

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, April 28, 2011

(approved May 19, 2011)

1:30 p.m.

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Accomac, Virginia

A meeting of the A-NPDC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee was held at 1:30 p.m. on April 28, 2011 in the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission conference room in Accomac, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandra Benson, County of Northampton, Chair

Tom Bonadeo, Town of Cape Charles

Bob Johnson, Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel District, Vice-Chair

Kirk Miles, STAR Transit

Bill Neville, Town of Chincoteague

Barbara Schwenk (for Richard Tankard), A-NPDC, Secretary

Rob Testerman, County of Accomack

Kevin Thomas, VDOT Suffolk District

Larry Trala, A-N Transportation District Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cheryl Davis/Joe Bulin, ES Community Services board

Nancy Duncan, Accomack County Airport

Chester Hall, ESAAA/CAA

Abra Jacobs, Center for Independent Living

Larry LeMond, Bay Coast Railroad

Sandy Manter, Town of Onancock

Steve Rowan, VDOT

Ivan Rucker, FHWA

OTHERS:

None

1. Call to Order – Sandra Benson, Chair, opened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes – the minutes were approved as presented by a motion of Neville, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously.
3. Staff Report – Barbara Schwenk presented the staff report which consisted of the attendance record, a copy of the letter from David Tyeryar, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, on Corridors of Statewide Significance studies, and an article on cycle tourism from the new *Cycling Mobility* magazine. She also reported that the third quarter

## Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

progress and financial reports for the VDOT planning grant were completed and sent in April.

4. Unfinished Business – Review of the draft Accomack-Northampton PDC 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan.

The main comment for communication to VDOT and its consultant was that this study has taken so long to prepare that the data is no longer accurate. In particular, the 2010 Census data shows that our population fell – negating the statement about steady growth.

There is also no reference made to the work done to update the Bicycle Plan, and the traffic segments are old. Further study is needed to check the list of recommendations against the recommendations the Committee made to the consultant. Also, replacing the Chincoteague Bridge as a recommendation should be removed, as that is complete. Also, some of the place names used in the recommendations no longer exist, such as the Trawler Restaurant (now Sage Diner), Food Corporate Plaza (no one is sure what that is – page 15). We think this may be a reference to the former Food City, but the shopping plaza has had the Fresh Pride (not Food City) for many years now.

Members also objected to some negative language about the Eastern Shore. The suggestion was to check for negative comments and instead use positive language.

There were some recommendations made by the Committee that appear to be dropped, such as the roundabout in Cape Charles, and an at-grade crossing at the “Hump” in Cape Charles. In addition, there are new items that could impact the report such as the new High Speed Rail in America study (America 2050), and the new overlay transit corridor from NASA/Wallops Flight Facility main gate to the NASA/Wallops Island main gate that provides for freedom from overhead obstructions in order to facilitate transport of oversized loads between these locations.

The Committee questioned how much opportunity at this point there is for changing/editing the report to include the items above. The Committee also commented that they don’t believe they had adequate input to the report, especially in the time we had to review the recommendations list (one week). In addition, we have no idea how the deficiencies were evaluated, and it appears that there are no identified priorities, which we would definitely recommend. We had requested months ago that the consultant visit one of our meetings to explain the process, but that didn’t happen.

5. New Business – none
6. Public Participation – none
7. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by motion of Schwenk, seconded by Johnson, and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: May 19, 2011, 1:30 p.m. in the A-NPDC Conference Room.

