

1 VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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4 FY2008-2013

5
6 SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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8 STAUNTON DISTRICT

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14 PUBLIC HEARING

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18 MAY 31, 2007

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24 NEW MARKET, VIRGINIA

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1 MR. GARRETT MOORE: Good evening, ladies and
2 gentlemen. My name is Garrett Moore. I'm the Staunton
3 District Administrator for VDOT. I'd like to welcome you
4 to our public meeting for the Six-Year Plan in preparation
5 for the 2008-2013 Six-Year Program. Let me give you a
6 little bit of the ground rules here tonight so that we can
7 talk, it seems like we've got a better crowd than unusual,
8 and just talk about how things will go. Normally we allow
9 elected officials and representatives of public
10 organizations to go first. However, that is almost all
11 that we have here so I think what we will do this time is
12 go ahead and just go by the numbers of one to ten. I
13 think that would just be simpler because we have a lot
14 more public officials here. With us today we have
15 Commissioner Ekern and also from Culpeper District Mr.
16 Butch Davies who is the CTB member from over in Culpeper
17 District. And I'll let our gentleman from DRPT introduce
18 himself.

19 MR. CHIP BADGER: My name is Chip Badger.
20 I'm the Deputy Director for the Department of Rail and
21 Public Transportation.

22 MR. GARRETT MOORE: And in tonight's
23 discussion it's again come up and give three minutes of
24 what you would like to do. I would ask you to be very
25 prompt with that three minutes. What we will do is if you

1 do go over that we'll ask you to stop, but at the end of
2 the meeting if you have more after giving everybody else
3 the courtesy to get through their presentation we'll allow
4 somebody if you do run over to come on up and finish your
5 presentation. But that three minutes is mainly so
6 everybody has the opportunity to come up and speak at a
7 reasonable hour when the crowd is here. We very much
8 would ask for your cooperation in that. And with that
9 being said let me go ahead and turn it over to our
10 Commissioner Dave Ekern who is the senior person here at
11 the meeting from the department.

12 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Good evening
13 everybody. And again my name is Dave Ekern. I have the
14 privilege of serving you as the Commissioner of VDOT. In
15 tonight's event at this public comment period on our draft
16 plan I'm functionally actually in my role as vice-chair of
17 the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Secretary Homer
18 who is the chair of that board actually was unable to
19 attend tonight. He does send his regrets and he does
20 place a high value on comments that we get on these draft
21 programs. They are very critical to not only the
22 department's discussion but also to the CTB as they adopt
23 the final program at our July meeting. So these comment
24 periods are extremely important and particularly important
25 at this time because of the work of the Governor and the

1 General Assembly this last session in adopting a new
2 funding bill. That has caused us an opportunity, it's a
3 good thing, but for those of us who work in the process it
4 gets to be a little bit hair raising because we have to
5 adjust a little bit on the fly. So the program that you
6 are reviewing and commenting on tonight still has some
7 bugs to be worked out of it because of the new funding.
8 That will affect new projects. It will affect an
9 opportunity that we haven't had for a very long time as
10 instead of talking to you about which projects aren't
11 going to be there we're actually starting to hear feedback
12 and have the opportunity to add some work to the program.
13 That's really a strong message and we're very excited
14 about that as people who work for you at VDOT and DRPT.
15 With that as Garrett had indicated I would like to also
16 note that Dr. Davis had intended to be here tonight. We
17 were not able to accommodate the schedule. He is
18 extremely active on the board and is eager to hear
19 comments from both this meeting and if elected officials
20 want to talk to him about other aspects of the program he
21 would be glad to visit with you following tonight's
22 meeting. It is unfortunate and we apologize that we
23 weren't able to accommodate his schedule. With that I'm
24 going to call names. I'll call two, the person to speak
25 and then the next one so you can be getting ready, and

1 we'll take the testimony. The first to speak is Joseph
2 Paxton, followed by Drew Williams.

3 MR. JOSEPH PAXTON: Thank you, Mr.
4 Commissioner. Mr. Davies. Rockingham County is pleased
5 to see in the proposed budget prepared by VDOT staff that
6 it includes \$25,481,000.00 for the Port Republic Road
7 project. As we have spoken I know, Mr. Commissioner, that
8 we have spoken with you several times regarding that
9 project. It's very important to our community. It has
10 the support of the City of Harrisonburg. It's the number
11 one priority for the MPO, which includes the county, the
12 city, the towns of Bridgewater, Dayton and Mt. Crawford.
13 It's also part of a larger road complex that's going on
14 out in that area. The Southeast Connector which
15 intersects that road at the hospital property is also
16 being worked on at the same time. From my understanding
17 the local government/private developer partnerships that
18 are required in order for the state to be able to move
19 projects forward, the county has been very aggressive in
20 working with RMH and with three other developers in that
21 area to acquire right-of-way. The hospital has actually
22 taken the lead in designing the road from where it
23 intersects with the city, an ongoing project that they
24 have, over to Spotswood Trail and we're moving forward
25 with that process. We know in the plan that that road is

