

DANVILLE (PITTSYLVANIA) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes

for the
May 27, 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
Rob Cary, VDOT, Lynchburg District Administrator
Jeff Kessler, VDOT-Lynchburg District Planning Engineer
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

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Previous MPO Meeting & Hearing, April 20, 2009**

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 April 20, 2009, MPO meeting of the Policy Board.

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

Chairman Harville noted that at this point in the meeting time was made available for members of the public to make comments on MPO issues. As no one came forward to speak, Mr. Harville closed this session of the meeting to move to the next agenda item.

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

Mr. Harville asked if there were any additional items that needed to be added to the agenda; Mr. Dowd indicated that he had none.

5. **Review of Public Hearing Comments on proposed amendments to the FYH 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Dowd noted that he had conducted a public hearing that convened at 5:30 p.m. and was closed at 6:30 p.m. He noted that no members of the public had attended the hearing. He noted the multiple advertisements used, the several press releases employed and transmitted to the media. He noted the direct mail items sent out to: various organizations, transit providers, agencies in contact with various under-represented groups, various community-based organizations, and neighborhood churches. He noted also that he had no comments during the review period leading up to the public hearing. He noted that there were no citizens attending the public hearing at 5:30 pm to make verbal or written comments on the TIP amendments.

6. **Resolutions related to Consideration of Approval of proposed Amendments to the FY 2009-2012 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program):**
- a) **Public Involvement Employed in Consideration of Amendments to the Danville MPO Fiscal Year 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program; Resolution 2009-4**
 - b) **Certification that Public Participation, Public Notifications Procedures, and Private Enterprise Participation Policy Were Followed in Consideration of Amendments to the Danville MPO FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program; Resolution 2009-5**

Mr. Dowd reviewed the reasoning for considering Resolution 2009-4 and Resolution 2009-5 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 Public Participation procedures in doing so.

Following discussion, Mr. Lacy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adopt Resolutions 2009-4 and 2009-5 as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. **Consideration of Resolution 2009-6, Amendments to the Danville MPO FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of May 27, 2009**

Mr. Dowd noted that he had distributed a set of revisions to the Transportation Improvement Program; he noted these involved anticipated use of Stimulus (ARRA) funds for transit and highway/bridge projects. He referenced the public involvement process review documents that provided for: Stimulus (ARRA) funds to be applied to transit vehicles, signs/signage, miscellaneous equipment shelters and benches; ARRA funds for highway and bridge projects included Piedmont Drive-Robertson Bridge Replacement that is on the Urban System.

Mr. Lacy made motion, seconded by Mr. Shanks, to adopt Resolution 2009-6 as presented, which amended the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as presented and requested VDOT, VDRPT, FHWA, and FTA approval of the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

8. **Progress on the Route 29 Access Management Plans for the Blairs Area and for the Tightsqueeze Area in Pittsylvania County**

Mr. Dowd discussed the project work that VHB, Inc. consultants had accomplished on the access management plan for the section of Route 29 that lies between Route 718 and Route 726 (the Blairs area). He noted that the Highway Corridor Overlay District has been developed to draft form adequate for further development by the Planning Commission later. Mr. Kessler reviewed status of various planning documents and that he and Mr. Dowd and Mr. Sides were conjoining comments on the planning study draft document. He noted that at the last MPO meeting the staff had made a presentation showing the intentions for the two studies (Blairs Area and the Tightsqueeze Area – under the Rural Program). Final comments are being put together for VHB's Blairs Area Study. He noted that the planning Commission of the County had reviewed the access management studies for Route 718 to Route 726 segment of Route 29 and the Route 726 to Chatham Bypass segment of Route 29.

9. **Update on development of MPO, Year 2035, Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan; an update of the Current Year 2030 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan:**

Mr. Dowd updated the Policy Board on the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan noting that the MPO and the VDOT staff was working with the consultant, URS Corporation, on the modeling process. He noted that substantial public and environmental consultation input would need to be brought together as we proceed through the planning process. The consultant will be using the inputs and that a public meeting was to be held soon and we assume that it will be in June or July for the public meeting. One or two public outreach meetings will be required. There are a number of parts to the Plan remaining to be developed. The Plan is expected to be completed in early 2010.

10. Update on Transportation Meetings, Programs, and Area Projects

Mr. Dowd discussed the Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) focusing on the lists of projects that need to be directed at the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Mr. Cary spoke about the status of various key projects in the Lynchburg District and that relate to Danville and Pittsylvania County. He noted the recommended projects that will need to be considered by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. In regard to the Commonwealth's response to the budgetary crisis, he noted the changes to the rest areas, ferry services, and more locally, the progress on US Route 29 projects. Residency offices of today will be a lot different in mode of operation and services in the future. He noted there would be new roles for the Resident Administrators. None of the consolidations had anything to do with the personnel since the personnel at the relocating offices had done a great job; but that the changes have to do with going to more efficiency system-wide, making greater use of newest facilities, and VDOT management wants to serve larger areas out of more centralized office locations. He noted that the 189 Area Headquarters locations would remain in place across the state; they will continue to do the day-to-day field operations activities they have been doing in the past.

Mr. Harville asked about the Chatham office's future and Mr. Cary noted it is unsure at the moment on the disposition of the facilities at the Chatham Residency and how the property may be used in the future. Mr. Harville noted that he and Mr. Sleeper would want to contact VDOT later on the closings before fall 2009 at a point before final changes in office organization would begin.

