



## **Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2020**

### **Call to Order**

Ms. Parrish called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. A quorum was confirmed.

### **Voting Members Present**

David Ross (Courtland District Supervisor), Lisa Phelps (School Representative), Alfred Durante (Lee Hill District Representative), John Winkler (Chancellor District Representative), Hamza Atif (Representative), Chris Yakabouski (Battlefield District Representative), David Goosman (Livingston District Representative)

### **Others Present**

Paul Agnello (staff), Rodney White (staff), Wanda Parrish (staff), Leon Hughes (staff), Bonnie Jewell (staff), Chris Garcia (University of Mary Washington), Jonathan Rumbaugh (Assistant Residency Administrator-VDOT), Donna Mayfield (staff)

### **Election of New Members**

A motion was made that Paul Agnello serve as the Chairman of the Transportation Committee. A motion was made that Rodney White serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Transportation Committee. And a motion was made that Donna Mayfield serve as the Secretary of the Transportation Committee. All were approved unanimously.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the December 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Business**

Smart Scale Analysis Tool for Evaluating Candidate Projects – Dr. Chris Garcia, of UMW Center for Business Research, explained what the Smart Scale Tool for Evaluating Candidate Projects is and why a tool for evaluating prospective projects could give Spotsylvania the advantage over its competition for getting state funds. It is a complex calculation for a Smart Scale Score. He explained what changes have occurred with Smart Scale and what changes might occur in the future with Smart Scale and how that affects the data that the tool provides. Mr. Garcia went over

how the cost of the tool is phased out so that not all of the fee is due upfront. The tool is customizable. Mr. Rumbaugh explained that each county is in a different category therefore, they have different weight and that the state is telling you what projects are important by the weight your district has. Mr. Agnello reminded members that we want to prioritize our projects so that we have a better chance for getting additional funds. And that some projects that are priorities to us, the county, won't score well with Smart Scale. Staff has recommendations on what would score better on Smart Scale. Ms. Jewell stated there are funds available but didn't know how we could procure them. Ms. Parrish said she had reached out to procurement and they stated that we can go through the university. A motion was made by Mr. Yakabouski and seconded by Mr. Atif to send to the Board. The motion was opposed by Mr. Durante. The motion was approved by the committee, 6-1.

Staff Report on UPC 113172: Rte 3 Operational Improvements Project and Potential to Expand Project West to Gordon Road – Mr. Ross organized a meeting with the following VDOT staff Mrs. Shropshire, Mrs. Parker, and Mr. Rumbaugh. Mr. Agnello and Mr. White also attended the meeting. They came to a conclusion that the project (removing the bump outs further westbound) isn't currently feasible and that it might be in the future once the current project is done.

Update on the Rte 1: Mine Rd to Market St STARS Study – Mr. Agnello gave an update on this study. The study is almost done and a public meeting will be held soon. The study is for a preferred alternative for Rt. 1 at Hood Dr. They are looking at the prospect of an alternative intersection called a Quadrant Roadway to alleviate congestion on Rte 1. VDOT is doing a similar study in North Stafford. This concept called a "quadrant roadway" proposes to transfer all left turns away from the intersection of Rte. 1 and Hood Drive/Mine Road to two new nearby intersections using a new connector road. VDOT recommends a quadrant roadway for this intersection as opposed to a conventional update to this intersection.

Update on FRED Ridership on Potential to reinstitute Service to Thornburg – Mr. Agnello briefed the committee on the bus stop locations and usage, ridership, and the cost for FRED Service to be re-established from Thornburg to Lee's Hill and the VRE station that was previously part of the Caroline service that was discontinued in July 2019. FRED provided us with three options which was discussed. Mr. Agnello went over the statistics of Spotsylvania vs. overall FRED Transit ridership. Spotsylvania ridership is staying steady. Mr. Agnello explained that applications for the grants are due generally due around February 1 of every year. In the future we would likely need to be ready to submit applications for grant money in December. Mr. White discussed a new commuter lot that is being planned for Commonwealth Dr. and how FRED Service could be useful there. Mr. White also went over the potential for other funding sources that could assist the County in funding the new service in future. Staff doesn't recommend pursuing the expanding FRED service to Thornburg at this time. Staff suggests revisiting this topic in 2 years. The committee concurred.