1 2013 and beyond. We would like for you to consider and
2 take into account the additional developer funds that are
3 being put in that project and possibly with the
4 collaboration between the state, some second funds that we
5 already have allocated, then we can move that project
6 forward a lot quicker than that. There are also a number
7 of other projects in here that we're very concerned about.
8 The I-81 safety improvements with the traffic that comes
9 through the City of Harrisonburg and JMU's campus, we
10 certainly want to tell you how much we appreciate the
11 reworking of Exit 247. The bridge replacements on Airport
12 Road in Mt. Crawford, the Springbrook Road in Broadway,
13 are real important to both one lane bridges and they need
14 to be worked on as quickly as possible. We know that
15 those are out a little ways and hopefully if those funds
16 become available sooner for bridge work we can move those
17 up. Route 820 to Bergton, I know that's a federal earmark
18 project and that's the reason why it's in this budget.
19 We're going to be working with the local residency to see
20 what we can do to expedite that project. And also the
21 Bridgewater Bypass is in there. One of the groups that
22 wasn't able to come today and asked for me to pass on to
23 you their comments was James Madison University. Dr. Rose
24 was unable to attend. He had another engagement tonight
25 and he asked that we also express for him his support for

1 the Port Republic Road project. It's crucial to the
2 university. There's a lot of student housing along Port
3 Republic Road all the way out to Boyers Road and so they
4 highly support that project and look forward to those
5 improvements being made because it will improve the safety
6 of that area. We have put together a list of prioritized
7 needs for the board. There are a number of them. Port
8 Republic Road and the Southeast Connector are on there as
9 well as some others. We have copies for each of you.
10 There is also a map that shows the interconnection between
11 the Port Republic Road and the Stone Spring Road projects
12 and that will assist you in your deliberations. And we
13 appreciate your time. Thanks for being here.

14 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Drew Williams,
15 following by John Bishop.

16 MR. DREW WILLIAMS: Good evening.

17 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Good evening.

18 MR. DREW WILLIAMS: My name is Drew Williams
19 from the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission,
20 and I'm here to represent member communities within
21 Planning District 6 and to encourage your continued
22 support for projects in the Counties of Bath, Highland,
23 Rockbridge, Augusta and Rockingham, along with the Cities
24 of Lexington, Harrisonburg and Waynesboro, and also to
25 include the many towns in our planning district. I would

1 like to take a few moments to discuss a few important road
2 projects in our area of regional significance. The City
3 of Harrisonburg's major east to west road project known as
4 the Stone Spring Road/Erickson Avenue project is of
5 critical importance, not just to the city but the entire
6 Rockingham County community. We appreciate your past
7 support of this project, most recently your review and
8 approval of its alignment. As you are aware, the City of
9 Harrisonburg is a member of the Urban Construction
10 Initiative Program and continued support of this project
11 will continue to ensure the value and importance of the
12 Urban Construction Initiative. As the City of
13 Harrisonburg and surrounding area continues to grow the
14 timely completion of this project will help relieve
15 serious traffic congestion in the area, as the project
16 cannot be completed without your support and assistance.
17 The second project I would like to bring to your attention
18 is, as Joe had just mentioned, the Port Republic Road
19 reconstruction project in Rockingham County. Port
20 Republic Road is currently a two lane facility recently
21 enrolled in VDOT's primary system. The section of road I
22 discuss stretches from the Harrisonburg city limits
23 eastward approximately 1.5 miles and as such this project
24 falls within the urbanized area of the Harrisonburg-
25 Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization. It is

1 critical to ensure this project receives funding in a
2 timely manner. In 2005 Rockingham Memorial Hospital,
3 which serves the Harrisonburg-Rockingham community,
4 announced relocating to a new site along Port Republic
5 Road. With this major development, and along with other
6 development plans currently underway, widening this
7 section of Port Republic Road is vital to the entire
8 community. We appreciate your time and effort to hear
9 comments from the public and again ask for your continued
10 support and funding for the City of Harrisonburg Stone
11 Spring Road project and the County of Rockingham's Port
12 Republic Road widening project. Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: As Mr. Bishop
14 comes forward I'd like to also, I was remiss in my earlier
15 remarks in not recognizing Ms. Barbara Reese, our chief
16 financial officer and soon to take over as Deputy
17 Secretary of Transportation. We appreciate her coming and
18 attending this evening. It's her staff that does an awful
19 lot of the hard work putting this document together. Mr.
20 Bishop, good evening.

