

**Urban Construction Initiative  
Tri-Annual Meeting Minutes  
Town of Blacksburg  
March 21, 2013**

The Urban Construction Initiative Tri-Annual Meeting was hosted by the Town of Blacksburg at Custom Catering on Patrick Henry Drive in Blacksburg. There were approximately 33 attendees.

**I. Welcome - Opening Remarks:**

**Brandon Steele**, Town of Blacksburg welcomed everyone to Blacksburg. He discussed the logistics for the day and introduced the Town of Blacksburg's Mayor, Ron Rordam. **Mayor Rordam** welcomed everyone to the Town and discussed the UCI program and how becoming a member municipality has benefited the Town tremendously. The Mayor discussed several projects that have been constructed under the program. **Russ Dudley**, VDOT Local Assistance Division, outlined the items on the agenda and plan for the day. He also thanked the Town for hosting the meeting.

**II. Business Items:**

**A. VDOT Update:**

**a. VDOT/ LAD Update:**

**Jennifer DeBruhl**, VDOT Local Assistance Division, discussed general items of interest for the group. The items discussed were as follows:

- **Urban Maintenance Budget:** The Budget will increase by approximately 3.1% which will be presented to the CTB in June. This does not mean that the payment to each locality will increase by the same amount since the budget is divided by the number of lane miles for each locality. This includes lane miles that were added throughout the year.
- **The Enhancement Program (now called Transportation Alternatives):** The changes under MAP 21 were discussed. Also presented were the funding, number of applications, and the schedule for new applications for this year.
- **FY14 Revenue Sharing Update:** She discussed the current funding level, number of applications, information that will be presented to the CTB.
- **Local Programs Workshop:** The plans for this year's Local Programs Workshop were outlined. The workshop will take place in central VA. This year's workshop will include two different project development tracks. An announcement and additional information will be following soon.

**b. 2013 GA Session Update:**

Ms. DeBruhl presented the 2013 General Assembly Legislative changes. Ms. DeBruhl outlined key legislative items that might be of interest to the group.

- **HB 2313: Potential Impact for Urban Construction:** The outline was what was presented to the CTB regarding funding for Construction. Also discussed was the possibility for funding that could go thru the Urban Formula which could be allocated in the out-years of the SYIP.

Additional information under this section can be found in Ms. DeBruhl's presentation. (See presentation in pdf labeled 'Jennifer\_March 21 3013\_UCI')

**B. Eminent Domain Constitutional Amendment:**

**Rick Walton, VDOT Chief of Policy and the Environment**, discussed the changes and new provisions set by the constitutional amendment effective after January 1<sup>st</sup>. The biggest change as a result of the amendment is the requirement of payment due to the loss profits to businesses impacted by transportation projects. This would be in addition to the damages paid for the property acquisition. The difficulty will be in determining what the dollar amount of loss profits would be due to the project versus due to other means (example would be a reduction in profits due to poor business practices). The loss profits would have to be determined at the time of RW negotiations which could be difficult. This new provisions will also impact access management decisions. (Additional information can be found under the pdf labeled 'Const Amend to Eminent Domain')

**C. UCI Workgroup Update:**

**Chris Swartz, City of Hampton** gave an update of the status of the 12 month goals that the UCI Workgroup currently have under development. He also discussed future considerations of the workgroup which include; developing a charter to define the roles and the workgroups mission, the possibility of a rotating membership for the workgroup, and the potential number of meetings of the workgroup and Tri-Annual meetings moving forward.

(See presentation in pdf labeled 'Workgroup\_Chris\_March 212013\_UCI')

**III. Town of Blacksburg Bus Tour and Lunch**

The Town of Blacksburg had the meeting participants board a bus and took the group on a tour of several projects that the town has finished, including a major roundabout in the center of Town. The Town also took the group to a project that was currently under construction. The tour gave the participants an opportunity to see several of the Town's projects completed under the UCI program. The tour lasted approximately 1 hour and was enjoyed by all.

**IV. Technical Items:**

**A. Compliance Reviews:**

**Russ Dudley**, VDOT Local Assistance Division outlined the Local Assistance Division Compliance Program. He discussed the three project level reviews/assessments that are currently underway. He also explained that FHWA has joined VDOT in the compliance assessment. Russ outlined how the projects were picked statewide and outlined some of the reviews findings.  
(See presentation in pdf labeled 'Russ\_March 21 2013\_UCI')

**B. Environmental:**

**Chip Ray**, VDOT's Central Office Environmental Division discussed NEPA, fiscal constraints and the post NEPA requirements on federally funded projects. He discussed how VDOT must demonstrate financial constraint on federally funded projects and how projects are programmed in the STIP and TIP. He also discussed the grouping of federally funded projects in these documents and the requirements associated with grouping. Chip also outlined the requirements to follow NEPA before, during and after construction.  
(See presentation in pdf labeled 'Chip\_March 21\_2-13\_UCI')

**C. Proprietary & Sole Source:**

**Lorenzo Casanova**, FHWA discussed the use of proprietary and sole source equipment and vendors. He described the definitions for both and the different requirements for a certification and/or a public interest finding (PIF). He also explained the eligibility requirements and gave examples of the types of procurements under each. There was a discussion of a 'blanket' approval for the procurement of proprietary equipment for synchronization (example: traffic control boxes). FHWA and VDOT currently do not allow this but agreed to research to see if this would be allowed in the future. Additional information will be shared with the group in subsequent meetings.  
(See presentation in pdf file labeled 'Lorenzo March 21 2013\_UCI')

**V. General Discussion/ Next Meeting Topic:**

**Todd Halacy**, VDOT's Local Assistance Division discussed the annual meeting tentatively scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We are currently looking for a location to hold the meeting and are opened for potential business and technical items for the next meeting.

**VI. Wrap Up/ Close:**

**Todd Halacy** closed the meeting with a special thank you to Brandon and the Town of Blacksburg for a terrific meeting, breakfast, lunch and tour of the Town. He also thanked all of the presenters on an outstanding job. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30pm.

*The next meeting will be held tentatively on July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Location TBD)*