

Minutes

for the
November 30, 2009, Meeting
of the

Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

Attendees:

Coy Harville, Chairman, Pittsylvania County
Jeff Kessler, VDOT-Lynchburg District Planning Engineer
Rob Cary, VDOT, Lynchburg District Administrator
Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County Planning Director
Marc Adelman, Danville Transit System
Fred Shanks, Danville
Kent Shelton, Danville
Lawrence Campbell, Danville
James Snead, Pittsylvania County
Henry Davis, Pittsylvania County
Robert W. Dowd, Danville MPO Administrator
Joan Hullett, Danville MPO Staff
Bill Cashman, URS Corporation
Chris Lawrence, URS Corporation

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Approval of Minutes of May 27, 2009, MPO Meeting**

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 May 27, 2009, MPO meeting of the Policy Board.

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

No one was present to comment or speak to MPO issues.

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

There were none.

5. **Review of Public Hearing Comments on the Amendment to the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program and Update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030**

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 the meeting had been attended by MPO members Larry Campbell and Fred Shanks; however, no members of the public had attended. 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 Update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030, or the amendment to the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program.

6. **Resolutions Related to the Consideration of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030 Update and the FY 2009-2013 TIP Amendments:**

- a) **Public Involvement Employed in Update to the Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030 and Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2009-2012 Transportation Program—Resolution 2009-7**
- b) **Certification that Public Participation, Public Notification Procedures, and Private Enterprise Participation Policy Were Followed in the Update to the Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030 and the Amendments to the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program—Resolution 2009-8**

Mr. Dowd reviewed the reasoning for considering Resolution 2009-7 and Resolution 2009-8 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. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adopt Resolutions 2009-7 and 2009-8 as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Briefing on the Long-Range Transportation Plan Update. Consideration of Resolution 2009-9, Approval of Update of the Danville MPO, Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030

Mr. Dowd introduced Bill Cashman and Chris Lawrence of URS Corporation. Mr. Dowd then reviewed with the Board the need to have an updated Long-Range Transportation Plan since the plan for Year 2035 would not be complete until sometime in 2010 and the MPO needed to insure that there was a compliant long-range plan in place at the time to keep the MPO's eligibility for funding.

Mr. Lawrence gave an overview of the items that had been updated in the 2030 Plan update. He noted that no new projects had been added and basically that the amount of funding to the MPO had decreased by nearly half for the period out to the Year 2030 which necessitated rebudgeting the funds available for each of the projects that had been put into the original 2004 edition of the Plan. This meant that some projects had to be placed on both the constrained plan and the vision plan; for example, some had the engineering and right-of-way acquisition on the constrained plan but the project's construction was placed on the vision plan. In addition, some projects had to be moved to the vision plan in their entirety. The number of projects on the vision plan had to be increased over the number listed in the 2004 version.

Mr. Kessler noted that he had been in contact with Mr. Ivan Rucker of the Federal Highway Administration regarding the materials being considered for the Year 2030 Plan Update and that Mr. Rucker indicated support for the document update.

Mr. Shanks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snead to adopt Resolution 2009-9, whereby the MPO approved and adopted the Update of the Danville Area Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030.

8. Briefing on the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment. Consideration of Resolution 2009-10, Approval of Amendments to the Danville MPO, FY 2009-2012, Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Dowd noted that, in addition to presenting the Plan Update at the Public Hearing earlier in the evening, he had also briefed attendees on the update of FY 2009-2012 TIP. He stated that the TIP needed to be updated because the City was to receive a substantial ARRA (stimulus) grant from the FTA and that, for the City to be able to expend these funds, they needed to be accounted for in the TIP. He also noted that Mr. Adelman was present and could give further detail on this. Mr. Adelman then gave the Board an overview of the project.

Mr. Snead made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to adopt Resolution 2009-10, approving the TIP amendment to include observance of planning requirements and compliance with the National Transportation Act of 2005, SAFETEA-LU and its regulations.

9. Update on the Development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2035, Being Assisted by URS Corporation

Mr. Dowd noted that he and Mr. Kessler had been working with Bill Cashman and Chris Lawrence of URS Corporation to develop the new Year 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan which was anticipated for completion in 2010. He asked Mr. Cashman and Mr. Lawrence to discuss the progress on this document. Mr. Cashman noted that the work that had been done on the update to the Year 2030 Plan would be extended to address a new forecast of available funds through the Year 2035. He noted that there had been some delay in developing the modeling in concert with VDOT and, in addition, there had been the need to delay in order to get further information on the infrastructure needed to support the new megapark that was being proposed in the MPO Study Area which would impact the transportation environment in the MPO area between now and the Year 2035 during which it was expected that the megapark would be initiated and completed.

During discussion, Mr. Shanks noted the importance of including the four-laning of Kentuck Road in the 2035 Plan. He also noted that consideration should be given to the potential for redevelopment of a large tract of land south of Ballou Park. He indicated that this project should be given consideration since it could be a heavy traffic generator. He noted that there may be a need for four laning from Ballou Park to where Memorial Drive comes in.

10. Update on Transportation Issues in General, Other Area Projects

Mr. Dowd noted that the MPO had concluded all of the outreach meetings regarding the Route 29 Statewide Corridor Study being conducted by VDOT with assistance from Parson Transportation Group and other

Subconsultants. He noted that he had printed a copy of othe document, and it looked good. It was noted, however, that the new plan did not, in its current draft form, address the bottleneck at Charlottesville. It was noted that, in the public meetings, the consultant had included some bypass-type arrangements to offer approaches to remedying the bottleneck in Charlottesville on Route 29 but that, in the draft, following the meetings the arrangements were removed and left the problems in place as they were before the plan was initiated. Mr. Cary noted that the Lynchburg MPO had supported the study but with the original solutions for the Charlottesville-Albemarle area that had been presented in the public meeting version of the study. Following this, Board members unanimously agreed that an action be taken by the Danville MPO Policy Board to address the lack of solution for the Charlottesville-Albemarle situation and follow up this meeting with a resolution or letter to express the Danville MPO's concerns. Mr. Kessler volunteered to help Mr. Dowd in putting together a followup resolution or letter.