21 MR. JOHN BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Ekern, and
22 I thank all of you for this opportunity to speak. My name
23 is John Bishop, and I serve as the transportation planner
24 for Frederick County, Virginia. And I've brought forward
25 tonight a resolution passed by the Frederick County Board

1 of Supervisors which in a nutshell basically is very
2 appreciative of the efforts that have been put in to date
3 to beginning to show planning for Route 37 which has not
4 been in the program for some time. We're very happy to
5 see that reappear, restoring funds and actually adding
6 additional funds to Route 277. Of course not to be
7 ungrateful I must also point out that we have a number of
8 other projects which continue to need attention. Probably
9 most notably of the unlisted projects would be the Exit
10 307 relocation to the south of Stephens City and
11 associated improvements to Warrior Drive and the Stephens
12 City Bypass, the widening of Route 7, improvements to
13 Route 11, really some major arteries for our region.
14 Route 37, moving back to Route 37, frankly it was a vision
15 twenty-plus years ago. And as we've come through time
16 we're now at the point where it's a critical need and
17 continues to be so it's nice to start seeing some
18 momentum. The board would respectfully request that it be
19 noted that that has been identified as the number one
20 priority, both through the MPO, which has consisted of the
21 City of Winchester, the Town of Stephens City and the
22 urbanized portions of Frederick County. It's been the
23 number one priority of the Frederick County primary road
24 improvement plans. It's been the number one priority in
25 our comprehensive plan and on and on for some time and all

1 of these projects that I've mentioned are much needed. I
2 will close by thanking you again for your efforts. And of
3 course I'm sure something you're going to keep hearing,
4 you know, please do as much more as you are able and as
5 you are given resources to do. I'm going to just go ahead
6 and drop off this resolution for you. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: The next to speak
8 is Supervisor Charles DeHaven, Sr., followed by Tim Stowe.
9 Good evening.

10 MR. CHARLES DEHAVEN: Gentlemen, good
11 evening. My name is Chuck DeHaven. I'm a member of the
12 Board of Supervisors of Frederick County, and chairman of
13 the Frederick County Transportation Committee. In
14 addition, I serve on the Winchester-Frederick County MPO
15 Policy Committee, and that's the group I'm speaking for
16 this evening. The Win-Fred MPO requests the Commonwealth
17 Transportation Board address the priorities outlined in
18 its adopted 2030 Transportation Plan with specific
19 attention to the following priorities. One, the Route 37
20 East corridor. This project is a top priority project in
21 the Win-Fred MPO 2030 Transportation Plan. Frederick
22 County is actively working on better defining the corridor
23 alignment to determine where rights-of-way will be
24 required to be dedicated by private developers and to
25 avoid major existing development. The MPO is also on

1 record as requesting that VDOT study the Route 37 East
2 corridor as a potential corridor on new location for
3 proposed improvements to the I-81 corridor in the
4 Winchester-Frederick County area. The MPO is very
5 appreciative of the funds that have been allocated to this
6 project in the current draft program and would ask that
7 the CTB continue to commit funds to this much needed
8 project. Two are the I-81 interchange improvements and
9 relocation. The Win-Fred MPO requested the Commonwealth
10 Transportation Board to fund proposed interchange
11 improvements at I-81 interchanges in the Winchester-
12 Frederick County area consistent with recommendations
13 recently adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.
14 Relocation of Exit 307, the Stephens City interchange,
15 farther south of associated improvements to Warrior Drive
16 and the Stephens City Bypass as recommended in the Win-
17 Fred 2030 Transportation Plan continues to be a much
18 needed improvement that Frederick County and the Town of
19 Stephens City are actively pursuing. In the City of
20 Winchester a new interchange with Battle Drive continues
21 to be a needed outlet for traffic in the southern portion
22 of the city. Item 3 is continued support for Win-Fred MPO
23 local technical assistance projects. The Win-Fred MPO
24 would like to thank VDOT for its planning support of two
25 location projects, the Route 37/Route 11/Shady Elm Road

1 interchange study and the Route 11 corridor access
2 management study. Continued funding support for future
3 phases of these important projects will be critical to
4 ensure that these projects are implemented successfully.
5 In Item 4 a park and ride lot. There are no park and ride
6 lots currently constructed within the Win-Fred MPO study
7 area. With mounting traffic congestion, air quality
8 concerns and a significant commuter population funding of
9 new park and ride lots is an important investment in
10 providing alternative modes of transportation. The Win-
11 Fred MPO requests that the Commonwealth Transportation
12 Board target funding for the acquisition of land, design
13 and construction of new park and ride lots in the MPO
14 area. One high priority location is on the Route 7
15 corridor east of I-81. In summary, the Win-Fred MPO would
16 like to thank the Commonwealth Transportation Board for
17 its support of the improvements that are currently
18 underway in the MPO area. The MPO would also respectfully
19 request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board give
20 serious consideration to additional funding of the MPO top
21 transportation priority projects. And we thank you for
22 the opportunity to present recommendations this evening.

