

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

(Approved with revisions on April 15, 2010)

Thursday, March 18, 2010

1:30 p.m.

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Accomac, Virginia

A meeting of the A-NPDC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee was held at 1:30 p.m. on March 18, 2010 in the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission conference room in Accomac, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandra Benson, Northampton County Department of Planning

Nancy Duncan, Accomack Airport Commission

Chester Hall, ESAAA/AA

Bobby Isdell, VDOT Accomac Residency

Jim McGowan, Accomack County Department of Planning

Bill Neville, Town of Chincoteague Department of Planning

Richard Tankard, A-NPDC Commissioner

Larry Trala, Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mary Ardolino, STAR Transit

Tom Bonadeo, Town of Cape Charles

Cheryl Davis/Joe Bulin, ES Community Services Board

Abra Jacobs, Center for Independent Living

Bob Johnson, Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel District Commission

Larry Lemond, Bay Coast Railroad

Sandy Manter, Town of Onancock

Elaine Meil, A-NPDC

Ivan Rucker, US Department of Transportation

Eric Stringfield, VDOT Hampton Roads District

OTHERS:

Barbara Schwenk, A-NPDC

1. Call to Order – Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes – the minutes of the February 28, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented by motion of Benson, seconded by Trala and carried unanimously.
3. Staff Report – Barbara Schwenk presented a staff update that included the attendance record, and two information items: VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program Revisions

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from Hampton Roads TPO, *Crossings*, Winter '10; and "The Spirit of Rural Transit: Alive in Delmarva," *Community Transportation*, Summer/Fall 2008, pp 33-37.

### 4. Unfinished Business

- a. A-NPDC response to suggestion to pursue funds for Route 13 improvements – no report as Elaine could not attend the meeting – add to next month's agenda.
- b. Work Plan Review – discussion on adding items to the work plan that included updating the 2004 Bicycle Plan and promoting the Highway Overlay District to the relevant towns which have not yet adopted it. Several members expressed concern about whether the work already listed on the plan could be accomplished by the end of the fiscal year and what VDOT's priorities would be. Staff will check with Eric Stringfield for direction and report back.

### 5. New Business

- a. Access Management Ordinance District – the committee reviewed the existing highway overlay district adopted by Northampton County. This district was modeled on the one suggested in the 2002 *Route 13/Wallops Island Access Management Study*. Consensus was to rename it the "Highway Overlay District" as that is more accurate. If adoption of the HOD can be promoted to the towns without adversely impacting the committee's current work plan, staff will present it to the towns at council meetings if invited to do so. If it will adversely impact the current work plan, and the towns want it presented, it will be done in the next fiscal year beginning July 2010.
- b. Gateway Corridor Model – the Town of Cape Charles proposed an Historic Town Entrance Corridor Overlay District for Routes 184 and 642. It will be reviewed by the Northampton County Planning Commission. The purpose of the ordinance wasn't intended to bring traffic into town – also that there was not architectural control, but that might be because the town already has a historical review board for the town's historic district. Architectural considerations are mentioned in regard to signs in paragraph 10 on Redevelopment. In addition, members commented that paragraph 10 had what appear to be very effective requirements for access management, traffic impact analysis, improvements, signage, lighting, and landscaping. The main entrance point into Cape Charles is the intersection of Route 13 and Route 184 (Stone Road). Another less-used entrance is Route 642 (Old Cape Charles Road), which intersects Route 13 south of the Rittenhouse Motel.
- c. Bicycle Plan Update – Staff requested direction from committee members on how best to proceed to update the 2004 Bicycle Plan. Discussion centered on how to prioritize sections for development. One suggestion was to prioritize the county lists in the plan by matching them up with the Six-Year plans and looking at which have VDOT right of way with them. The plan could be amended by annotating the list with the two criteria and asking the counties to prioritize the annotated list. Staff will coordinate with the Residency Administrator to research those areas with existing ROW and will compare the six-year plans with the existing list. The process could be to prioritize bicycle plan segments and present them to the Planning Commissions for recommendation to the Boards of Supervisors.

In addition, it was suggested that when VDOT restripes roads, it could make the lanes only 12 feet wide to allow more room on shoulders for bicycles. This option will work on roads that are already wide enough. As roads get widened under the Six-

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Year plan, it could also be utilized. Another suggestion was to add large developments to the plan (such as Captain's Cove, Fleming Road) and Route 175 from T's Corner to the causeway which needs shoulders in order to accommodate a bike lane. (Route 175 on the causeway is already included in the Plan.)

Staff will begin research on VDOT ROW and bicycle plan sections compared to the six-year plans as soon as possible.

- d. Transportation section of A-NPDC webpage – Staff presented the updated section on Transportation on the A-NPDC's webpage. An image has yet to be added. It can be viewed at [www.a-npdc.org](http://www.a-npdc.org) by clicking Transportation Technical Advisory Committee in the right hand column. Members suggested adding additional links such as the "Safe Routes to School" program, and a "daily cup" such as used by the Eastern Shore Land Trust in Maryland. Staff suggested and members agreed to add a list of transportation agencies located on the Shore and some at the state level.
- e. Median Closures – Committee members reviewed the list of median closures requested by Northampton County compared to those that had been closed. Isdell confirmed that the Residency has the list and will close those medians as funds are available, which they are not at the present. Using maintenance funds, VDOT may be able to close a median when doing a "rake and seed" operation if any medians are located adjacent to those areas. This is currently the only way VDOT might be able to close a median.

There was also a thorough discussion of how access management problems might be addressed through the business license process. Unless a property changes uses (not just hands), there is no inspection. Also, a business license probably can't be withheld due to access management issues. VDOT does review access management for new facilities and can stipulate how access is configured.

6. Public Participation – None from the public, but committee members continued to discuss the bicycle plan. There was a suggestion to routinely add any new development project to the bicycle plan so that it would developed as such.

Bill Neville mentioned HUD's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. There was a comment period that ended on March 12. A series of Notices of Available Funds (NOFA) will follow the close of the comment period. NOFA #1 for \$100 million in regional planning grants is expected to be released the week of April 12, with applications due to HUD by approximately June 5, and announcement of awardees on approximately August 2. More information is available at <http://narc.org/uploads/2010/HUD%20Sustainable%20Communities%20Regional%20Planning%20Grant%20Program%20Information%20-%20NARC.pdf>

7. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. by motion of Trala, seconded by McGowan and carried unanimously.
8. Next meeting: April 15, 2010 1:30 p.m. at the A-NPDC.

