

WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

of the
March 26, 2009, Meeting

held at the
Commission Office
1100 Madison Street, Martinsville, VA
at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

HENRY COUNTY

Jim Adams
Paula Burnette

PATRICK COUNTY

Jerry Adams

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

James Astin, Treasurer
William Pritchett
Henry Davis

MARTINSVILLE

Kim Adkins
Kathy Lawson

ROCKY MOUNT

Roger Seale
Ralph Casey
Jerry Greer

DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman
Buddy Rawley

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Marshall Blair

ABSENT

Charlie Redd, Henry County
Leland Mitchell, Franklin County
Bobby Thompson, Franklin County
Gary Miller, Danville
Kimble Reynolds, Martinsville, Vice-Chairman
Karl Weiss, Patrick County
Ron Knight, Patrick County

STAFF

Robert W. Dowd, AICP, Executive Director
Joan Hullett, Assistant Director
Tammy Moss, Administrative Assistant

GUEST

Michael Patterson, Franklin County Youth Center, Incorporated

1. **Call to Order**

The Chairman established the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the February 26, 2009, Meeting—WPPDC/M(09)1**

Mr. Jim Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jerry Adams, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009, meeting.

3. **Regional Forum Opportunity – Comments from Commissioners and/or Public**

The Chairman asked if there were Commissioners and/or Public present who wished to comment. There were no comments.

4. **Points Arising from Previous Meetings**

The Executive Director updated the Board on the Route 29 Corridor Study meeting held in Chatham by VDOT and its consulting firm on March 25th. The intent of the meeting had been to provide an opportunity for local elected officials, planning commission chairmen, economic developers, and others to offer ideas on improving the Route 29 corridor and to advise what they felt should be considered in developing the study from their perspective.

He also updated the Board members on the Danville rail service status.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

5. **Treasurer's Report: January 31, 2009—WPPDC/P(08)12 and February 28, 2009—WPPDC/P(09)13**

Following the report by Treasurer Astin, Mr. Rawley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blair, to approve the Treasurer's Reports as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to approve the January 31, 2009, and February 28, 2009, Treasurer's Reports as presented.

6. **Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: Franklin County Youth Center

Project: Purchase of Existing Building and Renovation to Meet ADA and Public Use Standards--WPPDC/P(09)11

Description: The Franklin County Youth Center Incorporated was applying to the USDA Rural Development agency for \$344,660 to redevelop a structure in Rocky Mount for use as a youth center that will conform to standards for the Americans with Disabilities Act and public use requirements. The non-profit agency is dedicated to creating opportunities for families, especially low-income families and at-risk children of the Franklin County area. After having acquired the property, the agency was preparing the facility to meet the needs and cost for state licensure for a child care center to provide preschool and school age programs accessible to low-income families. In addition to the information provided in the Board package, Mr. Michael Patterson, Director of the agency was present to respond to questions.

Comments: During the Intergovernmental Review Process, the following comments had been received:

Recommended favorable comment by WPPD Board: Richard E. Huff, Franklin County Administrator; Scott Martin, Franklin County Economic Development; Walter Zaumseil, Director, Franklin County Social Services

Did not wish to comment: Charles Lackey, Superintendent, Franklin County Public Schools

Recommended unfavorable comment by WPPD Board: Janie Hopkins, Director, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce (Noted that: "This project is a duplication of services already provided by the FC YMCA and STEP, Incorporated. Our Chamber must question how this organization will find funding when the other programs are so well established and known in the community.")

The Executive Director had provided Mr. Patterson, Director of the Franklin County Youth Center, with Ms. Hopkins' request for unfavorable comment. Mr. Patterson provided the Board with letters of support from Jon Morris, Executive Director of STEP Incorporated, and David Lawton, CEO/Executive Director of the Franklin County YMCA. Mr. Morris noted that "STEP no longer provides mentoring services and we haven't for 2 years. We also no longer provide daycare or any afterschool activities. However, these services are still needed and we support your efforts to provide these services in our County. So I don't see any duplication of services from our end." Mr. Lawton of the YMCA noted that: "The Franklin County Family YMCA looks forward to possible collaborations with Franklin County Youth Center. Please accept this as a

letter of support for your work with at-risk youth in Rocky Mount and throughout Franklin County. Our organizations share a common purpose to build strong kids and strong communities. I look forward to exploring possible grant funded and other projects that can serve the population we both seek to positively impact. If I can be of assistance, or if you'd like to further discuss collaborative projects, please don't hesitate to contact me."

