

THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Draft Minutes July 9, 2009

City of Charlottesville

David E. Brown
Jason Pearson, Treasurer

Albemarle County

Sally H. Thomas
Ann H. Mallek

Fluvanna County

Charles W. Allbaugh, Vice Chair
Chris Fairchild

Greene County

Carl Schmitt, Chair
Andrea Wilkinson

Louisa County

Richard Havasy
Jackson Wright

Nelson County

Fred Boger
Connie Brennan

Executive Director

Stephen Williams

Commissioners Present:

Jason Pearson – Charlottesville
Sally Thomas – Albemarle County
Ann Mallek – Albemarle County
Charles Allbaugh – Fluvanna County
Chris Fairchild – Fluvanna County
Carl Schmitt – Greene County
Andrea Wilkinson – Greene County
Jack Wright – Louisa County
Fred Boger – Nelson County
Connie Brennan – Nelson County

Commissioners Absent:

David Brown – Charlottesville
Richard Havasy—Louisa County

Guests Present:

Ed Bain, TJACH
Kara Pennella, Free Enterprise Forum
Catarina Krizanic

Staff Present:

Steve Williams, Executive Director
Billie Campbell, Chief Operating Officer
Rochelle Garwood, Sr. Planner, Env.
Melissa Barlow, Dir. Of Trans Pgms

Call to Order: TJPDC Chair Carl Schmitt called the meeting to order.

Matters from the Public: Ed Bain, Chair of the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH) Board thanked the Commission for their support and action on behalf of TJACH, including adoption of the Community Plan to End Homelessness and appointment of the Task Force and Board. A “meet and greet” for TJACH was held immediately prior to the Commission meeting, with some Commissioners attending. Carl told Ed that the Commission would like to be kept up to date on TJACH’s activities and noted that it was gratifying to see the new lead organization on homelessness come together.

Consent Agenda: Minutes: **On a motion by Andrea Wilkinson, seconded by Ann Mallek, the Commission adopted the minutes of the June 4, 2009 meeting as submitted**, with Jason Pearson, Charles Allbaugh and Chris Fairchild abstaining. **IGRs:** Additional information on two IGRs (FY10-03 and FY10-04) and one more local IGR (FY10-07 on Nelson County Service Authority’s application for Rural Development funds) and a State IGR (FY10-08 Proposed Amendments to Virginia Stormwater Regulations) were handed out at the meeting. For FY10-02, EIR for the James River Water Project, it was noted that no facility is yet in place. For FY10-03 on Reissuance of VPDES Permit for Fluvanna Middle School WTP, the additional information showed that the plant exceeded biochemical oxygen demand standards 13 times from January 2001 to February 2009, and total suspended solids standards six times. Charles noted that there is overcrowding at the school, with trailers in place. Rochelle responded that the flow is well below the permitted limit. Charles indicated that he would like to have a plat of the school site. The Commission did not object to the reissuance of the permit, but does want to be advised of corrective action. For FY10-07, NCSA requested a letter of support from TJPDC for their project, and the

Commission agreed to provide one. For FY10-08, Steve Williams noted that he had heard some concern about the regulations. TJPDC proposes to have discussion with the Mayor and Chairs at their next meeting on Friday, July 17. The proposed amendments comprise 58 pages, with a 220-page agency background document. Carl recommended that a summary of the proposed regulatory changes be prepared for the Mayor and Chairs meeting. Comments are due August 21, 2009, so Steve proposed distributing the combined comments out to the Chief Administrative Officers and Commissions the first week of August for review. **On a motion by Andrea Wilkinson, seconded by Ann Mallek, the Commission approved the IGRs with letters as noted above, and a regional process for review and submission of comments on the proposed amendments to Stormwater Regulations.**

Commissioner Roundtable Discussion: Steve Williams led a discussion on the impacts of rapid growth, sharing observations on issues and solutions from his experiences in New England through a PowerPoint presentation. Southern New Hampshire experienced rapid growth in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. At that time, both land use and transportation planning were in their infancy in the region and many mistakes were made. During his seven-year tenure at the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, most of the focus was on cleaning up the results of those mistakes. Typically, outside influence triggers a period of rapid growth, with the rate of growth then settling down into a more steady state. Communities often struggle with a lack of consensus on community direction, policies that result in unintended consequences, failure to consider the interaction of transportation and zoning, no planning for fiscal sustainability and not balancing property owner desires with community interests. Communities can deal with rapid growth more effectively by taking the time to build consensus and sticking with it, developing a plan for paying for the transportation system, using a zoning code based on mixed uses, and establishing policies to protect open space, environmental resources and agriculture. The Commission felt that dealing with issues related to growth should be the focus of the strategic retreat. It may be useful to give this presentation to elected officials as part of an educational process on dealing with growth issues and developing the discipline to create a long-term plan and stick with it.

