

## Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2019

### Call to Order:

Doug Morgan called the Transportation Committee to order at 6:05 pm. A quorum was confirmed.

### Members Present

Greg Benton (Livingston Supervisor), Gary Skinner (Lee Hill Representative), Tim McLaughlin (Chancellor Supervisor), (Robert Fogg (Battlefield District Representative), Lolita Daniels (Salem District Representative), Lisa Phelps (Spotsylvania Schools)

### Others Present

Marcie Parker (VDOT), Lynne Keenan (VDOT), Dan Cole (staff), Doug Morgan (staff), Bonnie Jewell (Staff)

### Minutes

The minutes from the November 8th meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Benton and seconded by Lisa Phelps. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Transportation Committee.

### Public Comment

None. No members of the public were present.

### New Business

2019 Transportation Committee Meeting Dates – A schedule of meeting dates was included in the meeting agenda packet. Doug Morgan asked members to review it, noting that staff had removed the February meeting due to a conflict. Members asked that the April and November meeting be canceled as well. Staff agreed adding that these meetings could be rescheduled if needed.

There was a brief discussion concerning appointments to the Committee. Board members who were present were reminded that many of the district representative appointments were expiring. Doug Morgan asked it if were possible to have all the appointments to the committee made at the same time. Mr. Skinner indicated he would check with the County Attorney (Karl Holsten) to determine if that were possible.

Redesign of the Exit 126 Interchange, Diverging Diamond - Committee members were shown a copy of a new design (Diverging Diamond) for the interchange are Exit 126. Staff was first given a sketch of the design at the Market-Mine STARS Corridor Study kick-off meeting in October, 2018 and again at the FAMPO Technical Committee meeting in January. A discussion ensued with VDOT concerning the Exit 126 interchange and a potential Exit 128 interchange. Mr. Benton wanted to know about cost for a DDI. Doug Morgan indicated that the new Stafford (DDI) interchange had cost about \$136 million dollars. Marcie Parker said that either interchange would require a study. She said; *“in order to pursue a new*

*interchange at Exit 128, Harrison Road would first need to be widened and that would cost about \$90 million dollars. The FHWA would likely require the State/County to address existing conditions at Exit 126 before looking at a potential new interchange".* Mr. Fogg echoed support for addressing Exit 126 pointing out that most of the growth was occurring there. Ms. Phelps felt that safety was a key element to be considered for supporting improvements to Exit 126 and cited the difficulty attempting a SB left turn onto I-95. Mr. McLaughlin voiced support for the Harrison Road interchange and whether it was feasible to leverage other funds to get it built.

Mr. Skinner said the two projects that were most important and have the greatest impact would be the Germanna Point Connector Road and improvements to Exit 126. The Connector Road would reroute a lot of traffic away from Route 1. He also indicated that he knew a developer who would put up 1/3 of the cost towards Exit 126 improvements. Marcie Parker wanted to know if a study had ever been done on the connector road. Dan Cole indicated that the recent JMT Corridor Studies did not directly model the impact of the connector road but the County had previously looked at it. (The road was also studied as part of the Kimley-Horn J Ramp study.)

Marcie Parker then proceeded to give the committee a brief update on the status of the County Smart Scale applications. Marcie Parker said that the Connector Road was rejected for Smart Scale funding as were the County's other projects including VDOT's on-ramp improvements to Exit 126 which was a STARS study. The City of Fredericksburg's Lansdowne Road project was approved. The right turn lane onto Route 2/17 B would get built.

#### **Old Business**

Bond Referendum – Effect on the County Budget – Bonnie Jewell gave a brief presentation on bonds and how they impact the County budget. She explained that bonds are loans that must to be paid back. The bonds are paid back through principal and interest payments referred to as debt service. A portion of the money that the County receives for transportation comes from the fuel tax the County receives as a result of being a member of VRE. This fuel tax money goes to pay debt service, VRE, FRED bus service and Transportation staff.

The BOS can fund more projects by issuing additional bonds authorized by the citizen's referendum but doing so would require a means of paying for the principal and interest costs and may require shifts in other CIP projects to occur. The approved bond referendum in 2001, 2005, 2006, and 2014. The most recent 2014 County bond referendum for transportation projects was for \$63.3 million. At the time of the 2014 referendum, it was noted that if the full \$63.3 million were to be issued, the potential impact to the tax rate would be an increase of 5 cents. Currently \$57.1 million of the issuance authority remains because we focused on issuing the bonds authorized in 2005 as long as we legally could do so, and because we've received funding for projects through the State's Revenue Sharing and from proffers. The County has an 8-year window following a referendum to issue bonds authorized by that referendum (which may be extended by a max of 2 years with Court approval).

Corridor Projects Prioritization Ranking - Staff passed out a revised prioritization listing which included intersection improvements that have been identified in the two JMT corridor studies and changes

suggested by the Transportation Committee in November. No further changes were recommended. Staff is working on cost estimates for the projects identified in the list for the Comprehensive Plan update.

### **Announcements**

Dan Cole announced that the two corridor studies Route 2/17B and Route 1/208 were completed by JMT. The studies are available on the County website under the Planning Department. To access the studies, select the additional links category and then select Transportation.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14th, 2019.

DRAFT