23 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Tim Stowe,
24 followed by C. Lee Lintecum.

25 MR. TIM STOWE: Good evening. My name is Tim

1 Stowe and I serve as the town engineer for the Town of
2 Stephens City. And I appreciate the last two speakers
3 making my introduction for me. We're located adjacent to
4 Interstate 81 at Exit 307 and Stephens City was built with
5 the benefits of the interstate since it was built in the
6 1960's. And we have a few observations that we think are
7 important to the process. Traffic congestion has become
8 very severe in Stephens City as a result of traffic
9 seeking to get onto and off of Exit 307 for I-81. We see
10 traffic backed up to the point where it often sets through
11 multiple cycles at the traffic signals with intersections
12 being blocked as people attempt to squeak through to avoid
13 setting through another cycle. It's not uncommon to see
14 road rage demonstrated as drivers become frustrated when
15 they can see the interchange but they just can't get to it
16 because of congestion. We believe we can do a whole lot
17 better. And, secondly, safety has always been a top
18 priority with VDOT and led to ongoing improvement efforts
19 on 81. We certainly appreciate that. We in Stephens City
20 are equally committed to safety, but we encounter
21 congestion so severe at Exit 307 that it makes conditions
22 on Main Street unsafe for our pedestrians to walk across
23 the street to patronize our businesses in town.
24 Additionally we have our fire and rescue company there
25 half a mile from Exit 307 and they're concerned about the

1 response time associated with these emergency vehicles the
2 fact that congestion exists. And, thirdly, Stephens City
3 has been on the forefront of suggesting that the
4 interchange be shifted and the department has adopted
5 those suggestions through various studies that have been
6 completed over the last fifteen to eighteen years. The
7 MPO has also, as was mentioned previously, adopted the
8 relocation of Exit 307 and that's continued in the long
9 range plan that the MPO has in place. So we're moving
10 forward on a town basis with our development partners in
11 town to secure rights-of-way for our bypass and to connect
12 to the interchange and to seek construction dollars,
13 developer construction of the bypass that would connect to
14 the interchange. I'm here tonight to ask for your
15 assistance with the interchange as we move forward with
16 this project. With that I will conclude my comments and
17 be glad to give you a copy. Thank you for your time.

18 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Thank you. C. Lee
19 Lintecum, to be followed by Dennis Coffman.

20 MR. C. LEE LINTECUM: Thank you for the
21 opportunity to speak to you. The reason I'm here is
22 because Butch sent me an email and said I'd better be
23 here. I'm from Louisa County. I'm the county
24 administrator. We have one project that we've been
25 working on for years and have a commercial center located

1 at Zions Crossroads, which I believe is Exit 136 on 64,
2 and it's all coming together now. Evidently we picked a
3 good spot because it's coming together now. And that
4 opens up other challenges to us such that we're not sure
5 that the interchange can handle it. One of the things
6 that we know is people will be getting off the interstate
7 so it will be backed up. We've took the step of putting
8 some local money in. We're asking developers to also put
9 money in so that we can expedite the project and hopefully
10 persuade the transportation board to help us with some
11 funding on those improvements. That's critical because
12 the developers and the county want that commercial center
13 to open and traffic will be blocking from 64. The other
14 priority that I would mention which has been a priority
15 for years is a safety improvement to 208 before you get to
16 the bridge that goes over to Spotsylvania County. That
17 was actually in the plan at one time. Public hearings
18 were held, designs were approved and of course the funding
19 went out. And the last thing I would like to do is speak
20 for the Town of Louisa and the Town of Mineral. They are
21 very much connected by Route 22 and that road needs some
22 improvements both in the town and out of the town. And
23 they've formed a committee so you will be hearing from
24 them in the future, but I did want to bring that to your
25 attention as we go forward. Like I said, the most impact

1 that we need now is at Zions Crossroads.

2 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Thank you very
3 much. Dennis Coffman, to be followed by John Staelin.

