

Rural Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes: May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

**Committee – Voting Members**

- \*Dan Butch, *Albemarle County*
- \*Chuck Proctor, *VDOT Culpeper District*
- \*Jim Frydl, *Greene County*
- \*Tom Egeland, *Louisa County*
- \*David Cook, *VDOT Lynchburg District*
- \*Stephen Johnson, *JAUNT*
- \*Kristian Zimmerman, *RideShare*

**TJPDC Staff**

- Kristian Zimmerman
- Sandy Shackelford
- Jakob zumFelde

\* *Represents voting members present*

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Egeland called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm

**Matters from the Public:**

There were no matters from the public

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes were motioned for approval by Mr. Egeland and seconded by Mr. Frdyl

**Rural Work Program:**

Mr. Zimmerman noted that the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission has approved the Fiscal Year 2020 Rural Work Program. The central project of focus for FY20 will be the Zion Crossroads Small Area Plan with \$45,000 allocated towards the project in funds.

**Zion Crossroads Small Area Plan/Corridor Study:**

Mr. Proctor is asking for a VDOT consultant to perform a study of the Route 15 corridor in Louisa and Fluvanna County. An internal meeting between Louisa and Fluvanna Counties, TJPDC, and VDOT was proposed by Mr. Proctor and Mr. Egeland. The meeting is to begin the initial discussion of coordination between the major stakeholders for this project. Additional conversation continued between Mr. Proctor and Mr. Egeland on the timing of this project due to the high volume of development coming to the Zion Crossroads area in both Louisa and Fluvanna County.

**Getting to Know More:**

Mr. Zimmerman spoke briefly on different legal aspects of wineries and breweries in the state of Virginia. The Virginia state code identifies the acceptable land uses as ‘agricultural or as otherwise permitted by the locality for limited brewery use... of which... does not include residential conservation except for lands zoned residential conservation’. Mrs. Shackelford addressed the issues of off-site parking and the challenges of what use fits into the parking table at the local level ordinance. Many breweries and wineries do not trigger the VDOT trip generator. Mrs. Shackelford spoke to an instance in Campbell County where they eliminated a piece of the parking ordinance because it was requiring too much parking for businesses. Eliminating this factor shifted the burden of determining how much parking is needed for a business from the county to the property owner/ site developer to ensure they provide ample parking for their customers. If ample parking is not provided and customers are forced to park outside of the

provided parking area(s) then this is determined to be a violation of the zoning code and the locality then has a mechanism in place to address the parking violation.

Brief discussions of traffic analyses and VDOT standards, including site plans for breweries and wineries occurred between multiple committee members.

Mr. Johnson spoke to the need to identify more than just vehicles and parking requirements but to think of the changing technologies in transportation that include buses. This led to a short discussion about the need to identify pick-up and drop-off locations at these sites, similar to how loading zones are addressed in site plan reviews. Mr. Johnson spoke to advertising transportation options JAUNT is exploring for special events.

Mrs. Shackelford mentioned issues with waste water systems and septic systems handling the flow from breweries brewing processes with yeast and other organic materials. Solid particles and PH levels are extremely high in comparison to other produced waste. Septic systems on site are engineered and rated to treat these issues but are still continuing to fail, leaving the Brewery in a situation where they must hire a pump and haul company to store the waste. Waste water facilities are also failing to handle these additional organic materials from breweries when the site is connected to the waste water treatment infrastructure. State code currently does not give localities the power to regulate the manufacturing of alcohol and its waste so at this time there is not a clear solution to this problem.

Mr. Frydl mentioned that he would like to discuss the *Surface Transportation Block Grant* (STBG) Program at the next RTAC meeting as a Getting to Know More topic. Mr. Cook suggested that we explore the topic of autonomous vehicles in rural regions.

#### **Updates and Discussion:**

Fluvanna County has 418 residential units potentially coming online, the planning commission approved the development but not the increased density, the board of supervisors will review the project in June. A transportation plan is being explored for Palmyra and also potentially Columbia.

Albemarle County has received SMART SCALE funds and will put these funds towards the Route 250 and Route 20 intersection in Pantops. Improvements will include pedestrian crossings, signalization improvements, and additional turn lanes.

JAUNT is launching a new shuttle, Crozet Connect. This new feature will begin with the commuter aspect of transportation. If the program is successful, JAUNT will then determine when and how to expand the program.

Greene County is holding an open house to discuss R-cut/ J-cut turns on Route 29 near Ruckersville. The county is sending out a request for proposals in FY20 to explore changing/modifying current land use zoning from a strictly Euclidean perspective to a more modernized mechanism that allows for a mix of uses and emphasizes connectivity including walkability and bikability while creating a village feeling. The County is seeking to move towards a performance standard. The County is building a large impoundment area for water supply. In coordination with this effort, a water and sewer service area are being created which would mandate water and sewer hook-ups within the County's designated growth area.



FY19 – Rural Transportation Program

**Action Items & Other Business:**

There were no action items or other business to conduct

**Additional Matters from the Public:**

There were no additional matters from the public

**Closing:**

Mr. Egeland motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 pm