

MINUTES

August 24, 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 Draft Proposed Amendments to the 2007 Public Participation Plan for the City of Danville Transit System and the Danville MPO, an Amendment to the 2035 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan, and an Amendment to the FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program

Attendees:

Aaron Burdick, Danville MPO Administrator
Leah Manning, Danville MPO Staff
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff
Rick Youngblood, VDOT Lynchburg District Transportation Manager

1. Opening of Hearing

Mr. Burdick opened the 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

a) Draft Proposed Amendments to the 2007 Public Participation Plan for the City of Danville Transit System and the Danville MPO Public Participation Policy and Public Involvement and Notification Procedures Manual

Mr. Burdick introduced the Draft Proposed Amendments to the 2007 Public Participation Plan (the Plan) for the City of Danville Transit System and the Danville MPO, and stated that the rationale behind the amendments is for the Danville Transit Agency's triennial audit, which will take place in early September. Mr. Burdick stated that the agency's Public Participation Policy and Public Involvement and Notification Procedures Manual (the Manual) should support timely public notice and full public access to decisions for plans and programs affecting the Danville MPO. In addition, Mr. Burdick stated that it is important that the Manual is kept up to date and is compliant with the National Transportation Act and SAFETEA-LU and its amendments.

Mr. Burdick stated that the City of Danville Transit System Public Participation Plan was reviewed by Danville MPO staff, and that portions of this review, as well as updates to the Manual, were provided to various groups. He further stated that the

amendments to the Plan would be presented to the MPO Board for consideration, and that said changes principally involved wording changes as well as an update to the list of stakeholders to whom the MPO provides documentation. According to Mr. Burdick, these stakeholders include under-represented groups in the region, notably, private sector providers, groups associated with disabled and mobility-challenged individuals, and bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups. Mr. Burdick stated that methods used to notify the public were reviewed and discussed various methods utilized for public notification, including those used for non-English speaking individuals. In addition, Mr. Burdick stated that the MPO's website would continue to be updated to meet Title VI requirements and that the updated document will also critique outreach procedures for the MPO's 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Burdick stated that the amended Plan had been sent to the Project Management Team, as well as to representatives of the DRPT, FHWA, and VDOT for comment, and no changes were suggested.

b) Amendment to the 2035 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan to Include a New Project for Spot Improvements and Access Management on Mount Cross Road

Mr. Burdick segued to the next item, an amendment to the 2035 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP), which would include spot improvements and access management enhancements on Mount Cross Road from Lowes Drive to West Corporate City Limits as depicted on a publicly displayed map. He stated that the improvements to this road were so different from the four-laning incorporated in the CLRP, that an amendment was needed. Mr. Burdick stated that the City of Danville and the MPO would continue to support the four-laning of this road segment, but that the revised project is an interim initiative, and that URS Corporation had been retained to study the access management and spot improvements on the Mount Cross Road segment.

Mr. Burdick added that the estimated cost of this project, as detailed in the CLRP, would be \$6 million, and that funding would involve VDOT transferring unused funds from other completed projects within the City of Danville. Mr. Burdick further stated that, of the \$6 million, \$600,000 would be utilized for preliminary engineering, \$2 million would be available in FY 2014, with the remainder available in FY 2017; construction is expected to begin in FY 2014.

Mr. Burdick announced that, on July 11th, the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) passed a resolution recommending that the MPO adopt this amendment to the CLRP. Mr. Burdick further stated that, within this amendment, the project would be divided into two components: 4a and 4b. Component 4a referred to the spot improvements and access management proposals to the Mount Cross Road segment from Lowes Drive to the West Corporate City Limits; 4b referred to the eventual four-laning of the road.

Mr. Burdick stated that, while widening was programmed in the 2035 CLRP, no funding is currently programmed in the Six-Year Highway Improvement Program, and the initial improvements were designed to reduce vehicular conflicts and maintain capacity along the corridor.

