

Minutes
for the
November 15, 2017 Meeting
of the
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization
Danville Regional Airport Terminal Building, Eastern Conference Room
Airport Drive, Danville, VA
at 5:30 p.m.

Attendees

Ron Searce, Pittsylvania County, Chairman
Lee Vogler, City of Danville
Brian Dunevant, City of Danville
Fred Shanks, City of Danville
Marc Adelman, Danville Transit
Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County
Jessie Barksdale, Pittsylvania County
Chris Winstead, VDOT
Brian Bradner, Dewberry
Dave Hoback, Danville MPO Administrator
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff

1. Call to Order

Mr. Searce called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from September 13, 2017 MPO Meeting

Mr. Searce asked for a motion to approve the September 13, 2017 MPO Policy Board Meeting minutes, and Mr. Shanks made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Winstead. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

3. Administrative Amendment of FY 18-21 Danville MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to incorporate available state rail funding

Mr. Hoback explained that the MPO was considering an amendment to the FY 18-21 TIP to incorporate funds into the document that had recently become available for rail projects, to be utilized within the MPO area. He added that the amount to be added to the TIP was approximately \$1.1 million over the course of the document's effective dates. He noted that funding would be dedicated to improving safety at rail crossings. Mr. Winstead stated that with these funds, DRPT could conduct safety analyses/studies at railroad crossings to determine appropriate improvements; he noted that if the funds were not included in the TIP, they would not be invested. Mr. Shanks stated that a railroad track which would serve the Berry Hill Industrial Park crosses West Main Street, and is a connector to the Port of Virginia, and he stated that improvements to that crossing may be something to keep in mind. Mr. Hoback replied that this funding may be able to be used in furtherance of rail improvements at the Berry Hill Industrial Park and at the crossing at West Main Street which Mr. Shanks spoke of. Mr. Winstead noted that since this funding program had been in existence since 1987, fatalities at railroad crossings had decreased by 57 percent. Mr. Hoback asked that a motion be made to adopt Resolution 2017-7, and Mr. Shanks made a motion to adopt this amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Vogler. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

4. Update on Berry Hill Connector Road Study

Mr. Hoback stated that the MPO engaged Dewberry to update the Berry Hill Connector Road Study, and that the study was making good progress. He thanked Mr. Bradner for attending the meeting, and asked him to update the Board regarding the study. Mr. Bradner stated that all of the traffic counts had been collected, and the SYNCHRO model was in the process of being updated. He stated that he planned to participate in a conference call with Mr. Youngblood from VDOT to discuss various aspects of the study. Mr. Bradner stated that he anticipated that the study would be completed in January, if not earlier. He added that he did not believe the traffic counts were materially different than those compiled in 2010. Mr. Hoback stated that the MPO planned to utilize this study as a basis for a Smart Scale application in 2018 to apply for funding for a Berry Hill connector roadway. Mr. Adelman asked if the study addressed pull-out options for public transportation, to which Mr. Bradner replied that

he believed that would be an element to be considered, but that the main intent was to utilize the study for a Smart Scale application. Mr. Winstead stated that multimodalism would strengthen a Smart Scale application. Mr. Shanks asked if there was expected to be public transit service to the Berry Hill Industrial Park from Danville, to which Mr. Adelman replied that there would likely be some. Mr. Adelman added that since the development of the other industrial parks, Danville Transit's Reserve-a-Ride service had expanded significantly. Mr. Bonanno asked if including a park & ride lot as part of the study could be done, and he added that Franklin County's Smart Scale application for an access road into a new business park was awarded. Mr. Bradner replied that it would definitely be worth looking at. Mr. Bonanno later mentioned that combining a park & ride lot with a bus stop be a good form of multimodalism.

5. Comments/Updates from VDOT

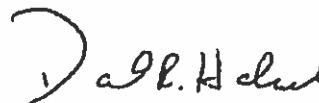
Mr. Winstead stated that VDOT was in the process of moving ahead with designs for the improvements for the intersection of Berry Hill Road and U.S. Route 58 Business. He noted that VDOT intended to move into the public hearing phase of this project next month, meaning that VDOT would have a willingness to conduct a public hearing, as a means to enable any property owners who have questions to get these questions addressed; he added that if there was a desire by area residents for a public hearing, one would take place. Mr. Winstead added that right-of-way acquisition was scheduled to take place in February of 2019, and the advertisement date for construction was moved up to March 2020. He concluded by stating the cost estimate still remained at about \$3.3 million.

6. Other Business

Mr. Hoback stated that the WPPDC, in conjunction with the MPO, had solicited proposals from consultants to serve in an on-call capacity, and that once the consultant was chosen, the organization would not have to go through the procurement process for future studies. He added that seven proposals had been received, that interviews would take place prior to the end of the month, and that any pertinent information would be brought to the Board's attention.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Searce adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.



David R. Hoback
Danville MPO Administrator