Topic for September: Business tax rates.

Amtrak Resolution: Meredith Richards presented information on the history of CvilleRail and the Piedmont Rail Coalition, which takes in the full rail corridor. Meredith distributed folders with a revised version of the Resolution of Endorsement included in the meeting packet, an informal and partial transcript of the Passenger Rail Update Staff Presentation from the April 2008 CTB meeting, schedules for the current runs from Lynchburg to Washington, the proposed Lynchburg Train Schedule and the approved Lynchburg Schedule, and an article titled "A New Train is Coming – But Is the Schedule Off- Track?" There is unreliability in current service in and out of Charlottesville due to the length of the trip and the impact of freight traffic. The Crescent, which runs daily from New Orleans to New York, is the biggest problem. Reservations from Charlottesville are limited in deference to longer travel. Passengers from Charlottesville need to make reservations weeks or even months ahead. The proposed schedule provides quick turnaround and is relatively inexpensive since it utilizes existing track and rolling stock. The approved schedule was the result of negotiation and is not business friendly, since it does not provide service during peak hours. The coalition is concerned that the potential market will not be tapped with the approved schedule, and if it is not successful there may not be another chance to try another schedule or approach. After discussion, the Commission asked that the deleted section in the revised resolution be left in: "Whereas, passenger rail carriers in the United States are confined to certain time "slots" made available by the host railroads, but the host CSX line between Manassas and Washington Union Station was not available for additional peak

hour slots serving the Lynchburg-DC train.” **On a motion by Charles Allbaugh, seconded by Andrea Wilkinson, the Commission approved the revised resolution as amended.**

THA Toolkit: Billie Campbell briefed the Commission on the Second Edition of the Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) Toolkit and the twelve planning projects carried out using the Toolkit over the past two years. The Toolkit is currently being printed. A mock copy was circulated among the Commissioners for their review. The Commission recommended pursuing presentation opportunities through VAPA, VACO and VML.

Land Use Legislation: Steve Williams reviewed the memo from David Blount, included in the meeting packet. There are two legislative initiatives of interest that David is currently following. One would replace cash proffers with impact fees for roads, schools and public safety facilities. The second would revise existing urban development area (UDA) provisions. Impact fees and proffers are hot button issues. The bill introduced last year did away with the proffer system in its entirety, proposing impact fees as the replacement, with a fee schedule that was not high enough to address the costs associated with development. Last year, after discussion in a workgroup and the full subcommittee, the decision was made to reject the impact fee bill draft and create new legislation from scratch. David will circulate the new legislation when it becomes available.

Broadband and Energy Initiative: Steve Williams briefed the Commission on the status of regional initiatives on broadband telecommunications and on energy, which are proposed to be funded through competitive grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). There are two pots of funding for energy initiatives: one as direct funding for the largest communities in the state, which in our region include Albemarle and Charlottesville. The other pot of money will be distributed through a competitive process. Approximately \$9.7 million is expected to be available for the competitive process among the remaining 295 localities, including the four rural counties in the TJPDC. For broadband, the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released on July 1 and includes a provision making private providers eligible to apply, which TJPDC had not anticipated. TJPDC will schedule a meeting with the counties to review the NOFA and establish a strategy for the regional application. A possible approach is to develop a partnership with a private vendor, with localities providing governance.

Strategic Planning Retreat: Steve Williams told the Commission that he and staff would be conducting a significant outreach process over the next few months to prepare for the November 12 strategic retreat. This will include seeking input from member governments, partner agencies, state agencies and funders, and other Virginia Planning District Commissions. Some discussion will be included on the TJPDC agendas for meetings leading up to the November retreat.

Other Business:

Property Sub-Committee: This group is pulling together information on lease provisions, purchase possibilities and extending our current lease for presentation and discussion at the September Commission meeting.

UnJAM Rural Process: A document was included in the meeting packet outlining the work needed for the rural sections on UnJAM 2035 and the State’s Rural Long Range Plan. This will be included as an agenda item for the September meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.