

**Region 2000 Local Government Council/Central Virginia Planning
District Commission
Executive Committee meeting
January 4, 2019**

Present:

Kenneth Campbell, Chair
Sara Carter
Waverly Coggsdale
Dean Rodgers
Frank Rogers
Gary Shanaberger
Bonnie Svrcek

Others

Gary Christie
Kelly Hitchcock
Chris Winstead, VDOT

1. Proposal to apply for funding for a two-year pilot project to market and initiate van pool services in the region.

Gary and Kelly outlined a proposal to apply for \$72,000 from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, to be matched by \$18,000 from the Local Government Council, to market and establish van pools in the region.

Currently there is a regional study underway to be completed by June 2019 which is intended to gauge the interest and viability of a vanpool program. The data in the vanpool study will help the Council gauge the value in creating such a program.

VDRPT is offering now a grant opportunity to market the vanpool concept and that grant opportunity will not open again until January 2020.

The Committee clarified that we only match the amount of money that is actually drawn down. If we get the vanpool study and find that it is not an effective option for the region, we are not obligated to move forward with the grant and are not obligated to draw down the grant money.

Kelly Hitchcock will be managing the project as part of her work with RIDE Solutions and Alternate transportation. Chris noted that the creation of van pools in the area was recommended by the Regional Connectivity Study. Kelly commented that increasing modes of transportation was also part of our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Bonnie encouraged Kelly to have the vanpool study consultants measure the willingness of local employers to financially participate in an ongoing vanpool program. Kelly indicated that she will send updates and summaries of the vanpool meetings as the study progresses.

Frank suggested that the Committee endorse a recommendation to move forward with an application with the understanding that we did not have to pursue the grant if the vanpool study advised against establishing a vanpool program in this region. Frank commented that this seems to be in line with the PDC's existing efforts in both workforce development and in alternative transportation.

The Committee agreed by consensus.

2. Update from Chris Winstead on VDOT activities

Chris Winstead, Lynchburg VDOT District Engineer, provided an overview of VDOT's work and operations. He indicated that Smart Scale results should be received by the end of January. The Committee noted that they appreciated his and VDOT staff's advocacy on capital project applications.

The Committee noted that sometimes the development community will complain because of the natural push-pull of the regulatory process.

Chris offered his cell number, 434-485-4598, and encouraged local officials to let him know whenever they have an issue to address.

3. Projects/Priorities

Gary noted the agenda material contained a summary of past ideas and a list of questions that the Council may want to consider as next topics of discussion.

The Committee discussed the importance of identifying the right project for GO Virginia funds. Gary will circulate a link to a list of projects previously approved by the Region 2 GO Virginia Board.

Several new ideas were added to the list such as "sports tourism" and education related regional trades-schools and outdoor tourism facilities, especially in the rivers of the region.

It was suggested that the Managers/Administrators meet with Megan Lucas and local economic developers to continue discussing priorities and next steps.