

MINUTES
JAMES CITY COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Building A Large Conference Room
101 Mounts Bay Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185
January 11, 2018
4:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jack Haldeman called the meeting to order at approximately 4 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present:

Jack Haldeman, Chair
Rich Krapf
Danny Schmidt
Heath Richardson

Absent:

Felice Pete

Staff:

Tammy Rosario, Principal Planner
Alex Baruch, Planner
Tom Leininger, Community Development Assistant

C. MINUTES

1. November 9, 2017, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rich Krapf made a motion to Approve the November 9, 2017, meeting minutes.

The motion passed 4-0.

2. December 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rich Krapf made a motion to Approve the December 14, 2017, meeting minutes.

The motion passed 4-0.

D. OLD BUSINESS

The Policy Committee addressed the upcoming Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) meetings and their anticipated availability.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pocahontas Trail Corridor Study Update

Mr. Jack Haldeman opened the discussion.

Ms. Tammy Rosario and Mr. Alex Baruch presented to the Policy Committee an update on the Pocahontas Trail Corridor Study. Ms. Rosario stated that the goals were to reassess the corridor, define a vision, explore alternative concepts for improvements and recommend strategies to prioritize improvements along the corridor. She stated that Phase 1 was data collection and corridor review. She stated that it was important to receive input from people in the community to hear their assessment of the corridor issues and needs. She stated that the consultant is currently in Phase 2 and that the consultant has drafted three illustrative options for consideration to address safety, congestion, drainage, connectivity, bus accommodation and neighborhood feel. She stated that Phase 3 will break down the project into smaller projects which can be funded with different sources. She stated that a final report will be presented in May.

Mr. Heath Richardson asked if Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding will be needed.

Ms. Rosario stated that some CMAQ and some Regional Surface Transportation Program funding has already been acquired. She stated that it is a small amount relative to the anticipated cost of the full project.

Mr. Richardson asked if more funding will be needed.

Ms. Rosario stated that more money is needed and there are multiple funding sources available. She noted that the Smartscale funding application through the state will open this summer.

Mr. Richardson asked how closely this study mirrors the Longhill Corridor Study and the Mooretown Road Expansion Study.

Ms. Rosario stated that the study mostly follows the Longhill Corridor Study in process and funding options, although it is unlikely to get fully funded as quickly as Longhill Road widening had.

Mr. Richardson asked if the Skiffes Connector has been approved.

Ms. Rosario confirmed and added that the project is fully funded.

Mr. Alex Baruch stated that approximately 10,000 vehicles per day travel the corridor. He stated that there are many commercial and residential intersections. He stated that the sidewalks do not connect throughout and there is only one crosswalk. He stated that the public expressed concern regarding pedestrian safety, roadway width, access, congestion, drainage and lighting. He stated that the most desired improvements would be relief to congestion and access, additional pedestrian facilities, better roadway conditions and a better neighborhood feel. He stated that the residents were given the opportunity to design their desired roadway given unlimited right-of-way (ROW) and with a reduced ROW.

Mr. Jack Haldeman asked if the residents were given encouragement to whether or not the road could be widened.

Mr. Baruch stated that both the steering committee and public were given all the options including different widths of road. He stated that the technical committee and the consultants have a lot of expertise on what a corridor similar to Pocahontas Trail would look like at an improved state.

Ms. Rosario stated that there could be some widening such as adding a sidewalk.

Mr. Haldeman stated that the roadway is narrow and that the houses are closer to the ROW.

Mr. Baruch stated that the ROW width fluctuates throughout the corridor. He stated that the maximum width is about 80 feet wide and as narrow as about 60 feet wide.

Ms. Rosario stated that the improvements would come in layers. She stated that once the lanes and ROW have been determined that the next layer of improvements such as bus shelters can be added. She stated that the third layer could include aesthetic improvements such as landscaping. She stated that the goal is to identify smaller projects and prioritize the projects over time.

Ms. Rosario presented the first concept, which is a three-lane option with a shared use path on one side and a sidewalk on the other.

Mr. Richardson asked if the first concept would be the cheapest in cost.

Ms. Rosario stated that the first two concepts could be similar in costs, with the third option being the most expensive.