Mr. Kessler spoke to the attendees about the Secondary Street Acceptance Regulations (SSAR) and regulations dealing with Urban Development Areas and areas where the SSAR will be applied. Mr. Shanks asked about the effective date of SSAR regulations and Mr. Cary noted the July 1 kickoff of active enforcement. Mr. Kessler noted that development was underway for updating the Statewide Plan for 2035 for VTrans and that he and Mr. Dowd had met in Charlottesville with others regarding the VTrans effort and the Surface Transportation Plan that will need to get inputs from the PDC and MPO staffs/committees to serve as a key mode for public involvement input to the VTrans update process.

In the discussion of Route 29, Mr. Dowd noted the email communiqués for Ms. Napier of the Route 29 Statewide Corridor Study team regarding input sessions with Danville City Council and the Board of Supervisors to explain the progress on the study and receive input directly from elected officials. Mr. Harville noted the excellent work Ms. Napier and staff (including Lori Loomis) was putting into the Study's public involvement process in order to insure everyone was kept informed of the study progress.

Mr. Dowd briefly discussed Interstate 73, the rail service issues, and trails.

Mr. Cary noted that there were some projects in the area to receive ARRA (Stimulus) funding and that the tracking and reporting on progress and financial control would be very tight. He spoke about the various projects already receiving Stimulus funding to date. He discussed the advertising for projects near the construction stage and others that were into the engineering stage. He noted that of 118 bridge location projects sites identified as having near term needs for work, that approximately one-third could be receiving funding with ARRA (Stimulus) funds, which means the Commonwealth was doing very well under the Stimulus program.

Attendees discussed the Six Year Improvement Program and the meetings in June with the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Mr. Cary noted the upcoming June 3, 6:00 pm meeting in Roanoke County at which the Commonwealth Transportation Board would be seeking input on projects and activities. He noted the Commonwealth had bids out for projects estimated at \$200 million with \$163 million in bids received to date, and additional projects with estimated costs of around \$40 million to go. He noted that Robertson Bridge would receive Stimulus funds; on this project he noted a desire to have construction underway in June 2010 and trying to go to January 2010 with advertisements and then to get bids back in February 2010. He noted the estimates of FHWA of 31,000 jobs to be produced per \$1 billion in Stimulus funds investment.

Attendees discussed status of the Route 41 projects, particularly the sections over to the Route 29 bypass. Mr. Shanks asked about the progress on the projects along Franklin Turnpike and its extension. Mr. Cary noted projects were set up for 2 years from now. He spoke to the timing of the Robertson Bridge Project and that there might have been better bids out in the June 2010 period instead of the current plan for taking bids in February 2010, but that we need to go ahead and proceed in order to be sure and be able to utilize the Stimulus funds that are to be made available to the Commonwealth and our region.

Kent Shelton noted the good job Mr. Cary and Lynchburg VDOT staff had done in pushing to complete the sections of Franklin Turnpike to date. Mr. Cary noted that there were a number of choices for the CTB, but that a good number of project(s) in our area were the most ready to go as to work status for receipt of funds and that this had made the Lynchburg District relatively successful compared to some other Districts.

11. Other Business

Mr. Shelton asked Mr. Kessler about what might be done with the Elizabeth Street intersection with Route 58 bypass in South Danville. Mr. Kessler noted that in the past the Elizabeth Street intersection with the US 29-US 58 Bypass had been studied including a cursory study during update of an earlier Long-Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Shelton spoke of the various options for dealing with it that the City had developed. Mr. Lacy noted that the City's engineer had recommended that, given the cost to place an interchange in the area where Elizabeth Street would normally cross over Route 58, there could simply be improvements made by extending the acceleration and deceleration lanes along Route 29 so Elizabeth Street residents could effectively have a right-in, right-out situation on the north side of US 58 and the south side of US 58. This would improve safety and access conditions, but also avoid the high cost of constructing an interchange there.

Mr. Kessler noted it should fall under the STIP; he noted that we can table action on it; or we can also incorporate it later into the Long Range Transportation Plan as a project work item. He noted it would be possible to conduct some preliminary engineering later to address the City's approaches.

After concluding discussion and actions to take, Mr. Lacy made a motion to get the Elizabeth Street/Route 58 Bypass intersection into future studies. Mr. Shanks seconded the motion. Upon vote the motion was passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP
Danville MPO Administrator

DANVILLE (PITTSYLVANIA) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES

May 27, 2009
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 the Amendment to the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*

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 explained that the Danville MPO is required to develop an annual transportation improvement program covering the Danville MPO Study Area. The document includes: 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 to follow in sections; a number of sections that identify specific projects, their funding sources, and when they may be expected to take place; a section on public participation; and a section 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 Danville Transit.

He noted that from time to time it becomes necessary to conduct a full amendment process of a current TIP, which is the present case and reason for a public hearing and following MPO meeting being held this day. In the event that there is substantial changes to the projects in the TIP either for scope of an item of change or the size of the expenditure to be made or in many cases, both scope and expenditure are substantive, and then an amendment is brought to the MPO for consideration.

At the briefing Mr. Dowd explained the various amendments that are being considered. They primarily involve the new awards of ARRA funds/Stimulus funds for in one case the construction of Robertson Bridge and in other cases the allowance of Stimulus funds to Danville Transit System for making substantive improvements to the Transit System.

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 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 other than the VDOT and VDRPT/Danville Transit System changes requested and noted above. 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**

Mr. Dowd noted that there were no members of the public attending the hearing to make comments.

5. **Hearing Closure**

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

Robert W. Dowd, AICP
Danville MPO Administrator