

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., May 17, 2007, for the Consideration of Revised Public Involvement Participation Plan and Notification Procedures Manual.

## Minutes

for the

**May 17, 2007, Meeting**

of the

**Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization**

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

Attendees:

Jeff Kessler, VDOT-Lynchburg District Planning Engineer  
Kent Shelton, Danville City Engineer  
Unwana B. Dabney, Federal Highway Administration, Richmond  
Dale H. Grigg, VDOT-District Administrator  
Randy Hamilton, VDOT-Chatham Resident Administrator  
Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County Planning Director  
Stokes Daniels, Danville City Council  
Ken Gillie, City of Danville  
Robert Scarce, Pittsylvania County, Acting Chairman  
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, March 15, 2007**

Mr. Scarce presented the minutes of the March 15, 2007, meeting, offering an opportunity to submit changes; hearing none, he called for a motion on the minutes as presented. Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to approve the minutes. Upon vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 15, 2007, MPO meeting of the Policy Board.

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

Mr. Dowd noted that he had enclosed a draft Statement of Certification for consideration but, after conference with Mr. Kessler, it had been determined that the Statement of Certification would need to be considered later in the calendar year. He also noted that an additional resolution needed to be added to the agenda for authorization to conduct procurement and execution of a contract with a consultant to develop a U.S. Route 29 Access Management Study. That resolution had been numbered 2007-12; however, it needed to be changed to 2007-11.

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gillie, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. **Review of Public Hearing Comments on the Amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan. [Review any comments, suggested changes received during the Forty-Five 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 revision to the document before action is taken below]**

At the public hearing opening, Mr. Dowd had explained the steps which had been taken over the past quarter of the year to make the Danville MPO's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan compliant with the SAFETEA-LU regulations. As the first step, the Danville MPO had needed to revise its Public Participation Manual to be compliant with the Act and this had been accomplished following a Public Hearing and Public Review Process that ended on

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March 15, 2007, with the Danville MPO Policy Board taking final action on the manual. The next step was to proceed towards making amendments to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) so that that document would be compliant with SAFETEA-LU also. A set of documents that would be used in the amendment action had been put together for public review in anticipation of the public hearing of May 17, 2007. The public review package included the original CLRP, the Technical Reports, the Executive Summary, a number of amendments taking place since the CLRP's original adoption on June 14, 2004; a summary of the CLRP amendment process; the Statewide Highway Safety Program; and the Statewide Freight Study Plan; Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan. One of the documents was also the Environmental Consultation/Mitigation Review Summary.

Mr. Dowd noted also that, early in the calendar year, the staff had conducted an Environmental Consultation/Mitigation Review Process that required the MPO to notify and request comments on the MPO's CLRP from numerous federal, state, regional, and local agencies responsible for environmental reviews. This consultation process involved comparing their agency's available plans, maps, and inventories, as appropriate, with the Danville Long-Range Transportation Plan Year 2030 and providing the Danville MPO with comments.

The MPO staff had advertised the availability of the document and availability on the MPO website, and notices had been sent to the citizens advisory committee, project management team, transit providers, churches, community based organizations, and the media along with a press release. The MPO staff then followed up with a second contact with all of these parties, along with a copy of the agenda that included information on the Public Hearing. He advised that no members of the general public had been in attendance at the hearing to speak to any issues. In addition, there had been no input from MPO-related individuals, organizations, or agencies over the 30-day comment period up to and including the hearing.

**5. Resolutions Related to Long-Range Transportation Plan Amendment:**

- a) Public Involvement Employed in Development of the Amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Resolution 2007-8
- b) Certification that Public Participation, Public Notification Procedures, and Private Enterprise Participation Policy Were Followed In Development of the Amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Resolution 2007-9

Mr. Dowd noted that these resolutions indicated that public involvement processes had been used in the review of the CLRP documents and certified that procedures were followed as practical.

Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gillie, to adopt Resolutions 2007-8 and 2007-9, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Consideration of Resolution 2007-10, Adoption of the Amendment to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan**

Ms. Dabney and Mr. Kessler commended Mr. Dowd on his efforts to bring the Danville MPO into compliance with the SAFETEA-LU Act and its regulations including processing the amendment to the CLRP. Mr. Dowd then thanked Ms. Dabney and Mr. Kessler for their assistance and advice in the various activities required to make the MPO SAFETEA-LU compliant.

Mr. Dowd advised that this resolution verified that the MPO had adopted the Amendments to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan following the execution of a review process and public hearing to receive comments and input.

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shelton, to adoption Resolution 2007-10, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**7. Consider Resolution of Authorization to the MPO Administrator to Conduct Procurement and Execute a Contract with a Consultant to Develop U.S. Route 29 Access Management Study—Resolution 2007-11**

Mr. Dowd noted that he had prepared a resolution to authorize him to procure and contract with a consultant to develop an access management study for a section of U.S. Route 29 that lies within the MPO boundary and is situated in the portion of the MPO Study Area that lies in Pittsylvania County. This study is identified as a line item in the FY 2008 UPWP. He noted that the County had, at an earlier meeting, requested the MPO to initiate the development of this special study. He also noted that, while in the past it was not commonplace to obtain this resolution, staff is requesting clarification on authority based on discussions by the Board during the adoption of this item into the FY 2008 UPWP. Being a convenient time with the evening's MPO meeting for a resolution to be considered, Mr. Dowd had, therefore, developed a draft for review by the MPO Board.

