

Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization

Holiday Inn Lynchburg

601 Main Street

October 21, 2010

4:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Call to Order.....Joan Foster, Chair
2. Approval of the July 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes.....Joan Foster, Chair
3. Public Hearing for and Consideration of Adoption of the Central Virginia Long Range Transportation Plan, Year 2035 (CVLRTP)....Bob White, Deputy Director
4. Public Hearing for and Consideration of Adoption of an Amendment to the Central Virginia Transportation Improvement Program FY 2009-2012 (CVTIP 2009-2012).....Bob White, Deputy Director
5. Public Hearing for and Consideration of Adoption of the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan.....Bob White, Deputy Director
6. Opportunity for Public Comment.....Joan Foster, Chair
7. Matters from the Members.....Joan Foster, Chair
8. Adjournment-Next meeting of the CVMPO is January 20, 2011
.....Joan Foster, Chair
9. Information Items

Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization (CVMPO)
Executive Director's Report
October 21, 2010

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of the July 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes

See attachment 2.

The minutes of the July 15, 2010 meeting of the CVMPO are attached for your review and approval.

Recommendation: The staff recommends the CVMPO approve the attached minutes of the July 15, 2010 meeting.

3. Public Hearing for and Consideration of Adoption of the Central Virginia Long Range Transportation Plan, Year 2035 (CVLRTP)

See attachment 3.

Staff will present the recommended update to the Central Virginia Long Range Transportation Plan, Year 2035. The public involvement process included four focus group meetings, three community meetings, and additional meetings involving local planning staffs and commissioners. The Plan has been reviewed by the CVMPO at its previous meetings. The complete Plan, including an executive summary, can be viewed at: www.cvlrtp2035.info.

The Transportation Technical Committee is recommending the CVMPO adopt the Plan. A resolution supporting this action is attached.

Recommendation: The staff recommends the CVMPO approve the attached resolution adopting the Central Virginia Long Range Transportation Plan, Year 2035.

4. Public Hearing for and Consideration of Adoption of an Amendment to the Central Virginia Transportation Improvement Program FY 2009-2012 (CVTIP 2009-2012)

See attachment 4.

The Department of Rail and Public Transportation has requested that we make changes to their funding tables within the Central Virginia Transportation Improvement Program FY2009-2012 (CVTIP 2009-2012). The dollar amounts currently in the CVTIP FY2009-2012 for fiscal year 2011 are estimates made in 2009 of the money the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) and the

Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging (CVAAA) would be receiving. The six adjustments and one amendment that the DRPT is requesting we make are changes that reflect the actual funding GLTC and CVAAA will be receiving in FY 2011.

Adjustments

- The operating assistance item (GLTC001) is changing from \$6,415,000 to \$6,521,000.
- The preventative maintenance item (GLTC002), which was \$162,000, is being cut altogether. The reason DRPT gives is that preventative maintenance finds were not requested for FY2011.
- The all other capital projects item (GLTC005) is changing from \$100,000 to \$87,000. These projects include Route Signage (funded at \$22,000), Shop Equipment (funded at \$12,000) and Bike Racks, ITS and Miscellaneous Equipment (funded at \$53,000).
- For the purchase of new busses to expand the fleet (GLTC010) funding is changing from \$675,000 to \$519,000.
- The CVAAA's New Freedom program (CVAAA001) is being funded at \$53,000 where previously there was no estimate for FY2011.
- The CVAAA's Paratransit vehicles program (CVAAA002) is being listed within the CVTIP. This project was previously grouped within the FTA 5310 funding table within the DRPT rural page. DRPT feels, however, that it is better represented by listing it separately within the CVTIP. Also, the project estimate for FY2011 is changing from \$0 to \$152,000.

Amendment

- The funding for the replacement of old busses is changing from \$5,407,000 to \$3,633,000. This change is considered an amendment because the proposed change is over \$1,000,000 which is DRPT's threshold for when an adjustment becomes an amendment.

The Transportation Technical Committee is supportive of this request. The attached resolution is provided for the CVMPO's consideration.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the CVMPO approve the attached resolution in support of the amendment to the CVTIP 2009-2012.

5. Public Hearing for and Consideration of Adoption of the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan

See attachment 5.