4 MR. DENNIS COFFMAN: Thank you for allowing
5 me the opportunity to address you. My name is Dennis
6 Coffman, and I'm the director of facilities, training and
7 development for Rockingham Memorial Hospital. And my
8 responsibility is to oversee the construction of the new
9 hospital and then once that's constructed to actually
10 physically locate our operations to that site. As Mr.
11 Paxton alluded to, we want to thank you for showing the
12 full funding for Port Republic Road in your current plan.
13 We think that's a very important project. And we're also
14 working with some local entities there in conjunction with
15 us where that proposed Stone Spring extension would go
16 across to design that road and do funding of all parts.
17 So we would ask that you consider filling in the gaps
18 between that funding that we were able to do with private
19 entities and what that road would need to be at its
20 completion. One thing we would ask, while we're very
21 appreciative of the money funding for Port Republic Road,
22 right now our hospital is scheduled to be open in June of
23 2010. The current project that you have it seems to us it
24 looks like the road construction would begin in 2010 and
25 take about two years so we would ask if you would consider

1 if any way possible to expedite that particular project so
2 that the road construction would not coincide necessarily
3 with the opening of the new hospital. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Thank you very
5 much. John Staelin, to be followed by Kim Sandum.

6 MR. JOHN STAELIN: Hi. I'm John Staelin,
7 Chairman of the Clarke County Board of Supervisors. I
8 want to thank Jeff Lineberry, our resident engineer, for
9 his past support over the last few years and also
10 compliment VDOT for its efforts to better coordinate land
11 use planning and transportation plans. It's been long
12 overdue. We're certainly not there yet, but at least
13 we've taken some steps forward. I don't see Clarke County
14 listed in this document. We are a small county, only
15 14,000 citizens, but that doesn't mean we don't have
16 needs. We have two major or three major actually commuter
17 highways going through the county and we've also been a
18 big implementer of smart growth in Clarke County. I think
19 we're well known for that, which means that we have growth
20 around our towns. And we have some primary highways, Main
21 Street in Berryville which we're trying to put all the
22 growth into. Although we're not county growing very
23 quickly, our transportation needs in those key areas are
24 important to us. I'm going to turn this in. I'm not
25 going to read everything and go through it. Our

1 improvements are all transportation related and safety
2 related. I'll just highlight. For example, one of them,
3 the first one, is a small intersection. I mean you're
4 talking about millions and billions of dollars and this
5 one is much smaller. It's a small, little area. It is
6 one intersection, Senseny Road, which is 657, and 340.
7 It's been on the list for ten years. There have been
8 since the year 2000 seventeen accidents, eight people
9 injured, \$90,000.00 worth of property damage. And if
10 you're looking for bits of rubber to make tires from just
11 look at the pavement there, it is covered and constantly
12 lots of skidmarks. Westwood Road intersection with
13 business 7 is the site of four schools. Again we're
14 trying to have schools where people can walk and we've put
15 in a bike path and we're trying to reduce traffic, but we
16 still have a major intersection there without a light and
17 it needs turn lanes to have a light. It's a real mess and
18 it's becoming a backlog and causing a lot of problems.
19 And the third one, another on a commuter highway, another
20 intersection with a secondary road where there have been
21 eight accidents with injuries in a very small amount of
22 time. So those are the kinds of things we're looking for.
23 And if there are any funds available we certainly hope you
24 will think about us.

25 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Thank you very

1 much.

2 MR. JOHN STAELIN: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Kim Sandum.

4 Sandum. Sandum. My apologies.

5 MS. KIM SANDUM: That's all right.

6 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Followed by David
7 Beyeler.

8 MS. KIM SANDUM: My name is Kim Sandum, and
9 I'm speaking for Community Alliance For Preservation in
10 Rockingham County. It's a citizens group that was formed
11 about eight years ago over concern related to a bypass
12 around Harrisonburg. There has been a long history and
13 extensive community discussions over that issue. And so I
14 wanted to say first of all that I was glad to see the
15 Southeast Connector option listed in your Six-Year Plan
16 that is supported by the community as well as lots of--the
17 new hospital as you've heard, from JMU, et cetera. So
18 thank you for that. But related to that Interstate 81 in
19 Harrisonburg calls for a bypass. The final environmental
20 impact statement proposes two potential new bypasses, one
21 of which is around Harrisonburg. Federal agencies
22 commenting on the draft environmental impact statement
23 have noted that VDOT has failed to evaluate or study the
24 impact on resources from these new bypasses. The study
25 area is only defined for I believe a foot wide outside the

1 right-of-way. Minor notations about these projects in the
2 DEIS and FEIS the public has been kept largely unaware of
3 these proposals or their impacts and in recent years there
4 has been extensive public outcry against the proposals for
5 Harrisonburg bypasses. The Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO as
6 they evaluated priorities has rejected a bypass in favor
7 of the Southeast Connector and east-west traffic solutions
8 so it's disturbing to find a bypass showing back up in the
9 I-81 plans. It doesn't seem to have support from the
10 local community and we haven't had the information to
11 evaluate the impacts it will have on our county and the
12 City of Harrisonburg. And related to that is concern that
13 Harrisonburg and Rockingham is split into two of the
14 sections of independent utility which doesn't make sense
15 for our area to divide a community into two pieces and
16 study one with Winchester and another with Staunton.
17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Thank you. David
19 Beyerly of Augusta County.

