

Minutes
for the
August 20, 2020 Meeting
of the
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization
Virtual (Online) Meeting
at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees

James Buckner, City of Danville
Ken Gillie, City of Danville
Marc Adelman, City of Danville
Ron Scearce, Pittsylvania County
David Cook, VDOT (call-in)
Emily Ragsdale, Pittsylvania County
Chris Winstead, VDOT (call-in)
Taylor Jenkins, DRPT (call-in)
Chris Wichman, OIPI
Dave Hoback, Danville MPO Administrator
Michael Armbrister, Danville MPO Staff (call-in)
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff (call-in)

1. Call to Order

Mr. Scearce called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the July 22, 2020 MPO Meeting

Mr. Scearce asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2020 MPO meeting, to which Mr. Winstead made a motion, which seconded by Mr. Buckner.

3. Presentation of the completed 2045 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan: Will Cockrell, EPR

Mr. Scarse introduced this agenda item, and Mr. Hoback added that the Long Range Transportation Plan was a requirement of MPOs to adopt on a five-year basis to enable the MPO to remain legitimate, to enable proposed transportation projects to receive funding, and for prudence when looking out on the 20-year planning horizon. Mr. Cockrell stated that the process of updating the 2045 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan began in the spring of 2019, the State of the System – the first chapter – was presented during the fall of 2019, followed by the performance measures, which were adopted at the end of the year. Mr. Cockrell added that approximately 80 comments had been received from the public, he noted that a public open house had taken place in 2019, he thanked the VDOT Lynchburg District for its work with the MetroQuest survey, and he acknowledged a virtual town hall to gather public input, which took place on July 7th, 2020. Mr. Cockrell noted that the draft plan had been available to the public for review over the previous month, and he briefly summarized some of the administrative process undertaken to update the document.

Mr. Cockrell stated that this Long Range Transportation Plan was a unique document, and that every effort had been taken to identify every transportation recommendation from existing plans, studies, and reports that had been adopted over approximately the previous decade; he added that the EPR team worked with staff during the evaluation process. He noted that constrained projects had already received funding via Virginia's Six-Year Improvement Program, and that a division list of evaluated projects was also included in the plan, which, he noted, would serve as a tool to prepare projects for Smart Scale and other funding programs. He added that it was his hope that this plan would serve as a valuable tool for the MPO in preparation for future projects. Mr. Cockrell offered to take questions, and at this time he introduced other EPR team members.

4. Adopt 2045 Danville-Pittsylvania Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP): Resolution 2020-8

Mr. Scearce asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2020-8, to adopt the 2045 Danville-Pittsylvania Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Gillie made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-8, which was seconded by Mr. Buckner. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

5. Adopt 58 West Access Management Study: Resolution 2020-9

Mr. Hoback initiated discussion of this agenda item by acknowledging an extensive presentation about the 58 West Access Management Study delivered by Ms. Dimmick at a previous MPO Policy Board meeting. Mr. Hoback added that a 30-day public review process had taken place to enable public review of the document, and he noted that one public comment was received regarding the need for shoulders along the roadway. Mr. Hoback briefly summarized aspects of the study and noted that much of the median spacing along the corridor was found to be insufficient. He also noted that several segments of the corridor were

determined to be candidates for Potential for Safety Improvements (PSI) including U.S. Route 58 between James Road and Cambridge Drive, between Barrett Street and Ingram Road, and between Vandola Road and Parkway Drive. He added that there was a total of 426 crashes along the 11-mile corridor study area comprising a six-year period from 2013 to 2018, which included three fatal crashes. He further added that the greatest prevalence of crashes included rear-end and angle collisions. He noted that priority project recommendations that came out of the study included Restricted Crossing U-Turns (R-CUTs) at the intersections of U.S. Route 58 and James Road, Cambridge Drive, and Barrett Street. He stated that another recommendation was to examine the feasibility of reducing the speed limit of U.S. Route 58 between Barrett Street and Oak Lane. Mr. Gillie asked whether signal warrants were not met, to which Ms. Dimmick stated she believed that was correct, but she referred to Mr. Wuensch for further input. Mr. Wuensch stated that signal warrants could be met when lower thresholds were considered, but he noted that the R-CUT was the preferred recommendation from an engineering and safety standpoint. Mr. Scarce asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2020-9, and Mr. Buckner made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Gillie. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

