

Rural Planning Update

UnJAM 2035 and Rural Long Range Plan



Thomas Jefferson
Planning District Commission

To: TJPDC Commission, VDOT Staff and Parsons Transportation

From: TJPDC Transportation Team

Date: June 2009

RE: Update and overview of work needed for rural sections of UnJAM 2035 and State's Rural Long Range Plan



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Kick Off

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District is now kicking off work on the rural portions of UnJAM 2035. This work will correspond with continued efforts on the Rural Long Range Plan (RLRP). While these are separate projects and processes, the two are related and aim to achieve the same goal, to identify and help meet the transportation needs of the region's rural communities. To complete these projects, the work and meeting schedule are rigorous, requiring significant time, coordination and resources. The following will provide an overview of the RLRP and rural portions of UnJAM. While establishing an outline of the work and meeting schedule, this will also define the roles of the TJPDC, VDOT, VDOT's consultants (Parsons Transportation) and the Rural Technical Committee as we move forward with these projects.

What's going on?

In May, the MPO Policy Board approved the urban portion of the UnJAM 2035 plan. As with the previous version of this plan, which was approved in 2004, UnJAM views the urban and rural transportation network as one integrated system. While the current draft does incorporate rural and urban transportation topics, the main focus is the City of Charlottesville and the urbanized area of Albemarle County. The MPO approved the current plan to meet federal deadlines and requirements, which allowed the area to be eligible for certain funding sources. Since the rural areas lack federal mandates, focused study for the rural portions of UnJAM was slated to begin at a later date. Beginning this month, TJPDC Staff is concentrating efforts on the rural segments of UnJAM 2035.

There is a tight schedule for completing the UnJAM document, which the Planning District Commission must approve by December in order to make this a 2009 Plan. To meet this deadline, the Rural Technical Committee must approve the plan at its November meeting.

TJPDC is also seeking resolutions of endorsement from all five County Planning Commissions and Governing Boards, beginning in October. This leaves much of the public outreach and development of the plan for this summer.

What is an MPO?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization is a federally-mandated planning jurisdiction, specifically created to facilitate transportation planning. A state is required to designate MPOs around urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000. For the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization all of its final transportation plans are approved by the MPO Policy Board. The Board's voting members include two representatives from Albemarle County, two representatives from the City of Charlottesville, and a representative from VDOT.



What is the MPO part of UnJAM 2035?

While UnJAM 2035 is a regional planning document, it also meets federal requirements for our urbanized area. Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to adopt a fiscally-constrained list of long-range transportation projects. This is reviewed by both the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration, which forecasts expected sources of funding over the life of the plan to complete needed transportation projects. UnJAM 2035 incorporates this project list into a more detailed and robust regional plan.

The process for drafting the rural sections will coincide with the RLRP process, though that plan will be completed sometime next year. While these are separate plans, there is a relationship between the two documents. The RLRP will pull goals, objectives and information from UnJAM and that process. Conversely, the UnJAM plan will make use of the roadway information and recommendations from consultant, Parsons Transportation, in the process of developing a list of rural transportation projects.

Rural Technical Committee Role

With the simultaneous assembling of the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRP) and the rural portions of UnJAM 2035, TJPDC staff will need to rely on the Rural Technical Committee for the creation, presentation, and completion of both of these documents. Most of the Rural Tech meetings from now until December 2009 will at least consider if not completely center on the RLRP and the rural portions on UnJAM 2035.

