

# MINUTES

## May 25, 2011 PUBLIC HEARING

of the  
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization

held in the  
Danville Regional Airport Terminal Building, Eastern Conference Room  
Airport Drive, Danville, VA  
from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Hearing Subject:        Consideration of the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

### **Attendees:**

Robert W. Dowd, AICP, Danville MPO Administrator  
Aaron Burdick, Danville MPO Administrator  
Joan Hullett, Danville MPO Staff  
Tara Bozick, Danville Register & Bee  
Katherine Milam, Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services

### **1.        Opening of Hearing**

Mr. Dowd opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. in the Danville Regional Airport Terminal Building, Eastern Conference Room, Airport Drive, Danville, VA.

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

Mr. Dowd explained that the Danville MPO is required to develop an updated transportation improvement program covering the Danville MPO Study Area. The document included: a narrative indicating the TIP's importance and role in setting out the transportation projects to be developed over a multi-year period and defines the contents of the TIP by sections; a number of sections that identify specific projects, their funding sources, and when they may be expected to take place; a financial plan; a section on public participation; and that sets out the documentation for the TIP development process. He noted that the transit projects are separated out into the Transit Element of the document and address items involved with the Danville Transit System. The other major section addresses the highway projects.

### **3.        Public Participants/Comments**

Mr. Dowd had noted that the TIP included Section 5310 projects such as the one from the Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services and Ms. Katherine Milam was present to represent the agency and comment on their projects that were included the TIP. Ms. Milam reported that the VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation had completed its review of the agency's application and advised that it would recommend approval of the request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board at its June 2011 meeting. She noted that the request was for a nine-passenger raised roof minivan (\$40,000) and a five-passenger minivan with ramp (\$34,000). The total project cost was \$74,000, of which 80 percent would come from the requested FTA 5310 funds and 20 percent would be provided by the agency. Ms. Milam expressed appreciation for the MPO's and the Planning District Commission's support for the Section 5310 Program and its assistance to local agencies including the CSB.

In response to questions from Ms. Tara Bozick of the Danville Register and Bee, Mr. Dowd provided an overview of the operations of the Danville MPO and discussed development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Work Program (UWP). In addition,

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he noted that the MPO carries out various corridor studies in association with consultants and that four studies were currently being developed. Ms. Bozick questioned the purpose of the TIP. He explained that it was a forward look for four-year periods where anticipated expenditures would be made of federal funds for various purposes including the highway network, the transit system, and other types of transportation improvement efforts.

Mr. Dowd noted that there were no other members of the public attending the hearing to make comments other than Ms. Milam and Ms. Bozick.

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

Mr. Dowd indicated that, other than state agency comments on changes needed, 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. He noted that there had been minor adjustments to the project list from VDOT staff and also some minor adjustments made by the Danville Transit System and VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation staffs.

Mr. Dowd reviewed 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.

**5. Hearing Closure**

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

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Danville MPO Administrator

**Minutes**  
for the  
**May 25, 2011, Meeting**  
of the  
**Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Danville Regional Airport Terminal Building, Eastern Conference Room  
Airport Drive, Danville, VA  
at 6:35 p.m.

Attendees:  
Coy Harville, Pittsylvania County, Chairman  
Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County Planning Director  
Marc Adelman, Danville Transit System  
Fred Shanks, Danville  
James Snead, Pittsylvania County  
Kent Shelton, Danville  
Rob Cary, Lynchburg District Administrator  
Robert W. Dowd, Danville MPO Administrator  
Aaron Burdick, Danville MPO Administrator  
Joan Hullett, Danville MPO Staff

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Harville, MPO Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. He introduced Mr. Aaron Burdick, who would be replacing Bob Dowd as West Piedmont Planning District Commission Executive Director and Danville MPO Administrator upon his retirement on June 30, 2011. The Board welcomed Mr. Burdick.

