

Minutes

for the

April 20, 2016 Meeting

of the

Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization

Danville Regional Airport Terminal Building, Eastern Conference Room

Airport Drive, Danville, VA

at 6:35 p.m.

Attendees

Greg Sides, Pittsylvania County

Joe Davis, Pittsylvania County

Jesse Barksdale, Pittsylvania County

Kent Shelton, City of Danville

Brian Dunevant, City of Danville

Rick Youngblood, VDOT

Chris Winstead, VDOT

Dave Hoback, Danville MPO Administrator

Leah Manning, Danville MPO Staff

Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Hoback called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. Election of MPO Chairman & Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Hoback stated that under the MPO Bylaws, the MPO rotates the chairmanship between the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County. He opened the floor for the nomination of Chairman, stating that Fred Shanks was the Vice Chairman of the MPO. Mr. Dunevant nominated Mr. Shanks as Chairman, and Mr. Davis seconded this nomination. Mr. Hoback acknowledged a motion and a second for Mr. Shanks, upon a vote the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Hoback then asked for a nomination for MPO Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Barksdale nominated Mr. Ronald Scarce; the motion was seconded by Mr. Sides and following a vote was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the October 28, 2015 MPO Meeting.

Mr. Hoback asked for comments regarding the minutes from the October 28, 2015 MPO meeting. Mr. Barksdale made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Davis. Upon a vote the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of any additional agenda items.

It was acknowledged that there were no additional agenda items, although Mr. Winstead stated he had something to discuss but that he would discuss it under a later agenda item.

5. Consideration/Discussion of Draft FY 17 Unified Work Program for Danville-Pittsylvania MPO including identification of new corridor/intersection study projects.

Mr. Hoback opened a discussion about future transportation corridor/intersection studies and directed the Board's attention to the Draft 2017 Unified Work Program (UWP), and stated that he would like the Board to adopt the UWP at the May 2016 MPO meeting. He stated that the MPO had advertised requests for proposals twice for the FY 2016 projects, which included the intersection study of Mount Cross Road at Averett University's North Campus as well as a downtown Danville bicycle/pedestrian study, and had only received a response from one consultant. Mr. Hoback stated that the project management team, comprised of both city and county staff, would meet with the consultant to determine how the studies would proceed. Mr. Shelton asked if this consulting firm would be engaged with both projects, to which Mr. Hoback replied that it would.

Mr. Hoback stated that the budget in the 2017 UWP was \$188,073, of which federal sources accounted for 80 percent, state funding accounted for 10 percent, and local funding accounted for 10 percent. He stated that spending in the 2017 UWP was down about \$25,000 from the current FY 2016 UWP because of the completion of the 2040 update to the Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan, but he stated that approximately \$59,000 would be carried over from the current UWP to the FY 2017 UWP to fund the two MPO studies this year. He stated that about 60 percent of the funding would be dedicated to the two studies, and that the remaining 40 percent would fund administrative tasks which MPO staff would be responsible for executing. He stated that he would entertain any comments, suggestions, or ideas regarding the UWP going forward and stated that the UWP would not formally be acted on at this meeting, but that comments would be solicited.

At Mr. Hoback's direction, Mr. Bonanno presented the Board with four project possibilities for potential inclusion in the MPO's 2017 UWP. He stated that these four possibilities were identified in the 2040 MPO Long-Range Plan as high-frequency crash locations. The potential project areas he presented included the intersection of Mount Cross Road and Mill Creek Road, the intersection of Kentuck Road and Kentuck Church/Ringgold Church roads, the intersection of U.S. Route 58 and Charming Road, and U.S. Route 58 from Staton Drive to Ringgold Road. He articulated to the Board that both intersections including U.S. Route 58 and Charming Road and Mount Cross Road and Mill Creek Road were included as components in previous studies conducted by the MPO. Mr. Youngblood stated that the intersection of Kentuck Road and Kentuck Church/Ringgold Church roads was already an active project. Mr. Hoback stated that the purpose of the presentation was to begin the discussion of considering projects for the 2017 UWP. Mr. Barksdale asked Mr. Bonanno if he had looked at any intersections in the City of Danville for consideration; he said he had not, but that he would. Mr. Barksdale stated that one intersection that came to mind was Piney Forest Road and Franklin Turnpike. Mr. Sides stated that some of the intersections that Mr. Bonanno presented had improvement recommendations already associated with them. Mr. Winstead stated that some of the project cost estimates within the previous MPO studies Mr. Bonanno presented appeared low. Mr. Davis acknowledged the high accident rate along U.S. Route 58 east of the City of Danville and asked what the MPO's proposal would be to address the situation, to which Mr. Bonanno replied that access management strategies or median crossover closures could be possible solutions. Additional discussion took place. Mr. Youngblood stated that it would be valuable for some of the previous MPO studies to be reviewed as potential House Bill 2 (HB 2) submissions, and he also stated that he and his assistant, Mr. Cook, would be looking through data to identify other areas that would be worthy of study. He noted that it might be worthwhile to look at a past study and perhaps narrow that down to a particular intersection. Mr. Hoback suggested that the Board consider authorizing MPO staff to work with city and county staff and VDOT to amend the 2017 UWP and bring it back to the Board during the May meeting. Some discussion ensued, and Mr. Youngblood stated that it might be advantageous for new MPO Board members to look at summaries of past studies. Mr. Sides stated that Berry Hill is discussed a lot and the Berry Hill connector road was proposed, but that a corridor study for the connector road might be an idea, as this might be a more cost-effective option than an interchange. Some relevant discussion took place. Mr. Winstead stated that, with regard to how projects score within the HB 2 ranking process, the largest determinant of score has been cost, and he stated that development of the transportation system at the Berry Hill area should be done incrementally so as to be most cost-effective. Mr. Youngblood stated that there had been some approvals recently regarding the Berry Hill Industrial Park, most notably Army Corps of Engineers permitting, which would likely benefit HB 2 scoring for Berry Hill projects. Mr. Winstead stated that VDOT could share Highway Safety Improvement Projects (HSIP) with the MPO. Mr. Davis asked what VDOT was doing to be competitive, and Mr. Winstead briefly described the HB 2 ranking process to him. Some relevant discussion took place. Mr. Hoback stated that Danville MPO staff would compile data from previous MPO studies for Board members.