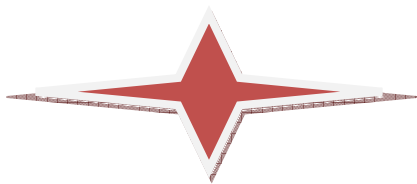
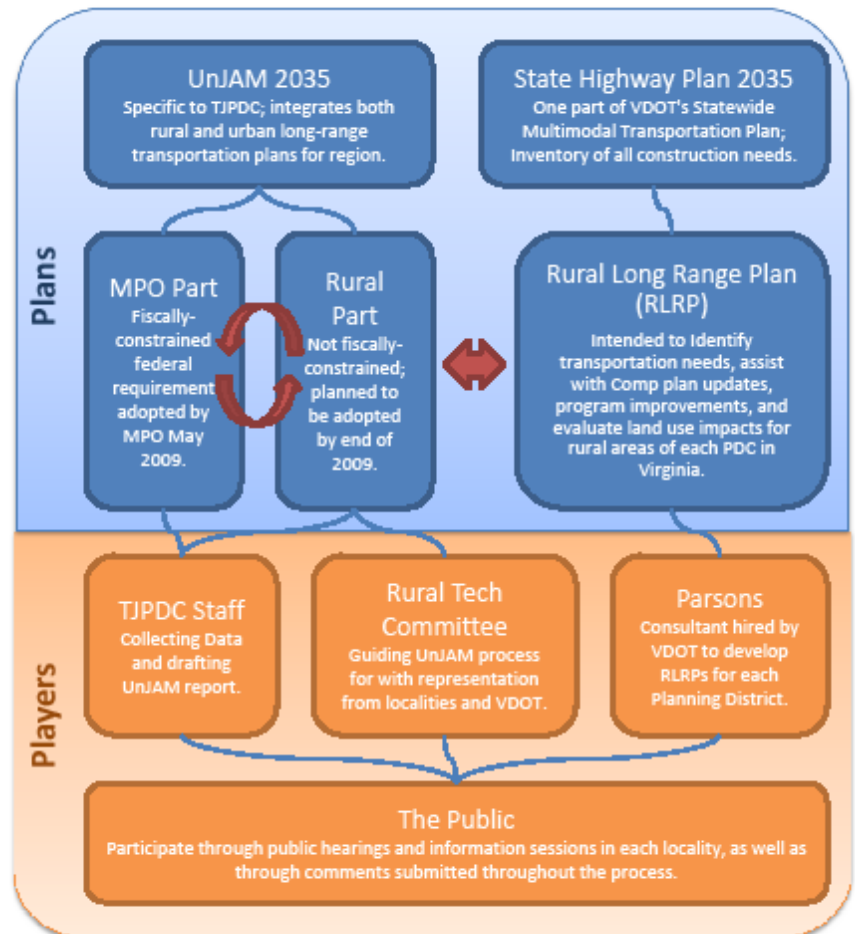
The Rural Tech will assist in this planning process by...

- Providing a prioritized list of roadway projects within their respective localities.
- Sharing other local transportation concerns (bike and pedestrian, transit, etc...).
- Helping to determine the best "Public Events" for TJPDC staff to present on UnJAM 2035 and the RLRP. These events will also be used to collect public input about the RLRP and the UnJAM 2035 rural portions.
- Helping to determine the best locations to leave "UnJAM Ad Postcards."
- Helping the TJPDC to set the best Meeting Schedule for endorsement of the UnJAM 2035 document from Planning Commissions and Board of Supervisors.

What is the RLRP?

A Rural Long Range Plan must be developed for 20 of the 23 Planning Districts in Virginia. It establishes the rural transportation needs and opportunities of a region assessed according to goals derived from the local community. A primary function of the RLRP is to coordinate State and regional transportation priorities to ensure that future resources are allocated accordingly.

Diagram of Plans and Players Involved



Meeting Schedule

June 23, 2009

Rural Technical Committee discusses timeline and tasks for Rural Long Range Plan and UnJAM. Committee members are asked to provide priorities on road projects and confirm six-year programs. Committee reviews UnJAM website and post cards, providing comments.

July 9, 2009

TJPDC holds booth at Nelson County Health Fair.

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The Tasks Ahead

The following are tasks that must be completed for the RLRP and UnJAM projects.

Compilation of Detailed Study Locations

VDOT's consultant, Parsons Transportation Group, is creating a detailed list of roadway corridors and intersections that will provide data and recommendations for both the RLRP and UnJAM documents. This is critical information that will be the foundation for the rural project lists in these plans. This project list will be compiled from two distinct processes. The first process focuses on compiling and studying roadways and intersections that have not been previously studied. This will

July 28, 2009

Rural Technical Committee meets to review road priorities and receive update on planning process. Parsons Transportation provides presentation on detailed study areas and RLRP.

July 28 – August 2, 2009

TJPDC holds booth at Albemarle County Fair.

August 4 – August 8, 2009

TJPDC holds booth at Greene County Fair.

August 25, 2009

Rural Technical Committee meets to review public outreach and meeting schedule. Committee reviews initial draft of rural UnJAM.

September 5, 2009

TJPDC holds booth at Louisa County Air Show.

September 22, 2009

Rural Technical Committee meets to review public outreach and meeting schedule. Committee reviews initial draft of rural UnJAM.