Mr. Patterson then responded to questions from Board members.

Action: Motion by Mr. Seale, seconded by Mr. Blair, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Intergovernmental Review: Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization Notification of Intent to Apply for Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Planning and Technical Assistance Funds--FY 2010—WPPDC/P(09)10

The Executive Director, who serves as the Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization's Administrator, advised that he would be filing a Notification of Intent to apply for Section 5303 Planning and Technical Assistance funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA funds to be sought with approval of the Danville MPO and the City of Danville would be in the amount of \$66,524 with matching funds of \$8,316 from the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation and \$8,316 from the City of Danville on its approval. The following efforts will be undertaken by the parties to the work program:

a. Danville MPO Administration/Planning

Provide transit planning administrative assistance to the DTS to meet FTA Section 5307 requirements for preparing and submitting grant applications; maintaining and implementing a Public and a Private Sector Participation Process; and DTS's conduct of short- and long-range transit planning activities; develop the Transportation Improvement Program transit sections and the annual Unified Work Program transit planning elements and insure project selection and public participation procedures are maintained and implemented.

b. City of Danville/Danville Transit System Planning (Pass-Through Grant Supported):

Danville Transit System (DTS) would conduct transit planning and assist on certain administration efforts necessary to comply with FTA requirements in order to receive Section 5307 program capital and operating grants. These requirements include maintaining Civil Rights (Title VI), DBE and EEO requirements, performance monitoring, ADA planning and preparing all necessary reports. DTS would coordinate with the MPO on transit planning activities, including maintaining the Public Participation Plan and updating the financial information, if required. Funds were expected to be used to support, in part, a Transit Manager to assist in the preceding efforts. Remaining grant assistance would be used to carry out the following task elements: a) Program Support and Administration; b) Short-Range Transportation Planning; c) Drug/Alcohol Planning and Customer Service Training. The Danville Transit System staff would employ \$71,116 of the grant funds and matches to carry out its activities using a pass-through from the MPO and PDC staff. The Danville Transit System's funds would come from an anticipated award of Section 5303 grant funds to the MPO, a portion of which would then be awarded to Danville Transit System in the form of a pass-through grant from the Danville MPO. Funds that would be made available to the DTS total \$71,115; Danville MPO would use the remaining \$12,040 in funds.

The Executive Director noted that the City of Danville (Pittsylvania County) MPO was utilizing Section 5303 funds in the current fiscal year. He also noted that the City of Danville and the Danville MPO anticipated the funding request and it was being included in the upcoming Unified Work Program for FY 2010. In addition to Commission review and consideration of the application notice of intent, the MPO Administrator was also requesting Board consideration of approval of a resolution authorizing the MPO Administrator/WPPDC Executive Director to apply for funds and to contract with the City of Danville for the pass-through funds from the FTA Section 5303 planning grant, anticipating the City's desire for these funds and the MPO's own approval of the pass-through action.

At its earlier session, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board adopt the resolution (copy attached).

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lawson, to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to: (a) make a favorable comment on the application and (b) adopt the resolution (copy attached) as presented authorizing the MPO Administrator/WPPDC Executive Director to apply for funds and to contract with the City of Danville for the pass-through funds from the FTA Section 5303 planning grant, anticipating the City's desire for these funds and the MPO's own approval of the pass-through action.

8. **Update on the Development of Phase II for the Regional Water Supply Plan in Cooperation with the VA Department of Environmental Quality**

The Executive Director reported that the consultant had been developing the drought response plans and ordinances for the member localities that are participating in the regional water supply plan effort. He also noted that he had just completed a draft contract for review by the consultant and DEQ staff that would allow work to begin on the final phase of the plan. He indicated that it appeared that the document would be completed in the spring of 2011 in time to meet the statutory deadline to complete the work.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

9. **Updates/Reports on Regional Projects/Activities Related to:**

a. **US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration**

The Deputy Director advised that work was nearing completion on the development of the annual update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document and that a copy would be distributed to members at the April meeting to save on postage and to allow sufficient time for review prior to consideration of approval at the May Board meeting. She also noted that she had been working with several localities and the Philadelphia Regional Office on potential stimulus grants.

