

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2016

Call to Order:

The Transportation Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present

Tim McLaughlin (Chancellor District Supervisor), Chris Yakabouski (Battlefield District Supervisor), David Ross (Cortland District Supervisor), Darrell Caldwell (At Large Representative), Arthur Snyder (Livingston Representative), Don Upperco (School District), Eric Martin (Salem Representative), Robert Fogg (Battlefield Representative), Representative), Sean Nelson (VDOT), Dan Cole (staff), Doug Morgan (staff), Bonnie Jewell (staff)

Others Present

Robert Poutier (VDOT), Mark Taylor (County Administrator), Greg Cebula (Berkeley District Supervisor), Ed Petrovitch (Deputy County Administrator)

Approval of the Transportation Committee Agenda

An additional agenda item was added for discussion regarding the proposed FAMPO Study for the I-95 Corridor. The item was added to the end of the Transportation Committee Agenda.

Approval of the January 14th, 2016 Minutes

Minutes were approved.

Public Comment

No members of the public spoke.

Informational Items

- **HB2 Update:** A copy of the statewide rankings was distributed to Committee members. It was noted that all of the projects submitted for funding by Spotsylvania County were approved. These included; Route 606 West, Route 17 I-95 Bridge and Widening to Hospital Boulevard, and the New Commuter Lot at Commonwealth Drive. It was also noted that the Rappahannock River Crossing Project was also approved. Staff commented on the scoring results. It was pointed out that the Route 606 West project (our highest ranked project) was listed as the 92nd in the state. However, only twenty-two (22) projects had a higher *Crash Frequency Score* and only eighteen (18) projects had a higher *Crash Rate Score*. Staff noted that the top six projects in the ranking had no safety benefits (assigned points) but scored high only in air quality and environmental impact. Dan Cole suggested that the scoring should place greater emphasis on safety in the next round of HB2 project evaluations. Committee members were in agreement.

Discussion Items

- **Secondary Six Year Plan:** Staff distributed copies of the FY2016-FY 2021 SSYP including a list of other potential projects. It was noted that last year the available money was less than \$500,000 dollars and the next allocation would likely be about the same. Staff advised that several projects on the current list would be coming off (completed). These included; two (2) on Lanes Corner Road (PPMS ID #'s 74838 & 106658) and one (1) on

Belfonte Road (PPMS ID # 104921). VDOT noted that the bids for the Jefferson Davis Highway (Rt. 1) & Harrison Road (Rt. 620) project would be coming in on February 24th. Dan Cole asked that; *“Committee members look for other projects in their district that they might want to see added to the list, but given the small amount of money, consider projects that were small in nature, inexpensive and could be completed in a fairly short time frame”*. Mr. Yakabouski said; *“one project he thought was needed as the extension of the southbound left turn lane at the intersection of Courthouse Road & Leavells Road.”* Doug Morgan suggested; *“that the new allocation could go towards completing the remaining projects that are already on the list and have future funding allocated towards them.* VDOT said the exact amount of funds would not be known until next month. The FY2017-2022 SSYP would likely have to be completed in April.

- **“J” Ramp, Super Ramp or Other:** Dan Cole posed the concern relayed to him by VDOT *“about whether the County wanted to continue to move this project (“J” Ramp) forward? VDOT has indicated that they will not fund the “J” Ramp project. The issue as understood is, the “J” Ramp can’t be a stand- alone project because it only provides transportation benefits if it is built in conjunction with other associated projects in the Kimley-Horn (K-H) Planning Study. If the County wants to move forward with the “J” Ramp project it must also commit to building all of the other projects identified in the K-H Study. It (County) must complete the corridor studies for Route 1 & Route 208, and make those associated improvements in order for the “J” Ramp to work. There is also the possibility that if slip ramps can be built at Harrison Road and/or Courthouse Road the “J” Ramp would not be needed. For instance, the County could move forward with the “Super Ramp” which could be paid for using state funds and of the projects in the study, it has the greatest impact in relieving traffic congestion in the vicinity of Exit 126. A commitment to do the “J” Ramp also means the County will have to make the improvements that the consultant assumed would be built by 2040. These included;*
 - *Hood Drive widening to four lanes*
 - *Route 17 widening to four lanes between I-95 and the Caroline County line.*
 - *Courthouse Road widening to six lane between US 1 and Smith Station Road*
 - *US 1 widening to eight lanes between Courthouse Road and I-95 Exit 126*
 - *US 1 widening to eight lanes between I-95 Exit 126 and Spotsylvania Parkway*
 - *US 1 widening to six lanes between Spotsylvania Parkway and Massaponax Church Road”*.

Mr. McLaughlin said; *“these projects could be done as long as we continue to receive funds for HB2 Projects.”* Mr. Fogg expressed *“concern about the time frame and wanted to know if we did the “J” Ramp then would that eliminate the possibility of doing the Harrison / Courthouse Road slip ramps?”* Additional discussion continued about the timing of the projects – especially about the impracticality of widening US Route 1 and its potential impacts on existing businesses. Committee members felt that if widening of US Route 1 was to be done, it should be done last and perhaps it didn’t need to be done, at all.

- **Examples of Possible I-95 Alternatives:** Dan Cole advised that Deputy County Administrator Ed Petrovich was appointed to the I-95 Phase I Corridor Study and has been asked to look at potential projects the County wants to have included in current and future phases of the study. Based on discussion the following projects were suggested;
 1. Further expansion of the Rappahannock River Crossing C/D lanes to include new slip ramps at Harrison Road (Route 620) and Courthouse Road (Route 208).
 2. The completion of the Super Ramp project and other improvements as indicated in the I-95 Exit 126 Area Planning Study prepared by Kimley-Horn with IMR improvements to include the “J” Ramp.

3. The addition of a new exit at MP 123 as indicated by the Jackson Gateway Interchange Justification Report dated 10/16/12 Project Number 1101830005 as shown on figure ES-1 of the report.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled Transportation Committee Meeting is Thursday, March 10th.

Adjourn:

The Transportation Committee adjourned at 8:30 pm.