

Rural Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes: September 15th, 2015

Committee – Voting Members

Allyson Finchum, *Louisa County*

Lucas Lyons, *JAUNT*

J.T. Newberry, *Albemarle County*

Sara Pennington, *RideShare*

Chuck Proctor, *VDOT Culpeper District*

Bart Svoboda (Chair), *Greene County*

David Cook, *VDOT Lynchburg District*

TJPDC Staff

Chip Boyles

Will Cockrell

Wood Hudson

Non-voting

Stephanie Golon

Call to Order:

Mr. Svoboda called the meeting to order.

Matters from the Public:

There were no matters from the public.

Election of Officers:

Mr. Cockrell chaired the meeting to conduct election of the Committee chair. Ms. Finchum made a motion to nominate Bart Svoboda for chair. Mr. Newberry provided a second to the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed, 7-0.

Mr. Svoboda asked for nominations of vice-chair. There was discussion on whether Tim Padalino would mind serving as vice-chair for a second year. Ms. Finchum made a motion to nominate Mr. Padalino as vice-chair. Mr. Svoboda provided a second. There was no further discussion and the motion passed, 7-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Svoboda asked if there were any comments on the May 19th meeting minutes. There were no comments. Ms. Pennington made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lyons provided a second. The Committee approved the minutes, 7-0.

Updates and Discussions:

Mr. Newberry discussed Highway Safety Improvement Funds for the US 250/151 intersection. He also talked about a proposed amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan, to expand the growth area west of the City. Mr. Newberry said that the Committee could check out the Solutions 29 website, as there are updates on the road work in that corridor.

Mr. Svoboda discussed rezoning cases on US 29. He mentioned that the House Bill 2 application process is taking a lot of staff time. In Greene County, there are also proposed amendments to the ordinance that would influence tourist lodging. Finally, there was discussion about a proposed shooting range in Greene County, along with a discussion on broadband service.

Ms. Pennington said that staff finished the TDM Plan and is preparing for RideShare week.

Mr. Proctor discussed HB 2 applications.

Ms. Finchum said that there are several development applications in process in Louisa County. She discussed a permit involving the vermiculite operation in the Green Springs area.

Bike Route 76 Corridor Study:

Mr. Cockrell presented on the Bike Route 76 Corridor Study. He said that the Commission will discuss this document at their next meeting. He asked the Committee for a recommendation to forward along to the Commission. He also asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

Several Committee members said that they reviewed the document and thought it looked great.

Mr. Svoboda made a motion to forward a recommendation of approval to the Commission. Mr. Proctor provided a second to the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed, 7-0.

Review of HB2 Projects:

Mr. Cockrell discussed the upcoming deadline for HB 2 applications, due September 30th. In the meeting packet, there was a list of 10 rural projects from across the region. These were the projects proposed for submission to HB 2 prioritization. The localities needed a resolution of support from the Planning District Commission for these projects. There will be an extended deadline to submit those resolutions, but staff thought it would be useful to get that out of the way early.

There were no specific comments on the list of projects. Mr. Svoboda made a motion to send a recommendation to the Commission, asking to approve the resolution of support for the 10 projects. Ms. Finchum provided a second to the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed, 7-0.

Urban Development Areas (UDAs) and HB2:

Mr. Cockrell discussed how the House Bill 2 process has renewed importance in UDAs. Transportation projects will qualify for funding under HB2, if they are in a Corridor of Statewide Significance, Regional Network, UDA or identified as a safety hotspot in VTrans. Mr. Cockrell said that Greene, Louisa and Nelson counties do not have UDAs, according to the Secretary of Transportation Office.

Ms. Golon said that Greene should have a UDA, as their comprehensive plan references the 15.2-2223.1 code section. Mr. Cockrell said that Greene is not included on the list of localities with UDAs, but the State might have just missed this. He said that staff needs to check on that and make sure this is acknowledged. He also mentioned that the UDA overlaps with US 29, a Corridor of Statewide Significance. Consequently, projects in this area would qualify anyway.

Ms. Finchum said that she brought up this issue with officials in Louisa County. Currently, the comprehensive plan does not reference UDAs, except maybe for Zion Crossroads. She was concerned that the County's proposed projects would not qualify.

RLRP Update:

Mr. Cockrell discussed the upcoming RLRP update and asked the Committee for feedback on a survey that would go to local staff and officials. He asked the Committee for feedback on what types of questions should be in the survey. The goal of the survey is to guide the plan's format and content.

Mr. Proctor discussed what information was available for the planning effort.

Mr. Cook briefly discussed the analysis that he conducted in the Lynchburg District, prioritizing rural projects from across the region. He already prioritized projects in Nelson County. Mr. Cockrell said that he would like his assistance with conducting a similar effort for the other four counties in the region.

Ms. Golon said that a more multi-modal focus could be a good place to start.

Ms. Finchum said that the RLRP was originally intended to be multi-modal.

Mr. Proctor thought that the plan was intended to be more proactive on rural transportation issues, but ended up being more retroactive.

Mr. Lyons said that the plan should help localities accommodate the changing demographics – aging population.

Ms. Finchum discussed how the plan needs to have a greater link between transportation and land use.

Mr. Lyons said that trip data would be most useful for JAUNT. How are people commuting throughout the rural areas and what are the demographic figures? Ms. Pennington seconded that trip data would be useful for improving efforts with Park-and-Rides. Ms. Finchum said that Richmond Regional did a thorough analysis on Park-and-Rides and it was useful.

Mr. Newberry said that the RLRP should include some analysis of scenic or visual resources, which is an issue for Albemarle County. He also mentioned the influence from wineries and agri-tourism on roadways.

Mr. Proctor mentioned that the survey could include questions about goals and objectives.

Mr. Cockrell said that he would prepare questions for the next meeting, for the Committee's review.

Rural Transportation Council:

Mr. Cockrell discussed a proposal that will go before the Commission at their October meeting. Staff proposes to establish a Rural Transportation Council. This sub-committee of the Commission would include individuals from the local governments within the Rural Transportation Program areas of the region. The group would provide review, comment, and recommendations on rural transportation plans, programs, studies and other appropriate documents, and on regional transportation issues. While the RTAC would focus on technical aspects of rural transportation, the RTC would have more of a policy focus.

Mr. Cockrell said that the Committee would have 13 voting members: 1 from each of the member localities (except for the City of Charlottesville), 1 from each of the towns, 1 from the VDOT Lynchburg District, 1 from the VDOT Culpeper District, 1 from JAUNT, and 1 from the Rideshare Program.

The Committee thought that the RTC concept was sound. There were no further comments.

Action Items & Other Business:

Mr. Cockrell asked if the Committee would mind meeting monthly for the next several months, as there will be several items that must be addressed: House Bill 2, RLRP Update, etc. The Committee said that they could meet monthly. There was no additional business.

Additional Matters from the Public:

There were no additional matters from the public.