The Region 2000 Bicycle Plan, an update to the *Central Virginia Planning District Commission Regional Bicycle Plan*, approved by the CVPDC in May, 2000, has been completed. The resulting plan is the culmination of input from each of the localities, numerous public input sessions and represents the completion of work elements within both the Urban and Unified Transportation Work Programs. The Plan has been presented to the majority of the participating localities, with a presentation to Lynchburg City planned for the 26th of October and has been available on the Region 2000 website.

The Region 2000 Bicycle Plan articulates a vision that states “ residents, of all ages and skill levels, will be seen bicycling along area roads and multiuse trails going to work, to school, to shop and to engage in recreation throughout the Region 2000 area”. In doing so, the plan outlines the bicycle connection network vision and goals, provides an overview of the different bicycle accommodation types, summarizes strategies that can be used to accommodate for bicycle facilities, presents a current snapshot of the current conditions and opportunities for cyclists, provides an inventory of community resources and assets, and details a vision connection plan and implementation strategy to assist in creating an alternative transportation network that encourages and supports the bicycling needs of local citizens and area visitors.

Staff provided a presentation on the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan at the July CVMPO meeting. A brief review of this Plan will be offered. The CVMPO will then be asked to consider its adoption. The Plan can be viewed at <http://region2000.org/bicycle-plan.html>.

The Transportation Technical Committee supports the adoption of this Plan. The attached resolution is offered for the members’ consideration.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the CVMPO approve the attached resolution adopting the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan.

6. Opportunity for Public Comment

7. Matters from the Members

8. Adjournment-Next meeting of the CVMPO is January 20, 2011.

9. Information Items

See attachment 9a.

The attached list identifies Central Virginia Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments and adjustments accomplished. The amendments have been approved by the CVMPO. The adjustments have been approved by the staff in accordance with the MPO TIP ADJUSTMENT AGREEMENT, dated July 21,

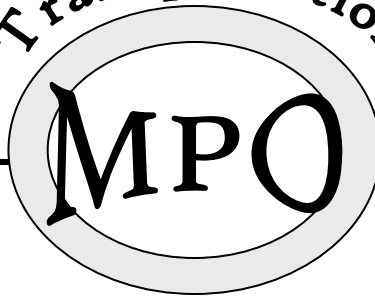
2005. These adjustments do not require CVMPO approval since they are not new projects, but rather are projects that have adjustments made primarily to their funding stream or schedule.

See attachment 9b.

Correspondence from the Honorable Sean T. Connaughton, Secretary of Transportation, regarding the Virginia Transportation Research Council Evaluation.

See attachment 9c.

News release from the Governor's Office regarding results of the independent audit of the VDOT Research Council.



Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization

Region 2000 Partnership's large conference room

July 15, 2010

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Cary.....VDOT Lynchburg
 District Joan Foster.....Lynchburg City
 David Laurell.....Campbell County
 Lee Lintecum.....Amherst County
 Hugh Pendleton.....Campbell County
 John Sharp.....Bedford County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathleen Guzi.....Bedford County
 Jack Hobbs.....Amherst Town
 William Mays.....Amherst County
 Kim Payne.....Lynchburg City
 Harold Swisher.....Amherst Town

OTHERS PRESENT

Gary Christie.....Local Government Council
 Marjorie Gilley.....Local Government Council
 Phillip Gabathuler.....Local Government Council
 Bob White.....Local Government Council
 Bill Wuensch.....Renaissance Planning Group
 Jeff Kessler.....VDOT
 Kelly Hitchcock.....Local Government Council

Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chairman Hugh Pendleton called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the April 28, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. David Laurell, seconded by Mayor Joan Foster, the minutes of the April 28, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

3. Public Hearing for and Consideration of an Amendment to the Public Participation Plan for the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization

Bob White briefly presented the revised plan based on evaluation and staff recommendations.

The evaluation concludes:

- the CVMPO adheres to the Plan;
- the Plan is clear and concise;
- appropriate emphasis is placed on involving all interested parties to the transportation planning process;
- the CVMPO employs useful techniques in gathering input beyond

- traditional public meetings; and
- the CVMPO's efforts are in line with similar sized MPOs.

