

Memorandum

To: Rural Technical Committee
From: Melissa Barlow, Director of Transportation Programs
Date: September 16, 2008
Re: Rural Program Restructuring

The Rural Transportation Planning Program is a forum for cooperative transportation planning and education for the rural jurisdictions of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. The rural program is coordinated with the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to ensure continuity between urban and rural transportation programs. Staff of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission convene and staff meetings of the Rural Policy Group and Technical Committee.

The Scope of Work for the Rural Program is adopted each year by the Policy Group, composed of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commissioners. The Policy Group should also review the work of the Technical Committee, establish policy and direct activities. In an effort to more effectively involve the Rural Policy Group (the Planning District Commission) in the vision-setting, projects and activities of the Rural Technical Committee, TJPDC staff recommend the following:

- Appoint a Rural Tech Liaison to attend the Commissioners' meeting each quarter
 - Listen and observe
 - Provide quarterly report of RT's projects and activities
 - Seek input on project direction and outcomes
- All rural projects will be brought to the Rural Tech Committee for consideration and feedback
- Roundtable topics will focus more on project development, not just for education's sake alone. Projects/topics for consideration:
 - VDOT road classifications and regional corridors
 - Rural transit systems and their link to MPO's Regional Transit Authority
 - Funding Options and opportunities
 - Transportation and land use link
 - Economic Development
 - Tourism
 - Increasing population, as well as aging population

Other ideas, input and feedback from the Committee is welcome.