

# Minutes

for the  
**April 20, 2009, Meeting**  
of the

## **Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Danville Municipal Building, Second Floor Conference Room, Patton Street, Danville  
at 6:30 p.m.

### Attendees:

Coy Harville, Chairman, Pittsylvania County  
Jeff Kessler, VDOT-Lynchburg District Planning Engineer  
Darrell Feasel, VDRPT, Richmond  
Lyle Lacy, Danville  
Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County Planning Director  
Marc Adelman, Danville Transit System  
Fred Shanks, Danville  
Kent Shelton, Danville  
Lawrence Campbell, Danville  
James Snead, Pittsylvania County  
Robert W. Dowd, Danville MPO Administrator  
Joan Hullett, Danville MPO Staff

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Previous MPO Meeting & Hearing, December 3, 2008**

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snead, to approve the minutes as presented. Upon vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 3, 2008, MPO meeting of the Policy Board and Public Hearing.

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

No one was present to comment or speak to MPO issues. There was a discussion of the new policy for the acceptance of secondary roads into the state system and the recent workshop that was held. Mr. Shanks inquired about the distribution of meeting information for this session, and he noted that he was not aware of a number of important recent VDOT-sponsored meetings on important changes to regulations. Mr. Dowd and Mr. Kessler noted that there had been a workshop held in the Planning District earlier about this issue but that the PDC staff had informed the locality staffs about the meetings and had assumed they would inform other contacts about it. In addition, Mr. Dowd indicated that he assumed that these workshops such as the recent one held in Lynchburg were being announced and advertised by VDOT.

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

Mr. Harville noted that he would like to discuss Route 863 at a later point in the meeting.

Mr. Lacy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kessler, to approve an Administrative TIP Adjustment to the FY 2009-2012 TIP, April 2009 to address (revise) funding of Project UPC #13511 and Project UPC #79955—both of these having funding for improvements on the Franklin Turnpike Connector. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. **Resolutions related to Contents, Approval of the FY 2010 Unified Work Program and the MPO Application for Section 5303 Transportation Planning Funds from the Federal Transit Administration:**

a) **Resolution to Apply for Federal Transit Administration, Section 5303 Transportation Planning Funds, FY 2010; Resolution 2009-1**

Resolution 2009-1 was presented; it authorized the MPO Administrator/West Piedmont Planning District Commission Executive Director to execute and file an application on behalf of the Danville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization with the VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation and VA Department of Transportation, for federal and state financial assistance under the Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Program and State Aide Program to aid the financing of Section 5303 transportation planning projects including administration and planning efforts by the Danville MPO and transit-related planning efforts by the City of Danville via pass-through of Danville

MPO funding. It further authorized the MPO Administrator/WPPD Executive Director to execute and file with such application all necessary certifications and assurances or any other documents or information required by the VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation and VA Department of Transportation in connection with the application or the project. It also authorized the MPO Administrator/WPPD Executive Director to set forth and execute Minority Business Enterprise (disadvantaged enterprise business and woman enterprise) policies and policies in connection with procurements under this section. In addition, it authorized the MPO Administrator/WPPD Executive Director, with the City of Danville's commitment of local shares, to execute a grant agreement on behalf of the Danville Urbanized Area MPO with the VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation to aid in the financing of the planning projects including administration and planning support efforts by the Danville MPO and transit-related efforts by the City of Danville via pass-through of Danville MPO funding. Through the resolution, the MPO also certified that the local share of the project costs identified in the application should be made available to the project from resources available to the MPO.

**b) Authorization of MPO Administrator to Contract with City of Danville, Danville Transit System to Receive Pass-Through Funds from the Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Transportation Planning Funds, FY 2010; Resolution 2009-2**

Resolution 2009-2 was presented; it authorized the MPO Administrator/WPPD Executive Director to contract with the City of Danville for the City's receipt and eligible use of a portion of Federal Transit Administration 5303 grant funds that may be received by the Danville Urbanized Area MPO in FY 2010.

Following discussion, Mr. Lacy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snead, to adopt Resolutions 2009-1 and 2009-2 as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Consideration of Resolution 2009-3, Approval of the Danville MPO Unified Transportation Planning Work Program (UWP) for FY 2010**

Mr. Dowd distributed a revised version of Resolution 2009-3 as well as a revised Unified Transportation Planning Work Program for FY 2010. He reviewed the various projects included in the UWP that addressed the MPO's needs.

