

A MPO Public Hearing was held in the Danville Municipal Building, Second Floor Conference Room, Patton Street, Danville, VA at 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., August 27, 2007, for an Amendment to the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program document.

## Minutes

for the

**August 27, 2007, Meeting**

of the

**Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Danville Municipal Building, Second Floor Conference Room, Patton Street, Danville  
at 6:35 p.m.

Attendees:

Robert Scarce, Pittsylvania County, Acting Chairman  
Jeff Kessler, VDOT-Lynchburg District Planning Engineer  
Kent Shelton, Danville City Engineer  
Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County Planning Director  
Stokes Daniels, Danville City Council  
Coy Harville, Pittsylvania County  
Lee Farmer, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
Robert W. Dowd, Danville MPO Administrator  
Joan Hullett, Danville MPO Staff

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Scarce, Acting MPO Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous MPO Meeting & Hearing, May 17, 2007**

Mr. Scarce presented the minutes of the May 17, 2007, meeting, offering an opportunity to submit changes; hearing none, he called for a motion on the minutes as presented. Mr. Harville made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kessler, to approve the minutes. Upon vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 17, 2007, MPO meeting of the Policy Board. (Mr. Harville noted that he would like to further discuss Item #12 in the May 17<sup>th</sup> Board minutes under "Other Business.")

**3. Additional Items for the Agenda (as necessary)**

Mr. Dowd noted that the following items needed to be added to the agenda:

- Resolution 2007-17—Support and Endorsement for City of Danville's Year 2007 Enhancement Program Grant Application
- Resolution 2007-18—Authorization for Endorsements for City of Danville and Pittsylvania County Enhancement Program Grant Applications.

It was also noted that Mr. Harville wanted to further discuss Item #12 in the May 17, 2007, Board minutes which had previously been approved.

Mr. Harville made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the items listed above. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**4. Review of Public Hearing Comments on the Amendment to FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program [Review any comments, suggested changes received during the Thirty Day Review Period, prior to the Public Hearing. Discussion to include any additional Policy Board, Local, MPO, VDOT, VDRPT, or FHWA changes offered on the TIP amendments before action taken.]**

Mr. Dowd advised that the MPO had been asked by the Virginia Department of Transportation to make amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order to make the document compliant with SAFETEA-LU regulations. A public hearing had been held at 5:30 p.m. prior to the evening's MPO Policy Board meeting to cover three actions that the MPO

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was being asked to take at the meeting subsequent to the public hearing. He explained that the first action was to consider and endorse the Virginia Department of Transportation's strategy for making the STIPs and the MPO TIPs compliant with the SAFETEA-LU Act by adding key projects to the current 2006-2008 TIP. These projects cover the period 2008, 2009, and 2010. The second action to be considered involves the addition of two specific projects to the MPO's TIP and its list of projects; the two projects involved transportation improvements on Route 41 and connections to Route 265, one taking place in FY 2009 and the other taking place in FY 2010. The third action being considered was to add three generic line items to the TIP that address a timeline of projects out to the year 2011. The three areas of line item additions address transit program projects, enhancement grant program projects, and rail program projects—all which will be applicable statewide as well as to the individual MPOs and their TIPs.

Mr. Dowd noted that, as part of the Public Involvement Process, the staff had placed copies of the review package in various public accessible locations; press releases had been sent out; advertisements had been placed three times in local newspapers; direct mailings had been sent out to community-based organizations, churches, the Citizen Advisory Committee, environmental and transportation-related agencies, and the MPO Project Management Team membership. He noted that, at the time, there had been no additional changes to the materials from any of the contacted persons or agencies. It was noted that no comments had been offered at the earlier public hearing.

**5. Resolutions Related to Contents, Approval of Amendments to the FY 2006-2008 TIP:**

- a) Public Involvement Process in Development of August 27, 2007, Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2006-2008 Danville MPO Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2007-15
- b) Certification that Public Participation, Public Notification Procedures, and Private Enterprise Participation Policy Were Followed In Development of the August 27, 2007, Amended FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2007-16

Mr. Dowd noted that these resolutions indicated that public involvement processes had been used in the review of the amendments to the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program and certified that procedures were followed as practical.