20 MR. DAVID BEYELER: Beyeler.

21 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Beyeler, Excuse
22 me. To be followed by Edgar Yancey.

23 MR. DAVID BEYELER: Commissioner, gentlemen.
24 We appreciate you being here tonight. I'm David Beyeler
25 from Augusta County. I know your job is not easy. There

1 is never enough funds to go around. Serving on the board
2 of supervisors we know that. But Augusta County has
3 always put fully funded revenue sharing. We put money in
4 rural rustic roads, we put that money up front. And we
5 are, and I'm a little hesitant to say this, but we are the
6 leading county in that. I think we was the first. We
7 also are beginning to use infrastructure money to build
8 roads. This is totally county funds. We're also using
9 tax increment financing to build roads, we're getting
10 proffers, but we still don't have enough as you gentlemen
11 know. Now, we've heard about another hospital, and
12 Rockingham needs another hospital. But at Exit 91 and I-
13 64 is our number one priority. We have a hospital there
14 and that is the main exit to the hospital. The largest
15 community, Staunton, Waynesboro, Stuarts Draft and
16 Fishersville basically use that exit. That is our highest
17 traffic count per lane at that intersection in the county
18 and it's a bottleneck. The traffic count is 16,000 and
19 most of that is in a four hour period. We just completed
20 our comprehensive plan. 12,000 of the 16,000 growth is
21 going to be in or near that area so this is something
22 that's not going to go away. It's an area that we want to
23 develop, but we need help there to improve that
24 intersection. Now, there are other items in there and you
25 all can read, we have other needs, but thank you gentlemen

1 for what you do. And we look forward to getting a little
2 more money. Let me say one other thing. We have been in
3 a transition in Augusta County and in that area. And
4 Kenny Robertson, as most of you know, is leaving Augusta
5 County. I'm not asking you to replace him. Just give us
6 someone just as good.

7 COMMISSIONER DAVID EKERN: We'll do our
8 best. Edgar Yancey, to be followed by Bob--sorry, I'm
9 going to pass up your name. B-O-I-S-T-U-R-E.

10 MR. EDGAR YANCEY: Good evening, sir. I'm
11 Edgar Yancey from Rockingham County. I live on the north
12 end of Indian Trail Road. We need a few improvements I
13 think and that's why I'm here to bring it to your
14 attention. I'm a mile from the north end of it and south
15 of me about a mile and a half we've got a two lane asphalt
16 road and it runs into a dirt road which ain't much
17 different than it was in the horse and buggy days. We're
18 getting a lot of people that travel these back country
19 roads. I'm a farmer and we run into the problem that
20 basically a dually truck with a cattle trailer behind it,
21 they'll pull out almost halfway out of the way and they
22 expect you to either run up over the bank or run in the
23 ditch. A lot of times I'll back up to some of these wider
24 places. There's place that two vehicles cannot pass on
25 that section of road through there. Yet I'll say a mile

1 and a half up the road we've got a two lane asphalt road
2 with a yellow line in front of it. I just thought I'd
3 come and bring it to your attention. We'd like to have
4 just a little bit, not a whole lot, but just a little
5 improvement to try to widen that out so the traffic can
6 get through. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER DAVID EKERN: Thank you, sir.
8 Bob . . .

9 MR. BOB BOISTURE: Boisture.

10 COMMISSIONER DAVID EKERN: I apologize for
11 that. To be followed by John Hutchinson.

12 MR. BOB BOISTURE: Thank you very much for
13 the chance. Bob Boisture of the New Market area. I am
14 deeply in love with the beauty of this part of the
15 Shenandoah Valley. I just wanted to offer a long-term
16 perspective. I would hope that as you all consider this
17 whole range of issues related to I-81 you would give
18 serious consideration to some of the options that have
19 been put forward to divert truck traffic through
20 intermodal rail or other options. I've watched the truck
21 traffic grow over the last twenty-five years. I don't
22 think we could ever build roads fast enough to keep up
23 with that growth if we don't take advantage of some of
24 these other options for long-haul freight. So not a
25 specific comment on a project. I know you all have given

1 that serious thought and I just really affirm that and
2 hope you will continue to do that. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Thank you. John
4 Hutchinson, to be followed by Douglas Stanley.