Mr. Kessler made motion, seconded by Mr. Snead, to adopt Resolution 2009-3 as presented, which adopted the FY 2010 Unified Transportation Planning Work Program (UWP) as presented and requested VDOT, VDRPT, FHWA, and FTA approval of the FY 2010 UWP as presented in the total project amounts of \$335,336 inclusive of matching amounts and with the provision for funding the WPPDC/MPO administration, consultants, and MPO/City of Danville transit planning efforts. Upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

**7. Authorization of MPO Officer and MPO Administrator to Sign Endorsements of Certain Applications from Localities Related to Transportation Matters**

Mr. Dowd informed the members that, on various occasions, the two member localities had applications for programs such as the Enhancement Grant Program or the Section 5310 Program managed by VDOT or VDRPT and there was a need for MPO letters and resolutions supporting these applications. He stated that the applications came from MPO members and the applications already had local government approval and had included public involvement prior to being sent to the MPO staff for consideration. He asked the MPO to consider an action to allow the Chairman and MPO Administrator to draft letters and resolutions in support of these local government applications when they arise in the future. Ms. Dabney and Mr. Kessler agreed that this would be appropriate. Mr. Snead inquired as to whether the information could be e-mailed to MPO members to notify that this had been done.

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sides, to authorize an MPO Officer and/or MPO Administrator to sign endorsements of certain applications from localities related to transportation matters as discussed above. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**8. Discussion of Various Elements of Ongoing Work Activities of the MPO:**

- **Route 29 North (Blairs) Access Management Study &**
- **Route 29 North (Tightsqueeze) Access Management Study**

Mr. Kessler briefed the members on progress made to date on both of the consultant-led access management studies on US Route 29 in Pittsylvania County. He displayed various graphic sections of the

corridors that depicted potentials for altering the arrangements for median cross-overs and various targeted entrances to the corridor from adjacent properties. Using the new VDOT regulations for access management, the graphics were drawn to be compliant with the guidance and notations that were made where certain entrances or cross-overs do not meet the regulations.

Mr. Shanks asked questions concerning how these reports would be used in the future. Mr. Kessler, Mr. Sides, and Mr. Dowd reviewed the origins of the studies where the County had made requests for the work to be done and that the studies would provide a more understandable and visual guide to where the County wants to go in the future towards improving access from properties on Route 29, the safety of the corridor, and the through flow of traffic. It was noted that it was essentially a reflection of the written regulations that could be hard to interpret quickly in public meetings, in effect, the graphics can perform as a short-hand approach to communicating what the corridor development should look like in the future. It was also noted that no changes were expected to occur overnight, but would be there for future guidance.

- **LRP Update Efforts**

Mr. Dowd and Mr. Kessler reviewed the status of the consultant-led planning effort to develop a new Long Range Transportation Plan, for the year 2035. They noted that some key modeling steps had just been completed and that the Consultant would now be able to move forward with the planning program including several public involvement meetings for this summer and early fall on reviewing various elements of the draft plan.

**9. Update on Transportation Issues in General, Other Area Projects**

Mr. Harville noted his concerns about getting access between Route 863 and the Route 58 Bypass in order to make connections with the bypass and the 3,500-acre industrial park being developed by the county and city over the next few years. He noted the high importance of being able to supply the connection so that truck shipping could be accomplished efficiently. Mr. Kessler indicated that this could be looked at in the Long-Range Transportation Plan as it moves forward and that it could be considered for funding in the future although funding to date is very constrained.

Mr. Dowd told the Board that there had been a recent communication from the Commonwealth Transportation Board that various possible projects for stimulus funding assistance had been presented in a list to CTB members. The Robertson Bridge project had been on the list. He noted that we would find out in the next month whether there would be stimulus funds awarded for the bridge project. Mr. Dowd also noted that a May meeting would be necessary in order to amend the TIP to include some potential stimulus funding for Danville Transit System for the upcoming fiscal years and the most likely change would be in the capital improvements section of the Danville Transit projected budgets found in the TIP. He also noted that, hopefully, we would know sufficient information about stimulus funding for local projects within the MPO on highways or bridges and that the TIP could also be amended for those items as well as transit. He informed the Board that the next MPO Board meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Feasel of VDRPT noted the availability of stimulus funding for Danville in the first round and noted that there would be a followup round where potentially more funds might be made available to the various transit systems including Danville Transit System.

**10. Other Business**

Mr. Kessler noted that the staff at VDOT would be working with the MPOs on the update of the VTRANS 2025 Plan to a new VTRANS 2035 Plan over the next six months and that this would revise the Surface Transportation Plan of the Commonwealth. He also noted that both VDOT and VDRPT would be involved in this effort. He noted that on April 27<sup>th</sup> there would be a workshop that he and Mr. Dowd would be attending to get information on the VTRANS update.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.