

FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS LEGISLATIVE MEETING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKBRIDGE, VIRGINIA HELD A CONTINUED MEETING AT MOODY HALL, VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, LEXINGTON VIRGINIA ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN: A.W. LEWIS, JR.  
MEMBERS: C.R. COMSTOCK, R.S. FORD, R. H. RIEGEL  
CLERK OF BOARD: CLAIRE A. COLLINS

City of Lexington Mayor, Mimi Elrod and City Manager Jon Ellestad welcomed everyone. The Cities of Lexington and Buena Vista and representatives of Washington and Lee University joined with the Board for the meeting.

Tim Root, Director of Rockbridge Area Transportation Service (RATS) presented an overview of the proposed Rockbridge Public transportation Project along with a handout regarding the project. He was accompanied by RATS Chair Joy Harris. The presentation focused on the proposed regional transportation fixed route for submission of a FTA Section 5311 grant application in the amount of \$364,200 for a deviated fix route encompassing the Cities of Buena Vista and Lexington, Route 60 in the County between the Cities and Route 11 North in the County through to Free Clinic/WalMart area. The first year total local share is projected to be \$54,672 split equally among the three jurisdictions and may be lessened by additional private sector partner commitments. An annual projected local share is \$116,544. To date, partner discussions have occurred with Virginia Military Institute, Washington & Lee University, Southern Virginia University, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, and Carillion Stonewall Jackson Hospital. Major Dallas Clark was in attendance at the meeting representing Virginia Military Institute.

Service if grant funding awarded would most likely begin on January 1, 2011. Funding awards would be announced in April 2010 with the need to request proposals to contract with an operator. The service may be stopped and not initiated at any time. The impact on RATS demand is projected to be reduced by less than 10%. Additional funding partners need to be identified and contacted.

Much discussion ensued resulting from the presentation that included consensus on the need and benefit of public transportation with local match funding being an issue to overcome for the regional governments to unanimously support the project. Requests were made to revisit the route and method of splitting the local share of costs. General agreement was for the County to be the applicant, conduct the required public hearing on January 25, adopt the required application resolution and with the assistance of RATS working with VRT submit the application by the February 1, 2010 deadline. The localities agreed that they need to have locality specific discussion about project priority and funding with Buena Vista and Lexington to discuss the project at their January 21 meetings with a representative to attend the County Board meeting on January 25 for the public hearing portion and resolution for the grant application. While the first year of local funding would be one-third for each jurisdiction, there were comments made of the need to determine the net local share.

Discussion points made were that January is a bad time of year to begin the service; service adjustments and route extensions may be needed in the future; plan adjustments should be made to accommodate stakeholders and partners; Diamond Hill is neglected in the current route; and more partners are needed to share the cost burden and ensure all needs are considered. Questions to be answered are to find out when we will have knowledge of the what the State reimbursement share will be, whether or not non-ADA riders can ride a bus when a bus deviates to pick up an ADA rider, and whether or not grade school children can ride the bus to school.

There being no further discussion, on a motion made by Supervisor Riegel, seconded by Supervisor Ford and vote of 4-0-1 (Supervisor Smith absent from meeting), the Board authorized scheduling a public hearing on January 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to receive public input for submission of the request for funding application and consider adoption of required funding application resolution.

The meeting was continued until Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rockbridge County School Board Office for the Solid Waste Authority meeting followed by the joint meeting with the Rockbridge County School Board at 6:00 p.m.