5 MR. JOHN HUTCHINSON: Good evening. My name
6 is John Hutchinson. I'm from Staunton and I'm here on
7 behalf of the Shenandoah Valley Network, which is a
8 network of citizens groups from Rockingham County, Page
9 County, Frederick County, Harrisonburg, Augusta County and
10 Shenandoah County. We would like to express our
11 dissatisfaction with the environmental impact statement
12 for I-81 with the tolling that it is going to be dependent
13 on with the expansion of 69% of the interstate to four
14 lanes and construction of a bypass around Harrisonburg
15 that will go through the agricultural reserve area of the
16 county and through the Cross Keys Civil War Battlefield.
17 The way it will block any future multi-state rail
18 alternatives to shift truck traffic off the highway and
19 the way you all are pursuing negotiations with STAR that
20 don't include competitive bidding. We hope that you all
21 will reconsider this and re-open the EIS and make the plan
22 more to the liking of the 80% of the citizens who
23 participated in the comment period and asked for a
24 different kind of plan. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Mr. Stanley, to be

1 followed by Raymond Wallinger. I'm sorry, Rosemary. This
2 is not a good night for me.

3 MR. DOUG STANLEY: Mr. Ekern, Mr. Davies,
4 Commissioner Ekern, VDOT staff members. Good evening and
5 greetings from Warren County, Virginia. I'm Doug Stanley,
6 county administrator. I appreciate the opportunity to
7 address you this evening. If you notice the smile on my
8 face it's because I drove past the new North Fork bridge
9 that's under construction and I want to thank you very
10 much for getting that project funded and moving forward on
11 time and on budget. In front of you you have a copy of
12 Warren County's list of interstate and primary highway
13 project needs. The Warren County Board of Supervisors
14 asks that VDOT consider the following future highway
15 projects starting on page 2 as funding becomes available.
16 First, establish construction engineering funding, acquire
17 necessary right-of-way and facilitate the construction of
18 required turn lanes and signals at the proposed relocation
19 of the intersection at Route 658 and Rockland Road and 627
20 and Reliance Road. The relocation of this intersection is
21 currently planned in the county's secondary six-year plan.
22 The intersection lies in the middle of the county's
23 growing commercial and industrial corridor and has seen
24 growth in traffic from about 9,000 vehicles a day in 1995
25 to over 20,000 currently. The need for these improvements

1 has further been exacerbated by the shifting of truck
2 traffic off of Route 17 and 50 and onto I-66, Route 340
3 and 522. In order to complete this project in a timely
4 manner VDOT primary funds will be needed to secure
5 necessary right-of-way and make some improvements along
6 that primary section. Secondly, improvement of a three
7 mile stretch of Route 55 East from Front Royal to the
8 Linden interchange with I-66 to a divided four lane
9 highway. The project was identified as a priority in the
10 Front Royal Art Transportation Study which was completed
11 in 2000 in coordination with VDOT and was unanimously
12 approved by the board of supervisors on February 15th of
13 2000. The road is the county's major commuter route for
14 thousands of workers traveling to Northern Virginia to
15 work each day via I-66. It has an average daily traffic
16 county of over 10,000 vehicles per day. The third project
17 is consideration of an interchange at Route 66 and Route
18 606. Warren County and Front Royal are currently served
19 by two interstate interchanges. A third interchange as
20 proposed which would serve as an eastern entrance to the
21 Town of Front Royal. Fourth, make safety improvements to
22 bring Route 340 South from 619 to 607 up to present
23 geometric design standards by protecting the scenic
24 attributes of the roadway as growth continues and traffic
25 over 340 south of Front Royal and Page continues to

1 increase. And also, number five, provide additional
2 parking spaces at the county's two existing park and ride
3 facilities both at Route 340/522 which currently has 238
4 spaces and at Linden which has 130 spaces or construct
5 additional park and ride lot to meet the growing demand.
6 Many of the new residents moving to Warren County and
7 surrounding jurisdictions between the Northern Virginia
8 area is putting a further crunch on existing spaces. I'd
9 also like you to look at the installation of turn lanes
10 and a traffic signal at the intersection of Route 55East
11 and Route 638. A number of existing and proposed homes
12 along Route 638 is continuing to generate increased
13 traffic utilizing this intersection. And, lastly,
14 establish engineering funding for the Route 340/522 South
15 Fork of the Shenandoah River bridge. The bridge carries
16 over 25,000 vehicles per day and will need to be upgraded
17 in the near future once the North Fork bridge is
18 completed. Thank you for your time and consideration of
19 our interstate and primary transportation needs. I'd also
20 like to take the opportunity to thank Jeff Lineberry and
21 his staff of the Luray Residency for their dedicated
22 service to the citizens of Warren County. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Thank you very
24 much. Our last registered speaker is Rosemary Wallinger.

