



**Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission**
POB 1505, 401 E. Water St, Charlottesville, VA 22902 www.tjpd.org
(434) 979-7310 phone • (434) 979-1597 fax • info@tjpd.org email

CHART Advisory Committee Meeting
March 5th, 2008 Minutes

Present

Members

Stephen Bach
Stan Binsted
Bobby Burke
Marc Evans
Cal Morris
John Pfaltz, Vice Chair
Linda Seaman

Representing

MPO, Bicycling
County At-Large, Small Business
MPO, Pedestrian
MPO
County, Planning Commission
City At-Large
City At-Large

Not Attending:

James Burton City At-Large
Jim Currie, Chair County At-Large, Environment
Jay Gauldin MPO

Staff:

Melissa Barlow TJPDC
John Giometti VDOT
Ann Whitham TJPDC

Matters from the Public

There were no matters from the public.

Approval of the Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Seaman, the February 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

VDOT's Unifying the System Investment Process (USIP)

Mr. Giometti introduced the USIP and VDOT's goal of streamlining the process of creating the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and local Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). The USIP proposes that projects in both the STIP and local TIPs be grouped as line items by project type. Virginia is one of only three states in the country that manages primary, secondary and interstate roads, which creates a heavy burden on VDOT staff who manage the STIP and TIPs.

The grouping process assigns obligations to projects as one line item with one dollar figure, while still listing significant projects (those requiring an Environmental Impact Analysis or Environmental Assessment) individually. Mr. Giometti noted that the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) uses a similar model; for example not listing individual buses and

shelters, but instead grouping them as capital expenditures. Ms. Barlow added that the TIP appendix still provides project detail, but that the STIP going to the Federal Highway Administration would be the line item version. Additionally, the MPO would not have to host a public hearing for each amendment to the TIP for grouped projects.

Mr. Giometti noted the MPO Policy Board's concerns about having a say in the process of deciding which projects will be grouped versus listed individually. He noted that VDOT has assured the MPOs that they will have the opportunity to have input into which projects are grouped. He also emphasized that the new process will not allow funds to be shifted to different projects or projects outside the MPO area. He explained that the TIP is a budgeting and planning document and that decisions about expenditures are not made until a project is added to a local Six Year Plan.

Mr. Pfaltz suggested that VDOT provide the MPO Policy Board with a written statement resolving the MPO's concerns. Mr. Giometti agreed and stated that this letter would be provided to the MPO Policy Board at the March public hearing.

Mr. Pfaltz asked Ms. Barlow to convey their general support of the USIP as well as acknowledging Mr. Rue's concerns. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Bach asked if one project in a group could not be moved forward at a particular time, whether a locality would have the first opportunity to use the funds on another project in the same group, or would the funding it become available statewide? Mr. Giometti confirmed that VDOT would first try to use the funds in the same locality, then the same region, and then statewide if no local or regional projects were ready.

Mr. Pfaltz thanked Mr. Giometti for the presentation and explanation.

UnJAM 2035 Public Process Update

MPO staff provided the Committee with two draft documents to be used during the public participation process for UnJAM 2045. Ms. Barlow introduced the draft online survey questions for the UnJAM.org website and the QuickPick Form to the Committee. She requested comments and feedback on both documents.

Mr. Evans indicated that he has several edits that he will share with staff. Mr. Bach provided comments as well.

Mr. Giometti noted that instead of talking about "new roads" it should be increased road capacity in addition to new roads. He would also like to see question options about operational improvements and a more robust freight question.

Ms. Barlow encouraged Committee members to provide her with additional comments by email. MPO staff will bring final documents to the Committee at the April 2008 meeting.

Bike and Pedestrian Projects Inventory:

Ms. Whitham introduced the Project Inventory to the Committee, explaining that the Community Mobility Committee developed this list of projects during early FY08. The inventory lists projects contained in local and regional bike and pedestrian plans, as well as information about project type, location and status. Ms. Whitham explained that the Inventory will be passed on to

the MPO Technical Committee at their March 2008 meeting for review, and requested feedback from CHART about how the inventory and accompanying maps could be used at the UnJAM 2035 Regional Summit.

Mr. Pfaltz suggested using the document as a type of sales pitch at the Summit to showcase the MPO's recent work and how the MPO is tracking previously identified projects. He also suggested using it during discussions about safety improvements.

Mr. Morris added that the Inventory is a useful tool for encouraging residents to think about their own neighborhoods—whether the sidewalks are connected? Are they easy to walk on? He suggested a “Let's not draw new lines on the map, let's talk about what you really want to get built” approach.

Mr. Bach thanked staff for the inventory but noted nearly all the County projects are only proposed and he wants to find a way to change this.

Other Business

Old Lynchburg Road: Mr. Pfaltz informed the Committee of the City's neighborhood improvement plans for Old Lynchburg Road. The City has two concepts for the road that include possible pedestrian and cyclist facilities, but no continuous bike lane along its length in the study area. He would like the Committee to recommend that the final design have a complete bike lane. He requested that Tony Edwards, the City engineer, come and present the plans for the corridor improvements. Ms. Whitham suggested that this would be an appropriate topic for the Community Mobility Committee to discuss and encouraged Mr. Pfaltz to attend the meeting.

Ms. Seaman added that she had heard discussion of an alternative bike route within the Old Lynchburg Road corridor as a solution to the design and engineering concerns along Old Lynchburg Road itself.

Matters from the Public:

There were no additional matters from the public.

The meeting was adjourned.