Mr. Harville made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to adopt Resolutions 2007-15 and 2007-16, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Resolution by the Danville (Pittsylvania) Metropolitan Planning Organization for Concurrence on Strategy to Incorporate the FY 21009-2010 Addendum to the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2007-12**

Mr. Dowd informed the Board members that, in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the MPO, in cooperation with the State and affected public transportation operators, is required to prepared a TIP which documents a cooperatively developed program of projects and planned obligations scheduled for implementation during a projected four-year period. He noted that the TIP is consistent with regionally adopted Long-Range Transportation Plans. Resolution 2007-12 adoption is the Danville MPO's concurrence with the strategy set forth by VDOT, the VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration for compliance with SAFETEA-LU regulations. This strategy includes working toward adoption of the project listing addendum, identifying obligation by project phase for the FY 2009-2010 years through either administrative modification or amendment to the FY 2006-2008 TIP, and the completion of all required public participation activities associated with amending the FY 2006-2008 TIP.

Mr. Harville made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kessler, to adoption Resolution 2007-12, as presented, which approves and endorses the strategy to incorporate the project listing addendum to the FY 2006-2008 TIP as discussed above. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**7. Resolution by the Danville (Pittsylvania) Metropolitan Planning Organization for Addition of Certain Primary Projects Scheduled for FY 2009-2010 Addendum to the FY 2007-2008 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2007-13**

Mr. Dowd noted that VDOT had provided a list of major statewide projects that needed to be added to the time period of FY 2008-2010 and that an action would be needed to add: Project UPC# 79955, Route 265 Franklin Turnpike Connector construction in FY 2009 and Project UPC# 17724, Route 41, right-of-way for widening, curb, gutter in FY 2010.

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shelton, to adopt Resolution 2007-13, as presented, approving and endorsing the incorporation of the project listings noted as FY 2009, FY 2010 addendums to the FY 2006-2008 TIP. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**8. Resolution by the Danville (Pittsylvania) Metropolitan Planning Organization Addition of Statewide Transit Program Projects, Statewide Enhancement Program Projects and Statewide Rail Program Projects Scheduled for FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010 to the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2007-14**

Mr. Dowd informed the Board that in order to further provide SAFETEA-LU compliance the MPO was being asked to adopt Resolution 2007-14 which provides generic line items to be included into the current TIP that would cover the projects from three programs. These programs included the Statewide Transit Program projects, Statewide Enhancement Program projects, and Statewide Rail Program projects. Mr. Kessler noted that this would facilitate and streamline the process over the next year as projects and amendments needed to be added to the TIP and, with this resolution being adopted, it would reduce the need of the MPO having to meet and take action on individual projects.

Mr. Kessler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harville, to adopt Resolution 2007-14, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**9. Consideration of Support and Endorsement for City of Danville's Year 2007 Enhancement Program Grant Application—Resolution 2007-17**

Mr. Dowd introduced Resolution 2007-17 which expressed the MPO's endorsement of the City of Danville's application for enhancement program grant funds in order to continue development of a pedestrian/bicycle trail system joining the Tobacco Warehouse District to the Downtown Historic District, restoration of the former passenger waiting area, and improvements relative to the Danville Science Center and Community Market such as pedestrian and parking improvements.

Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to approve Resolution 2007-17, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**10. Consideration of Authorization for Endorsement for City of Danville and Pittsylvania County Enhancement Program Grant Applications—Resolution 2007-18**

Mr. Dowd introduced Resolution 2007-18 which would provide blanket authorization for endorsements for either City of Danville or Pittsylvania County enhancement program grant applications in the future. He noted that, by taking this action, the MPO Administrator could draft supporting resolutions and cover letters and the MPO Chairman or Vice-Chairman could sign and therefore execute these draft resolutions as they come to the Administrator's attention in the future. This would eliminate the need for formal action by the MPO Policy Board at a convened meeting.

Mr. Harville made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to approve Resolution 2007-18, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**11. Discussion of Item #12 in May 27, 2007, Meeting Concerning Route 41, Pittsylvania County**

The minutes of the May 27, 2007, which had been approved by the Board members in an earlier action had noted that Mr. Dale Grigg of the Lynchburg District Office had spoken to the MPO concerning VDOT's internal discussions regarding the potential removal of a section of Route 41 improvements from the budget for the Six-Year Program, noting that the project's assigned funds would be reassigned to more pressing primary roadway projects in the Lynchburg District. This project involves Item #11 in the Danville Long-Range Transportation Plan of 2004. It is a segment of Route 41 that connects to the intersection of Route 41 in Pittsylvania County that extends the five-lane widening from the intersection of Route 41 and 719 to the intersection of Route 41 and 863. Mr. Kessler had noted at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting that, with the advent of development of an updated CLRP in 2008-2009, the MPO could evaluate this segment of roadway again as to its inclusion in the constrained portion of the plan's project list. Mr. Sides had, at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, noted that he thought that the project would need to be given strong consideration if projects on improvements to Route 863 progress in the future and are included in the Long-Range Plan.