The evaluation goes on to identify and recommend three areas for improvement:

- improve the CVMPO's web presence;
- improve efforts to educate the public on the role and responsibilities of the CVMPO; and
- identify measurements of effectiveness to inform future improvement efforts.

The public comment period began at 4:31 p.m. and closed at 4:32 p.m. There were no comments to receive.

Upon a motion by Mayor Joan Foster, seconded by Mr. John Sharp, the CVMPO approved as presented the amendments to the Public Participation Plan for the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization.

4. Presentation and Discussion of the Central Virginia Long Range Transportation Plan Year 2035 Update

Bob White gave a brief status update on the project. Bill Wuensch expanded on the update with a project status report, current financial information and project information. Mr. Wuensch asked members for their thoughts on the upcoming comprehensive plan. John Sharp suggested that everyone go to their boards, councils, planning commissions and talk about best practices; members agreed that would be a good idea.

5. Presentation of the draft update to the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan

Bob White conveyed to the group that staff has been working on the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan for the past two years. He stated the plan would be presented to the CVMPO at the October meeting for adoption. Mr. White then turned the meeting over to Kelly Hitchcock who gave a brief overview of the plan via a power point presentation. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that final comments would be received through mid August in preparation for adoption in October.

6. Consideration of an invitation to meet with the Commonwealth Transportation Board on September 15, 2010

Bob White informed the group that the Commonwealth Transportation Board extended an invitation to the CVMPO to attend and address its members. Mr. White extended an invitation to the members and asked if they had any presentation topic suggestions. He stated that this was a good opportunity to establish a relationship with the board and to voice issues.

7. Consideration of an invitation to meet with Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton regarding the Route 29 in Charlottesville on July 29, 2010

Bob White informed and invited those present to the Route 29 meeting (which has been changed to August 5). Gary encouraged elected officials from Amherst and Campbell to attend.

8. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

Bob White stated that the CVMPO needs to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The localities have been serving alphabetically, and the next Chair would be Joan Foster, City of Lynchburg. The Vice Chair would be Will Mays, Amherst County.

Upon a motion by David Laurrell, seconded by William Mays, new chair Eddie Gunter and Vice Chair Joan Foster were approved unanimously by those present.

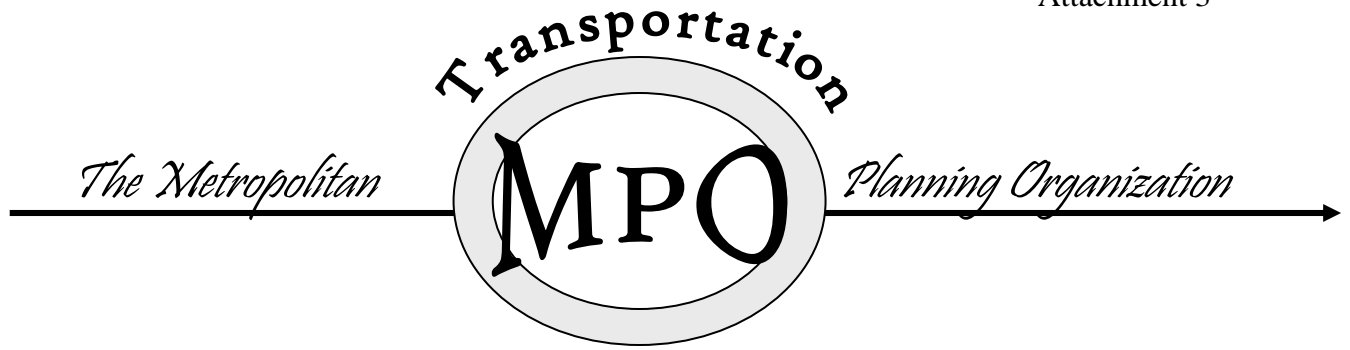
9. Matters from the Members

There were no matters from the committee.