Mr. Jerry Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rawley, to authorize the Executive Director to transmit a letter of support to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, requesting the annual funding be restored for EDA to no less than \$400 million for its economic development assistance programs as part of the FY 2010 Commerce spending bill. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

b. **Rural Transportation Planning Program in conjunction with the VA Department of Transportation**

The Executive Director updated the Board on the status of the development of the Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan activities. He reported that the staff had recently worked with representatives of Parsons Transportation Group who wanted help in making visits to the large set of previously identified study locations on the road network in the Planning District's four counties. The firm was to visit each site for reconnaissance purposes; subsequently, a number of these sites would be revisited by traffic count or turning movement counting teams that would assist in the process of coming up with recommendations on the key but difficult locations. He noted that most locations were intersections where there was a recent history of accidents, many involving injury or fatalities. He noted that he had developed a summary of deficiencies for the various transportation modes and presented a report to the PDC's transportation technical advisory committee. He indicated that this was a comprehensive document in draft format that would need to be added to and refined and put on the project website in modules.

He also briefed them on the Commonwealth Transportation Board public meetings on adjustments to the financing and management of VDOT operations and advised that he had presented the PDC's letters requesting that the Franklin County and Chatham Residency Administrator Offices remain open.

c. **Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization Assistance Program in conjunction with the VA Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration**

The Executive Director reported that he had been working with the Danville Transit Manager on the best approaches to seeking stimulus money to assist in accomplishing some capital equipment or capital improvements to the City agency in the next few months. In addition, he had been working with the City Transit Manager in regard to bringing in some earmark money that had been listed for the City.

He noted that work had continued on the Long-Range Plan's modeling phase. The Danville Long-Range Transportation Plan should be completed in 2010.

Staff had also been contacted to list any City, County, Danville MPO projects for which there might be potential supplemental funds from the stimulus program. He had listed several projects that were already listed in the Six-Year Plan and indicated the Governor's staff should negotiate with VDOT on the potential use of the funds to advance certain local projects such as the Robertson Bridge and Route 41 Extension.

It was noted that the staff, as the MPO Administrative Agent, had closed out the consultant-led projects for corridor studies for the Danville MPO. Work was continuing on two access management projects on Route 29.

The Executive Director also noted that the state funding support for the new Amtrak service between Lynchburg and Washington was approved by the General Assembly and that the service will be maintained

for a three-year trial run. The financing of Amtrak equipment and employees to operate the new Lynchburg to Washington rail service was to be paid for with state funds. Danville would be taking steps to move forward to enhance the Crescent line service also provided by Amtrak. A ticket kiosk was on request from the City; they had asked for it to be installed at the Train Station/Science Museum center on Craghead Street. A proposal was due soon from Amtrak to make improvements at the Danville stop; this came out of a meeting held several months ago. In addition, the City had requested financing of more aggressive marketing. In the past, nothing was concertedly done in respect to promoting Crescent line services, locally or regionally.

THE BOARD:

Noted these reports.

10. Highlights of Commission and Staff Activities; Other Business and Reports

The Executive Director updated the Board on the staff's work on comprehensive plans in conjunction with local governments.

The Executive Director noted that he had been informed that there was another proposal for an interbasin transfer. In this case, it would be in North Carolina where water would be removed from the Roanoke River Basin and transported into the Tarr River and Neuse River Basins to serve the Oxford, NC, area. He indicated that he had developed a resolution addressing the interbasin transfer and that it would indicate the Commission's continued review of the studies of the basin transfer and, in addition, indicated the Commission's past objections to interbasin transfer including the one from the Roanoke River Basin to Virginia Beach. Mrs. Burnette indicated that the Henry County Board of Supervisors had recently addressed this issue; she read the resolution that had been presented to and approved by the Board. Mr. Davis indicated that this resolution was a direct rejection of the North Carolina proposal and would serve the PDC well. The Board instructed the Executive Director to develop a resolution effectively employing the language in the Henry County resolution.

THE BOARD:

Noted these reports and instructed the Executive Director to develop a resolution concerning opposition to interbasin transfer effectively employing the language in the Henry County resolution.

11. Update on General Assembly

The Executive Director distributed a summary of House Bills passed by the 2009 General Assembly; this list was composed from the state's list of bills passed by both the House and Senate and included House Bills and Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions. Board members noted that this summary was quite useful and asked that it be forwarded to appropriate local government staff persons.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP
Executive Director