

**Summary Statement:
Amendment to Danville MPO Year 2030 Constrained Long Range
Transportation Plan (CLRP)**

Introduction

With the advent of passage of the SAFETEA-LU, national transportation act, in August 2005, new transportation planning regulations have been brought to the attention of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations across the US. The compliance of MPO's with SAFETEA-LU is now an essential activity for MPO staffs to undertake. Several key documents of MPOs need to be brought into compliance. The following are items that are to be addressed in FY 2008.

The MPO Public Involvement Participation Plan and Notification Procedures Manual—needed revisions (Completed March 15, 2007). This involved consulting with state and federal staffs on making improvements and additions to the guidance document employed to direct public involvement processes when adopting Constrained Long Range Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.

The staff implemented an Environmental Consultation process amendment to address the MPO's Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (Completed March 5, 2007). The MPO staff consulted with an extensive list of environmental and transportation related agencies for measures that should be integrated into the development of Constrained Long Range Transportation Plans.

Once the above items were resolved as part of the building toward SAFETEA-LU compliance, the MPO needed to move into formal action to email the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan to include a number of planning efforts as well as the provisions suggested via the initial Environmental Consultation Process noted above. The Items to be addressed in the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan revision:

- Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan
- Environmental Consultation/Mitigation Report/Summary
- State Highway Safety Plan Summary
- Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan
- Statewide Freight Study Plan

Also noted below is the list of exhibits set out for public review prior to the public hearing of May 17, 2007, placement on the website www.wppdc.org, and to be reviewed by the Danville MPO Policy Board following the public hearing.

Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan

The Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan revision requires action to bring a number of other planning or planning-related efforts under its umbrella or inclusion that may be being developed separately and on a different timeline and by different planning task groups. For the time being, no internal change to the document and its included projects need to be made, the amendment is essentially to recognize other planning efforts and revised processes that are now integral to the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan and its future updates.

The following explains more about the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan. It should be noted that the next full update of the Plan is due for completion in June 2009; its update will need to begin in spring of calendar year 2008. It will need to address all of the items being set out in this May 2007 CLRP amendment which is effectively setting the agenda for that update in respect to regulations to be followed in its development and adoption.

For the general reviewer and persons interested in transportation, it is worth focusing on the recommendations list of projects in the final document where the projects are shown in tabular form and also displayed on the Plan's map representation. There were essentially two lists of projects with all of them depicted on maps of the area. One set of projects represented the constrained plan (CLRP) projects and the other set addressed projects set out for a vision plan.

The 2004 Plan was developed to meet all the federal requirements vested under the original SAFETEA transportation act (predecessor to SAFETEA-LU) and the plan development included early public involvement activities through a series of public forums and series of planning focus group meetings with citizens contacted directly, as well as advertised meetings, so that citizens could identify issues. A traffic engineering analysis and safety analysis was subsequently carried out and a summary of existing deficiencies in the transportation system, needs analysis, and a summary of forecasted future needs for the system were developed. Employing the input received and then working through the issues, needs, subsequently a list of recommended projects were developed and planning level cost estimates were added. Working with VDOT provided an estimate of available funding over the 26-year period from Year 2004 to the Year 2030, the target year for the Plan. Some prioritization took place with technical committee input and projects were taken to further review stages. The project list was then separated into a financially Constrained Plan list of projects and additional needed projects, that did not fit under the 26-year timeframe budget, were placed into a Vision Plan. Improvements are summarized in the Executive Summary and the CLRP (the large foldout sheet). There were extensive efforts to evaluate the projects for planning factors, environmental impact, and environmental justice that is required under federal regulations.

Danville Long Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030, Environmental Consultation/Mitigation Report

The MPO staff, as a step in amending the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan to comply with SAFETEA-LU, was to conduct an effort to consult with numerous federal, state, regional, and local agencies with environmental and resource responsibilities on development and amendments of Constrained Long Range Transportation Plans in the future. This consultation process in this current timeframe was to produce advice documents on what should be addressed when plans are being developed in respect to their agency's interests; they were not asked to evaluate the CLRP on a project by project basis as to recommendations or evaluations; it was desired that they guide the MPO and its consultants on measures to consider in the future. VDOT provided, and the MPO employed, a potential mitigation discussion paper: Potential Environmental Mitigation Activities and Areas, to be issued to each agency to guide them in needed response.

The report includes: Introductory material, Mitigation Discussion paper; Mailing List for Environmental Consultation; Email letter to agencies describing the consultation process and what is needed; responses from the various agencies. Agencies were given a month to respond to the invitation to participate in the consultation process.

Virginia Strategic Highway Safety Plan Summary

The Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Transportation, in concert with other agencies, has developed the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. A summary of this document is attached in this package. The SAFTEA-LU act and regulations require that states develop this plan. The summary denotes the mission statement, vision statement, the goals, and safety emphasis areas. Emphasis areas addressed include: Human Factors of driver behavior, special users, pedestrian and bicyclist safety; Environmental areas are to address intersection safety, roadway departures, work zone safety, and pedestrian and bicycle safety; Fundamental areas are to address traffic records and transportation safety planning.

With this amendment of the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan the MPO recognizes the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and includes it by reference; in addition the future updates of the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan will be expected to address safety and the pertinent aspects of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan of the Commonwealth.

Now that the Plan is approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia it is now encouraged that transportation planning processes be consistent with the

Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). This shall mean that projects across the state including the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) shall consider the SHSP directives and findings as they are developed and shall consider consistency with the SHSP.

Similarly, to the above the MPO now officially recognizes the SHSP governing the Commonwealth and its MPOs, and that project planning now and in the future will need to be measured by its consistency with the priorities, the goals, the countermeasures, and projects contained and recommended in the SHSP. Effectively, therefore the CLRP now includes the SHSP consistency requirement by reference. This shall also mean that on the full update of the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan set for FY 2009 completion, projects should be screened for safety measurement and should adhere to guidance of the SHSP and its priorities, goals, countermeasures, and projects offered. Also in a broader context, not only on a specific or project-by-project basis, the FY 2009 CLRP should include specific coverage of safety aspects of transportation planning on a general basis as well as project basis.

Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan (CHSM Plan)

The Coordinated Human Services (transportation) Mobility Plan (or CHSM Plan) is under development by the Commonwealth with Danville MPO and Danville Transit System working with the Commonwealth on development of the CHSM Plan. The MPO/Planning District Commission staff is also working on developing the base information on providers of Human Services transportation and will be collecting input from these agencies in association with the Commonwealth on needs for improved and expanded services in the study area. Goals and objectives will need to be established. Subsequently, projects, recommendations, and strategies for accomplishing the recommendations will need to be set out by the Commonwealth, regional, and MPO planning personnel. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation completed an earlier transportation coordination study considering key agencies such as Community Services Boards and Area Agency on Aging across the state; both of these type agencies exist in the MPO area and the Planning District. These agencies will need to be contacted for input on their existing situation, goals and objectives, needs, projects, possible recommendations, and their ideas on sources of assistance primarily available for assisting implementation of recommendations so as to form strategies for Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plans.

For this amendment of the CLRP, the MPO can essentially point out the CHSM Plan contents, the need for the CHSM Plan, and the efforts anticipated to bring on its final development as an associated plan element of CLRP. The full update of the CLRP in Year 2009 will need to include, encompass the Coordinated

Human Services Mobility Plan that is now being developed by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation along with partnering agencies across the state and its MPO areas.

Statewide Freight Study Plan

The Virginia Department of Transportation along with partnering agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia has been working toward development of the Virginia Statewide Freight Study Plan that is a required element for states to have developed under SAFETEA-LU. The Commonwealth is working with the MPOs on development of this Plan. The MPO in the amendment to the CLRP indicates it will accept the State plan as part of the CLRP by reference; secondly, the amendment action incorporates the responsibility of the MPO to inject freight plan findings into the next full update of the CLRP due in June 2009 which needs to be initiated in spring of 2008.

The staff of the area Planning District Commission is developing information on freight planning employing both available local information, a survey it has conducted for the region including the MPO area, and utilization of TranSearch data issued to it by the VDOT staff.

Contents of Review Package:

Summary Statement: Amendment to Danville MPO Year 2030 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (foldout document)—the CLRP

Executive Summary: Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan

Technical Appendices: Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (available at www.wppdc.org)

Danville Long Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030, Environmental Consultation/Mitigation Report

Virginia Strategic Highway Safety Plan Summary

Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan (CHSM Plan)

Statewide Freight Study Plan

Public Information Participation Plan and Notification Procedures Manual (adopted March 15, 2007 by Danville MPO)

Earlier Amendments to Year 2030 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan see document: [Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization's Amendments to its Long-Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030](#)