10. Adjournment

Chairman Hugh Pendleton adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

--The next meeting is October 21--



RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN-YEAR 2035

WHEREAS, THE Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization (CVMPO) adopted the Central Virginia Long Range Transportation Plan, Year 2030 on December 8, 2005; and

WHEREAS, THE CVMPO is Federally-mandated to update its long range transportation plan every five years; and

WHEREAS, THE Central Virginia Long Range Plan-Year 2035 (Plan) provides a blueprint for a transportation system that is vital to Central Virginia’s growth and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, THE Plan includes regional multi-modal transportation goals and suggested strategies as well as a set of transportation projects to advance the growth and quality of life if Central Virginians; and

WHEREAS, THE Plan was developed in conjunction with an extensive public involvement effort, consideration of financial constraints, environmental, socio-economic, and economic impacts, and consideration of the transportation and land use concerns of local, state, and federal governments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CVMPO does hereby duly adopt the Central Virginia Long Range Transportation Plan-Year 2035.

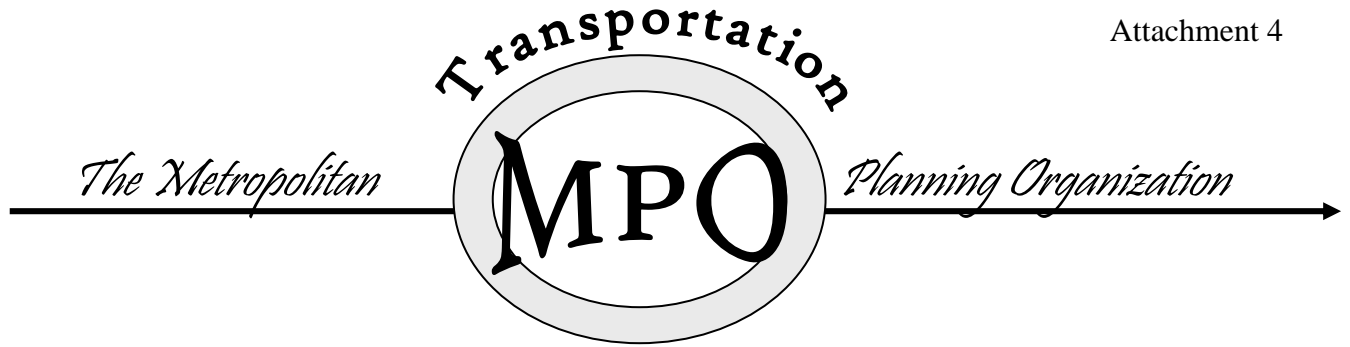
Upon motion by Councilman _____, duly seconded by Councilman _____, adopted this ____ day of _____, 2010.

ATTESTED BY:

CERTIFIED BY:

Gary F. Christie, Secretary
Central Virginia Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Joan Foster, Chair
Central Virginia Metropolitan
Planning Organization



RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO AMEND THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FISCAL YEARS 2009 - 2012

WHEREAS, the *Transportation Improvement Program* is required to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program;

WHEREAS, inclusion of transportation projects in the *Transportation Improvement Program* is a condition of federal participation in the funding of that project;

WHEREAS, this amendment of the *Transportation Improvement Program*, requested by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, includes a change (decrease and increase) in funds for Fiscal Year 2011 to reflect the amounts in the Six Year Improvement Program.

WHEREAS, public input has been sought in amending the *Central Virginia Transportation Improvement Program, Fiscal Years 2009 – 2012* in accordance with the Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5323(k) and Title 23 U.S.C. Chapter 134; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby approve the changes to Section 4 (the Department of Rail and Public Transportation Funding Table for the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company) of the *Central Virginia Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Years 2009 - 2012*, as presented.