Mr. Harville questioned the status of this project, noting that it was needed desperately. He cited a potential safety issue in front of the Twin Springs Elementary School. He asked if any decisions had been made on this project following VDOT's internal discussions regarding its removal from the budget for the Six-Year Program. Mr. Kessler responded that no action had been taken to take the project out of the Long-Range Plan and that the Commonwealth Transportation Board would be holding its fall meetings soon and would be looking to add or delete projects. He noted that the fall CTB meeting for the Lynchburg District would be held on October 29, at which time the CTB would be looking to localities for input on projects already in the Six-Year Plan. He recommended that two actions would be needed. First, the County should show support for the project; secondly, the County should have a backup plan if the project will be deleted from the Plan—for example, what could be done to make the area in front of the school safer. Mr. Shelton stated that Mr. Griggs had noted that a couple million dollars had been allocated to the project and questioned whether these funds could be used for safety improvements. During discussion, it was noted that the MPO Board should strongly recommend that emphasis continue to be placed on this project. Mr. Kessler noted that it was certainly the goal of the MPO and County to see projects to completion; however, realizing the impacts of the shortage of funds and the number of highway needs, it would be important to immediately address the safety concerns as an internal project. It would, however, take many years to get a full-blown project.

Mr. Sides noted that he had spoken with VDOT and County School personnel and he did not know, based on these discussions, whether there were improvements that could help and that immediate needs seemed to be under control. He noted, however, that the project needed to be kept on the radar screen and kept in the Long-Range Plan. He said the Town of Chatham should be contacted to see if improvements are needed on Route 863.

Mr. Kessler discussed the District's top ten priority projects, noting that Route 41 was not in that group. He noted that VDOT looks at the number of accidents, density, and traffic counts to determine which projects were in the top ten group.

Following further discussion, Mr. Harville made a motion to support continuing progress on the Route 41 corridor and to keep it as a priority and to check on the project with the Resident Engineer's Office and further to use funds to improve safety conditions in the immediate future, if necessary. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**12. SAFETEA-LU Compliance; Other Updates; Six-Year Improvement Program; Other News**

In response to a question from Mr. Searce, Mr. Kessler explained the timeframe for grant award following approval of Enhancement Program grant applications, noting that actual fund disbursement could take six to eight months after a grant was awarded.

Mr. Dowd noted that the MPO's Long-Range Plan was now SAFETEA-LU compliant and that, with actions during the evening's meeting, the TIP was now a step closer to SAFETEA-LU compliance.

**13. Discussion of Projects Ongoing for the MPO; Member Governments**

Mr. Dowd informed the Board that the MPO staff and the Project Management Team had a recent session with Hayes Seay Mattern and Mattern to take a very detailed look at the Memorial Drive-West Main Street corridor and the Route 58 West corridor in the City in respect to access management. The group had looked at various approaches on many properties that would improve the owner's access to the main routes while at the same time improving safety, reducing conflict points, and maintaining free flow of traffic and speeds. The consultants are working up this information into proposals and considering inputs captured from several public meetings held earlier. Accident data is also being reviewed.

Mr. Dowd noted that the Route 730 to Route 29 Connector project and the Iris Lane Parkway/Piney Forest Bypass project is in the phase where traffic data is being collected and aerial photography gathered. In addition, land use information is being reviewed and accident data gathered and analyzed.

**14. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Dowd noted that he plans to, in consultation with Mr. Kessler, begin the solicitation process for the Update to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan in the December 2007 through February 2008 timeframe. He will begin development of a Scope of Work so that advertisements can run in the fall. The MPO has 18 months to get the plan updated. The completion date will be June 2009. He noted that this update would include a number of new components for SAFETEA-LU compliance such as environmental review and consultation by state, federal, and local agencies and organizations. He wanted to make sure the Board was aware of this and asked if there was agreement with this planned process. The consensus of those in attendance was favorable to Mr. Dowd's intentions in terms of CLRP update solicitations and contracting with a consultant.

Mr. Kessler noted that he would work with VDOT's Headquarters' modeling staff so that the modeling required for the CLRP Update would be taken care of and paid for with the on-call program that VDOT has with consultant firms. This would make the modeling a no-cost item to the MPO. This will help the MPO's budget situation in terms of getting the CLRP Update accomplished. He noted that no action was required for this.

