

Process for Studying Corridors of Statewide Significance

May 19, 2010

J. Douglas Koelemay

Commonwealth Transportation Board, Northern Virginia District

Background


- VTrans2035 accepted by the CTB on 12/17/2009 identifies 11 corridors of statewide significance.
- Route 29 Corridor
- first to be studied covered 219 miles Danville to Gainesville.



Background (Cont'd)

- The Route 29 Corridor Study, accepted by the CTB on December 17, 2009.
- The CTB directed VDOT and DRPT to “work closely with a Subcommittee of this Board to develop and present a draft process” for studying all of the Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS)

- The CTB further directed that the Corridor study process take into account lessons learned from the Route 29 Corridor Study.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Agenda Item # 501

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

December 17, 2009

MOTION

Made By: Mr. White Seconded By: Mr. Dickens Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: A Resolution on the Route 29 Corridor Study

WHEREAS, the Route 29 Corridor (the Corridor) is a major north-south roadway in the Commonwealth, that connects Northern Virginia with North Carolina (a distance of 219 miles), is designated as a National Highway System (NHS) Route, and serves both long-distance and local traffic, the interests of which can often be in conflict; and

WHEREAS, because the Route 29 Corridor is a major asset of the Commonwealth, the General Assembly is the steward of this asset, and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (Board) has a leadership responsibility in protecting this asset; and

WHEREAS, many studies have been incrementally conducted on the Corridor over the past 30 years, none of the studies have addressed the entire corridor in an inclusive manner, as an entity; and

WHEREAS, this Board held a meeting on January 16, 2008, with affected General Assembly members and other elected officials, to present and solicit comments on a plan for a corridor-wide study that would develop a blueprint for the Corridor to serve as a framework for future transportation improvements in the Route 29 Corridor and for other Corridors of Statewide Significance (the Blueprint); and

- the Blueprint fails to include several recommendations of the consultant team that were removed prior to presentation to the Board, some of which were apparently

April 1, 2010, for Route 29 and future corridor studies, that addresses the cited insufficiencies

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Background (Cont'd)

- The Route 29 Corridor CTB Subcommittee appointed by Secretary Connaughton on February 8, 2010.
- The CTB Subcommittee has met four times to work on the Board's directives. The first is a draft Process for Studying the Corridors of Statewide Significance.

- This Process includes the CTB's desire to "position the Board to lead in developing consensus among the affected localities" and other key stakeholders.

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Agenda Item # 5B1

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December 17, 2009

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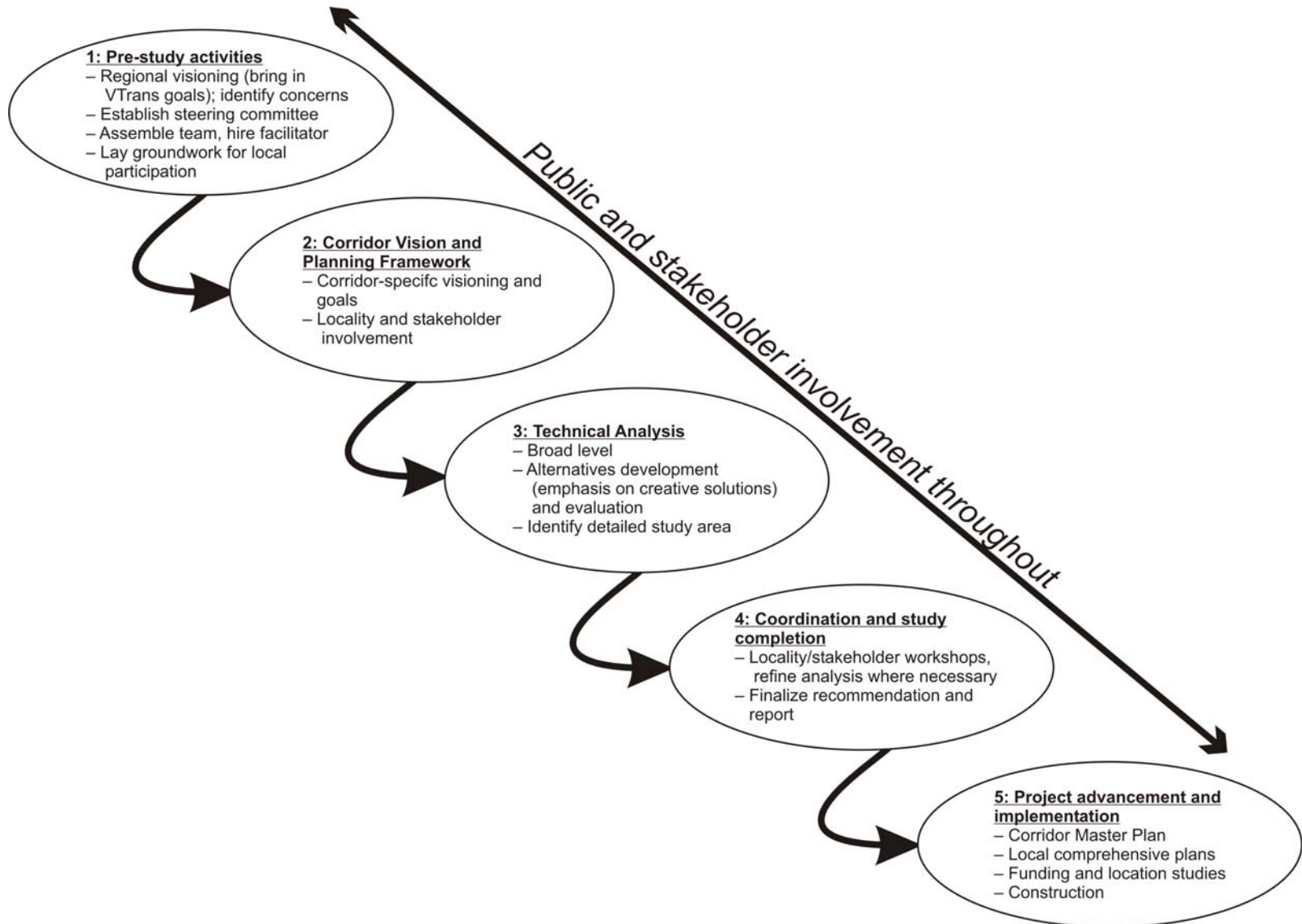
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Proposed Process for CoSS Studies

