

**MINUTES OF
MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ROUTE 29**

Virginia Department of Transportation
Warrenton Residency Office
457 Shirley Avenue
Warrenton, Virginia 20186

April 7, 2010 – 10:00a.m.

The meeting of the Route 29 Subcommittee of Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) was held in the conference room of the Warrenton Residency Office at 457 Shirley Avenue in Warrenton, Virginia on April 7, 2010, at 10:00a.m.

Attendees: CTB Members: Douglas Koelemay, John J. “Butch” Davies III, Peter B. Schwartz, and Sharon Pandak, VDOT staff: Marsha Fiol, Morteza Salehi, Brent Sprinkel, Helen Cuervo, Bob McDonald, Marshall Barron, Charles Proctor and Charlie Rasnick, Amy Inman, (DRPT), Joe Springer - Parsons Transportation Group (PTG), Jeff Walker, RRPDC, Kimberly Fogle, Fauquier County and Rob Lanham

**1. Welcome and
2. Public Comment**

Chairman Koelemay welcomed everyone and asked if anyone from the public would like to speak to the Committee. No one from the public asked to speak to the Committee.

3. Approval - Minutes of the March 3, 2010 Meeting

Chairman Koelemay asked for any corrections to the minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting. The minutes were approved with corrections from Mr. Schwartz.

4. Process for Studying Corridor of Statewide Significance

Chairman Koelemay asked for comments on the working draft of the Process for Studying Corridors of Statewide Significance and there was considerable discussion and suggested edits of the document. Mr. Koelemay indicated that we needed to present a draft at the April 14, 2009 meeting of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (Board) and asked staff to incorporate the Committee’s edits and send back to the Committee by close of business the following day (Thursday 4/8/2010). Mr. Koelemay asked the Committee to respond quickly so the draft could be completed and provided to the Board. (Note: The draft Process for Studying Corridors of Statewide Significance is attached)

5. Route 29 Plan Report (Strike-Through)

Charles Rasnick informed the Committee that he had reviewed the Draft Route 29 Corridor Study Report to ensure that the online document includes all comments or edits that were received prior to the CTB meeting on December 17, 2009.

To show the current status of the Route 29 Corridor Study, staff recommended to the Committee that the Route 29 webpage be updated to reflect the provisions of the Board Resolution of December 17, 2009. In addition to providing a link to the Resolution, the Report cover would be changed to December 17, 2009. The webpage would also have a reference to the Route 29 Subcommittee and a link to the CTB webpage so the public could see the current work on the Board's directives in the Resolution. A proposal outlining these steps was reviewed and approved by the Committee. (See Agenda Item 5 attached)

6. Proposed Next Steps

Charles Rasnick Joe Springer presented an overview of the proposed steps for addressing the CTB's directives in the December 2009 Resolution.

a. Prioritized list of Intersections to be grade separated -

Joe Springer presented (in a working draft) a Table showing three tiers of intersections on the Route 29 Corridor to be considered for grade separations. The list showed for Tier 1 – orange, Tier 2 – green and Tier3 – white.

After review of the Table and maps showing the locations, the Committee asked staff to further review and refine the list to include in Tier 1 - (orange) those intersections with the highest traffic volumes, congestion and crash numbers and Tier 2 – (green) would include the intersections with the next highest levels of traffic, congestion and crash history. The Committee also suggested that the header for the Table indicate intersections that could benefit from grade separation or other means.

b. Plan to minimize the number of traffic control signals –

Charlie Rasnick presented an initial working draft for a possible policy limiting the number of new traffic signals on Route 29. The first step in the process is for each locality to work with VDOT and DRPT in the development of a Corridor Master Plan for inclusion in the Locality's Comprehensive Plan. The locality's Corridor Master Plan (CMP) must be based on the Route 29 Corridor Plan and VDOT's Access Management Regulations for Principal Arterials.

After discussion of the working draft, the Committee indicated that additional input on the impact of such policy is needed. Further, there will be a need to educate elected leaders and the public on the importance of corridor management and how transportation works. There really needs to be someone who is an effective speaker to articulate the issues. Ms. Pandak suggested that it may be possible to get the Citizens Planning Education Association to assist in this since they are they are developing a seminar on UDAs (Urban Development Areas (UDAs) as required under HB3202 and § [15.2-2223.1](#) of the Code of Virginia.) Staff will refine the working draft and coordinate additional input from others in VDOT and bring the working draft back to the Committee at the next meeting.

c. Improve Mobility/Accessibility – Gainesville/Buckland/Haymarket

Charlie Rasnick briefly outlined a possible approach to beginning the discussions on transportation issues in the Buckland area. After some discussion, the Committee indicated that we need to offer a professionally lead discussion between elected leaders from Fauquier

County and Prince William County. These would be exploratory talks and the two or three potential goals: (1). Each locality's representatives understand and respect the other locality's concerns. (2). Define any potential common ground and any possible areas of compromise. These exploratory talks must be held and be successful before meetings could be planned for further discussions and for including other stakeholders.

d. Improve Mobility/Accessibility – Charlottesville

Charlie Rasnick offered a possible scenario for the Committee to consider in satisfying the Board Resolution of December 17, 2009. The first step is to develop a "white paper" that includes the following information:

- A summary of the planning work that has been accomplished by VODT, the Localities (Albemarle and Greene Counties, the city of Charlottesville and the MPO).
- Identify the Route 29 Corridor improvements that have already been agreed upon by the Localities.
- Summarize the evaluations that were conducted as part of the Route 29 Corridor Study.
- Identify the areas along the Corridor where additional capacity is needed to accommodate local traffic.
- Set a meeting with local representatives to begin exploratory discussions of local concerns on the Corridor to determine any common ground for consensus.

After some discussion, the Committee indicated that no further studies should be undertaken in the Charlottesville area as part of the Route 29 Corridor Study. While the Committee did not settle on this scenario, they did agree that this approach could be used to start the dialog between local elected leaders. Staff will refine this scenario with additional details and bring it back to the Committee at the next meeting.

7. To-Do/Assignments

Chairman Koelemay asked Charlie Rasnick to make the changes to the draft Process for the Corridors of Statewide Significance and send to the Committee by COB on April 8, 2010 and the Committee will respond with additional edits ASAP. Joe Springer will revise the Prioritized List of Intersections for Grade Separation. Refinements of the other Directives of Board's Resolution will be brought back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Charlie Rasnick informed the Committee that we have reached the monetary limits of the Consultant's contract and there is additional work that we need the consultant to do to address the directives of the Board Resolution of December 17, 2009. Under the contract provisions, VDOT can exceed the contract amount up to 25% of the contract value to cover additional work the Board has identified. He asked the Committee's concurrence to keep the consultant's engaged in the work since it is necessary to address the Board's directives. The Committee concurred with this request.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CTB Subcommittee is scheduled for April 28, 2010, in VDOT's Warrenton Residency Office, 457 E. Shirley Avenue, Warrenton, VA 20186.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.