Mr. Burdick added that, with the addition of the \$6 million for this project, the total funding in the CLRP would be increased to \$73.9 million, and that the amendment

provided for improvements with a total cost of \$74,459,425. This figure, according to Mr. Burdick, would encompass the period from 2010 to 2035, and the cost of the project would be within one percent of the amount anticipated for the Mount Cross Road improvements.

c) Amendment to the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program to Include Preliminary Engineering for Mount Cross Road Improvements

Mr. Burdick introduced the third item, an amendment to the FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that the amendment would pertain to the preliminary engineering for the Mount Cross Road segment improvements, but also stated that the CLRP would have to be amended prior to the TIP being amended. According to Mr. Burdick, the TIP amendment would include a new urban project, UPC # 100822, and was included in VDOT's 2012 – 2016 Six-Year Improvement Program. Mr. Burdick repeated the scope of the project, its expected cost, and reiterated the need for the TIP amendment to establish federal funding for the preliminary engineering of the project. Mr. Burdick stated that the MPO Project Management Team/TAC passed a resolution recommending that the MPO Board adopt this amendment to the TIP at its July 11, 2011 meeting. Mr. Burdick concluded by stating that the amendments to the TIP and the CLRP would be considered by the MPO Board following the public hearing, and that any comments received up to the close of the public hearing would be made known to the Board; any significant comments, according to Mr. Burdick, would be included in future plans and documents.

3. Public Participants/Comments

There were no members of the public or of any organization present at the public hearing to comment.

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

Mr. Burdick indicated that, other than approvals from VDOT, the FHWA, and the DRPT, regarding amendments to the 2007 Public Participation Plan for the City of Danville Transit System and the Danville MPO, there were no verbal or written comments received regarding any of the above issues during the public participation process period. He noted that the public hearing was advertised in the newspapers of general circulation 30 days, 14 days, and 7 days prior to the hearing.

Mr. Burdick described the various advertisements, contacts/postings with libraries, community-based organizations, government agencies, committees, private sector providers, press releases, and other general efforts to implement the public participation and public notification process.

5. Hearing Closure

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

Aaron Burdick
Danville MPO Administrator

Minutes
for the
August 24, 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
James Snead, Pittsylvania County
Marc Adelman, Danville Transit System
Rick Youngblood (Alternate for Robert H. Cary, VDOT, Lynchburg)
Kent Shelton, Danville
Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County Planning Director
Aaron Burdick, Danville MPO Administrator
Leah Manning, Danville MPO Staff
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous MPO Meeting & Hearing, May 25, 2011

Mr. Harville presented the minutes of the May 25, 2011, 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. Shelton, to approve the minutes. Upon the vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of both the May 25, 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. Mr. Burdick stated that no citizens were present at the meeting. No other comments were received.

4. Additional Items for the Agenda (as necessary)

Mr. Harville asked if there were any additional items to be added to the agenda. There were no additional items presented for the agenda, and Mr. Snead made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shelton to accept this item. Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

5. Introduction of Joe Bonanno, Regional Planner – Transportation/Land Use WPPDC

As per Mr. Harville's request, Mr. Burdick introduced Joe Bonanno, the new Regional Planner – Transportation/Land Use, for the WPPDC. Kent Shelton suggested that a recognition letter be prepared for Joan Hullett in recognition of her years of service to the MPO; Mr. Harville stated that a resolution would be appropriate, and Mr. Burdick noted that he would draft a resolution to be presented at the next meeting to be ratified.

6. Review of Public Hearing Comments on the Amendments to the City of Danville Transit System and Danville MPO Public Participation Policy and Public Involvement and Notification Procedures Manual, and Amendments to the Year 2035 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan and the FY 2009-FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Burdick stated that a public meeting was held for these three items, but no citizens participated and no comments were received. Mr. Burdick stated that the documents were sent to VDOT, VDRPT, and Federal Highway Administration, and those agencies replied that everything was in order. Mr. Burdick also stated that, at a July 11 project meeting, a resolution of support for the three items was advanced.