**15. Amending CLRP to Account for Year of Expenditure Costs**

Mr. Dowd referred the Board to a handout concerning amending the CLRP to account for Year of Expenditure costs. He stated that the Year of Expenditure process would be able to yield some estimated state and federal revenues on an annual basis which, if extended far enough into the future, would be able to aid in developing the constrained project list and the vision project list for the upcoming Year 2035 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan. He showed the Board some illustrations of the current plan's tabulated projects and costs. Mr. Kessler noted that, in the immediate time period, VDOT and the MPO would be working together to update the current Year 2030 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan and its project lists in order to

comply with the SAFETEA-LU regulations and to generally provide a more updated cost schedule for the projects we now have in the CLRP. He noted that it was hoped that we could keep the current projects in the CLRP instead of some of them dropping off into the vision plan for lack of adequate funding. Mr. Kessler also noted that, unless there was a major change in projects, the MPO may not need to hold a public hearing prior to its taking action in the November-December period of this year.

**16. Other Business**

Mr. Harville noted his concerns for the way that the 58 West Bypass entered Route 58 West and also noted that VDOT should have affected a design change so that Route 863 was linked into 58 West and the 58 West Bypass so that drivers would not have to get off the Bypass and onto Route 58 to reach the Route 863 corridor and proceed in the direction of Route 29 and other destinations. Mr. Sides cited a problem with trees blocking visibility and noted that he had brought this up with the local VDOT office but had been told it met standards and would not be changed.

Mr. Scarce introduced Ms. Lee Farmer of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Those in attendance then introduced themselves to Ms. Farmer and welcomed her to the meeting.

**17. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Harville made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Danville MPO Administrator

# MINUTES

## August 27, 2007 PUBLIC HEARING

of the  
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization

held in the  
Second Floor Conference Room  
Danville Municipal Building, Patton Street, Danville, VA  
from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Hearing Subject:**        ***Amendment to the FY 2006-2007 Transportation Improvement  
Program Document***

1.        **Opening of Hearing**

Mr. Dowd opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room, of the Danville Municipal Building, Danville.

2.        **Briefing on the Subject of the Hearing**

Mr. Dowd advised that the MPO had been asked by the Virginia Department of Transportation to make amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order to make the document compliant with SAFETEA-LU regulations. The hearing was to cover three actions that the MPO was being asked to take at the meeting subsequent to the public hearing. He explained that the first action was to consider and endorse the Virginia Department of Transportation's strategy for making the STIPs and the MPO TIPs compliant with the SAFETEA-LU Act by adding key projects to the current 2006-2008 TIP. These projects cover the period 2008, 2009, and 2010. The second action to be considered involves the addition of two specific projects to the MPO's TIP and its list of projects; the two projects involved transportation improvements on Route 41 and connections to Route 265, one taking place in FY 2009 and the other taking place in FY 2010. The third action being considered was to add three generic line items to the TIP that address a timeline of projects out to the year 2011. The three areas of line item additions address transit program projects, enhancement grant program projects, and rail program projects—all which will be applicable statewide as well as to the individual MPOs and their TIPs.

Mr. Dowd noted that, as part of the Public Involvement Process, the staff had placed copies of the review package in various public accessible locations; press releases had been sent out; advertisements had been placed three times in local newspapers; direct mailings had been sent out to community-based organizations, churches, the Citizen Advisory Committee, environmental and transportation-related agencies, and the MPO Project Management Team membership. He noted that, at the time, there had been no additional changes to the materials from any of the contacted persons or agencies. He then opened the Public Hearing for comment from the citizens.

Mr. Dowd opened the meeting for public comment at the conclusion of his remarks on the purpose of the hearing and the issues to be considered at the subsequent MPO meeting.

3. **Comments Received to Date of the Hearing During Public Participation Process Period**

Mr. Dowd indicated that he did not receive any verbal or written comments from the general public or other parties regarding the items under consideration for the public hearing from the beginning of the thirty-day review period up to the convening of the present public hearing. The hearing was advertised in the newspaper of general circulation 30 days, 14 days, and 7 days before the hearing.

Mr. Dowd then commenced to review the various advertisements, contacts/postings with churches, community-based organizations, organizations and agencies, committees, and private sector providers, plus press releases and general efforts to implement the public participation and public notification process.

4. **Public Participants/Comments**

Bob Dowd, Danville MPO Administrator  
Joan Hullett, MPO Staff  
Lee Farmer, VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
Denice Thibodeau, Danville Register and Bee

Mr. Dowd noted that there were no members of the public attending the hearing to make comments on the TIP amendments or any other matters.

5. **Hearing Closure**

The public hearing was closed at 6:30 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Danville MPO Administrator