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| **Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission**  **Transportation Technical Advisory Committee**  **MINUTES** | |
| **Approved at January 22, 2019 meeting** | **Members** |
| **Date: May 22, 2018**  **Time: 1:30 PM**  **Location:**  Northampton County Admin Building  Conference Room 201  16404 Courthouse Road  Eastville, VA 23347 Call to orderApproval of Minutes  Staff UpdateUnfinished business  New businessPublic participationNext meeting - July 24, 1:30 p.m.Adjourn | **PRESENT:**  **Larry DiRe, Cape Charles representative**  **Stewart Hall, Accomack County, Alt.\***  **Tim Holloway, Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel\***  **Bill Moore, STAR Transit**  **Susan McGhee, Northampton County\***  **Jerry Pauley, VDOT, Alt.\***  **Curt Smith, A-NPDC\***  **Ron Wolff, ANTDC\***  **ABSENT:**  **Joe Bulin, ESCSB, Alt.**  **Vanessa Cousineau, ESAAA/CAA representative**  **Robert Duer, Town of Exmore**  **Barb Haxter, Accomack Airport\***  **Chris Isdell, VDOT Accomac Residency\***  **Abra Jacobs, Center for Independent Living**  **William Kerbin, Town of Onancock**  **Rich Morrison, Accomack County\*, Vice Chairman**  **Alex Parry, Bay Coast Railroad**  **Ivan Rucker, FHWA**  **Lisa Sedjat, ESCSB**  **Eric Stringfield, VDOT District Planner\***  **Jim West, Chincoteague\***  **Barbara Young, Alt. for Lisa Sedjat, ESCSB**  **STAFF PRESENT:**  **John Gordon, Summer Intern, A-NPDC**  **Barbara Schwenk, A-NPDC, Secretary**  **2018 MEETING DATES – 1:30 p.m.**  **July 24**  **September 25**  **November 27**  **CONTACT:**  **Barbara Schwenk**  [**bschwenk@a-npdc.org**](mailto:bschwenk@a-npdc.org)  **757-787-2936 x127 Tues thru Thurs**  **FOLLOW US:** [**www.a-ndpc.org**](http://www.a-ndpc.org)  **\*Voting Members** |
| **Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission**  **23372 Front Street**  **P.O. Box 417**  **Accomac, VA 23301** | | |

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Podemos ofrecer servicios de interpretación para la reunión. Por favor, llámanos tres días de anticipación para que podamos servir mejor a usted. 757-787-2936, ext. 127

# Call to Order – a quorum being present, Chairman McGhee called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

# Minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting were approved by motion of Wolff, seconded by Smith and carried unanimously.

# Staff Update – Ms. Schwenk presented the attendance record and contact information for members. McGhee noted a new email address for Kelley Lewis.

# Unfinished Business

## **Phase III Southern Tip Bike/Hike Trail Progress** – a discussion ensued about options for placing the trail somewhere other than along the Stone Road from Parsons Circle Road where The Nature Conservancy’s property ends. Because Canonie-Atlantic, the railroad’s owner, is considering cessation of service in the Cape Charles area, the TTAC discussed alternate routes including placing the trail on the south side of the existing tracks, crossing private parcels until arriving at the “Keck” parcel owned by the Town of Cape Charles, and continuing onto the new Route 642 and a Bay Creek parcel. A more direct route would be to follow the line of the existing tracks, but no certainty about any one route can be expected at this point.

Members also discussed liability for a public trail, the cost of maintenance, and the importance of ownership. There will be an effort to form a public/private partnership to address these concerns and to mitigate the amount of match funding that local government would need to provide for federal grant funding.

Staff reported that A. Morton Thomas Engineers has drafted the feasibility study and preliminary engineering report and will be instructed to evaluate the feasibility of additional routes as above.

## **Private Roads** – Staff presented the draft of this inventory and needs assessment for TTAC review and comment. There was discussion about what the purpose of the study was. It was generally agreed that the purpose was to identify those unpaved, private roads that were in the worst condition—those that emergency services had difficulty negotiating. It was also agreed that consideration for low-income communities should be a priority when decisions are made about which roads should be improved. Staff was instructed to clarify this purpose in the introduction/executive summary and restate it in the conclusions.

Further discussion about ownership of the roadway parcels commenced. If the roadway parcel is still owned by the developer/owner and not the residents, neither county would be willing to commit funding to improve the road.

Mr. Hall reported that Accomack County currently has no funds for the Rural Addition Program, as it has been allocated to pave Fooks Lane. Northampton County does not maintain a road improvement fund. Neither county anticipates funding road improvements in the foreseeable future. It is also a misnomer to call any road a “county road,” as they are all under VDOT jurisdiction or are privately owned either by a developer or a homeowners’ association.

The conclusion was that another way to improve unpaved, private roads needs to be found. There were also comments that altering the Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements (SSAR) to allow gravel roads would not be a feasible solution to this problem.

It was also noted that the Private Roads Inventory and Needs Assessment cost example on page 9 may be low, as the numbers could be much higher if utility placements encumber improving the road.

This led to further discussion about how increasing the footprint of VDOT maintained roads is not sustainable, since maintenance funds have not increased over the past ten years. To add to the secondary road network is not realistic from a maintenance standpoint, is not affordable for the counties, and is certainly not affordable for low-income residents to have additional taxes levied to pay for the county’s portion of the improvements over 12 or 15 years (basically an interest-free loan to the residents).

## **Multi-Modal Plan** – Mr. Smith reported that not much progress has been made on this project, but that a survey using Google Forms has been prepared and will be posted on the A-NPDC’s webpage, Facebook page, and will be emailed out to in-house lists in the next week. Responses will be collected and compared to DMV pedestrian/bicycle injuries and fatalities to identify “hot spots” for priority safety improvements.

## **Ditch Outfall Project** – Mr. Smith introduced John Gordon, A-NPDC summer intern, who will be working with the high-resolution LiDAR data VIMS provides of roadside ditches, ground-truthing the data, and creating map layers for elevation/depth, holding capacity, and tidal water intrusion. The data may also contain non-roadside ditches, but VIMS has a much lower confidence level regarding agricultural ditches. It was suggested that the soils maps be overlaid with the data to determine where soil type influences drainage.

It was also suggested that Mr. Gordon discover where tidal gates were installed years ago on both the seaside and bayside in Accomack County, as they would have an impact on the adjacent ditches.

# New business

## FY19 Work Program – Ms. Schwenk provided a copy of the work program for TTAC information and future planning.

# Public Participation – none

# Next meeting – July 24, 2018, 1:30 p.m. location TBD

# Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. by motion of Wolff, seconded by Holloway and carried unanimously.