

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

Online Meeting Notes

1:30- 3:00 pm

Tuesday May 26, 2020

Attendance:

Jerry Pauley, VDOT Hampton Roads District

Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC

Chris Isdell, VDOT Residency

Eric Stringfield, VDOT Hampton Roads District

Rich Morrison, Accomack County

John Bolecek, VDOT Central Office

Kelley Parks, Northampton County alt.

Spencer Murray, Canonie Atlantic Co.

Barbara Haxter, Accomack Airport

Clara Vaughn, A-NPDC

Mike Tolbert, Town of Chincoteague

Grayson Williams, A-NPDC

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Tips for Online Meetings
3. A-NPDC Updates:
 - a. Eastern Shore Rail-to-Trail Feasibility Study
 - b. Rail-to-Trail Steering Committee
 - c. SMART SCALE applications
 - d. Economic Develop Plan
 - e. Draft 2021 Rural Work Program
4. Member Updates:
 - a. Member updates on transportation projects & studies
5. Public Comment
6. Next Meeting & Adjourn

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Ms. Vaughn welcomed attendees and thanked them for their time to participate in the meeting. She asked everyone to introduce themselves as there were some new members in attendance.

2. Tips for Online Meetings:

Ms. Vaughn reviewed practices to assist in participating effectively in online meetings.

3. A-NPDC Updates:

a. Eastern Shore Rail-to-Trail Feasibility Study

Ms. Vaughn outlined the Eastern Shore Rail-to-Trail Feasibility Study. She stated the study's goals are to evaluate existing conditions of the trail, preferred alignments of the corridor and their cooperation with other uses such as sanitary sewer lines, and cost estimates for building and maintaining the trail. She also stated the study will provide examples of maintenance structures for trails, but local stakeholders will be responsible for identifying a management structure.

Ms. Vaughn explained that VDOT developed a survey to solicit public feedback for the feasibility study. Since the survey opened, it has had a high response rate. There will be a public meeting in June. Mr. Bolecek added that the survey close date will be extended to June 5. The survey is available at <https://esrailtrail.metroquest.com/>.

b. Rail-to-Trail Steering Committee:

Ms. Vaughn noted that a steering committee was formed to support the Rail-to-Trail project. Mr. Murray asked who was a part of this committee. Ms. Vaughn replied following entities are part of the committee: The Nature Conservancy, The Town of Onley, Northampton Parks and Recreation, and local Chambers of Commerce. Mr. Murray added Canolie Atlantic Co. could be of assistance to the steering committee.

c. SMART SCALE applications:

Ms. Vaughn stated that the A-NPDC submitted 14 pre-applications on behalf of Accomack and Northampton counties and the A-NPDC. Five pre-applications were bicycle and pedestrian-related, six pre-applications were improvements to Route 13, two pre-applications were options for widening Route 175 (Chincoteague Road), and one was to widen Redwood Road, in Accomack.

d. Economic Develop Plan:

Chairwoman Alexander provided an overview of the Eastern Shore Economic Development Plan and Economic Development Committee. The U.S. Economic Development Administration-approved [Regional Economic Development Plan](#), updated annually, currently does not include language regarding transportation needs or project priorities for the region, other than trails. Including these in the plan prepares the Eastern Shore for existing and emerging funding opportunities.

The Economic Development Committee meets twice a year and Alexander invited attendees to be a part of these meetings to capture the importance of

transportation projects in the Plan. The next meeting of the regional Economic Development Committee, which guides Plan development and updates, will be held virtually on Wednesday, June 10th at 3:00 pm. Ideas for future VDOT projects can be submitting during the meeting, or prior to the meeting via email to salexander@a-npdc.org.

e. Draft 2021 Rural Work Program:

Ms. Vaughn stated that the Rural Work Program is still under review and outlined its major foci for FY-21, including the Rail-to-Trail project, participation in the ongoing coastal resiliency study headed by VIMS, and technical assistance for SMART SCALE and transportation grant programs. When asked for comments or question related to the Scope of Work, Committee members provided none.

4. Member Updates:

a. Member updates on transportation projects & studies:

Mr. Isdell said that his office has been supporting the applicants with SMART SCALE applications and has served as a go-between at times between the District Office and localities during the process. He added that there are additional funding opportunities VDOT's Residency is pursuing for other projects, including a Nassawadox drainage project. There are currently three funded projects that await awarding of bids to contractors. The Cape Charles traffic signal is currently out to bid.

Mr. Stringfield explained to the committee that there were two SMART SCALE pre-applications under review due to their relationship to VTrans needs.

Mr. Pauley stated that he will supply Right of Way information for SMART SCALE pre-applications in preparation for full applications. He also explained there is a potential STARS Study for improvements in the vicinity of Overpass Drive in Onley.

5. Public Comment:

None

6. Next Meeting & Adjourn:

The next TTAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 1:30 PM. This meeting will be held either virtually or at the VDOT Residency in Accomac. The location is dependent on the Governor's "Stay at Home Order" and will be confirmed closer to the meeting date.