

**U.S. Route 501 Coalition
Campbell County Office Building,
CED Conference Room,
Rustburg, Virginia
January 23, 2008 °
2:00 pm**

Call to Order

Chairman Lovelace called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Mr. Davidson gave the invocation.

Roll Call

Attending were the following:

Mr. Ron Lovelace, Bedford County, - Chairman
Mr. Robert Love, Halifax County
Mr. J. D. Puckett, Campbell County
Ms. Sue Montgomery, Bedford County – staff
Mr. Jimmy Epps, Halifax Residency VDOT
Mr. Bryan Foster, Halifax County Administrator
Ms. Debi Porter, Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Cayce Dagenhart, Region 2000
Mr. Paul Harvey, Campbell County
Mr. Mike Davidson, Campbell County
Mr. Don Austin, Appomattox/Campbell County VDOT
Mr. Carl Espy, Halifax Town Manager

Also attending were the following:

Ms. Rebecca Schwarz, Campbell County Administrative Assistant
Ms. Debby Forlines, Halifax County Senior Administrative Assistant

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Lovelace noted that Mr. Espy representing the Town of Halifax had requested to address the Coalition seeking support of a town project.

Review of September 26, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Sue Montgomery, seconded by Mr. Mike Davidson and carried, to approve the September minutes.

VOTE:

Ayes: All
Nays: No one
Abstained: No one

Financial Report

Date	Description	Revenue	Expense	Balance
				\$ 22,850.05
02-Apr-07	Brookneal Dues Received	\$ 250.00		\$ 23,100.05
18-Apr-07	WebUX, Inc. (Feb.-May)		\$ 41.85	\$ 23,058.20
18-Apr-07	WebUX, Inc. (May-Aug.)		\$ 41.85	\$ 23,016.35
03-May-07	Blair Communication (Domain name renewal)		\$ 54.99	\$ 22,961.36
26-Sep-07	WebUX, Inc. (Aug.-Nov.)		\$ 46.04	\$ 22,915.32
31-Oct-07	WebUX, Inc. (Nov.-Feb.)		\$ 41.85	\$ 22,873.47
17-Oct-07	Brookneal Dues 2008	\$ 125.00		\$ 22,998.47
17-Oct-07	Campbell Co. Dues 2008	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 23,998.47
17-Nov-07	Campbell Co. reimbursement for overpayment		\$ 500.00	\$ 23,498.47
17-Oct-07	South Boston Dues 2008	\$ 125.00		\$ 23,623.47
18-Oct-07	Bedford Co. Dues 2008	\$ 500.00		\$ 24,123.47
30-Oct-07	Blair Marketing Newsletter		\$ 816.25	\$ 23,307.22
05-Nov-07	Lynchburg Dues 2008	\$ 500.00		\$ 23,807.22
14-Nov-07	Halifax Co. Dues 2008	\$ 500.00		\$ 24,307.22
13-Dec-07	BMS Direct - Newsletter mailing		\$ 1,756.00	\$ 22,551.22
11-Jan-08	WebUX, Inc. (Feb.-May)		\$ 41.85	\$ 22,509.37
17-Jan-08	Blair Marketing (Domain name renewal)		\$ 54.99	\$ 22,454.38
17-Jan-08	Blair Marketing (501 Newsletter-printing and distribution)		\$ 4,543.63	\$ 17,910.75

Mr. Davidson reviewed the Financial Report noting a balance of \$17,910.75 as of January 17, 2008. He advised that there is one outstanding invoice, which will probably be between \$400 and \$500. The balance reflects the new dues structure.

