase for the Executive Director of the MPO for FY 2007-2008.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is August 2, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.