7. Resolutions related to Contents, Approval of Amendments to the City of Danville Transit System and Danville MPO Public Participation Policy and Public Involvement and Notification Procedures Manual:

a) Public Involvement Employed in Considering Amendments to the City of Danville Transit System and Danville MPO Public Participation Policy and Public Involvement and Notification Procedures Manual, Resolution 2011-18:

Mr. Adelman stated that he worked closely with Bob Dowd and Joan Hullett to update the public participation policy with regard to delineating roles and involving the private sector; he also stated that they updated a list of private transportation providers' – for example: notifying private transportation providers when a grant is submitted and who is responsible for notifying the providers intentions to make various applications was clarified. Mr. Burdick stated that the impetus for this was Mr. Adelman's September 7th audit. Items 7 A and B were carried by Mr. Shelton and second, by Mr. Snead. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

- b) Certification that Public Participation, Public Notification Procedures, and Private Enterprise Participation Policy were Followed in Amendments to the City of Danville Transit System and Danville MPO Public Participation Policy and Public Involvement and Notification Procedures Manual, Resolution 2011-19.

Elements of Items A and B were discussed together.

8. Consideration of Adoption of Amendments to the City of Danville Transit System and Danville MPO Public Participation Policy and Public Involvement and Notification Procedures Manual, Resolution 2011-20.

Mr. Burdick clarified the elements of this item to the commissioners. A motion was made by Mr. Snead to accept this item, and was seconded by Mr. Shelton. Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

9. Resolutions related to Contents, Approval of Amendments to the Year 2035 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan:

- a) Public Involvement Employed in Considering Amendments to the Year 2035 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan, Resolution 2011-21.

Mr. Burdick stated that Mt. Cross Road improvements are programmed into the Year 2035 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan, and that the amendment was to consider an interim project which would focus on spot improvements and access management activities. Mr. Burdick further stated that a total of \$6 million would be available for this project, that URS Corporation had been retained to perform the corridor study for Mt. Cross Road, and that a sum of \$600,000 would be available for preliminary engineering and would be included in the TIP. Mr. Burdick also stated that the MPO and Pittsylvania County would continue to support the ultimate expansion to four lanes of the section of Mt. Cross Road which is being analyzed for improvements, and that the estimated funding would be within one percent of what is available.

When asked by Mr. Harville if any written public comments were received with regard to this amendment, Mr. Burdick stated that he received a comment by citizens in the vicinity of Mount Cross Road and Golf Club Road stating that vehicles would go through the traffic signal and end up on their front yard. With regard to the public hearing, Mr. Burdick stated that most individuals who showed up were residents or business owners along the corridor and were interested to see if the corridor improvements would result in property loss or access changes.

When Mr. Harville asked if there were any questions, Mr. Shelton asked whether the Six-Year Improvement Plan would include widening as well as the spot improvements and access management changes. Mr. Burdick responded to that there was no funding in the Six-Year Improvement Plan and that this amendment would be considered as an interim project until the four-lane project could be constructed. Mr. Shelton articulated to Mr. Burdick that funding for widening may be available within a year or two, to which Mr. Burdick replied that this would lend itself to a new Six-Year Improvement Plan next year. Mr. Youngblood added that the full four-laning project would still be covered under Project #4-B in the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP).

Mr. Burdick stated that construction on Mt. Cross Road would be scheduled to begin in FY 2014, that currently \$2 million would be available and that \$4 million would be expected to be available in FY 2017.

Mr. Snead made a motion to approve Resolutions 2011-21, 22, and 23, and this motion was seconded by Mr. Shelton. Upon the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

- b) Certification that Public Participation, Public Notification Procedures, and Private Enterprise Participation Policy Were Followed In Considering Amendments to the Year 2035 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan, Resolution 2011-22.

Elements of A and B were discussed together.

10. Consideration of Adoption of Amendments to the Year 2035 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan, Resolution 2011-23.

