

Minutes

for the
November 17, 2010, Meeting
of the

Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization
Danville Regional Airport, Eastern Conference Room
at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Coy Harville, Pittsylvania County, MPO Chairman
Rob Carey, Lynchburg District Administrator
Jeff Kessler, VDOT-Lynchburg District Planning Engineer
Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration
Kent Shelton, Danville
Rick Drazenovich, Danville
James Snead, Pittsylvania County
Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County
Marc Adelman, Pittsylvania County
Robert W. Dowd, Danville MPO Administrator
Joan Hullett, Danville MPO Staff

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Harville called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes of August 16, 2010, MPO Meeting**

Mr. Drazenovich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snead, to approve the minutes as presented. Upon vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 16, 2010, MPO meeting of the Policy Board.

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

There were no comments.

4. **Consider, Additional Items for the Agenda, as necessary**

There were no additional items for consideration for the agenda.

5. **Discussion of VAMPO Establishment's Progress to Date**

Mr. Dowd reported that he had attended a meeting in Charlottesville with other MPO Administrators to develop a final set of Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (VAMPO) bylaws for consideration by Virginia's MPOs. He noted that it had taken approximately a year to put everything together and get in a position for a final set of bylaws to be reviewed and written to a final draft. In the end, the group had recognized that there was a mandate from the General Assembly to form VAMPO as would be signified by producing a set of bylaws. With the impending General Assembly convening in upcoming months, the group had realized the need to move with deliberation to get this accomplished; therefore, at the end of the meeting, the group asked collectively that each MPO take up consideration of the bylaws and report action before December 1, 2010. He noted that there had been discussion as to who should represent the MPO at future VAMPO meetings and that it had been left to each MPO to decide. Mr. Dowd advised that, in the Danville MPO's case, he had developed a draft resolution for the Board's consideration that appointed the MPO Chairman as chief representative, with the MPO Administrator being an alternate. He noted that both the Chairman and Administrator could attend meetings if they wished. He asked the Board for comments/questions concerning the bylaws and draft resolution that had been included in the Board package.

Mr. Drazenovich had several suggestions concerning the bylaws. In Section 3.2--Member Qualifications, he said there needed to be clarification as to whether the member should be elected or at-large and also clarification in Section 3.3--Alternates concerning who would be qualified to serve as an alternate. He stated that he did not see anything about the minimum requirements for meeting attendance. He also stated that Section 7.1--Dues leaves it open concerning the amount and terms of membership dues. He indicated that it might be appropriate to require that the amount of dues should require a 100 percent vote of the VAMPO membership. Mr. Carey indicated that a majority of the MPOs were similar in population size to the Danville MPO and they probably would have comparable opinions regarding dues structure and amounts. During further discussion concerning dues, Mr. Rucker stated that SPR funds could be used for dues and he felt FHWA would be willing to work with the state to see that SPR funds were available for paying dues for VAMPO.

Mr. Drazenovich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snead, for Mr. Dowd to pass along to Dwight Farmer of the Hampton Roads TPO the Danville MPO's concerns as noted in the discussion above for future revisions to the VAMPO Bylaws. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Consideration of Resolution: Join VAMPO, Appoint Representatives—Resolution 2010-12

Mr. Snead made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shelton, to adopt Resolution 2010-12 as presented which states that [1] the Danville MPO has elected to become a member of the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (VAMPO) and authorizes its MPO Administrator and/or Officer to become a signatory to the Bylaws of VAMPO; and [2] the Danville MPO appoints its Policy Board Chairman to serve on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and that the MPO Administrator shall serve as an alternate to the MPO Chairman. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion of Year 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Dowd distributed copies of the Year 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan, noting that he had received all the final items (which included the Technical Report, Executive summary, and Plan broadsheet) from the consultant. He reminded the Board that, in five years from adoption of the plan, the MPO needed to have an update in place; this would be August 2013. He indicated that the MPO would have to have a consultant in place in sufficient time to meet the deadline for the next update.

8. Followup on Appearance before the Commonwealth Transportation Board – October 20, 2010

Mr. Dowd informed the Board that he and Mr. Harville had attended the Commonwealth Transportation Board's October 20 meeting in Richmond. He had been asked to make a presentation to the CTB informing them of the general characteristics of the Danville MPO and its service area. He and Mr. Harville also presented some of the needs for the area, along with some concerns related to transportation. He indicated that, since there is a very strong confluence of transportation planning, transportation project needs, and the MPO's need and direct actions being taken toward spurring economic development and business industry development, Mr. Harville had focused on that area by presenting details on the Megapark project in Danville-Pittsylvania County and the MPO study area. He noted that this had linked back to the Long-Range Plan which had major consideration for the Megapark as Mr. Cashman of URS had outlined at earlier MPO meetings.

He noted that the CTB members spent double the amount of time than he had anticipated that they would conversing with him and Mr. Harville, with the presentation lasting nearly 40 minutes. Both he and Mr. Harville felt the CTB members were very interested in what they had to present and asked a number of questions.

