

AT A WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA, HELD ON THE 14TH DAY OF AUGUST 2012, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER BOARD ROOM, 101 MOUNTS BAY ROAD, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

Mary K. Jones, Chairman, Berkeley District  
John J. McGlennon, Vice Chairman, Roberts District  
W. Wilford Kale, Jr., Jamestown District  
James G. Kennedy, Stonehouse District  
James O. Icenhour, Jr., Powhatan District

Robert C. Middaugh, County Administrator  
Leo P. Rogers, County Attorney

**C. BOARD DISCUSSIONS**

1. Transportation Projects Update

Ms. Tamara Rosario, Principal Planner, presented the Board with an update on the County's Transportation Projects.

Mr. Allen Murphy, Director of Development Management, was in attendance to answer any questions from the Board.

Ms. Rosario began her presentation by stating that the objective of this presentation was to update the Board on transportation project allocations and potential transfers of funds as well as receive feedback on the donor projects, strategies, and desired outcomes.

Ms. Rosario listed the potential donor projects available by category. They were as follows:

A. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Projects:

- a. Longhill Road Multi-Use Trail
- b. Longhill Road Corridor Improvements
- c. Ironbound Road Corridor Improvements
- d. Airport Road Bicycle Improvements

B. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Projects:

- a. Olde Towne Road Curve
- b. Mooretown Road Extension Study (MRES)
- c. Skiffes Creek (Route 60/Route 143) Connector Study

C. Secondary Funds Projects:

- a. Olde Towne Road Curve
- b. Croaker Road (Route 607) Reconstruction

D. Revenue Sharing Projects:

- a. Richmond Road/Lightfoot Road Turn Lane Improvements
- b. Tewning Road Shoulder and Drainage Improvements

Ms. Rosario stated that the strategy is to meet the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) rules for transfers; maximize and optimize the use of available monies; fund construction deficits on recipient projects on course to be advertised; fund projects as directed per the Board's discussion on the Secondary Six-Year Plan; fund construction deficits on recipient projects, which will allow them to remain fully funded; and fund other projects identified in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order to fund a complete phase or advance their timelines.

Ms. Rosario listed the Potential Recipient Projects as follows:

- A. Monticello Avenue
- B. Safe Routes to School - James River Elementary
- C. Longhill Road Widening (LRW)
- D. Racefield Drive, Croaker Road Multi-Use Trail
- E. Richmond Road/Route 199 West Ramp Improvements
- F. Centerville Road/News Road Intersection Improvements
- G. Pocahontas Trail (Route 60) Multi-Modal Corridor

Ms. Rosario explained the individual recipient projects in detail and how the transfer of funds from the donor projects would impact the recipient projects.

Monticello Avenue Project - the transfer would fund the construction deficit so it can continue to advertise using CMAQ funds and transferring funds from the Longhill Road Multi-Use Trail. Mr. Middaugh asked Ms. Rosario to explain why the Longhill Road Multi-Use Trail project was no longer being done. Ms. Rosario explained that Federal design and right-of-way (RW) issues made the scope of the project unfeasible and the costs would outweigh the benefits. She noted that the bike and pedestrian concerns would be covered under the scope of the Longhill Road Corridor Study.

Safe Routes to School Project - the transfer would fund crosswalks and signage around James River Elementary School providing safer avenues for children to walk to school. Ms. Rosario noted that this project would be funded and allowed to proceed to advertisement.

Longhill Road Widening - there are multiple options that the Board would have to choose from and are as follows:

- A. RSTP Option 1 would advance and fund 100 percent of Preliminary Engineering (PE) and would fund 80 percent of RW. Ms. Rosario noted that this option would require the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) to designate the LRW projects as an RSTP project.

Mr. Middaugh asked if there was a possibility to fund the shortfall in MRES in the future.

Ms. Rosario responded yes there were possibilities for funds in the future.

Mr. Middaugh noted that these project costs are dynamic and require an ongoing reassessment.

Ms. Jones asked Mr. Icenhour if he had received all the clarification he needed on the MRES decision.

Mr. Kale asked for clarification again on the effect of the MRES.

After going through the different options, Ms. Rosario stated that she was not recommending Option 2 because of the forfeit of CMAQ funds.

Mr. Middaugh noted that approving Option 1 allows other projects to be completed as well.