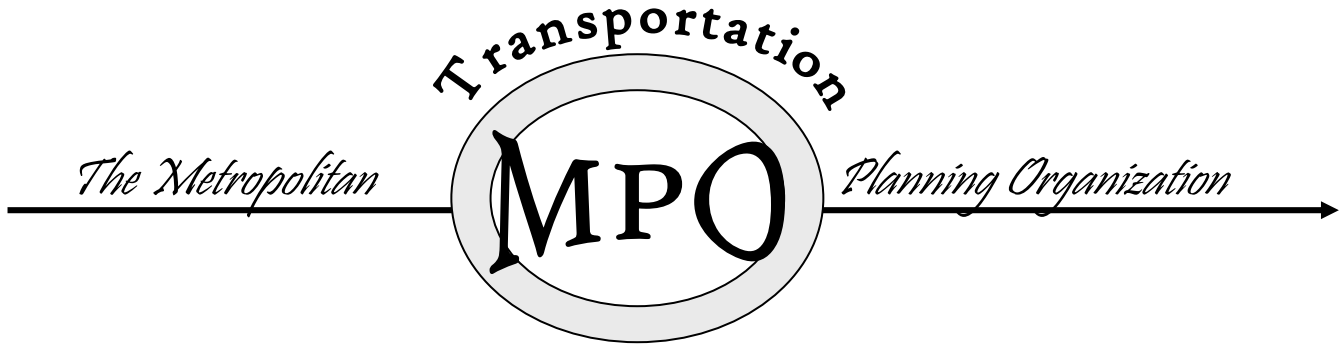
Upon motion by Member _____ duly seconded by Member _____, adopted this ____ day of _____ 2010.

ATTESTED BY:

CERTIFIED BY:

Gary F. Christie, Secretary
 Central Virginia Metropolitan
 Planning Organization

Joan Foster, Chair
 Central Virginia Metropolitan
 Planning Organization



RESOLUTION BY THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REGION 2000 BICYCLE PLAN

WHEREAS, the localities of Region 2000 are committed to enhancing the connectivity, alternate transportation, natural resource protection, and economic development opportunities within the region; and

WHEREAS, the *Region 2000 Bicycle Plan* is an update to the May, 2000 adopted *Central Virginia Planning District Commission Regional Bicycle Plan*; and

WHEREAS, the *Region 2000 Bicycle Plan* is the result of a collaboration between Region 2000 localities and represents collective input from locality staff and their citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the *Region 2000 Bicycle Plan* represents completion of a FY2009 Unified Transportation Work Program and a FY2010 Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Work Program Project; and

WHEREAS, the *Region 2000 Bicycle Plan* is a regional plan that provides a long-term strategy to facilitate bicycle use as a viable alternative transportation option to community resources within Region 2000.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby approve the *Region 2000 Bicycle Plan*.

Upon motion by Member _____, duly seconded by _____ adopted the _____ day of _____, 2010.

ATTESTED BY:

CERTIFIED BY:

Gary F. Christie, Secretary
Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization

Joan Foster, Chair
Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization

CVTIP Adjustment / Amendment Requests**FY 2009-2012**

Date	Type of Change	UPC	Description	Resolution #
10/23/2008	Amendment	87145	Greenview Drive Project	08-038
4/21/2009	Amendment	92766	Addition of ARRA Funds to the Construction: Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement/Reconstruction Grouping Table	09-007
7/16/2009	Amendment	NA	2009-2013 Financial Table from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DPRT) detailing funding for the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) and the Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging (CVAAA)	09-008
10/1/2009	Amendment	NA	Addition of FTA Funds (going to the Family Alliance) for a JARC Program	09-011
11/2/2009	Administrative Adjustment	NA	funding change for Construction: Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement/Reconstruction	NA
12/1/2009	Amendment	NA	Changes to the DRPT funding tables including second round ARRA allocations and the addition of Family Alliance funds	10-001
7/10/2010	Amendment/Adjustment	NA	Changes to the DRPT funding tables for fiscal year 2011 to properly reflect the actual amount of funding allocated, as shown in the STIP	not yet assigned



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

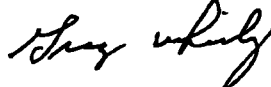
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

Gregory A. Whirley
Commissioner

August 16, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Sean T. Connaughton
Secretary of Transportation

From: Gregory A. Whirley 
Commissioner

Subject: Virginia Transportation Research Council Evaluation

The 2010 General Assembly called for an independent review of the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC). The purpose of this review was to identify opportunities and recommendations to transform VTRC into a champion for innovation, an organization within the Transportation Secretariat that will identify, research, test and implement creative solutions that will fuel Virginia's multi-modal transportation program to the become the best in the country. Through innovation, planning, and leading edge technology Virginia can improve its multi-modal transportation programs to better serve the traveling public, encourage economic development and create jobs.