Ms. Rosario stated that the second concept is a three-lane option with a bike lane on the road. She stated that in this concept there would be a sidewalk on both sides.

Ms. Rosario stated that the third option is a much wider option with five lanes and pedestrian accommodations on both sides.

Mr. Rich Krapf asked if the five-lane option required land to be purchased from landowners along the corridor.

Mr. Danny Schmidt confirmed.

Mr. Krapf asked if eminent domain could factor in.

Ms. Rosario stated that any of the options could go that route, but it would be through the state.

Mr. Schmidt stated that he is optimistic that the Skiffes Creek Connector would relieve the congestion along Route 60. He asked if the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) owns the storm ditches.

Ms. Rosario stated that VDOT does own the ditches.

Mr. Krapf asked if the Grove Stormwater CIP impacts the corridor.

Ms. Rosario stated that staff has been working with Stormwater and Resource Protection to bring the two projects together.

Ms. Rosario stated that difference in ROW between the different concepts is between 63 feet and 87 feet.

Mr. Schmidt stated that a wider ROW would decrease the neighborhood feel of the area.

Mr. Richardson asked what the existing width is.

Mr. Baruch stated that the width varies throughout the corridor.

Ms. Rosario stated that Route 60 is a principal arterial road. She stated that the classification is the highest before being classified as a highway.

Mr. Schmidt stated that there are many spots where a garbage truck will stop and block traffic.

Mr. Baruch stated that it is also a safety issue for emergency vehicles as they navigate to an emergency. He stated that an accident along the corridor could cause major congestion.

Ms. Rosario stated that the turn lane in the center allows for emergency vehicles to drive past vehicles.

Ms. Rosario stated that the preliminary concepts will be presented to the public January 24.

Mr. Richardson asked who would be presenting to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Rosario stated that the consultant from RK&K would be putting the slides together and presenting.

Mr. Richardson asked if the Planning Commission would be reviewing the presentation again in the future.

Ms. Rosario stated that there is a joint work session in May.

Mr. Krapf asked if any projects could move forward prior to June.

Ms. Rosario stated that she was unsure and that some of the funding would be used to match other funds to use as leverage.

Mr. Baruch stated that the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority and some other agencies have stated that some funds could come from state agencies as contributions.

Ms. Rosario stated that VDOT could take on some of the maintenance items as immediate projects or to reduce overall cost.

Mr. Krapf stated that residents in the Grove area have been upset for a long time and that the quick fixes could help show that there is progress.

Mr. Richardson asked if Dominion would contribute to the project.

Mr. Schmidt stated that the bus shelter is the only contribution.

Mr. Haldeman asked if this project would fit in with the four lanes near Busch Gardens.

Ms. Rosario stated that the project will flow together. She stated that the project boundaries can be extended to ensure a fluid transition.

Mr. Schmidt stated that he is in favor of a multi-purpose trail.

Ms. Rosario stated that there has been a study for extending the Capital Trail through this corridor.

Mr. Richardson asked when the funding award would be announced.

Ms. Rosario stated that the announcement could come in the fall. She stated that all the projects get ranked and funding is allocated dependent on the rankings.

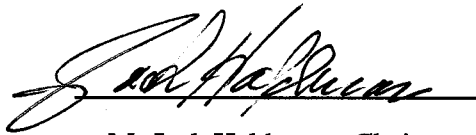
Mr. Haldeman asked if there were any other questions.

There were no more questions or comments.

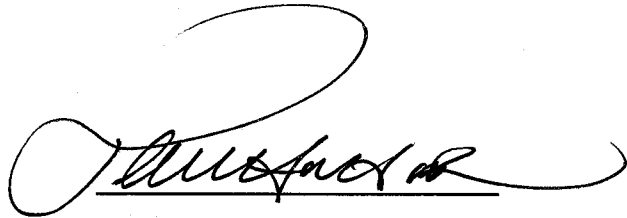
F. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Krapf made a motion to Adjourn. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Haldeman adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:50 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Haldeman", written over a horizontal line.

Mr Jack Haldeman, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Holt", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Paul Holt, Secretary