Spotsylvania Towne Centre Request for New Connection to Carl D. Silver Pkwy and New Roundabout for Bragg Rd Extended and Ring Rd – Mr. Agnello briefed the committee that the Towne Center owner is proposing new apartments called Aura to replace Sears and its parking area. The mall is proposing 3-way stop signs at the roundabouts. They are also proposing an exit by Burger King on Rte 3. VDOT doesn't want a left turn coming out of Burger King if the new connection does happen. A study needs to be done. Mr. Ross is going to check with the Towne Center owner and see if they are willing to pay for that study. Burger King and the Towne Center

might possibly be willing to do a land swap. Fredericksburg city staff are not opposed to the proposed mall exit. Some questions arose as to whose responsibility Bragg Rd is. Mr. Rumbaugh showed on the map where VDOT's responsibility ended and where the mall's responsibility started and ended. Mr. Agnello stated that staff is continuing to work on this item.

Smart Scale Round 4 Update – Mr. Agnello gave an overview of regional and local candidate projects and how the different rounds of Smart Scale have changed. He explained how the funding is divided up. It is estimated that there will be approximately \$1 billion available this round. Statewide high priority projects get 50% and district grants get 50%. We have a better chance at getting the district funds than the statewide funds. Statewide high priority funds are hard to get. Spotsylvania received zero high priority project funds in Round 3. Within Fredericksburg District, Stafford, the City of Fredericksburg, and King George are our biggest competitors. Stafford's projects will be highly competitive for Round 4 because they have a lot of leveraged funding for these projects from their bond referendums. The funds are awarded based on the Smart Scale score divided by the Smart Scale request cost. The more modes you have in the application, the better the County's chance of increasing a project's Smart Scale score. Transit and Bike/Ped can help increase your score if you don't have a lot of leverage funding. Projects with a request cost of less than \$10 million tend to do better. The new pre-application process which kicks off this March is now more robust. There is now less flexibility going from pre-application to the final application; 5 pre-applications vs 4 full applications. Any changes from the pre-application to the final application scopes will require VDOT approval. There's some possibility that interstate projects that are included in state funding programs might not be eligible for Smart Scale going forward. Mr. Agnello went through the potential projects and stated the Transportation Committee needs to prioritize them. Mr. Rumbaugh explained the scoring system and how things are weighted. Mr. Agnello went through the projects and identified the projects under consideration:

1. Rte. 2/17 Widening: City Line to either Joseph's Mill/Bowman Center or future IDX site
2. Rte. 1/Market Street intersection improvements and Rte. 1 Revitalization between Market Street and Four Mile Fork
3. Harrison Road widening and shared use path
4. Four Mile Fork intersection improvements
5. New VRE Feeder Bus from Rte. 208 PNR Lot to Fredericksburg AMTRAK/VRE
6. Rte. 208 operational improvements from 2016 VDOT Study
7. Rte. 208/Hood Drive/Houser Drive intersection improvements
8. Lafayette Boulevard pedestrian and transit improvements
9. Hudgins Road improvements between Lafayette Boulevard and Rte. 1
10. Exit 126 STARS study improvements from VDOT study
11. Exit 126 to Exit 130 I-95 improvements from FAMPO study

Discussion of Draft CIP for Transportation Projects – Ms. Jewell recommended that in light of projects and funding that were discussed tonight, it's best to get with staff on how to approach the funding related to the resources that have been identified, as opposed to looking at what we have, which is likely to change.

### **Informational Items**

Highlights from January 14-15 CTB Meeting – Mr. Agnello stated that the state is looking at additional transition funding during the current General Assembly which could raise gas taxes and other fees.

VDOT Tracking Form – Mr. Agnello explained that the VDOT tracking form is for Supervisors to turn in issues to VDOT. Staff turns in the forms to VDOT a couple of times a month. VDOT comes to a BOS meeting once every couple of months to respond to the issues on those forms.

Meeting Schedule – Mr. Agnello went over the Transportation Committee meeting schedule. He stated that because of a conflict with a BOS budget meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, he proposed that the committee consider meeting the following Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Members need more time to decide if that date will work and requested that an e-mail be sent to them regarding this. This will be decided on at a later meeting.

Roster Updated on the Website – The Transportation Committee Roster has been updated on the website except for a couple of vacancies that need to be filled.

#### **Discussion of Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- Staff is looking at the possibility of adding the southwest quadrant of the outer connector to the Comprehensive Plan.
- Germanna Point Dr. has been screened out of the revenue sharing program. Ms. Phelps would like to know how 398 new apartments are going to affect our schools and what we can receive to help our infrastructure and schools as pertaining to the Germanna Point Dr. connector. Would this include a bike trail?

#### **Adjourn**

Mr. Agnello adjourned the meeting at 8:57 PM.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM.