



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.
Chairman

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Agenda Item #13

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

February 18, 2015

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Rosen, Seconded By: Mr. Williams

Action: Motion Carried

Title: Revised Location Approval, Section IIIB – US Route 121 in Buchanan County

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2000 the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved the proposed location of the US Route 121 formerly known as the Coalfields Expressway from Route 23 (at Pound), to the West Virginia State line, in Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise Counties (State Project R000-961-101, PE-100) identified as Alternative F1 and comprised of segments from the build alternatives studies in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) including segments 159, 118a, 160a, 153a, 158, 108a, 161a, 154, 115, 214, 205, 206, 207, 238a, 303a, and 302; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the CTB's approval of Alternative F1 and consistent with FHWA's Record of Decision, VDOT and FHWA identified sections of independent utility to facilitate incremental implementation of the roadway; and

WHEREAS, since 2004 the CTB has considered and approved changes to sections of Alternative F1; and

WHEREAS, Section IIIB of US Route 121 corresponds with segments 303, 238, 237, and a portion of segment 302 of Alternative F1 and was identified as from Route 614 at the east end of the Hawks Nest Section to Route 643 at the west end of the Rockhouse Section in Buchanan County ; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the statutes of the Commonwealth of Virginia and

policies of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, a Location Public Hearing was held on September 23, 2014 at the Riverview Elementary School in Buchanan County for the purpose of considering proposed modifications to the approved location for Section IIIB of US Route 121; and

WHEREAS, proper notice was given in advance, and all those present were given a full opportunity to express their opinions and recommendations regarding the proposed modification as presented, and their statements being duly recorded; and

WHEREAS, the economic, social, and environmental effects of the proposed modification have been examined and given proper consideration and this evidence, along with all other, has been carefully reviewed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the location of Section IIIB of US Route 121 limited to the 4.1 mile portion of the proposed alignment that overlaps Corridor Q of the Appalachian Highway System is approved as presented at the public hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the location of the remaining portion of Section IIIB of US Route 121 outside of the Corridor Q overlap area remains as original approved by the CTB on August 17, 2000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the approved location for Section IIIB of the US Route 121 is designated as a Limited Access Highway as proposed and presented at the public hearing in accordance with the statutes of Virginia and in accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board Policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the interest of public safety, pedestrian, persons riding bicycles or mopeds, horse drawn vehicles, self-propelled machinery or equipment, and animals led, ridden or driven on the hoof are prohibited from using Section IIIB of the US Route 121 in Buchanan County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VDOT, working in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, will ensure that all appropriate steps are adopted to minimize, to the extent possible, the potential adverse environmental and public health impacts, including but not limited to water quality impacts and erosion, of any coal mining, removal, or associated activities, that occur within the right of way of Section IIIB of US 121.

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