

# Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

## MINUTES

Thursday, January 21, 2010  
(accepted at February 18, 2010 meeting)

1:30 pm

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission  
Accomac, Virginia

A meeting of the A-NPDC Transportation Technical Advisory committee was held at 1:30 pm on January 21, 2010 in the Accomack-Northampton Planning District commission conference room in Accomac, Virginia.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandra Benson, Northampton County  
Tom Bonadeo, Town of Cape Charles  
Nancy Duncan, Accomack County Airport  
Bobby Isdell, VDOT Accomac Residency  
Robert Johnson, Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel District  
Sandy Manter, Town of Onancock  
Jim McGowan, Accomack County  
Elaine Meil, A-NPDC  
William Neville, Town of Chincoteague  
Robert Ritter, Town of Chincoteague  
Larry Trala, Accomack-Northampton Transportation Committee

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mary Ardolino, STAR Transit  
Larry Lemond, Bay Coast Railroad  
Ivan Rucker, FHWA  
Eric Stringfield, VDOT

### MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED:

Town of Exmore  
ESAAA/CAA  
Eastern Shore Center for Independent Living  
Eastern Shore Community Services Board

### OTHERS:

Barbara Schwenk, A-NPDC

1. Call to Order – Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – the minutes of the December 10, 2009 meeting with attachments were presented for approval. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trala, seconded by Benson, and carried unanimously.
3. Staff Report – none available this month.
4. Unfinished Business

By-Laws – DRAFT2 – Changes needed for the final By-Laws were discussed and agreed upon. A motion was made by McGowan and seconded by Trala to accept the by-laws with agreed upon changes. The motion carried unanimously. Staff to make the changes the week of 1/25 and mail out to members.

5. New Business

- a. Route 13 Access Management Plan - inventory of improvements. Staff presented a list of median closings and intersection improvements made by VDOT as recommended by the Wallops Island/Route 13 Access Management Study. The Committee members asked that the safety locations identified earlier be compared to those medians that are still open. If there is an overlap between medians and safety locations, the Committee will request that VDOT add it to its projects list.

Also, a motion was made by McGowan, seconded by Trala, and carried unanimously to ask the A-NPDC to request funds from the General Assembly for improvements to Route 13.

- b. Proposed committee work plan for 2010 contract with VDOT – the Committee reviewed the draft work plan staff presented. More detail was requested in the “Required Activities” section. Staff will provide it at the next meeting.

Reviewed Tasks 1 through 4. Staff suggested using this list to track progress and will present an updated work plan at each meeting.

- c. Update on Regional Long Range Transportation Plan – Staff provided copies of the draft 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan for our region. This report was prepared by VDOT’s consultants, VHB, and is still rough. Staff received it only the day before the meeting and will go through it carefully and provide VHB with additional information needed to complete the plan. Staff will also attend an RLRP update

meeting in Richmond on 1/27 and report back at the February meeting. The RLRP could be a useful tool for going to the General Assembly.

The RLRP project matrix was also reviewed. VHB is behind schedule in its portion of the work but expects to finish by end of February.

Committee members questioned the traffic count work under lines 18 – 21. This led to a discussion on the last census count for Accomack County which was shown to be inaccurate (high). The County decided it would be better to just correct the numbers for its uses and not press for changes from the Census Bureau.

6. Public Participation – there was no public participation. However, Committee members used the time to discuss several concerns.

- a. STAR Transit’s consideration of eliminating the blue and yellow routes because of low ridership. This was discussed at the January 5 meeting of the Accomack-Northampton Transportation Committee. No vote was taken at that meeting, and it will be addressed again at the February 2 meeting at the Chamber of Commerce at 5 p.m.. Comments from TTAC members were that elimination of the blue route will hurt Chincoteague riders who use it to go to the college, Atlantic Medical Center, and Walmart (in future). This was also discussed at the Accomack County Board of Supervisors meeting on 1/20.

The yellow route to Cape Charles is also on the list to be eliminated because of low ridership. This will have an impact on lower Northampton County citizens who don’t drive. They will not be able to get around to places they need to go, such as for medical services, and to the future Walmart.

The TTAC discussed the lack of ridership and attributed it in part to routes and schedules that make it impossible to use STAR Transit if you work on eight-hour day. Two members reported that they could get to their jobs on time, but they would have to leave early in order to get home.

Also, members discussed concentrating routes around existing commercial and residential development and fixed-schedule, long-distance routes. The Alternative Transportation Study

developed by the TTAC with a grant was also discussed. That study suggested loops in developed areas, in no-vehicle household areas (mapped in study), and fixed long-distance routes as well as on-call services (but at curtailed levels). Staff will send it out to TTAC members, and Trala in particular, since he is a A-NTC member.

The TTAC would assist STAR Transit and the A-NTC if requested.

- b. A suggestion was made to study drainage on secondary roads. There is still water across roads in several places in Northampton County. VDOT does a good job of putting out barrels, etc., but it can't do anything further about drainage across private property.

McGowan mentioned that a stormwater management meeting is being planned by Accomack County for April 7 probably 5:00 p.m. It will consist of short presentations and then comments from attendees. He believes a comprehensive plan is needed to address these issues.

This has become an issue because of limitations imposed on Accomack County's use of its spider to clean out ditches. The US Army Corps of Engineers is clamping down on the County because of environmental issues. Water across roads is also a safety issue, not just an environmental one. Creating a plan will be difficult because the County doesn't have good elevation data. Topographic maps don't provide enough detail.

All stormwater ends up in either the bay or ocean and can adversely affect water quality if it isn't managed properly. It will take everyone working together to protect natural waterways. VDOT ditches are built to drain VDOT roads and nothing else. If off VDOT's right-of-way, it becomes someone else's responsibility. VDOT can help do a piece – but they need permanent easements to go across property to an outfall. Successful management of stormwater will involve many players.

- c. Chincoteague Bridge – A handout at the TTAC December meeting included a report that the bridge would be completed by April 1. Ritter asked if that was still the expected date. Isdell reported that an updated report was due the next day, 1/22, and that he believed April 1 would be the latest date for completion, and that it may be finished before then. The issue that is holding

it up is settling of the approach, which will not be paved until the base is stable.

7. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. by motion of Johnson, seconded by McGowan, and carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the TTAC will be held on:  
Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.  
A-NPDC Conference Room, Accomac, Virginia