

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2018

Call to Order:

Doug Morgan called the Transportation Committee to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was confirmed.

Members Present

Tim McLaughlin (Chancellor Supervisor), Greg Benson (Livingston Supervisor), Gary Skinner (Lee Hill Representative), Robert Fogg (Battlefield District Representative), David Ross (Cortland District Representative), Greg Bell (Lee Hill District Representative), Lorita Davis (Salem District Representative)

Others Present

Rick Spurlock (VDOT), Kyle Bates (VDOT), Dan Cole (staff), Doug Morgan (staff), Bonnie Jewell (Staff)

Previous Meeting Minutes

There was a brief discussion concerning improvements to the Orange Plank / Brock Road intersection. There are issues at that location with the National Park Service. Mr. Ross noted; *“that the County had a previous agreement with the Park Service, and that traffic back-ups were a problem there.”*

The roundabout at Old Plank Road & Chancellor Road was also discussed. Doug Morgan indicated that he has put together an agreement and brought the issue to the County Attorney for an opinion. He noted that VDOT approval is still needed. Kyle Bates inquired about the timeline. He asked that VDOT be informed ASAP. It was noted that, *“no federal funds would be used to complete the roundabout.”*

Doug Morgan also reported that Dovey Road has been moved up on the *“Unpaved Roads Priority Road List”*. The item was brought to the Board of Supervisors and approved.

The minutes were approved 7-0 upon a motion from Mr. Benton and seconded by Mr. Ross.

Public Comment

None

Reports of Projects and/or Activities

Update on Smart Scale Applications

Doug Morgan reported that Smart Scale applications have been completed and submitted to VDOT. The four projects submitted by the County include US-1 at Route 208 / Lafayette Blvd., Route 2/17 – Northern Portion, Germanna Point / Spotsylvania Avenue Connector Road and Harrison Road/Salem Church Road intersection improvement.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Doug Morgan informed the Committee about Planning Department work on updating the Comprehensive Plan. He mentioned changes to “Transportation Policies and Strategies” that he had initiated specially the addition of a 6th policy – *“Prioritized Transportation Projects for Consistent Implementation and Clear Direction for Development Patterns”*. The policy was based on a project prioritization list developed and approved by the Transportation Committee last year. Mr. Skinner wanted to know how the list was prioritized. Staff reported that projects were ranked based on six categories (Congestion, Safety, Environment, Public Support, Implementation, and Smart Growth) but they could be reordered. The prioritized list contained three categories; 1) funded projects, 2) funding pending, and 3) unfunded projects. Bonnie Jewell recommended that the *“funded projects”* category be changed to, *“funded or in the CIP”* and noted that funding in the CIP is for FY2019.. Mr. Benton noted that under the *“funding pending”* category the Smart Scale Project – Harrison Road & Salem Church Road was not listed. He also wanted to add two projects – Lawyers Road from Jones Powell to Stubbs Bridge Road and Courthouse Road from Spotsylvania High School to Massey Road. He indicated that, *“Lawyers Road was too narrow”* and that *“originally Courthouse Road was identified to be widened as part of the Lake Anna Parkway project”*. Richard Spurlock confirmed saying, *“it was a funding issue but was part of the original design”*. Doug Morgan said, *“The Comprehensive Plan work session with the Board of Supervisors is scheduled September 11th but would include only the Policy but not the project listing. The listing will be made available on the (Planning Department) website”*. Staff agreed to revise and send out the list in advance of the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Skinner to move Policy 6 to the BOS and seconded by Mr. Benton. The motion was approved 7-0.

Harrison Road Interchange (Future Exit 128)

The Harrison Road interchange was discussed including work done by FAMPO on the I-95 Study Phase II results. Two low cost design options have been suggested by FAMPO – a Diverging Diamond interchange and a Single Point (Urban) Interchange. VDOT noted other Single Point Interchanges in Virginia including one in Springfield. Dan Cole mentioned that, *“a Single Point Interchange has capacity limitations”*. FAMPO did provide a cost estimate on a Single Point Interchange in their report. The Committee felt that the cost was too high and could be built for less money. Staff also had issues with the benefit cost analysis completed by FAMPO. These issues were brought up during the FAMPO Technical Committee meeting. Of particular concern was the use of a FAMPO cost estimate for the Exit 128 Interchange while the other two estimates were done by VDOT. FAMPO has since indicated that it may be feasible to conduct simultaneous IJR’s for two interchanges, 128 and 131. The overall cost could be less expensive if done together. Mr. Ross said; *“he thought the Michael Baker Study cost \$500,000. He mentioned that right-of-way would not be expensive (this comparative was the Route 131 interchange would be less because of the donation of all RoW) compared to right-of way cost around the proposed Exit 131 Interchange. Hazelwilde may be very agreeable to selling the County right-of-way.”* The Committee agreed that the Harrison Road widening was the real issue preventing a successful outcome from FHWA on the Exit 128 Interchange. Doug Morgan said, *“Staff is continuing to pursue the option of including Exit 128 with FAMPO’s IJR and further to apply for Smart Scale funding during the next application period and other piece-meal options either through Revenue Sharing or future Smart Scale applications to meet the goal of getting an interchange built at Harrison Road”*.

New Business

Coordination Between Spotsylvania County and VDOT

Doug Morgan mentioned a conversation with Marcie Parker concerning coordination between VDOT and the County. Ms. Parker felt the situation could be improved if the County had a single contact person. Several Board members did not feel this type of arrangement would work citing that most go through the County Administrator or contact VDOT directly at the BOS meeting. Mr. Benton noted that VDOT is not present at all BOS meetings and thought it would be useful if VDOT had a representative at all of these meetings. The conclusion was that all BOS members agreed that information would be coordinated through County Staff whenever VDOT was contacted directly and cc the County Staff on emails.

Mine Road

Mr. Skinner inquired if VDOT could do something to improve signal coordination on Mine Road. He cited back-ups at Courthouse Road and Jefferson Davis Highway. Mr. Bates noted that these two intersections were parts of two coordinated traffic signal systems and Mine Road was the cross street but he would look into improving the timing.

Bloomsbury Road

The County has added this road to the "*Rural Addition List*". Mr. Bates indicated he has added this road to the paving schedule for next year. The County had \$600,000 in the FY 19 CIP for this addition. However, VDOT's cost estimate has returned with a total of \$150,000. Doug Morgan is working to get the formal acceptance along with the VDOT/County agreement. This will free up \$450,000 from the CIP. Doug Morgan indicated; "he would like the Transportation Committee recommend transfer of these leftover funds to the finalization of Spotsylvania Parkway and Hospital Boulevard. This would be coordinated through Finance (Bonnie Jewell) and brought to the BOS for a vote. Mr. Ross asked if this required a vote, and made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Benton. Motion passed.

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13th, 2018.

Adjourn:

Doug Morgan adjourned the meeting 7:30 pm.