The independent review was conducted by Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center, a division of the Federal Highway Administration and B. T. Harder, Inc. The report contains six major focus areas. These focus areas are presented below along with selected action items that I plan to implement.

- ***Enhance the Advisory Committee Process and Product.*** Advisory Committees play a strong and vital role in identifying innovative ideas including the better use of technology, innovative design practices, better / cheaper / stronger materials, and planning from a multi modal perspective. Currently, there are nine Research Advisory Committees. **I propose to improve the Advisory Committee process by implementing the following:**
 - Strengthen the membership of the committees by ensuring that each committee is comprised of strong professionals from the agency field units, various companies serving in the transportation field, leading universities in Virginia, and a chair person recognized as a strong subject matter expert.
 - Assign agency staff working in the field to a three to six month tour at the VTRC to work on specific research topics. This blends field experience with research to identify practical solutions.
 - Provide an incentive program / budget of \$10,000,000 as an incentive for implementation and for aligning research with business need. This encourages

- divisions and districts to identify projects that may not have been identified previously because of a lack of funding. We will continue to aggressively seek research grants.
- Establish a standard approach to advisory committee meetings, making sure that each advisory committee has a clear focus, a formal review and vote on all research recommendations.
 - Implement other review measures to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the Advisory Committees in implementing the research results.
 - Establish an annual Research Program Review between the Director of Research, the chairs of the advisory committees, and the Commissioner in advance of initiating each fiscal year program. The purpose of the review is to provide the Commissioner with direct input into the program and to create a bias toward innovation in the agency.
- ***Realize More Effective Implementation of Research Results.*** The review indicates that VTRC has a good record of implementing research results. However, more can be done to improve this record by having a formal and rigorous implementation process. **I propose to improve the implementation of research results by implementing the following:**
 - Establish a comprehensive, output oriented definition of what constitutes “implementation of research results”.
 - Develop an “Implementation Report” from the Director of Research to the executive in charge of the business area. This report will identify the research project recommendations, potential benefits, the person or group who needs to take action, and an approval or disapproval from the executive to move forward with implementation.
 - Create pilot programs to test the research results where the implementation affects the entire agency. Upon successful completion of the pilot, the Commissioner will take a formal action to put the innovation, process changes, new specification or other changes into practice.
 - Refocus a Research Council staff person to become an Implementation Program Manager whose sole focus is on working with field and central office business units to implement the results from research.
 - Other measures will be put into place to track and report on the status of the implementation.
 - ***Maximize the Value of Academic Research Capabilities and Partnerships with Universities.*** VTRC outsources approximately 50% of all research to universities. This is a healthy and effective balance because it effectively increases capacity while at the same time providing VDOT with a reliable source of highly qualified internal technical support in numerous areas. **I propose to strengthen the VTRC relationship with**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2010

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E-mail: Stacey.Johnson@Governor.Virginia.Gov

Governor McDonnell Receives Results of Independent Audit of VDOT Research Council

Audit of Transportation Research Program Recommends Greater Focus on Innovation, Better Implementation

--Full Report Attached to Release--

RICHMOND – Governor Bob McDonnell recently received the results of an independent review of the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) Research Council. The audit was one of four performance audits of Virginia’s transportation programs called for by the Governor and approved by the 2010 General Assembly. Delegate Joe May (R-Loudoun), who serves as Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, championed the effort in the General Assembly. Results of the audit, released to Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton, include six major recommendations to improve the value of Virginia’s transportation research program.

Speaking about the results of the audit, Governor McDonnell remarked, “The review identified opportunities and recommendations to transform the Research Council into a champion for innovation to benefit all who use Virginia roads, rail, and transit. We now intend for this program to identify, research, test and implement creative solutions that will fuel Virginia’s multi-modal transportation program and make it the best state transportation research organization in the country. Audits such as this one are part of this Administration’s comprehensive efforts to improve transportation in the Commonwealth. A modern, integrated and cost-efficient transportation system is crucial to job creation and economic growth in the years ahead. ”

The Federal Highway Administration’s Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center and B.T. Harder Inc. of Philadelphia conducted the independent evaluation of the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC). Virginia annually spends between \$10 million to \$13 million on research.