- The technical process, procedures, and steps for developing the corridor studies are critical in developing the CoSS study
- Equally important, is the “how” and “who”:
 - How will the study be developed
 - Who will be involved in the planning and execution process
- Effective engagement of local governments is critical to:
 - Ensure statewide goals are reflected in local plans and actual land use decision-making
 - Ensure that local objectives regarding access, mobility, and aesthetic standards are respected

Proposed Process for CoSS Studies



Step 1: Pre-Study Activities

- Include information from prior statewide planning efforts
- Focus specific analysis at the broad corridor level and at key geographic areas within the corridor
- Establish a Steering Committee to guide the study
- Include a professional facilitator as part of the Study Team
- Lay groundwork for the study, including local and stakeholder participation

Step 2: Corridor Vision & Planning Framework

- Brings together the collaborative efforts of State, Local and other stakeholders.
- This collaboration is needed to apply the broader statewide CoSS goals of VTrans to the specific corridor
- Simultaneously develop strategies that respect local and stakeholder objectives

Step 3: Technical Analysis

- Analysis at the broad corridor-wide level first, followed by more geographically refined analyses as defined over the course of the study
- As part of collaborative effort, develop alternatives (emphasis on problem solving through creative “out-of-the-box” design solutions)
- More detailed analysis, as needed, to focus on particular geographic areas

Step 4: Coordination and Study Completion

- Workshops and meetings with local governments and stakeholders to refine study recommendations
- Professional facilitation capture all of the input and to ensure that the objectives of all participants are considered
- Emphasis on reaching consensus solutions for the final recommendations

Step 5: Project Advancement & Implementation

- Many implementation activities occur after the end of the formal corridor study, including:
 - Develop and adopt Corridor Master Plan
 - Revise local Comprehensive Plans
 - Identify funding
 - Detailed location studies
 - Project construction and/or implementation of non-construction recommendations (policies, legislation, rule or procedural changes)

Key Issue: Involve Local Government

- CTB makes clear linkage between successful CoSS studies, the State's transportation planning process, local planning, and future transportation investments
- VDOT and DRPT encourage local governments to include CoSS study recommendations in local Comprehensive Plans
- Local officials can collaborate with other stakeholders and one another in facilitated workshops and charettes to compare interests, explore alternatives, and extend corridor visions

Successful CoSS Studies

- Engage local officials throughout the process, particularly at:
 - Study initiation,
 - Key technical analysis milestones,
 - Prior to finalizing plans and presenting at public meetings
- Remain flexible: Adjust possible solutions as needed to reflect changing conditions, input from corridor jurisdictions, and to gain consensus
- Maximize constructive cooperation throughout in order to find common ground to achieve goals