Mr. Kale stated that he wanted to point out that in two years there would be no study money available from VDOT and in three to five years there would be no new construction money from VDOT. Therefore, he believes that MRES is important and is necessary to define the corridor. Because the corridor is shared with another locality, Mr. Kale stated that it was necessary for the County to define the corridor first and in such a way that would benefit the County.

Mr. Icenhour stated that the approval of Option 1 is a trade-off. Option 1 allows 85 percent of RW on the LRW project and preserves MRES while allowing other projects to go forward. Mr. Icenhour stated that he is concerned that by preserving MRES for some future, undefined purpose or benefit, the County's number one priority is being pushed down the road for completion.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he believes the importance of the MRES lies in the ability to provide an alternate emergency exit route in the event of another hurricane.

Mr. McGlennon stated that the MRES is undefined and may not have money later to fund construction because VDOT is not going to have money for new construction in 2017. He stated that he was not in favor of moving forward with a study for a project that may or may not be able to be completed in the future.

Ms. Jones stated that she supports the MRES moving forward, because it could provide an alternate emergency route as well as an economic development potential.

Mr. Icenhour replied that he believes another alternate route is irrelevant to handling the overflow from Interstate 64 when it is gridlocked. One more alternate route is not going to solve the problem of Interstate 64, in his opinion.

Mr. Icenhour and Mr. McGlennon both stated that the MRES is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Kale stated that he supports the MRES, but if the study was completed under budget he would like to see the excess monies transferred to the LRW project.

Mr. McGlennon asked what the purpose of the Mooretown corridor would be.

Mr. Middaugh stated that the purpose of the study was to find out what development potential there is along Mooretown Road.

- B. RSTP Option 2 would preserve MRES, advance and fund 100 percent of PE and fund 68 percent of RW. Again, this would require HRTPO to designate this project as an RSTP project.
- C. Secondary Option 1, when combined with RSTP Option 1, would fund and advance 100 percent of RW. This option, when combined with RSTP Option 2, would fund 85 percent of RW. Ms. Rosario noted that the remainder of the Secondary funds would be sufficient to fund the deficit on Croaker Road Multi-Use Trail, fully fund and advance two intersection improvement projects, and seek transfer of Future Year CMAQ funds to advance Pocahontas Trail (Route 60) Multi-Modal Corridor.
- D. Secondary Option 2, when combined with RSTP Option 1, funds three percent of construction. When combined with RSTP Option 2, would advance and fund 100 percent of RW. Ms. Rosario noted that this option would also preserve the MRES. She stated that the remainder of the Secondary Funds would be insufficient to complete match for other CMAQ projects.

Racefield Drive Project - the transfer would advance and fully fund the project.

Croaker Road Multi-Use Trail - the transfer would fund the construction deficit which would allow the project to remain fully funded.

Richmond Road/Route 199 West Ramp Improvements - the transfer would advance and fully fund the project. Ms. Rosario noted the potential for future year allocations to be transferred to Pocahontas Trail (Route 60) Multi-Modal Corridor to better align with VDOT funding guidelines.

Centerville Road/News Road Intersection Improvements - the transfer would advance and fully fund the project. Ms. Rosario noted the potential for future year allocations to be transferred to Pocahontas Trail (Route 60) Multi-Modal Corridor to better align with VDOT funding guidelines.

Pocahontas Trail (Route 60) Multi-Modal Corridor - the transfer and future year allocations would advance and fully fund PE and RW.

Ms. Rosario cautioned the Board that any transfers would require several steps of approval and are not guaranteed. She asked the Board if it concurs with the list of Donor projects and if the Board wishes to preserve or transfer funds from the MRES. She also asked if the Board concurred with the use of available funds to fund and advance projects as outlined.

Mr. Middaugh thanked Ms. Rosario for her efforts in putting together a presentation that simplified a rather complicated issue. He then advised the Board to take up the MRES issue, saying that it is a go or no-go decision.

Mr. Icenhour asked for clarification on the different options for the LRW project. He asked if the MRES was left intact, then the secondary funds will be necessary for the LRW project. He asked how far does that money go, and are there some projects that are going to run out of money before completion.