Mr. Sides made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gillie, to adopt Resolution 2007-11, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**8. Discussion and Consideration of Amendment to Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan Requested by City of Danville**

Mr. Dowd noted that he had received a phone call from Mr. Shelton requesting that an amendment be considered for the CLRP to allow inclusion of a section of road in the vicinity of an industrial park in the plan. Mr. Dowd invited Mr. Shelton to brief the Board on this matter. Mr. Shelton noted that, since he and Mr. Dowd had discussed the matter, it had been found that the roadway at issue was included in the City's Comprehensive Plan and that this would serve as meeting the VDOT requirement for a project being placed in consideration for revenue sharing grant funds to be in either the local comprehensive plan or the CLRP. Given the current situation, it did not appear that an amendment to the CLRP would be necessary. Mr. Dowd referred this issue to Mr. Kessler and Ms. Dabney for their opinion. They indicated that it did not appear as if the CLRP would need to be amended since the project at issue did appear in the local plans. Mr. Dowd noted that the City should contact him later if conditions changed and he needed to proceed with an amendment at a later date.

**9. Update on Access Management Project Led by HSMM and T3 Design; Update on Corridor Studies for Iris Lane Parkway Bypass Alternative and the Route 730-Route 29 Connector**

Mr. Dowd indicated that the work by HSMM and T3 Design had been proceeding ahead and there had been a recent meeting with the firms to discuss the upcoming projects. The firms were given information and guidance by the Danville local staffs that were primarily involved in the project. Mr. Dowd also noted that a kickoff meeting had recently been held with URS Corporation staff who would be working on both of the projects that were being undertaken by that firm on behalf of the MPO. URS reviewed the various information inputs that were being sought from the City staff, VDOT staff, and West Piedmont PDC/Danville MPO staff for use in the data collection component of the project.

**10. Update on U.S. Route 29 North Project Solicitation**

Mr. Dowd noted that he had met with the project management team recently when they had held a kickoff meeting with URS Corporation and that a draft of the work program to be used as a guide to consultants that would be submitting Statements of Qualifications on the U.S. Route 29 North Corridor Access Management Study. The PMT gave its approval to the document. Mr. Dowd noted that he had also developed a resolution that was to be numbered 2007-11 for consideration of the Danville MPO Policy Board this evening (see Item #7 above).

**11. Update on Transportation Meetings, Programs, and Area Projects**

Mr. Dowd noted that several weeks before he and Ms. Hullett had attended a workshop at Smith Mountain Lake at which time the new Section 527 effort was reviewed to address future land use and traffic impacts. He also noted that earlier in the afternoon he had attended an interview with Ms. Unwanna Dabney, Mr. Jeff Kessler, and a representative of VDOT's Richmond Headquarters. He noted that the meeting included a review of a questionnaire on the progress made to date on making the Danville MPO compliant with the SAFETEA-LU regulations. He informed the group that the representatives from VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration indicated that the MPO had made definitive progress on the compliancy with SAFETEA-LU.

**12. Other Business**

Mr. Dale Grigg of the Lynchburg District Office spoke 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 noted 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 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. Shelton noted that VDOT had included the full \$34.9 million needed to complete the Franklin Turnpike Connector in the Six-Year Improvement Plan which had recently been released.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Danville MPO Administrator

# MINUTES

## May 17, 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:**     ***Consideration of Amendment to the Constrained Long-Range  
Transportation Plan (CLRP)***

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, with the passage of SAFETEA and SAFETEA-LU Acts, the latest of which was signed into law by the President in August 2005, it was necessary for MPO's to adjust their planning to be compliant with the regulations developed subsequent to the Act's passage. The Danville MPO needed to revise its Public Participation Manual to be compliant with the Act and this had been accomplished following a Public Hearing and Public Review Process that ended on March 15, 2007, with the Danville MPO Policy Board taking final action on the manual. The next step was to proceed towards making amendments to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) so that that document would be compliant with SAFETEA-LU also. A set of documents that would be used in the amendment action had been put together for public review in anticipation of the public hearing of May 17, 2007. The public review package included the original CLRP, the Technical Reports, the Executive Summary, a number of amendments taking place since the CLRP's original adoption on June 14, 2004; a summary of the CLRP amendment process; the Statewide Highway Safety Program; and the Statewide Freight Study Plan; Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan. One of the documents was also the Environmental Consultation/Mitigation Review Summary.

Mr. Dowd noted also that, early in the calendar year, the staff had conducted an Environmental Consultation/Mitigation Review Process that required the MPO to notify and request comments on the MPO's CLRP from numerous federal, state, regional, and local agencies responsible for environmental reviews. This consultation process involved comparing their agency's available plans, maps, and inventories, as appropriate, with the Danville Long-Range Transportation Plan Year 2030 and providing the Danville MPO with comments.

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.

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 documents in the CLRP review package 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**

Jeff Kessler, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Bob Dowd, Danville MPO Administrator  
Joan Hullett, MPO Staff

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

5. **Hearing Closure**

Mr. Dowd, the MPO Administrator, closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Danville MPO Administrator