The review found that while Virginia’s current business model for research is sound, comprehensive implementation and utilization of research results was lagging. The audit recommends that Virginia improve performance by instituting a more formal and rigorous implementation process as well as early involvement of personnel from the field. Steps for accomplishing this include developing internal reporting and management processes and utilizing field personnel to support research efforts. It also recommends setting up pilot programs

to test research results and, upon successful completion of a pilot, bringing into practice these innovations, process changes, new specifications and other changes.

The research program will also give greater focus on innovative strategies to reduce congestion and to maximize the utilization of current transportation infrastructure, such as active traffic management, better designs, and more through planning. In addition, it is intended to broaden the current research program to be multi-modal instead of focusing primarily on highway construction and infrastructure. In recognition of this, it is proposed to rename the “Virginia Transportation Research Council” to the “Virginia Transportation Innovation Center.”

“The new name is intended to reflect the broader mission of the program and the role we need it to play,” Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton said. “Virginia is facing multifaceted and complex transportation challenges that we need innovative ideas and practices to overcome. The Virginia Transportation Innovation Center will be at the forefront of reinvigorating a culture of innovation within VDOT and Virginia’s other transportation agencies.”

The Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC) was created in 1948 as a partnership between VDOT and the University of Virginia. VTRC now also works closely with the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and other areas in Virginia Tech. The report recommends that the new Virginia Transportation Innovation Center (VTIC) maximize the value of its research capabilities through stronger partnerships with universities in Virginia and leveraging current funding opportunities. The report says that such partnerships “increase capacity while providing VDOT with a reliable source of highly qualified internal technical support.” Consequently, the VTIC will increase outreach with other state universities to develop “niche expertise areas” and cooperative agreements for grant funding for transportation research in such areas as policy, transit, rail and environmental. This will create opportunities for VTIC to expand its support for all agencies of the Transportation Secretariat.

Two other areas for improvement call for enhancements in the VTIC’s advisory committee process, which taps the expertise of experts from government, academia and the private sector to develop proposals for new research.

The effort to implement the audits results will begin immediately.

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universities and “grow the size of the transportation research funding pie” for Virginia by implementing the following:

- Implement an aggressive “outreach program” with surrounding universities in addition to UVA and Virginia Tech such as George Mason University, James Madison University, George Washington University, Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia State University, William and Mary and others to develop “niche expertise areas” and cooperative agreements to seek grant funding for transportation research in multiple areas including policy, transit, rail and environmental. This will create opportunities for VTRC to expand support for all agencies of the Transportation Secretariat.
 - Develop a formal cooperative agreement between VTRC, Virginia Tech and VTTI similar to the agreement with the University of Virginia. Such an agreement will formalize the already strong, yet informal, collaboration that has been growing over the past several years and offer opportunities for VTRC and VTTI to significantly ramp up their ability to successfully attract research grants of significant size and value to VDOT and the Commonwealth. Such a partnership could result in a stronger more effective transportation research program.
 - Re-emphasize and expand the VTRC graduate assistantship program including universities in addition to UVA and Virginia Tech as a way of strengthening the pool of potential future transportation professionals at VDOT.
 - Partner with universities to take full advantage of the potential to augment VTRC staff with professional staff and wage employees funded through the use of jointly acquired grants.
- ***Renew Focus on Communication of Research Expertise and Implementation Successes.*** There are close links between communicating research results and implementation success. ***I propose to strengthen the communication and innovation aspects of the research program by implementing the following:***
 - Establish a new name for the VTRC to reflect the role it plays in innovation and implementation. This new name will be: ***The Virginia Transportation Innovation Center.***
 - Reinststitute the VTRC Annual Report and distribute in both hard copy and electronically to VDOT, industry, Chairs of Senate and House Transportation, the General Assembly Joint Committee on Technology and Science, and others who are stakeholders in developing innovation for transportation in the Commonwealth.
 - Publish e-newsletters to all VDOT employees regarding the research program
 - Publish “implementation success and benefit briefs” and distribute to VDOT field offices and operating divisions
 - Commit to regular and periodic research results and implementation briefings at the executive level staff meetings and to encourage research program status reports in association meetings such as the annual Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance, Asphalt Association, and Concrete Association Meetings.