

Minutes
for the
September 28, 2020 Meeting
of the
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization
Virtual (Online) Meeting
at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees

Lee Vogler, City of Danville
Brian Dunevant, City of Danville
Doug Plachcinski, City of Danville
Chris Winstead, VDOT
James Buckner, City of Danville
Rick Youngblood, VDOT
David Cook, VDOT
Taylor Jenkins, DRPT
David Hoback, Danville MPO Administrator
Michael Armbrister, Danville MPO Staff
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff

1. Call to Order

Mr. Vogler called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the August 20, 2020 Meeting

Mr. Winstead asked for a minor revision to the August 20, 2020 minutes, noting that, rather than the minutes containing language stating that rumble strips would be installed on secondary roads such as Mount Cross Road, the language would instead state that assessments would take place over the next six months to consider rumble strips for high-volume secondary roads such as Mount Cross Road. The revision was acknowledged by MPO staff, and a motion was made by Mr. Buckner, which was seconded by Mr. Dunevant to accept the August 20, 2020 MPO Minutes to include the revision suggested by Mr. Winstead. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

3. Adopt MPO Title VI Policy Update

Mr. Hoback stated that the MPO Board discussed the Title VI plan during the August 20th MPO meeting; he added that the plan was responsible for setting policy to address issues of environmental justice, and to reach out to populations whose English proficiency was limited, as well as to those individuals with disabilities. He noted that the MPO needed to have policies in place to reach out to and provide accommodations for disadvantaged and underserved populations so that those groups were aware of planning initiatives engaged in by the MPO and would be able to offer comments. He added that he believed the previous Title VI plan had been adopted in 2012, and since that time, the MPO had undergone numerous board, staff, and committee changes, which would need to be reflected in the updated plan. He stated that since the August 20th meeting, a public comment period had been advertised and initiated, had been posted on the MPO website, and outreach had been conducted to agencies and organizations representing underserved groups, but he stated that no comments had been received. He concluded by stating the MPO staff recommendation was for the Policy Board to adopt the updated MPO Title VI Plan. Mr. Dunevant made a motion to adopt the updated Danville MPO Title VI Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Buckner. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

4. Consideration of New Transportation Study Projects

Mr. Hoback stated that a discussion of new transportation studies to consider for 2021 had taken place at the August 20th meeting, and that the Long Range Plan update as well as the Route 58 West Access Management Study had been completed; he added that it was time to consider a new study. He stated that the previous week, an MPO project team meeting took place to discuss potential projects for next year, and he named the attendees. He added that several projects which were included in the MPO Work Plan were discussed, he named the projects, and noted that they all had merit. He stated, however, that preference shifted to a study of the Piney Forest Road corridor, which had been discussed previously. Regarding project limits, he mentioned that suggestions were put forth to study the corridor from its intersection with North Main Street south to Holt Garrison Parkway, Central Boulevard, and Collins Drive. He stated that the corridor had exhibited some accident history and had a high potential for safety improvements (PSI), and he added that crash "hot spots" included intersections with Nor-Dan Drive and Franklin Turnpike, and that a recent fatality had taken place at Ash Street.

Mr. Youngblood stated that part of the basis for considering this project was the current VTrans update, which would hold Smart Scale applicants to a different standard in terms of new corridor projects. He added that the Piney Forest Road corridor offered the best approach for multimodal transportation potential, safety improvements, linkages to other portions of the

transportation network that had recently been studied and would help to establish a complete MPO network. He added that this corridor had been studied some time ago, but studies had a certain life expectancy. Since that time, he noted, Smart Scale became a new funding paradigm, and transportation innovations such as alternative intersections had been embraced. He added that the MPO would have to consider a multimodal approach that would best serve both Danville and Pittsylvania County. He further added that this corridor functioned as an alternate route. Mr. Dunevant concurred with Mr. Youngblood, adding that there had been about five fatalities along that corridor in recent years, with different circumstances involved with each, and he noted the team should explore to improvement possibilities. He added that there was potential for future casino traffic to use that corridor, which would add further value to a study of that corridor. Mr. Bonanno stated that discussion at the MPO project team meeting included the possibility of adding a section of Piedmont Drive to the study, to which Mr. Youngblood acknowledged. Mr. Hoback stated that the expanse of the corridor was quite large and clarified that he was asking the Board to allow the MPO technical team to meet with the consultant, EPR, to discuss the scope of the project. He added the possibility that the study could be protracted, involving more than one budget year, but he stated that that the study should be meaningful and impactful, as well as possibly generate good Smart Scale projects. Mr. Vogler asked if a motion was needed, to which Mr. Hoback replied that the motion would be to authorize the MPO to meet with the consultant to define a project scope to present to the Board. Mr. Dunevant made a motion to authorize the MPO to meet with the consultant, EPR, to define a project scope. The motion was seconded by Mr. Winstead and was subsequently voted on and approved unanimously.

5. Comments/Updates from VDOT/DRPT/FHWA

Mr. Winstead stated that he had no comments, except to articulate his appreciation for the collaboration on MPO initiatives. Mr. Cook stated that VDOT was in the process of project validation for Smart Scale applications, and that the deadline for that process would be October 31st. He briefly discussed aspects of the applications he was reviewing, and noted he was working with applicants to address issues that had arisen. He concluded by stating that project scoring would take place throughout the winter. Mr. Youngblood added that the Smart Scale process was very detail-oriented, and he expressed gratitude for the applicants addressing issues that came up during the validation process in a timely manner. He also noted that, for the next round of Smart Scale, applicants would be held to a higher standard regarding project selection and funding.

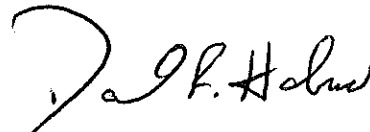
Ms. Jenkins stated that, effective September 7th, Amtrak resumed 80 percent of its pre-COVID schedule. She also stated that the appointment of DRPT members to the Governor's Board had taken place. Lastly, she noted that DRPT was working with CSX Railroad to double passenger rail service between Richmond and Washington, D.C.

6. Other Business

It was acknowledged that there was no other business.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Vogler adjourned the meeting.



David R. Hoback
Danville MPO Administrator