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous MPO Meeting & Hearing, March 30, 2011**

Mr. Harville presented the minutes of the March 30, 2008, meeting and public hearing, offering an opportunity to submit changes; hearing none, he called for a motion on the minutes as presented. Mr. Snead made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shanks, to approve the minutes. Upon vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of both the March 30, 2011, MPO meeting of the Policy Board and Public Hearing.

**3. Public Comment/Opportunity to Speak to MPO Issues**

Mr. Harville offered an opportunity for public comments on MPO issues. There were none.

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

Mr. Dowd stated that, following the May 24, 2011, meeting of the Virginia Association of Planning Organizations, a Resolution 2011-17 had been prepared for the Board's consideration. Mr. Shanks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snead, to amend the agenda to include Resolution 2011-17. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**5. Review of Public Hearing Comments on the Draft FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program [Review any comments, suggested changes received during the Thirty Day Review Period, prior to the Public Hearing. Discussion should include any additional Policy Board, Local, MPO, VDOT, VDRPT or FHWA staff changes offered on the TIP amendments before action is taken below]**

Mr. Dowd reviewed the procedure and actions taken prior to tonight's MPO Public Hearing and Policy Board meeting in order to fulfill the requirements of its public participation procedures and manual. He noted the advertisements that were run, news releases, and letters to transit providers, agencies, citizen advisory committee members, churches and neighborhood organizations were transmitted. He noted that the public hearing was held earlier for an hour and that only two individuals had attended—Ms. Kathy Milam of the Danville-Pittsylvania Community

Services Board, who noted her appreciation for the MPO's support for the Section 5310 Program and its assistance to local agencies including the CSB and Ms. Tara Bozick of the Danville Register & Bee.

He noted that there had been minor adjustments to the project list from VDOT staff and also some minor adjustments made by the Danville Transit System and VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation staffs. These changes basically had been made to improve the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the document.

**6. Resolutions Related to Contents, Approval of Amendments to the FY 2012-2015**

**TIP:**

a) **Public Involvement Employed in Adoption of Danville MPO Fiscal Year 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program; Resolution 2011-12**

b) **Certification that Public Participation, Public Notification Procedure, and Private Enterprise Participation Policy Were Followed in Adoption of the Danville MPO FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program-- Resolution 2011-13**

Mr. Dowd reviewed the reasoning for considering Resolution 2011-12 and Resolution 2011-13 that indicate that the MPO carried out its public participation process steps as normally done and that, in carrying out the steps, it had followed its procedures in doing so.

Mr. Snead made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shanks, for the MPO to approve (a) Resolution 2011-12, that public involvement had been employed in adoption of the MPO's FY 2012-2015 TIP and (b) Resolution 2011-13, certifying that the MPO's Public Involvement Participation Plan and Notification Procedures Manual had been followed in the development of the FY 2012-2015 TIP. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**7. Consideration of Resolution 2011-14, Adoption of the Danville MPO, FY 2012-2015, Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Dowd noted that the staffs of the MPO, VDOT, and federal agencies may determine more up-to-date material may be included in the submitted TIP and that final adjustments may be required in the TIP's Financial Plan for best accuracy in presentation.

Mr. Shanks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snead, to adopt Resolution 2011-14, (a) adopting the Fiscal Year 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program to include the observance of planning requirements and compliance with the National Transportation Act of 2005, SAFETEA-LU and its regulations and (b) authorizing the MPO Administrator, in concert with the District Planning Engineer, to finalize adjustments, if needed, to the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program with input from other VDOT and Federal Highway Administration staff as appropriate. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**8. Consideration of Resolution 2011-15, Statement of Certification: Compliance with Regulations**

Mr. Dowd noted that the MPO must approve a Statement of Certification for submission to the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, certifying that the transportation planning process is being carried out in conformance with all applicable requirements of a listing of regulations as set forth in the Board package.