Copies of the presentation were distributed to the MPO Board members to give everyone an idea of what was said about the area, conditions, and approaches to solving problems in the future.

Mr. Carey commented that it was a very good presentation and that the CTB members were particularly interested in the discussion of the Megapark. He indicated that he felt the presentation went exceptionally well.

9. Discussion of Corridor Studies for FY 2011-2012

Mr. Dowd noted that he wanted to update the Board on the corridor studies. He stated that, when the Unified Work Program had been adopted for the current year, four key studies had been included. One was to look at Route 58 West of the Danville City Limits which continues the efforts that the City and MPO had taken several years ago at developing access management planning for the City portion of the route. The new effort will carry this planning all the way to the western boundary of the MPO Study Area. It was also desired by the City and the County because it sets in place planning for the eventual development of the Megapark and allows the area to get on the front of the curve in dealing with development pressures likely to develop on West 58 right of ways in the future.

The second project is to examine extending the Route 863 section from the Route 58/Route 51 area to the Mount Cross Road area in a new path in order to have Route 863 directly connecting to the intersection or near the intersection of the Route 58 Bypass and Route 58 West. This also related to enhancing travel by workers to the Megapark from areas along Route 863 and Mount Cross Road. It also related to incrementally improving Route 863 over its length to serve as a northwest bypass.

The third study is to look at widening and improvements to Mount Cross Road, as an alternative to the Mount Cross Parkway approach studied and included in the MPO's plan that is supported but very expensive.

The fourth study commissioned was to find a pathway to link the Ringgold Trail with the Dan Riverwalk Trail.

10. Procurement Status for FY 2011 Corridor Studies; Authorization for MPO Administrator to Contract with Firm Selected for Project Work

Mr. Dowd explained that, over the past months, the MPO had proceeded through the consultant procurement process to enlist a firm to conduct the four new studies referenced above. The consultant selection committee chose URS Corporation. The other firms were Parsons Transportation Group, Kimley Horn, and Michael Baker Corporation. All were excellent firms; however the URS Corporation staff set out a detailed scope of work that best approximated the scope that had been included in the procurement package; their experience as a firm and as individuals appeared superlative to the other firms in the Committee's opinion. URS had worked with us recently and produced good products for us in the past several years.

He advised that he would like to have a motion permitting him to continue toward contracting with URS assuming the cost appears reasonable.

Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sides, to authorize the MPO Administrator/WPPD Executive Director to continue toward contracting with URS Corporation for the four corridor studies as outlined above assuming the cost appears reasonable. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion of Transportation Issues Regarding Federal, State Funding

Mr. Dowd noted that a meeting had been scheduled with the VDOT staff in Roanoke on December 7 to discuss the following topics:

- Current process for identifying priorities for programming statewide discretionary funds
- Regional priorities identified by MPO and/or PDC
- Legislative requirements for Regional Surface Transportation funds (the RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds
- New report available to monitor project changes
- Schedule for updating the Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for FY 12 to FY 15 (in effect the STIP and TIPs and the Six-Year Improvement Program
- Section 5303 Program for Transit Planning

He informed the Board that he planned to attend this meeting and take several staff members with him. He noted that anyone else is invited; it should be oriented toward the staffs working with VDOT to carry out the various tasks.

12. Update, News of Projects Impacting the Danville (Pittsylvania) Urbanized and Surrounding Areas

Mr. Carey reported that the Robertson Bridge project was on-schedule for completion in August 2012. Mr. Harville inquired about the possibility of having any funds left over from the Robertson Bridge construction program being used for other projects in the area; Mr. Carey noted that funds had to go back into the state systems and then be allocated according to the state priorities.

Mr. Dowd stated that he had met some time ago with MPO Directors in regard to Route 29 in Charlottesville to get a briefing on what Charlottesville MPO was planning to do in lieu of a bypass being built.

13. Governor's Transportation Conference

On December 8-10, the Governor is hosting a major transportation conference on the future of transportation in Virginia. Mr. Dowd advised that he would attend sessions as his work schedule permitted.

14. Other Business

Mr. Dowd informed the Board that he would be retiring on June 30th. He said that, since he will still be in the area, he would be available to assist his successor in a training and familiarization period.

Board members expressed their appreciation for his service to the MPO as well as for providing sufficient time for training his successor.

MPO Minutes
November 17, 2010, Meeting
Page Four

Mr. Adelman inquired as to when the MPO would meet again. He indicated that he would be applying for 5303 funds after the first of the year but did not have the necessary information from the VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation at this time. Mr. Dowd said that, typically the MPO meets in March each year provided the dollar information has been made available by VDRPT and VDOT and would consider adoption of a new 2012 Unified Work Program; he noted that he and Mr. Adelman would work together on putting together the proper tables for the UWP with the proper projects and amounts.

15. Adjournment

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

Robert W. Dowd, AICP
MPO Administrator

Attachment