September 23, 2009 – 7:30pm

Nelson County Planning Commission considers endorsement of UnJAM.
(PC Regular meetings on fourth Wednesday)

October 1, 2009

Staff presents a brief overview of RLRP and UnJAM to the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.

October 3, 2009

TJPDC holds booth at Fluvanna County Old Farm Day.

October 6, 2009 – 6pm

Albemarle County Planning Commission considers endorsement of UnJAM, with rural sections.
(PC Regular meetings on Tuesdays)

October 8, 2009 – 7pm

Louisa County Planning Commission considers endorsement of UnJAM.
(PC Regular meetings on second Thursday)

October 21, 2009 – 7:30pm

Greene County Planning Commission considers

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involve collecting and analyzing data for these roadways and intersections. The second process focuses on reviewing roadways and intersections that have been studied. Information for this process was provided by the Planning District and VDOT. The projects from both of these areas will be compiled into one master list of rural planning projects.

Assignments:

- VDOT to supply Parsons with any additional studies and roadway information
- Parsons to provide analysis and recommendations on Detailed Study Locations to the Rural Technical Committee for review

Deadline: June 2009

Current Six-Year Plans

TJPDC Staff will work with the Rural Technical Committee members to confirm the existing six-year plans for programmed road improvements in each locality. This information will primarily feed into the UnJAM document.

Deadline: June/July 2009

Verify Community Priorities

TJPDC Staff will work with the Rural Technical Committee members to verify the long range transportation priorities in each locality. These priorities will be included in both the RLRP and UnJAM documents.

Deadline: June/early July 2009

Amend UnJAM Website

Staff will draft changes to the UnJAM website, to receive comments regarding the rural topics of the plan. The Rural Technical Committee will review these amendments and recommend any changes.

Deadline: June/early July 2009

Confirm a Preliminary Meeting Schedule

TJPDC Staff will work with the Rural Technical Committee to confirm a preliminary meeting schedule and identify opportunities for public outreach. The Committee members will act as contacts for local Planning Commissions and Governing Boards for the meeting schedule.

Deadline: June – November 2009

endorsement of UnJAM.

(PC Regular meetings on third Wednesday)

October 27, 2009

Rural Technical Committee reviews draft of UnJAM for recommendation of approval.

October 28, 2009 – 7:30pm

Fluvanna County Planning Commission considers endorsement of UnJAM.

(PC Regular meetings on fourth Wednesday)

November 2, 2009 – 5pm

Louisa County Board of Supervisors considers endorsement of UnJAM.

(Board Regular meetings on first and third Monday)

November 4, 2009 – 5pm

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors considers endorsement of UnJAM.

(Board Regular meetings on first and second Wednesday)

November 5, 2009

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission holds public hearing to discuss final draft of UnJAM document.

November 10, 2009 – 7:30pm

Nelson County Board of Supervisors considers endorsement of UnJAM.

(Board Regular meetings on second Tuesday)

November 18, 2009 – 7:30pm

Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors considers endorsement of UnJAM.

(Board Regular meetings on first and third Wednesday)

November 24, 2009

Rural Technical Committee reviews final draft of UnJAM for approval.

November 24, 2009 – 7:30pm

Greene County Board of Supervisors considers endorsement of UnJAM.

(Board Regular meetings on second and fourth Tuesday)

December 3, 2009

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission adopts completed UnJAM 2035

Create post cards, to be distributed to various locations

TJPDC Staff will draft post cards that communicate important information, summarizing UnJAM, referring the public to the UnJAM website, and providing a public participation event schedule. Staff will work with the Rural Technical Committee on creating these materials, with the Committee members acting as contacts for distribution in the localities.

Deadline: June/July 2009

Review of UnJAM 2035 Document

TJPDC Staff will review the existing UnJAM 2035 document and identify areas that will be expanded for the rural portions. Staff will provide an overview of the existing plan to the Rural Technical Committee at the July meeting, highlighting the existing rural language and areas that will be expanded.

Deadline: June/July 2009

Review of UnJAM 2025 Document

TJPDC Staff will review the rural sections of the UnJAM 2025 document and determine what information or sections can be included in the update. Staff will take recommendations to the Rural Technical Committee for their consideration and approval.

Deadline: June/July 2009

Next Steps

An update of upcoming tasks will be provided each month

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