Ms. Rosario stated that in either scenario the County is spending down the secondary funds available to it. If applied to the LRW project, there will not be enough money left to apply to other projects. Those other projects would be pushed out 5-6 years down the road and would also be losing out on the current CMAQ funds available and would be dependent on future CMAQ funds.

Mr. Kennedy asked about the spending on the easements along Longhill Road.

Mr. Murphy stated that roughly \$2 million had been spent on easements along Longhill Road.

Mr. Kennedy stated that his point was that poor planning had been an issue in the past, so he supports the MRES because it is a long-term planning goal.

Mr. Middaugh requested that the Board put it to a vote during the regular meeting. He stated that it could be done during the Board Discussions portion of the agenda.

At 5:05 p.m. the Board of Supervisors took a break.

At 5:11 p.m., the work session reconvened.

## 2. Land Acquisition Programs

Mr. Middaugh presented background information on the two different land acquisition programs currently in use by the County. He stated that the programs were mostly passive and that staff is looking for direction from the Board on the priority of these programs. He specifically asked what kinds of parcels or tracts of land to actively look for instead of being passive, as well as, how to apply those funds currently available.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he feels the program gets bogged down in bureaucracy. He would like to contract someone to take a more active role in searching out land. He also noted that landowners are currently less inclined to sell because the price of the land has gone down. Mr. Kennedy stated that the process needs to be streamlined.

Ms. Jones stated that the feedback she had received from citizens was that the County had purchased more land than expected and expressed frustration over a campground that the County cannot keep up. She stated that 36 percent of the property in the County is under some sort of conservation. She asked what the goal was. She asked if it is 50 or 75 percent. Ms. Jones stated that 36 percent conservation seems a good percentage to her, so she would like the goal defined. She stated that she would like the programs to continue in the same way that they are now.

Mr. McGlennon stated that the feedback he had received from citizens was positive and that they support the greenspace and land acquisition programs. He felt it would be worthwhile to utilize some of the available funds to hire/contract someone to actively search out potential land/property.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there is a need to evaluate the feasibility of the program and if it is not feasible, then the monies should be transferred elsewhere.

Mr. McGlennon stated that the programs should be focusing on land that could be a benefit to the County in the future. Reforesting potential, helping with future Stormwater run-off regulations, and purchasing conservation easements along streamlines, were the examples Mr. McGlennon used to illustrate a broader approach.

Mr. Icenhour stated that it was necessary to have a comprehensive look at what it is the County is trying to accomplish. He stated that he would like to preserve the borrowing capacity, but does not want to commit to spending it at this time. He also stated that the County could use the programs in a different way.

Instead of purchasing the property and holding on to it, the County could purchase property, put conservation restrictions on the property, and then put the property back on the market, thereby shaping the conservation of the land without the County having to hold on to the property.

Mr. Icenhour also noted that the desired outcomes for property would be different within and outside the Primary Service Area (PSA). He reiterated his desire to preserve the ability to borrow and spend on viable projects and wants to be proactive on finding those viable acquisitions.

Mr. Kale stated that he believes it is necessary to reevaluate the questions and criteria for the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR).

Mr. Middaugh stated that going forward, the Board agreed on the following items:

- a. Preserve the right to borrow.
- b. Revisit what we want to accomplish with the Land Acquisition Programs.
- c. Revisit criteria for the PDR.
- d. Be more proactive in searching for property.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there was another option, with the potential of saving taxpayer dollars. The County could transfer PSA rights, essentially transfer parcels in the PSA for parcels outside the PSA. This could be utilized for environmentally sensitive areas.

Mr. Middaugh confirmed that the members were in agreement on how to move forward.

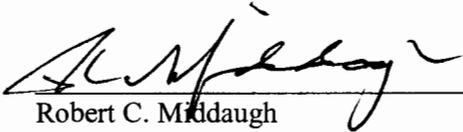
#### **D. CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. McGlennon made a motion, at 5:45 p.m., to go in to closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, consideration of appointment of individuals to County boards and/or commissions; as well as Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, for the consideration of the purchase of parcel(s) of property for public use.

On a roll call vote, the vote was AYE: McGlennon, Icenhour, Kale, Kennedy, Jones (5). Nay: (0).

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

At 6:12 p.m., Ms. Jones recessed the Board.

  
Robert C. Middaugh  
Clerk to the Board