

US Route 501 Regional Coalition

September 28, 2005

The regular meeting of the US Route 501 Regional Coalition was held at the Community & Economic Development Conference Room, County Office Building, Rustburg, Virginia on September 28, 2005.

Those Present:

Supervisor J.D. Puckett, Campbell County
Gary Christie, Regional Commission
Paul Harvey, Campbell County
Mike Davidson, Campbell County
Sue Montgomery, Bedford County
Ron Lovelace, Bedford County, Chair
Barbara Hartley, Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce
Don Austin, Virginia Department of Transportation
Jerry Lovelace, Halifax County

Also Present:

Jamie Banton, Campbell County, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Ron Lovelace called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm. At his request, Mr. Davidson gave the invocation.

The July 13, 2005 meeting minutes were presented for review. Ms. Montgomery requested the names of the volunteer committee for the annual newsletter be added to the July 13th minutes. On a motion by Ms. Montgomery, seconded by Supervisor Puckett and duly adopted by unanimous vote, the July 13, 2005 meeting minutes were approved with one change.

Financial Report

Mr. Davidson provided the Coalition with a current financial report. A total of \$21,762.68 remains in the Coalition account.

Old Business

// Mr. Davidson stated that at the last meeting, the Coalition authorized staff to contact Blair Communications regarding the newsletter mailing list and the printing of the newsletter.

The Newsletter Committee received quotes from three firms; Sisson Creative, Axis Creative and Blair Communications. Blair Communication submitted the lowest quote, about \$2,800 less than the other two. Bair Communications proposes a fee of \$4,616 (without postage) and \$7,380 (with postage) to develop, produce and mail the newsletter.

On a motion by Ms. Montgomery, seconded by Supervisor Puckett and duly adopted by unanimous vote, the 501 Regional Coalition accepted the bid from Blair Communications to develop and produce the next annual newsletter.

// Next, the Coalition discussed the layout and content of the newsletter. Mr. Davidson stated that Blair Communication suggested an 8.5 x 11 page folded in half, as there does not seem to be enough information for a four-page spread. The Coalition discussed using the Brookneal Bypass as its lead story, using information provided by VDOT at the July meeting. In addition to the Brookneal Bypass, the Coalition discussed including the following information in the newsletter:

- Browns Mill Road improvements
- North Carolina postponement of 4-lane improvements to Route 501 from Roxboro to the NC-VA border
- Article regarding the Big Island Georgia Pacific facility and truck traffic issues

Ms. Montgomery suggested that Zoe Miles, the Communications Manager for Georgia Pacific, for more information. The Big Island plant is scaling 224 trucks each day. At present, they employ approximately 400. Ms. Montgomery also suggested obtaining a quote from Delegate Lacey Putney for the article.

The Coalition authorized the newsletter to progress under the direction of the Newsletter Committee, who will try to have the publication released by December 1, 2005.

// In regards to funding new road construction and improvements, Mr. Austin stated that nothing has changed on the VDOT end as state money is scarce and is being used to match federal funds. Mr. Austin also stated that VDOT staff initiated a group to look at accident data to see if critical areas have changed. In addition, Mr. Austin stated that he is trying to have all previously designated state funds for US 501 remain for spot improvements, particularly in regards to passing lanes. Mr. Austin stated that he would bring a short list of possible road improvements to the Coalition at their next meeting.

New Business

// At the request of several members, the Coalition plans to discuss and revise its list of local priorities at its next meeting. The Coalition also discussed the Top Ten Project List map included on the Coalition's website. Mr. Davidson stated that he would contact the GIS technician at the Regional Coalition for assistance updating the map.

// The Commonwealth Transportation Board meets October 11, 2005. Chairman Lovelace stated that he would attend the meeting as a representative of the Coalition.

// Mr. Davidson stated that the Coalition contact database needs updating. The existing list will be sent out to Coalition members for review and correction.

On a motion by Supervisor Puckett, seconded by Mr. Harvey and duly adopted by unanimous vote, the meeting of the US Route 501 Regional Coalition adjourned at 4:13 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2005, 2:00 pm, in the Campbell County CED Conference Room, Rustburg, Virginia.