In other discussion, Mr. Dowd noted that he had recently received an early draft of the West Piedmont Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan from the consultant working with VDOT and the PDC on the project. He noted that the plan addressed the non-MPO sections of Pittsylvania County.

Mr. Dowd noted that he and Mr. Kessler had met with Mr. Dick Lockwood of VHB Incorporated in Richmond to finalize the changes to the Route 29 Access Management Plan for Blairs that Mr. Kessler and Mr. Sides and he had developed.

Mr. Dowd reported that he had been working with Mr. Sides and Mr. Kessler on the development of the transportation element/chapter of the Pittsylvania County Comprehensive Plan.

11. Other Business

Mr. Harville inquired as to the status of the Franklin Turnpike/Route 41 extension over to Route 360. Mr. Cary noted that the project was going well.

Mr. Cary informed the group that a Public Hearing was scheduled for the Six-Year Improvement Program and encouraged the Policy Board members and their localities to attend and participate.

Mr. Harville inquired about the status of the closure of the Pittsylvania County VDOT Residency Office. Mr. Cary noted that the shop had been closed; however, there may be personnel at the facility in the future to deal with local issues. He noted that VDOT still intends to have licensed engineers on the site to assist with local issues.

12. Consider Membership in VAMPO (Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations)

Mr. Dowd noted that, in addition to being the MPO Administrator, he was also Executive Director for the area Planning District Commission and that during the fall he had been acquainted with a resolution passed in the 2009 General Assembly that called for the establishment of a Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. He stated that a number of PDCs had met and had been developing a white paper/mission statement for the eventual organizational process to establish this new organization which would use the acronym "VAMPO." He informed the group that he had developed a resolution for the MPO's consideration of supporting the VAMPO concept and had attached the white paper and the General Assembly resolution for the Policy Board's review. He noted that, in the resolution, he had added in a statement of intent to join the VAMPO once the organizational process had been completed in 2010.

There was discussion as to whether the MPO Policy Board should seek to be a member prior to finding out more detail. As a result of the discussion, the group agreed that it would be in the MPO's best interest to participate in VAMPO from the outset of its establishment. It was noted that the MPO could drop its membership in the future if it so desired.

Following discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adopt Resolution 2009-11, endorsing the concept of the formation of a Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (VAMPO) and indicating its desire to become a member of VAMPO once its organizational documents were completed and authorizing its MPO Administrator to pursue this action.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

MINUTES

**November 30, 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 Update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030 and the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

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 Subjects of the Hearing

a) Update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030

Mr. Dowd explained that long-range transportation planning by the MPO is an element of the continuing, comprehensive, coordinated transportation planning process that began under the Federal Highway Act of 1962, now refined to its current form under SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) (Public Law 109-59) as amended. He further noted that the Danville MPO staff had worked with the VDOT Lynchburg District Planning Engineer and staff of the firm of URS Corporation in developing an updated Year 2030, Danville Area Long-Range Transportation Plan, including the Constrained Plan. He reviewed the changes that had been made in the Plan. Maps and tables were on display outlining the plan's contents and changes.

b) FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Mr. Dowd explained that the Danville MPO is required to develop an annual transportation improvement program covering the Danville MPO Study Area. He stated that amendments to the TIP document must be approved by the MPO Board, as prescribed by the laws and regulations of the United States and according to the public participation policy of the Danville MPO. He further noted that, in order for federal transportation funding to be made available to the MPO area, the TIP must be in compliance with SAFETEA-LU and its regulations and amendments.

He noted that there were certain American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) stimulus funds that were being distributed via the Federal Transit Administration and Virginia Department of Transportation for use by the City of Danville and its Danville Transit System. In February 2009, the Danville Transit System submitted a capital grant application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and was awarded ARRA grant funding. Approved capital projects included one (1) thirty-foot replacement bus, one (1) twenty-five foot replacement bus, one (1) LED display sign, three (3) bus shelters and passenger benches. A total of \$200,000 in ARRA

project funding was obligated for these capital budget items. In addition, the state awarded Danville Transit System a Demonstration Grant in the amount of \$38,000 for security improvements related to the mass transit administrative maintenance facility.

In September 2009, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation recommended additional ARRA project funding for the Danville Transit System. Related projects include ARRA operating assistance in the amount of \$45,752 and other capital improvements totaling \$635,290. Recommended capital budget items included renovation of the mass transit administrative maintenance facility, photocopier, six (6) passenger benches, two (2) bus shelters and camera surveillance equipment for twelve (12) buses.

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

Mr. Dowd indicated that he had not received 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 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

Bob Dowd, Danville MPO Administrator
Joan Hullett, MPO Staff
Bill Cashman, URS Corporation
Chris Lawrence, URS Corporation
Lawrence Campbell, Danville City Council
Fred O. Shanks III, Danville City Council
Jeff Kessler, VDOT-Lynchburg District Planning Engineer

None of the attendees wished to comment; however, they reviewed the Long-Range Plan Update maps and tables on display and discussed them with Mr. Cashman and Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. Dowd noted that there were no other 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