



Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Approved at July 25, 2017 meeting

Transportation Committee Members

Date: May 23, 2017

Time: 1:30 PM

Location:

**Northampton County Administration Building, The Hornes, Eastville, Virginia
2nd Floor Conference Room**

AGENDA

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval – March 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes
- III. Staff Update
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - A. Smart Scale Update from May 16 CTB meeting
 - B. Freight Trends data information
 - C. Projects Update:
 - 1. Sidewalk Gap Study
 - 2. Phase III Bike/Hike Trail
- V. New business
 - A. Work plan response from VDOT (if available by meeting date – to be mailed out week of May 15)
- VI. Public Participation
- VII. Next Meeting – July 25, 2017 1:30 p.m.
- VIII. Adjourn

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry DiRe, Cape Charles
Granville Hogg, A-NPDC*
William Kerbin, Town of Onancock
Larry LeMond, ANTDC*, Chairman
Susan McGhee, Northampton County*
Jerry Pauley, VDOT, Alt.*
Lisa Sedjat, ESCSB (Barbara Young for Sedjat)
Kristen Tremblay, Accomack County, Alt.*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vanessa Cousineau, ESAAA/CAA representative
Robert Duer, Town of Exmore
Barbara Haxter, Accomack Airport*
Tim Holloway, Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel*
Chris Isdell, VDOT Accomac Residency*
Abra Jacobs, Center for Independent Living
John Maher, STAR Transit
Rich Morrison, Accomack County*, Vice Chairman
Alex Parry, Bay Coast Railroad
Ivan Rucker, FHWA
Eric Stringfield, VDOT District Planner*
Jim West, Chincoteague*

STAFF PRESENT:

Barbara Schwenk, A-NPDC, Secretary
Curt Smith, A-NPDC
Keisha Wilkins, VDOT

2017 NEXT MEETING DATES – 1:30 p.m.

July 25
September 26
November 28

CONTACT:

Barbara Schwenk
bschwenk@a-ndpc.org
757-787-2936 x127 Tues thru Thurs

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*Voting Members

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
23372 Front Street
P.O. Box 417
Accomac, VA 23301



Podemos ofrecer servicios de interpretación para la reunión. Por favor, llámanos tres días de anticipación para que podamos servir mejor a usted. 757-787-2936, ext. 127