Mr. Burdick stated that the City of Danville wanted to make it known that it is pursuing funding for the widening from two lanes to four lanes of Mount Cross Road. Mr. Shelton made a motion to accept Item 10, and this was seconded by Mr. Snead. The motion was carried unanimously upon vote.

11. Resolutions related to Contents, Approval of Amendments to the FY 2009-FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program.

- a) Public Involvement Employed in Considering Amendments to the FY 2009 – FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2011-24.

Mr. Burdick stated that the new urban project (Mt. Cross Road) would be included in VDOT's FY 2012 to 2017 Six-Year Improvement Plan as UPC #100822, and that the project would be for spot improvements and access management to Mt. Cross Road from Lowes Drive west to the City limits. The TIP Amendment would provide \$600,000 for preliminary engineering and would seek to establish federal funding for this project, and that, in order to amend the TIP, the CLRP had to be amended as well.

Mr. Shelton made a motion to accept Resolution 2011-24 and 25, which was seconded by Mr. Snead. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

- b) Certification that Public Participation, Public Notification Procedures, and Private Enterprise Participation Policy Were Followed In Considering Amendments to the FY 2009 – FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2011-25.

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Elements of A and B were discussed together.

12. Consideration of Adoption of Amendments to the FY 2009 – FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2011-26.

Motion by Mr. Snead to accept, seconded by Mr. Shelton. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

13. Update on 2011 – 2012 Corridor Studies.

Mr. Burdick stated that the project management team met with URS on July 11 to discuss outreach. Mr. Burdick reviewed the status of the four projects and stated that the Mt. Cross Study Citizens Information Meeting was held at Park Avenue Elementary School on July 11 that 20 people attended; according to Mr. Burdick, attendees addressed issues which were not readily apparent and were concerned with a potential widening causing a loss of property to property and business owners along the corridor. Mr. Burdick stated that the improvements to the Corridor were meant to preserve capacity until such time as the corridor could be widened and that the consultant prepared maps showing locations of proposed spot improvements. Mr. Burdick further stated that levels of services (LOS) would continue to deteriorate along this corridor without the needed improvements. Mr. Burdick noted that Meeting 2 would be held at Park Avenue Elementary School on September 19th.

Mr. Harville asked Mr. Burdick if the \$6 million from the City's surplus would be used for the spot improvements and for the preliminary engineering, to which Mr. Burdick agreed.

Mr. Burdick reported that the Route 58 access management corridor study meeting was held at the Brosville Elementary School on July 12, and that 3 people attended. Mr. Burdick further stated that the basic discussion involved how access would be altered or eliminated per the consultant's recommendations. A portion of the discussion involved Route 58 and Whispering Pines Road, where a number of accidents have taken place, presumably because vehicles had not pulled up far enough before entering the intersection, hence, hazards (other vehicles) were obstructed. Mr. Burdick also stated that the developers shared some future development ideas.

Mr. Burdick stated that with no funding available for high-cost improvements, capacity and safety would be addressed using access management techniques. According to Mr. Burdick, the consultants identified entrances and standards that did not meet spacing standards and provided alternatives to meet those. According to Mr. Burdick, the second meeting for this corridor study would take place in Brosville on September 20th.

Mr. Sides supported the proposed access management improvements up to the city limits, stressed their importance to facilitate economic development along the corridor, and reiterated what the consultants stated regarding closing of turning lanes, crossovers, etc.

Mr. Burdick stated that the first meeting for the Route 863 Location Study was held at the Brosville Elementary School on July 13th and that 17 people attended. Mr. Burdick further stated that some attendees were curious as to why the study area did not show Mt. Cross Road extending all the way to the Danville Expressway. Mr. Burdick also stated concerns having to do with Seven Springs Farm, a historic site, as well residents' concerns pertaining to traffic on Berry Hill Road – specifically with regard to fears that the new alignment would be an alternative to Berry Hill Road – but these issues were largely insignificant.