6. Presentation/Update on VTRANS Statewide Transportation Plan, Chris Wichman

Mr. Wichman thanked the Board for allowing him to present VTrans updates, and he introduced himself. Mr. Wichman stated that a new endeavor the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) was engaged in prioritizing mid-term items adopted in 2019, and to articulate how these midterm needs would be able to inform future planning efforts. He further noted that the agency would be facilitating virtual workshops around the state this year in furtherance of that effort. He stated that the mid-term transportation needs were adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in January 2020, and he added that the most practical application of these needs was to screen projects into Smart Scale. He added that the CTB directed DRPT to prioritize those needs. He noted that there were many identified needs, but that OIPI would drill down and identify the needs of greatest priority for which to develop solutions. He noted that mid-term needs comprised a 7 – 10 year time frame, and that OIPI would look at the long-term needs next year. He added that the prioritized mid-term needs would be used to inform state-level planning and project development processes, develop policies pertaining to transportation programs and activities, and inform other functions of a programmatic or planning nature. Mr. Wichman briefly presented an over-arching approach to mid-term needs prioritization as well as subsequent actions. He then presented the planned process of mid-term need prioritization which would be initiated at the statewide level and then transition to the VDOT district level. The presentation then articulated that mid-term needs would be prioritized within various needs categories, followed by weighting and aggregation across those categories, and would be followed by the adjustment of priority locations based on influencing factors. A brief next steps mid-term needs timeline was then presented, and Mr. Wichman noted that the next step in the process would be the virtual workshops. He noted that the virtual workshops would take place on August 31st in the eastern part of the state and on September 1st in the western part of the state, and that a follow-up question and answer workshop was tentatively scheduled to take place on September 8th. Mr. Wichman stated that OIPI was in the process of developing some interactive functionality on the agency's website, thereby adding greater functionality to the embedded Interact VTrans mapping application to enable users to provide more specific as well as open-ended comments. He added that this enhanced functionality would be in place by the end of August or early September.

7. MPO Title VI Policy Update

Mr. Hoback stated that he reviewed and updated the MPO's Title VI policy, and he noted the importance of public outreach – particularly to underserved populations – as a prerequisite for receiving federal funds. He added that the revised plan would be sent to VDOT, DRPT, and the FHWA for review, would go through a 30-day public review process, and would be sent to various stakeholder groups in the MPO for their review. He concluded by adding that he planned ask the Board to approve the updated document at the next meeting of the MPO Policy Board.

8. Comments/Updates from VDOT/DRPT/FHWA

Mr. Winstead acknowledged a question Mr. Vogler had asked at a previous MPO meeting regarding rumble strips on roads in the area. He stated that he had done some research in this regard and learned that centerline and edge-line rumble strips had been implemented on primary roadways to the fullest extent possible. He added that exceptions included road surfaces deemed to be in fair condition, but that these roadways would be resurfaced. He noted that Mr. Vogler had asked about implementing rumble strips on Mount Cross Road, which, he noted, was a secondary road. He added that since primary roads had been retrofitted with this safety feature, VDOT could now begin assessments to consider rumble strips on certain high volume secondary roads such as Mount Cross Road and this assessment would likely begin over the next six months. He stated that evidence suggested rumble strips reduced head-on collisions and road departures over time, and he described the process involved with implementing them; he added that he would follow up with Mr. Vogler regarding this development. Mr. Cook thanked Mr. Bonanno and Ms. Ragsdale, of Pittsylvania County, for their work on the Smart Scale applications within the Lynchburg District. Ms. Jenkins, of DRPT, stated that the Virginia Breeze intercity bus service began operating in the region on

August 7th, and was operating at half capacity due to COVID-19. She added that

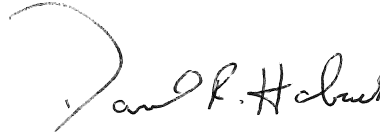
AMTRAK was planning to return to its pre-COVID schedule. Mr. Bonanno stated that he had recently been to the Martinsville stop of the Virginia Breeze and observed the bus stop in an area far from the shopping center itself. He added that he did not see signage indicating the presence of the bus, and that it would be easy for waiting passengers to miss the bus for those reasons. Ms. Jenkins replied that she would relay that message to the project manager. Mr. Hoback asked how the virtual public meeting on August 4th went regarding the Berry Hill connector road, to which Mr. Winstead replied that the meeting went well, that good information was received from the property owners, and that comments were in the process of being compiled. He added that VDOT intended to work with Pittsylvania County about any potential adjustments to the alignment that may come about as a result of the public meeting. He commended Ms. Raina Rosado, VDOT's project manager, on the good work she had done with regard to organizing that meeting and sending property owners print copies of the road design. He concluded by stating the public meeting session could be found on the VDOT website, and he noted that there was a website for the connector road project.

9. Other Business

Mr. Hoback acknowledged the adoption of the Route 58 West Access Management Study as well as the 2045 Danville-Pittsylvania Long Range Transportation Plan, and noted the importance for the Board to be thinking about the next set of projects the MPO would need to begin working on. He added that several candidate projects identified in the work plan included the U.S. Route 58 East corridor in Danville and Pittsylvania County, the Piedmont Drive corridor, the terminus of the old Memorial Boulevard corridor study out to the U.S. Route 29 bypass, and the railroad crossing on West Main Street. He encouraged the Board members to think about these four possibilities over the following month or two, and he added that he would convene a MPO technical team meeting for the purpose of considering candidate projects and offer a recommendation to the Policy Board.

10. Adjourn

With a motion by Mr. Winstead, seconded by Mr. Gillie and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.



David R. Hoback
Danville MPO Administrator