Mr. Snead made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shanks to adopt the 2011 Statement of Certification dated May 25, 2011, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**9. Consideration of Revised Unified Work Program, FY 2012, per Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Request—Resolution 2011-16**

Mr. Dowd stated that, subsequent to the Board's adoption of the FY 2012 Unified Work Program at its March 30, 2011, meeting, the staff of the VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation had contacted him requesting changes to the Transit portion of the document. As

a result, changes had been made to satisfy VDRPT's request. These changes basically involved fine-tuning the various sub-tasks for work in FY 2012 under the three principle tasks. The changes had been sent out with the Board package for the evening's meeting; however, in the ensuing period of time, he had contact from staff of VDRPT again indicating they had concern about the precision of the percentages of time and dollars allocated between DTS and the MPO staff displayed in the revised UWP. After considering this, Mr. Dowd reviewed the document and made another set of changes to the percentage breakdown between DTS and MPO shares of the various tasks and sub-tasks; therefore, at the evening's meeting, another revised UWP focusing on these changes to the transit portion had been distributed. He noted that he felt that the MPO and DTS staff may need to further work with the VDRPT staff to get more clarification on what they want us to do in terms of carrying out the tasks and sub-tasks and reporting quarterly on progress through next fiscal year. He noted that, at this time, it would be necessary to proceed to adopt the latest revision to the UWP and continue to work with the VDRPT staff.

Mr. Shanks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snead, to adopt Resolution 2011-16, adopting the revised Unified Work Program for FY 2012 to satisfy the VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation staff's desired changes to the originally adopted UWP of March 30, 2011. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**10. Consideration of Resolution 2011-17, Opposition to Any Language to Remove Coverage of MPO's of Less than 200,000 Population in the Reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU of 2005, the National Transportation Act, and to Pursue Rescission if Such Language Appears**

Mr. Snead made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shanks, to adopt resolution 2011-17, (a) requesting the Virginia Delegation to the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to actively oppose any language in the national transportation act reauthorization that would eliminate existing Metropolitan Planning Organizations under 200,000 population, including the Danville [Pittsylvania] Metropolitan Planning Organization and (b) authorizing the MPO Chairman and MPO Administrator and encouraging the local government members to pursue actions necessary and appropriate to maintain provision for inclusion of MPO's under 200,000 population in future national transportation act language and subsequent federal regulations. Upon vote, the motion carried with Mr. Cary abstaining.

**11. Update on Corridor Studies for US Route 58 West, Route 863 Connector, Mount Cross Road, and Trail Connector**

Mr. Dowd reported that Mr. Bill Cashman of URS Corporation had recently met with the MPO Project Management Team to review progress to date on the four studies noted above. Mr. Cashman had reported that URS had been reviewing traffic counts, aerial photography, land use, and environmental and other information. Mr. Cashman had also agreed to escalate the Mount Cross Road study efforts to assist the City in pursuit of funds for roadway work.

**12. Update on VAMPO (Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations) Meeting**

Mr. Harville noted that the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations had held its second meeting in Charlottesville on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Discussions had focused on reauthorization of the national transportation act and also on the MPOs working more closely with the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

**13. Update on Transportation Hearings/Meetings, Programs, and Area Projects**

Mr. Dowd informed the Board that there had been a Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) report developed over the past year to evaluate the relationships between

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the Virginia MPOs and the Commonwealth Transportation Board and VA Department of Transportation in respect to input into the programming and scheduling of projects across the Commonwealth's urban areas. He noted that there was a detailed set of recommendations and findings presented in the report and that it would be available at the JLARC website and that he would not go into the details in the report but wanted to let them know of its availability.

Mr. Cary noted that projects in the area were progressing well and updated the group on the recent Public Hearing on the Six-Year Improvement Program held in Salem.

Mr. Harville commended VDOT on mowing of rights-of-way in the area and noted the use of VDOT employees more in the current program than in the past. Mr. Cary thanked him for the comment and noted that VDOT had been staffing back up and able to better utilize equipment that had been in storage.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Shanks about the projects content in the Six-Year Improvement Program, Mr. Cary noted that there were two project lists—one which included funded projects and the other which included projects that would be funded if money became available.

**14. Other Business**  
There was none.

**15. Adjournment**  
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Danville MPO Administrator