

## Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2017

### Call to Order:

The Transportation Committee meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

### Members Present

David Ross (Salem District), David Troyer (Battlefield District), Robert Fogg (At Large Representative), Sean Nelson (VDOT), Dan Cole (staff), Doug Morgan (staff), Bonnie Jewell (staff)

### Others Present

Gary Skinner (Lee Hill District)

### Public Comment/Concerns

Mr. Skinner asked about the Committee's membership and make-up. There was a brief discussion on expanding the membership to include other Board of Supervisors. The issue may be taken up at the August BOS meeting. Mr. Skinner also indicated that he had concerns about intersections on Lansdowne Road. He was particularly concerned about congestion at the Mine Road intersection and left turns onto Tidewater Trail. He suggested staff work the City of Fredericksburg concerning the problem at Lansdowne Road.

### Informational Items

#### VDOT's New Policy on Traffic Signals

Sean Nelson briefed the Committee on a recent VDOT *"Traffic Engineering Division Memorandum"* concerning a change in policy dealing with traffic signals on primary routes. In Spotsylvania County these include Routes 1, 2, 3, and 17. The new policy is designed to preserve Virginia's arterial network. There are concerns with the proliferation of new signals which degrade the travel time and travel experience within and between urban centers, adversely impacting the economy. VDOT's strategy is to ensure that all new proposed signals will be reviewed at the appropriate level and with the necessary scrutiny. The memorandum establishes a *"Signal Justification Report"* for all new signals on primary routes. VDOT is encouraging the use of alternative methodologies to traffic signals. Some of these alternatives could be; *"displaced left turns"*, *"median U-turns"*, *"restricted crossing U-turns"* or *"roundabouts"* at intersections. Staff included examples of these possible signal alternatives in the agenda hand-out. A link to the alternative intersection informational design guide is provided below.

[http://www.virginiadot.org/info/alternative\\_intersection\\_informational\\_design\\_guides.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/info/alternative_intersection_informational_design_guides.asp)

This new policy may impact proposed signals at Commonwealth Drive, Heritage Woods and other locations in Spotsylvania County. Staff has advised JMT (consultants for the County's Corridor Studies) of these new VDOT policy changes.

#### Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

The Committee was briefed on three projects that staff is submitting for HSIP. They include; 1) a multi-use trail along US 1 to connect the existing trail along Spotsylvania Parkway to a trail proffered by Jackson Village, 2) a sidewalk on Smith Station Road to connect to a multi-use trail along Spotsylvania Parkway, and 3) a sidewalk on the east side of Spotswood Furnace Lane from Riverbend High School to Plank Road. The program requires no local match and is 100% funded by this federal program. The maximum allocation is \$5,000,000. The application period is August through November 1<sup>st</sup> with funding for the years 2018-2023. Sean Nelson pointed out that VDOT manages this program and that the projects would have to be screened and submitted by the district traffic engineer (Peter Hedrich). Staff has since sent project information to VDOT for review and possible submission of these three locations.

There was a brief discussion on mowing. Mr. Skinner asked if there was a way for the Rappahannock Jail to add corridors besides Courthouse Road (Route 208). Sean Nelson indicated that the County and VDOT would need to modify the existing agreement. Individual groups could do mowing also but they would be required to obtain a permit and pay a fee if they worked in the VDOT right-of-way.

#### Revenue Sharing

Staff briefed the Committee that the Revenue Sharing Program has changed. The previous maximum allocation was \$10,000,000 per year but is now \$5,000,000. Eligible projects still include; construction, reconstruction, improvement or maintenance of VDOT of roadways. Projects require a 50% match and a resolution of support by the locality's governing body. The application period is September through November 1<sup>st</sup>. The application cycle opens in August for locality coordination with VDOT to identify eligible projects. VDOT has set up a meeting on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss changes. Staff had suggested multiple projects for the current funding period. These included; Andora & Old Plank Intersection Improvements, Harrison Road Widening from Grainger Court to Salem Church Road, Route 606 Service Roads, and/or Old Plank Road Travel Lane and Shoulder Improvement from Andora Drive to Smoketree Boulevard. However, Bonnie Jewell suggested that we use FY18 Revenue Sharing funds for projects currently in the County's adopted CIP because many of these projects are not completely funded. Staff has scheduled a meeting next week to go over options. This topic will be discussed again at the August meeting

#### **Reports on Projects or Activities**

Dan Cole updated the Committee on progress to the Corridor Studies being conducted by JMT. *"Travel Time data is being collected next week on both the Route 2 /17 B and Route 1/ 208 corridors. JMT has used Streetlight to obtain the most recent information available on origin-destination, trip, and traveler attributes. Existing conditions for both corridors are complete or near complete. The consultant is working on a VISSIM model of both corridors. A demonstration of the model is anticipated in August or*

*September". Mr. Skinner asked' "If the project(s) would be complete in time for Smart Scale funding?" Staff responded, "Completion of the projects would occur in mid-September or October 2018, but substantial completion would occur in August, whereby we (County) would have enough information to submit identified projects for Smart Scale."*

### **Announcements**

An *"Applicant Workshop"* will be held for project sponsors applying for FY 2019 federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. These workshops will review TA program eligibility, application process and scoring criteria. This year's workshop will be held at the Culpeper District Office on Route 15 on Thursday, August 17, 2017 beginning at 10:00 AM. Planning is going to explore submitting the *"Estates at Breckenridge Bridge Project for the Massaponax Creek Trail."*

### **Next Meeting**

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjourn:**

The Transportation Committee adjourned at 7:35 pm.