Mr. Burdick noted that discussions took place regarding the possibility of extending the Route 863 study area out to the Danville Expressway. Mr. Burdick also stated that traffic forecasts showed a significant increase in traffic on Routes 58 and 863. He reported that the consultants identified two alignments to connect Route 863 to Route 58 and that the next meeting would be on September 21st in Brosville.

Mr. Harville then expressed a concern regarding the Route 863/58 connector, specifically, he was curious as to why the connector was not proposed to begin from Route 29. Mr. Sides discussed several theoretical alignments and connections.

Mr. Burdick then proceeded to discuss the Ringgold Depot to Dan Riverwalk Trail Connector study, stating that the first meeting was held at the Danville Airport on July 14th, and that five citizens attended. Mr. Burdick mentioned that the consultants conducted field investigations and determined the most viable routes, but were lacking plat maps. Mr. Burdick also discussed the issue of the trail crossing Route 58, noting that three alternatives were presented. He believed the most viable option would be an over-sized culvert to traverse the roadway. Mr. Burdick followed that the next meeting for this project would be held on September 22nd, where alternatives would be presented to the public.

14. Update on activities related to VAMPO. (Conference Call on June 30, 2011, and meeting at VAPDC on July 29, 2011)

Mr. Burdick stated that the CTB had been tasked with working with VAMPO in development of the future Six-Year Improvement Plan. Mr. Burdick stated that he would be meeting with the CTB this winter.

Mr. Burdick stated that other MPOs have drafted letters to federal legislators which oppose language regarding the elimination of MPOs comprising a population under 200,000, and that VAMPO would draft similar letters.

Mr. Burdick stated that he was very pleased with the way VAMPO was moving forward, and was facilitating an environment of transparency. Mr. Harville commented that everyone was on board with the MPOs regarding this proposal to eliminate MPOs with a population under 200,000, and stated that having dialogue with CTB would be beneficial.

15. Update on Transportation Reauthorization Bill, Removal of MPOs of less than 200,000 population (Bob Letter out and Responses)

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Mr. Burdick stated that Bob Dowd drafted letters to the Virginia Delegation of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and two responses were received – one from Robert Hurt and one from Gerald Connolly, but don't know where the Transportation Reauthorization Bill and how it related to the removal of MPOs. Mr. Burdick suggested that it was unknown whether these MPO areas would revert back to a rural program or would be a larger regional entity.

Mr. Youngblood commented that the Lynchburg MPO passed approval to write a letter, but had not written it yet. He went on to say that he submitted the letter drafted by Mr. Burdick and Mr. Dowd to the Lynchburg MPO to use as a sample.

Mr. Burdick stated that Mr. Dowd's letter referenced support for MPOs from NACO (National Association of Counties), NADO (National Association of Development Organizations, National Association of Regional Councils, and the National League of Cities, all of which sent letters opposing this legislation.

Mr. Adelman wanted to know how many MPOs in Virginia would be affected by this legislation, to which Mr. Burdick responded that most MPOs west of Richmond would be affected.

16. Update on transportation meetings, programs, and other business (MPO Year End Report)

Mr. Burdick shared the MPO Year-End Report at the meeting, specifically an abbreviated version of the work completed during FY 2011 for the MPO.

17. Other Business

Mr. Shelton updated the Commission on the Franklin Turnpike Connector, stating that it was near completion. He stated that it should be completed about October 1st and that a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place.

Mr. Youngblood stated that Jeff Kessler has taken another role and that Mr. Youngblood would be filling Mr. Kessler's former position until further notice. Mr. Youngblood also stated that the fall CTB meeting would be held in Lynchburg on October 3rd.

Mr. Adelman stated that Terry Page, the FAA Manager of the Washington District Office would be considering extending airport improvement funding beyond September 16th, but that the deadline to receive bids was September 20th. Mr. Adelman added that he had yet to receive comments. If he did not meet the deadline, the Danville project would most likely be pushed back another year.

18. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Shelton, seconded by Mr. Snead at 7:34 p.m.

Aaron Burdick
Danville MPO Administrator