



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EMBARK RICHMOND HIGHWAY  
ADVISORY GROUP**  
August 3, 2015

On August 3, 2015, the Advisory Group (AG) held its regular monthly meeting at the South County Government Center, Room 219, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.

**AG members present**

Dick Knapp	Rodney Lusk
James Migliaccio	Tim Sargeant
Walter Clarke	Carlos Heard
Earl Flanagan	Frank Cohn
Bruce Leonard	

**AG members absent**

Chris Soule  
Rebecca Todd  
Vernon Lee  
Dale Johnson

**County Staff and Guests Present**

See attached sign-in sheet.

**Call to Order**

Jennifer Garcia, called the August 3, 2015 meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

**Announcements**

1) Jennifer Garcia began the meeting by providing information on the timeline for the phased implementation of multimodal improvements. She stated that the timeline was developed by the DPRT project team during the Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis based on experiences with similar projects around the country. This timeline was reviewed by the DPRT Executive Steering Committee and is part of the preferred alternative endorsed by the Executive Steering Committee. As tasks and phases are completed, the Embark project team will update the schedule and look for efficiencies in the process that can shorten the schedule.

2) Dick Knapp, co-chair of the Advisory Group, reiterated the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Group (AG) which are to help to develop a communications plan, act as an intermediary to the community and assist staff with communications with the community.

3) Jennifer Garcia stated that the purpose of today's meeting is to present information about the DRPT Alternatives Analysis study and past transportation planning efforts in the Richmond Highway Corridor. The next meeting of the AG will cover the overall timeline for the Comprehensive Plan amendment and Environmental Assessments. A background presentation on the current Comprehensive Plan recommendations for the corridor will also be part of the agenda.

### **Administration Items**

1) The updated membership list was distributed, removing Edythe Kelleher as secretary of the AG and adding Tim Sargeant as an at-large member.

2) Jennifer Garcia announced that AG meetings are subject to the Virginia Open Meetings policy. As such, if there are more than two AG members discussing committee business, including via email, these discussions are subject to the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In terms of open meetings policies, substantive issues need to be discussed in face-to-face meetings, and email correspondence should be limited; if an AG member has a particular topic or issue to bring to the AG, the topic should be emailed to staff or one of the AG co-chairs, and it will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting. Materials that are given to the AG will be made available to the public within 24 hours using the Embark website. People can also contact staff directly to receive copies of meeting materials. Meetings may be photographed, filmed, or audio recorded; therefore all meetings will be held in locations where this is permitted. Minutes of each meeting will be recorded and will include the date, time and location of the meeting, and AG membership attendance. If a motion is made, the Minutes will include who made and seconded the motion and the outcome of the vote by the AG. Since there are three members of the Fairfax County Planning Commission on the AG, the Office of the Planning Commission (PC) will receive and file a record of the AG Minutes.

3) A motion was made by Dick Knapp, seconded by Earl Flanagan, **to approve the meeting Minutes for the July 6, 2015 Advisory Group Meeting.**

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Progress Update**

1) A working project area map was presented by Jennifer Garcia. She stated that the map shows the Comprehensive Plan designations of the Community Business Centers (CBCs) and Suburban Neighborhoods between the CBCs. The dotted line indicates a ½ mile zone along the entire corridor. Jennifer Garcia clarified that the map shows the existing Comprehensive Plan recommendations, and noted that details about the designations of the CBCs and Suburban

Neighborhoods will be provided in a PowerPoint presentation at the September 21 AG meeting.

2) Jennifer Garcia stated that staff is continuing to work on a task schedule, project components, and indications of what information we'll need and when. A preliminary list of outreach contacts has been developed. More details about public outreach will be presented at the September 21 AG meeting.

## **Presentation**

### **Tom Burke, Senior Transportation Planner, FCDOT**

Tom Burke gave a PowerPoint presentation on the DRPT Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis and other background transportation studies and information. The presentation covered transportation planning efforts from the past 20+ years in the Richmond Highway Corridor and included the alternatives evaluated and the final preferred alternative/final study recommendations from the DPRT Alternatives Analysis.

The previous Route 1 Centerline Study identified a centerline for the portion of Route 1 that is the subject of this study, as well as two segments to the south. While the centerlines identified for the two segments to the south were approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in 2004, no centerline was approved for the portion of the corridor currently under study due to a lack of transit consideration at the time. The Centerline Study is being used for current development proposals, but the centerline will likely change as part of the current effort to plan for BRT. The ROW shown in the Policy Plan is 176 feet and includes 9' multiuse trails within the ROW. However, the county uses 10' multiuse trails within the ROW in order to meet VDOT standards, bringing the total ROW to 178 feet.

It was clarified that the expectation is that BRT would remain operational between Hybla Valley and Huntington Metro Station after the Metrorail extension is implemented, as both the Metro and BRT serve independent functions. The buses would likely be running at frequencies up to 6-minute headways. The speed is not known at this time, but there will be systems in place to ensure free flow for the buses to the maximum extent feasible. In addition, it is anticipated that the regular bus service provided today, or currently planned, will be provided in mixed traffic even after BRT is operational. These routes will serve as feeder routes from the neighboring communities.

In response to a question about the DRPT activity density, Mr. Burke explained that the activity density of 37 jobs and residents per acre is an average from other existing and planned transit systems in Virginia, and DRPT used these as a benchmark for our stations to meet BRT ridership levels.

In response to a question about considering all types of traffic attracted to the study area, it was stated by staff that we have the ability to input traffic from tourism and other special generators, in addition to population and employment, as part of the travel demand modeling

effort, to be done in support of the Comprehensive Plan amendment process and related transportation analyses.

It was clarified by staff that land use changes and transportation improvements will occur together so that they remain in balance.

### **Other Business**

A suggestion was made to use the Doodle Poll to decide on the meeting schedule on a quarterly basis. Jennifer Garcia stated a poll would be set-up to establish the meeting schedule through December 2015.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, the August 3, 2015, meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next Advisory Group meeting is September 21 at 8:00 a.m.

Date: September 15, 2015



ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #2, August 3, 2015

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ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #2, August 3, 2015

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