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2017

- I. **Call to order** – Chairman LeMond called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. although a quorum was not yet present.
- The Honorable Mr. Hogg reviewed his comments and questions related to the March 28 meeting minutes (members received his comments earlier in the day via email). The results of this discussion included confirmation that VDOT is available to consult with county planning commissions throughout the development of the transportation element of their comprehensive plans.
- There was also discussion about the two plans VDOT developed to improve access at the Food Lion shopping center south of the traffic signal at the intersection of Route 13 and Bayside Road/Stone Road. There was mention of a perceived lack of public participation in development of the two plans and questions about how to revise them in order to accommodate a possible Phase III bike/hike trail crossing of Route 13 and to avoid having two traffic signals in such close proximity. There was also an opinion stated that a new traffic signal would be better placed at the Bayview Circle/Parsons Circle intersection, as that would be a logical crossing for the bike/hike trail, as well as for motorists crossing from Bayview Circle Road into Cape Charles, and for people turning west onto Parsons Circle to access the Bay Creek development and the Cape Charles harbor. Mention was also made that the new route 642 would impact traffic on Parsons Circle Road, but no conclusion was reached.
- II. **Approval of minutes** – a quorum was present with the arrival of Mr. Pauley at 1:40 p.m. The March 28 meeting minutes were approved as presented by motion of Tremblay, seconded by Hogg, and carried unanimously.
- III. **Staff update** – Ms. Schwenk presented the attendance record and contact information as well as a link to FHWA Safety Compass Newsletter:
<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/newsletter/safetycompass/2017/spring/#s11>
- IV. **Unfinished business**
- a. **Smart Scale Update:** Ms. Schwenk handed out a sheet from the May 16 CTB meeting showing that Route 602 (Cemetery Road/Lee Street in Belle Haven) has been added to the Smart Scale project lists at \$3 million+. However, this is for the Accomack County portion of that road only, and it is preliminary, as CTB has not yet finalized the list. Mr. Pauley reported that VDOT is investigating applying unused Northampton County funds in the approximate amount of \$700,000 to add to the project in order to improve the whole road. Funds are insufficient to bring the road up to VDOT secondary road standards, but they may allow it to be repaved, flattened out to eliminate the “turtle back,” and striped, which would greatly enhance its safety and drivability.
- b. **Freight Trends data information:** Ms. Schwenk reported that research into the reasons for the exponential freight traffic prediction for Northampton County is ongoing. She has received some feedback through VDOT, but is still awaiting a response from the VDOT’s contractor data source, IHS Transearch. She will forward the information she receives as soon as it is available.
- c. **Sidewalk Gap Study:** All sidewalk data sent by Ms. Wilkins, VDOT, was categorized and where there were gaps in data, the sidewalks were drawn in. The categories are:
- 1) ADA-compliant (pavement at least 4 feet wide with a pull out or 5 feet wide with ramps that include half-domes and flared curb cuts)
 - 2) functional but not ADA-compliant (minimum of 3 feet wide, has curb flares and ramps, no utility poles in pavement), and
 - 3) Non-functional and not ADA-compliant (less than 3 feet wide, utility poles in pavement, no flares at curb cuts, no ramps, broken or heaved pavement presenting tripping hazard – any one of these conditions constitutes a 3).

VDOT has approved breaking the data down into jurisdictions and categories. Manipulating the data will be the next step. After VDOT reviews the data, it will be presented to the towns for review and prioritization of improvements.

- d. Phase III Hike/Bike Trail Feasibility Study: Without an owner for this section of the trail, it may not be feasible at all. Therefore, staff has been researching what organization might be willing to be owner. The US Fish & Wildlife Services is not able to own this portion, although it will probably own Phase II eventually. Ideas for ownership include the not-yet-created Public Access Authority, or the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Ms. Schwenk contacted Forrest Gladden at Kiptopeke State Park, and he is willing to convene a meeting with DCR to discuss possible ownership. He has asked staff to get an estimate of maintenance costs before a meeting is scheduled.

Ms. Schwenk also reported that the A-NPDC's attorney has written an opinion on the railroad's liability in a rails-with-trails scenario if the bike/hike trail paralleled the tracks along Stone Road into Cape Charles. His opinion was that unless there was "gross negligence" on the part of the railroad, it would be held harmless in the event that someone using the trail was injured. However, "gross negligence" is dependent on facts and is therefore open to interpretation by the courts. But in the absence of gross negligence, the railroad is considered blameless under Va. Code § 29.1-509, as long as the trail is used for recreational purposes only. Next step is to contact the railroad to ascertain if it is willing to entertain the idea of rails-with-trails.

V. New business

- a. Work Plan Response from VDOT: not yet received but should arrive shortly according to the schedule. Staff mentioned that upon consulting VDOT about whether mapping roads that are regularly inundated would be useful, it was learned that a better first step might be to map storm water outfalls. Mapping the outfalls would show why some roads flood more than others and would identify which ditches were a priority for maintenance. Mapping the outfalls was therefore added to the work program to be reviewed by VDOT.

VI. Public participation – Curt Smith mentioned that the A-NPDC, through its GreenWorks Committee, has partnered with Waste Watchers to coordinate with VDOT in its Sponsor-A-Highway program. Corporate signs can appear on Route 13 even though the sponsored road is a secondary road.

VII. Next meeting – July 25, 2017, 1:30 p.m. location TBD

VIII. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. by motion of Tremblay seconded by Hogg and carried unanimously.