

**Draft - MINUTES OF
MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ROUTE 29**

Culpeper District Office – Auditorium
1601 Orange Road
Culpeper, Virginia

August 27, 2010 – 10:00a.m.

The meeting of the Route 29 Subcommittee of Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) was held in the auditorium of the Culpeper District Office at 1601 Orange Road in Culpeper, Virginia on August 27, 2010, at 10:00a.m.

Attendees: CTB Members: J. Douglas Koelemay (via conf. phone), John J. “Butch” Davies III, Peter B. Schwartz, and Jim Rich, VDOT staff: Jim Utterback, Brent Sprinkle, Dean Gustafson, Rob Hofrichter, Michael Clements, Marshall Barron, Charles Proctor, Randy Hodgson and Charlie Rasnick, Amy Inman, (DRPT), Lori L. Pound (OAG), and Joe Springer - Parsons Transportation Group (PTG), also present: Steve Williams Thomas Jefferson PDC and Rex Hammond Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce

1. & 2. Welcome and Public Comment

Chairman Koelemay (connected by conference phone) welcomed everyone including new CTB member Jim Rich as a member of the Subcommittee. In order to have a meeting chair physically present, Mr. Koelemay designated Mr. Schwartz to act as chair. He then asked if there anyone from the public that may want to speak to the Committee. No one from the general public asked to speak.

3. Minutes of the July 9, 2010

Minutes of the July 9, 2010 meeting were briefly discussed and approved as presented.

4. Status of the Committee’s work on the CTB Directives of December 17, 2009

Charlie Rasnick briefed the Committee on the review of the draft Plan to minimize the number of traffic control signals on Route 29. Several pages of comments have been received from various disciplines within VDOT and copies of those comments were distributed to the Committee so they could have some sense of the concerns of VDOT’s staff.

Also, he said that the Commissioner had indicated that the Secretary’s meeting with leaders of the Lynchburg and Charlottesville area had not taken place.

5. Plan to minimize the number of traffic control signals on Route 29 and the COSS

Charlie Rasnick said that the plan to minimize the number of traffic signals on Route 29 and the Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS) had been circulated within VDOT for review by the planning, design, traffic engineering, and operations offices. He said there was concern about the implementation of this policy and shared the comments with the Committee. Some of their concerns included the need for public input on the policy, not sufficient staff to develop the Corridor plans, and the District Administrators are concerned that they now are required to continuously make exceptions to the Access Management Policies and they felt the same problems would come from this policy. There was also questions about whether the Localities would adhere to a Corridor Master Plan once it is completed.

Several VDOT staff members were in attendance to provide input to the Committee on the implementation issues. Dean Gustafson, VDOT's Northwest Operations Director, described some of the items that needed to be considered in making plans to reduce the number of traffic signals. He stated that traffic signals are, indeed, part of an overall toolbox that traffic engineers use to provide for effective, efficient, and safe travel.

Rob Hofrichter, TMPD Assistant Division Administrator shares with the Committee the authority from the Code of Virginia regarding access management, and permitting for new access.

As part of the discussion, Mr. Rich suggested that an agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be executed between VDOT and the Localities to initiate the protection of these corridors and to implement access management and land use decisions to support fewer access points and fewer traffic control signals.

Discussion relative to the issue of exception requests: In dealing with this situation, Mr. Schwartz suggested that the CTB should have responsibility for making decisions for exception requests on Corridors of Statewide Significance (similar to access requests on the interstate system). This would apply on to the CoSS. Mr. Rich stated that reviewing exception requests at the higher level would result in a "better product". Mr. Rich requested information on access management regulations. Staff agreed to provide the links to the information via e-mail.

The importance of looking at these access management issues from a state perspective was discussed. Mr. Schwartz highlighted the need to consider the entire corridor for the CoSS.

Mr. Rasnick indicated that he would work with others in VDOT & DRPT to revise the document as a Corridor Master Plan and send the new draft to the Committee by mid-September for their review.

6. Plan to Improve Mobility/Accessibility – Charlottesville (Proposed Plan to initiate cross-jurisdictional discussions)

Mr. Rasnick discussed the current approach that is being considered and has been previously reviewed by the subcommittee. One key emphasis of the approach is the use of a professional facilitator. Mr. Schwartz indicated that he was pleased with the current approach but asked that the line in Step 1 about the professional facilitator should include the text shown in italics: "... retain a professional facilitator *with expertise in public sector dispute resolution* ..."

Mr. Schwartz also stated his belief that the communities in the southern portions of the corridor (Danville and Lynchburg) should be included in the discussions relative to the Charlottesville/Albemarle area. It was suggested that separate meetings be held with each group initially to identify issues and concerns. Mr. Schwartz suggested that proposed process include a new Step 2 which includes bringing representatives of the Danville and Lynchburg areas into the process. An initial paragraph stating that the proposed steps reflect a process that includes others from the communities of Danville and Lynchburg.

7. Improving mobility and accessibility in the Gainesville, Buckland and Haymarket area

Following a brief discussion of the process for this area, it was determined that Mr. Koelemay and Mr. Rich will arrange to speak with Secretary Connaughton in order to determine meeting specifics to initiate conversations in the Gainesville, Buckland and Haymarket area.

8. Next Meeting

Next meeting: October 8, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Rasnick will arrange to have the meeting at the VDOT Culpeper District office and will confirm the location at a later date.