



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Tour of Ashland and Hanover County
Ashland Theater
Minutes
November 1, 2016

Meeting began at 11:01 am

CTB Members present: Aubrey Layne, Jennifer Mitchell, Scott Kasprovicz, Court Rosen, Shannon Valentine, Mary Hynes, Charlie Kilpatrick, Hap Connors, Greg Yates, Alison De Tuncq, John Malbon, Dixon Whitworth, and Jerry Stinson

Chairman Layne opened the meeting. He explained to the audience that the meeting would be conducted as a typical CTB workshop. Typical workshops do not include a Q and A portion or an opportunity for verbal public comment. Comment boxes were available for the public at the front of the theater. He noted that the CTB had arranged this tour at the request of the Town of Ashland at the September CTB meeting, and that the tour would serve as a fact finding mission and that more public meetings would be held in the future after the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is released. He then introduced DRPT's Director Jennifer Mitchell to start the program.

1. Project Overview – Emily Stock, Project Manager for the DC2RVA Study gave a project overview presentation. This presentation included information on the timeline of the study and possible alternatives that are being considered. The content of this presentation can be found on the CTB website. John Morton, project consultant from HDR, presented additional technical details in the presentation.
2. Remarks by Local Officials- Mayor of the Town of Ashland James Foley, Hanover Board of Supervisors President Buckey Stanley, and the President of Randolph Macon College Robert Lindgren were invited by the CTB to each give a 5 minute presentation.
 - a. Mayor Foley expressed to the Board that he wanted to go on record as saying that if a third rail is required for the town to continue Amtrak service, they do not want it. They support a bypass around Ashland.
 - b. Buckey Stanley also expressed that Hanover County does not support a third rail. He implored the Board to look again at the Eastern Bypass and at using the Buckingham

Branch Railroad. Planning for development in Hanover County has been concentrated on the Eastern side of the county and the Western side has been preserved for farmland.

- c. President Lindgren stated to the Board that the college did not support a third rail and that doing so would cut the campus in half.
3. Break for Lunch – The meeting broke at 11:55 for a working lunch. Members of the public were told that the presentation would resume at 12:15 to discuss the details of the walking and driving portions of the tour.
4. Ashland Walking Tour –Began at 12:30 pm
5. Ashland/Hanover County Driving Tour-Began at 1:15 pm

Meeting adjourned.at 2:00 pm.