



**Multimodal Advisory Committee
August 12, 2009
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Virginia Department of Transportation
Main Auditorium 1221 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia
Summary**

1. Welcome, Introductions and Updates

Dr. Mary Lynn Tischer told the committee that the Route 29 study is identifying some very interesting legislative recommendations, particularly relating to land use. Those recommendations will be available soon to be considered in the VTrans process. She also noted that the Statewide Freight study will soon be completed and will include freight recommendations.

Dr. Tischer commented that she did not feel that technology is showing up in any of the Policy Papers. She requested that the Mobility and Safety papers be revised to include technology. The VDOT Operations and Security Division (OSD) will work with the authors on these revisions. OSD is currently working with Transportation and Mobility Planning Division to incorporate operations projects in the Surface Transportation Plan. A number of other plans and reports should be considered:

- DRPT Statewide ITS plan
- VPA COOP
- I-95 HOT lanes strategy report

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Corridor strategy review

Mr. Chris Gay (VHB) reviewed the corridor strategies. A general comment was made to include the transit map of unserved areas in the report and include coordinated human response services. Corridor specific comments included the following:

I-66

- Add freight movement - talk about going west to Chicago from the Inland Port
- Have more succinct strategies and expound in text
- Consider expanding HOT lanes to I-66. Use wording such as "Consider value pricing options"

- Consider adding use of shoulders
- Should be 'extend' Metrorail – not 'expand'
- Add Dulles Loop to improve airport access

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I-95

- Need to talk about an interstate bypass around Washington DC
- Is the mention of a new north-south corridor in Northern Virginia too controversial?
- Include something on value pricing
- Transit options strategy (3rd bullet) is a subset of person-carrying capacity (1st bullet)

I-81

- Consider air taxi
- Strategies will look at more access to airports (rail, transit, highway) rather than more airports

I-64

- Talk about value pricing
- Should consider value pricing on the tunnels and accommodating rail and transit
- Airports have problems with secondary roads
- Rivers and limited access corridors are big impediments to bicyclists and pedestrians
- Need to consider planning for rises in sea levels due to climate change (changing construction practices)

I-77

- The Surface Transportation Plan is recommending truck climbing lanes on either side of Big Walker Mountain
- Consider recommending increasing capacity in the Big Walker Mountain tunnel through incident management

US Route 29

- Mention idea of Main Street versus interstate function
- Consider a legislative recommendation to use automated speed enforcement
- Could consider system-wide recommendations. Missouri Safety Plan has a recommendation for system-wide use of rumble strips and cable barriers among other strategies.
- Need reference to Route 50 as a parallel corridor when discussing both Route 29 and I-66

US Route 17

- The Northern Neck has a large retiree population that should be considered in strategies (Strategies were included to increase demand response services)
- Is there a problem with trucks getting through towns along the corridor?

US Route 460

- Safety is a big problem on this corridor
- Need strategy for evacuation
- Need to consider climate change and sea level rise

US Route 220

- Does the transit strategy include Park and Ride lots?
- There is the issue of local vs. through traffic

US Route 58

- Include evacuation route to functions

US Route 13

- Should consider historic preservation in strategies (Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel is an engineering wonder of the world)
- Consider the barge going from the Port of Virginia to Baltimore

It was also suggested that common strategies across the corridors should be discussed in the introduction to the corridors.

Secretary Homer would like to have the corridors renamed so they do not sound highway oriented. A matrix was distributed that included the corridor names as it they are now (by major highway number) and the names suggested in VTrans2025. The committee was asked to come up with new names, considering geography, history, function, etc. Suggestions are due back by September 4th.

4. Identification of Emerging Corridors

Secretary Homer has expressed interest in identifying 'emerging corridors' as an outcome of the Corridors of Statewide Significance analysis. This could also include 'areas of concern' where there is not a lot of planned investment but trends show the demand is or will be increasing. It was decided by the committee to include this issue in the Regional Accessibility chapter. Using the data in the Socioeconomic and Demographic Trends report written for VTrans2035 by the Research Council, areas that would qualify will be identified; follow-ups with the jurisdictions may be needed.

5. Review of September CTB meeting agenda

Ms. Linda Carpenter reviewed the agenda for the September 16th CTB meeting dedicated to VTrans. During this day long meeting, there will be presentations on the policy papers, the corridors of statewide significance, revenue outlook, investment adequacy, the Economic Impact of Transportation Investment Study and the key investment initiatives. A suggestion was made to include Regional Accessibility.

6. Initiatives discussion

Dr. Tischer distributed and reviewed a list of initiatives identified by Secretary Homer and the VTrans Oversight Committee. There were many questions and comments on the initiatives as they are now, most importantly that they are too broad and do not make a statement to Virginia's citizens on what focused investments the state intends to make to improve our transportation system. The list seems to promise everything. It was suggested to group them under fewer headings or themes. It was also suggested that some of the initiatives are key investments and some are policies.

Other initiatives were recommended:

- Advance technology and innovation
- Efficiency, sustainability and operations

The Oversight Committee will continue to refine the list of initiatives and they will be presented to the CTB at the September 16th VTrans workshop.

7. Future Outreach

Ms. Carpenter told the committee that the VTrans Summit had been cancelled and that the decision had been made to not repeat the meetings with the public in November. She did suggest that we have a second Regional Planning Forum that would include those who attended both the first Regional Planning Forum and the Stakeholder Listening Session. At that meeting, we could ask the MPOs and PDCs to help us with our outreach by taking information to their boards and stakeholders. We will provide them with materials for those meetings, perhaps in the form of a narrated powerpoint presentation.

Ms. Carpenter also suggested we have another Virtual Open House, send out e-notes and make presentations at various conferences.

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The next VTrans meeting is September 9, 2009 – VDOT Auditorium Conference Rm. 3

Also note the CTB meeting on September 16, 2009 – VDOT Auditorium

Attendees

Mary Lynn Tischer
Katherine Graham
Tom Biesiadny
Amy Inman
Brad Shelton
Chris Gay
Linda Carpenter
Kevin Farrelly
Mena Lockwood
Chris Detmer
Nick Alexandrow
Heather Mantz
Jim Lambert
Mike Lawrence (on phone)
Rusty Harrington
Hannah Twaddell
Jessica Haase
Ed Sundra