

**RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
March 7, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patricia S. O’Bannon, **Chairman**..... Henrico County
John H. Hodges, **Vice Chairman**..... Town of Ashland
Manuel Alvarez, Jr..... Goochland County
Steve A. Elswick..... Chesterfield County
Cynthia I. Newbille..... City of Richmond
Patricia A. Paige (Alternate)..... New Kent County
W. Canova Peterson, IV..... Hanover County
David T. Williams..... Powhatan County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Floyd H. Miles, Sr..... Charles City County
C. Thomas Tiller New Kent County

MEETING QUORUM

Chet Parsons, RRPDC Director of Transportation, reported that a quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Patricia S. O’Bannon called the March 7, 2019 RRTPO Executive Committee meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. in the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission board room.

1. Approval of Meeting Agenda

No changes were requested to the RRTPO Executive Committee agenda. On motion of John H. Hodges, seconded by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., the March 7, 2019 RRTPO Executive Committee agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

2. Minutes of the February 7, 2018 RRTPO Executive Committee Meeting

Chairman O’Bannon called for changes to the minutes and none were offered. On motion by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., seconded by Steve A. Elswick, the minutes of the February 7, 2018 RRTPO Executive Committee meeting were approved as presented.

3. Open Public Comment Period

There were no requests to address the RRTPO Executive Committee.

4. Chairman’s Report

Chairman O’Bannon noted discussion with Chet Parsons about forming an I-64 work group in response to Patricia Paige’s continued concerns about the impact of improvements to I-64 on traffic on New Kent Highway. This item was listed under the RRTPO Secretary’s Report and Chairman O’Bannon deferred to Mr. Parsons for discussion of this matter.

5. RRTPO Secretary’s Report

a. I-64 Work Group – Mr. Parsons noted that at the February 7 meeting Ms. Paige suggested that the RRTPO needs to have more focus on I-64. There was also discussion on how to get larger regional impact projects funded. An I-64 Work Group may be an

opportunity to focus on that process. It is timely considering the discussion about regional taxing authorities and other tools that might be available at some point. The I-64 Work Group could be a good way for the RRTPO to start that conversation and look at how to move forward. Mr. Parsons said he is bringing this up for comments and discussion over the next couple of months as fallout from SMART SCALE Round 3 and what the next step might be are considered. Extensive discussion ensued, and major points are noted as follows:

- I-64 is just one piece of the issue; Rt. 288 and Hull St. Road has about 100,000 vehicles a day passing through and it is one of the busiest highways in the region.
- The RRTPO policy board has had this regional funding dialogue before and it was bumped to the RRPDC as far as who should take the lead in looking at regional tax initiatives such as those in Northern Virginia and Tidewater.
- The Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority (RMTA) would be a logical first step, with additional jurisdictions being brought in; the RMTA is already set up for bonding.
- This is an election year for the General Assembly and would not be a good year to bring up the issue of a regional tax; though preparation could be pursued for post-election action.
- There may be an opportunity for projects to address New Kent County's concerns with regional taxing authority being a phase two effort.
- There may have been insufficient communication and forethought regarding the impacts on New Kent County when I-64 construction approached from the east and the west simultaneously.

Chet Parsons will begin exploring how to fund larger regional projects and to meet with Steve Elswick to learn the history on this issue.

b. Other – No other business was brought forward.

6. Review of Selected RRTPO Agenda Topics

RRTPO Secretary, Chet Parsons, noted future meeting topics including RSTP and CMAQ allocations and work program development and focus areas for next year. Mr. Parsons said he is open to hearing any suggestions on priorities or work efforts. A suggestion was made that the RRTPO policy board carefully advance the issue of pedestrian and bicycle safety and making meaningful progress towards providing transportation alternatives.

7. Other Business

Chairman O'Bannon invited Herbert Richwine, CTAC Vice Chairman, to discuss CTAC activity; Mr. Richwine noted that CTAC did not meet in February and he doesn't have anything new to report.

Mr. Parsons reported that staff has just completed a thorough research project on the history of CTAC and EDAC back to the beginning which should lead to changes that will make CTAC an advisory committee that can provide opportunities for all people to be involved in the transportation planning process. The new website will be rolled out at the end of March which will also provide opportunities for better participation.

Mr. Richwine reported the death of Roy Bryant, long-time NAACP representative on CTAC. He and several others on CTAC have been very disturbed about the new GRTC bus routes and schedule which are not providing proper transportation for people in parts of the City of Richmond, especially in Church Hill. The service should be arranged so it

serves the people who need it most. Cynthia Newbille concurred that the persons that GRTC needs to be most responsive to is those for whom that is the primary mode of transportation. The routing is being reexamined for the Fulton community specifically and also in the east end of the City. There was discussion of free rides for Richmond high school students and a contract with VCU for students to ride GRTC buses.

Mr. Parsons reported that he has started making trips to visit each member jurisdiction and said it has been helpful in looking at how the jurisdictions can work together as a region. He said it would be good for the RRTPO policy board to present a unified voice to discuss about regional impacts. It will hold more weight in talks with state and federal officials to have a unified voice and message from the region.

Patricia Paige arrived late to the meeting and Chairman O'Bannon briefly reviewed discussion on formation of an I-64 work group and what they would hope to accomplish. Ms. Paige said an I-64 work group would be a great place to start, but getting a group together that really could look at funding high cost projects and how to fine-tune requests. She said VDOT comes in to help with SMART SCALE applications, but even breaking down the 23.8 miles of I-64 widening through New Kent County into smaller projects did not fare well in SMART SCALE. The RRTPO does not have the funds to pay for this project nor does New Kent County.

There was additional discussion and the RRTPO Executive Committee formed an I-64 work group with membership consisting of Patricia Paige, Frank Thornton, Pat O'Bannon, and a representative from Hanover County, with Canova Peterson or Angela Kelly-Wiecek. Steve Elswick will be consulted and perhaps Charles City County will want to participate.

9. Next RRTPO Executive Committee Meeting

Chairman O'Bannon noted that the next RRTPO meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2019.

10. Adjournment

Chairman O'Bannon adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:05 a.m.