6. Review of 2015 HB 2 Projects submitted by Danville MPO, City of Danville & Pittsylvania County.

Mr. Hoback stated that a total of six projects were applied for via the HB 2 process by the City, County, and the MPO. He noted that three projects were recommended for funding which included Phase I of the Mount Cross Road project, the widening of Climax Road, and the Berry Hill intersection improvements. He stated that he believed those three projects would make it through the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and would ultimately be funded. He also stated that he and Mr. Bonanno recently took part in a CTB public hearing in Lynchburg to advocate on behalf of the Lynchburg District's transportation priorities within the jurisdiction of the West Piedmont Planning District. Mr. Winstead stated that he had attended a CTB meeting earlier in the day, and stated that the CTB approved the scenario which advances the recommended projects for funding, which adds up to \$85 million or \$86 million over the next five years, inclusive of District Grant and Statewide High Priority funding, for the Lynchburg District. He also stated that the CTB was likely to approve the Six-Year Improvement Program in June, which would contain those approved projects. Mr. Winstead also stated that, beginning July 1st, State of Good Repair funding, via House Bill 1887, would be available to localities that maintained their own transportation infrastructure, such as Danville. He stated that this funding would go above and beyond maintenance funding and would be intended to fund bridge repair or major pavement upgrades, and that VDOT would meet with localities in the near future to make them aware of this program.

Mr. Youngblood stated that the Routes 311 and 58 intersection study and the Mount Cross Road study were excellent examples of how relatively small investments resulted in millions of dollars of transportation projects in an area. Some discussion took place. Mr. Youngblood stated that the Lynchburg District was anticipating \$35.7 million in funding for HB 2 projects this year, but that figure increased to \$63 million, which enabled many of the District's

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projects to get funded; he stated that by contrast, next year, \$31.5 million is expected. He noted that the reason HB 2 submissions will take place every other year after 2016 is so that VDOT construction districts will be able to accrue a

larger pot of money. He stated the possibility of changes in performance measures for project scoring, and that once that data is finalized, regional workshops would be held to articulate the updates to localities and regional planning entities.

7. Follow-Up on MPO Title VI Civil Rights Review conducted by VDOT in 2015.

Mr. Hoback stated that in 2015, VDOT conducted a civil rights review of MPOs throughout the Commonwealth, and noted that in March 2016, the Danville MPO received official notification by VDOT that no findings of Title VI violations were found; however, some advisory comments were noted; he stated that some of those advisory comments had been addressed. He stated that two tasks that must be accomplished in the near future were updating the MPO's Title VI Plan as well as its Public Participation Plan, and he informed the Board that they would be notified about those items at a later time. Some discussion took place.

8. Other Business.

Mr. Barksdale stated that, with local project funding status being so positive for the area, Pittsylvania County valued its partnerships, especially through VDOT, and that no one entity would be able to accomplish such goals on its own. Mr. Youngblood stated that because of HB 2 scoring changes regarding the process' environmental aspect, the Tunstall Road intersection would no longer be funded. He stated that initial perception to a proposed roundabout at the intersection in 2014 was negative, but after the public participated in a presentation promoting various aspects of roundabouts, perception changed. He noted that public outreach would likely take place again regarding this project to reinforce beneficial aspects of roundabouts. Mr. Hoback thanked Mr. Youngblood and VDOT for their assistance with the HB 2 process, and some discussion took place.

9. Adjournment.

Mr. Hoback asked for a motion to adjourn, and a motion was made by Mr. Barksdale and was seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

David R. Hoback
Danville MPO Administrator