25 MS. ROSEMARY WALLINGER: Thank you for the

1 opportunity to speak. My name is Rosemary Wallinger and
2 I'm here to speak on behalf of Shenandoah Forum, a group
3 of citizens in Shenandoah County focused on issues of
4 growth and development. We work collaboratively within
5 our community to address ways of seeking solutions to the
6 demands of growth and development. I'm not going to go
7 through this, but I am going to turn it in. We are
8 deeply, deeply disappointed in this newest proposal.
9 Please understand I mean no disrespect. Those of us who
10 raise our voices and sound a little terse usually do so
11 because we're nervous. But one of the key components of
12 constructive collaborative work is listening. As a
13 mediator we open channels for speaking and for listening
14 and we always say it is critical that you demonstrate that
15 you hear as much as it is critical that you say what you
16 feel you need to say. This plan, particularly in regard
17 to the impact it will have on Shenandoah County, has I
18 respectfully say gives no indication that the things we
19 killed ourselves to get out and say last year. We have
20 busy lives like you do. We have families. I have an
21 eighty-seven year old mother. I have a ninety-three year
22 old mother-in-law and a ninety-seven year old father-in-
23 law and we are busy and we take time, as you do, to come
24 to these hearings to say things that we believe are
25 critically important. And we do not believe this

1 proposal, that you heard any of it with the exception of a
2 truck flyover in this county. The impact of what you
3 propose now is the same. This county is thirty-six miles
4 long. The interstate runs the length of it. We are
5 primarily agricultural. Our agricultural lands lie along
6 this highway. There has to be a more reasonable solution.
7 And for all the reasons here stated we urge you, please,
8 this time give us some indication that you truly do hear
9 the concerns we're expressing as respectfully as we know
10 how to attempt to express. And thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: That response of
12 Ms. Wallinger was our last registered speaker. I'll make
13 the call for any speakers from the audience who would like
14 to come forward.

15 MR. GARRETT MOORE: If we could ask just
16 before you leave if we could get your name and address so
17 we have a record.

18 MR. J. W. MYERS: Yes, sir. Mr.
19 Commissioner, I'm J. W. Myers. I'm speaking on behalf of
20 M & N Real Estate, LLC. We're a private landowner in
21 Rockingham County. We will be one of the landowners most
22 impacted by the Port Road widening at the proposed SE
23 Connector. We ask that VDOT and the county officials be
24 mindful when talk turns to the future potential values of
25 the property taken for these projects, that that brings to

1 us--I mean it's not just the fair market value of the
2 property today but what that property could be worth in
3 the very near future. That both VDOT and the county
4 officials be mindful that they're seeking a party to work
5 with them in a willing, collaborative and cooperative
6 manner on these projects to the common good. That VDOT
7 and the county be mindful of our needs as well and be as
8 forthcoming and cooperative as possible to the adverse
9 impact of the landowner on issues such as zoning and road
10 access, specifically to the property not taken for these
11 projects. In that manner any of the land that we might
12 not own that is not taken for these road projects can then
13 be used to the maximum extent possible and retain as much
14 value as possible. And, finally, while there has been
15 mention earlier tonight of the intimate ongoing
16 relationships that have been developed between RMH and the
17 private developers, we have no objection to that to the
18 extent it reduces the taxpayer burden. Be mindful of the
19 individual taxpayers as well that are affected by these
20 projects. Don't forget that we have hopes, dreams and
21 aspirations as well. And go the extra mile to keep us
22 informed of your plans on an ongoing basis so that we too
23 in a real time manner can make the plans for our land as
24 well. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER DAVE EKERN: Is there anyone

1 else from the audience that would like to take the
2 opportunity to put something on the record? If not I want
3 to thank everyone for coming this evening. These pieces
4 of information from the five public meetings that have
5 been held throughout the state will be used as part of the
6 record for consideration as CTB reaches its final adoption
7 of the program. With that thank you very much for coming
8 this evening. We really appreciate it.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the hearing on the 2008 - 2013 Six-Year Plan of the Staunton District of Virginia Department of Transportation held at the Quality Inn in New Market, Virginia, on May 31, 2007.

The foregoing was recorded by the undersigned and is certified to be a true and correct transcript according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand this 6th day of June, 2007, at Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Barbara Brown
Court Reporter