Old Business

- **Newsletter**

Mr. Davidson noted there are plenty more flyers. He advised that local Chambers of Commerce are to send the newsletters to their members and suggested members ask some local business owners if they received the newsletter. He advised that the

Chambers were distributing the newsletters to cover any gap in the distribution list that the Coalition had purchased. He described the distribution list as being one that was purchased from a vendor based on zip codes the Coalition provided which should have included all zip codes covered by the Coalition. He advised that the cost of the distribution list was approximately \$800 just for a list to mail the flyers without the Coalition being able to see the list. If the list were purchased, the cost would have been \$1,500.00, and the lists are outdated quickly. In reply to Ms. Porter's question about considering E-blast, Mr. Davidson noted this option could be cost effective and would provide an opportunity to send the newsletter out more frequently, but concerns were expressed about how many recipients would delete the email as "spam".

Ms. Porter noted that *The News & Advance* would occasionally do a story from their E-Blasts.

Chairman Lovelace noted that most small projects that could be funded have been completed, and the remaining projects do not change often. The newsletter would not change that much if sent frequently.

Ms. Montgomery noted that they needed to keep the same look and send the newsletter annually so it would not be forgotten.

Mr. Espy commented on positive feedback he received about the article in the newsletter about safety concerns and increased enforcement on Route 501 between Brookneal and Halifax.

Mr. Davidson noted that the Top 10 Priorities were listed on the newsletter instead of the entire 18 because of space limitations.

- **Other**

Mr. Austin updated the group regarding the bridge replacement with some road widening south of Gladys. He noted for there would be signalized one-way traffic while the bridge is being replaced. He noted that a funded project in Brookneal would not be done and that money (probably between \$500,000 to \$600,000) could be used on another Route 501 project. He noted that the project must be in Campbell County. He noted VDOT is proposing to improve passing on a short area by taking out a knoll near the Davis Fruit Stand north of Gladys.

Mr. Epps advised that Priority #11 to construct a turn lane at the Route 642 intersection is scheduled for a public hearing in the next two months. He noted the turn lane was not in the original study for improving Route 642, but VDOT agreed to incorporate the improvement as a turn lane was approved for the intersection of Route 642 and Route 57.

New Business

- **Election of Officers**

Chairman Lovelace noted that the office of Chairman rotates preferably to an elected official for each of the localities that are members of the Coalition. If an elected official is not available, a citizen member could be named. A staff member cannot serve as Chairman. He advised that the next in rotation was Halifax County.

Mr. Foster advised that Mr. Abbott was the elected official on the Coalition and that he was experiencing major health issues. Mr. Foster stated that he would not like to name a citizen until he had approval from the citizen. He asked that election of Chairman be postponed until the next meeting.

Chairman Lovelace concurred with the request to delay election of officers until the next meeting. He suggested they review the list of members. If members are not attending, replacements could provide new “eyes” for the Coalition.

- **Town of Halifax- Road Priority List Request**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
IN THE TOWN OF HALIFAX, VIRGINIA
THROUGH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2014 SYIP**

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), is accelerating the Virginia Department of Transportation’s design and construction schedule for the VA Route 360 Bridge Replacement on the Banister River (STR# 1024-UPC# 18878), as part of the FY 2009-2014 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) in which a temporary structure will be constructed as the first phase of the project because the deteriorating 1930’s iron truss bridge is posing a hazard to motorists and commercial carriers along the designated Virginia Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Route 501 Regional Coalition has published a Route 501 Corridor Study which includes as a major improvement priority the construction of an eastward bypass from (U.S.) Route 501 to (U.S.) Route 360 in addition to a safety/spot improvement priority for the installation of a traffic signal and construction of right and left turn lanes at the intersection of (U.S.) Route 501 and (VA) Route 360 in the Town of Halifax; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Halifax, Virginia (the “Town”), adopted its Comprehensive Plan on July 10, 2007 in which it affirms that modern roundabouts are preferred to signalized intersections specifically at US Hwy 501 and VA Hwy 360 on North Main Street in addition to other locations within the town’s corporate limits based upon facilitated transportation workshops with the public conducted by Michael Wallwork, P.E. of Alternate Street Design and Tom Flynn, P.E., P.T.O.E. of Draper Aden Associates; and

WHEREAS, the Town Comprehensive Plan also addresses transportation goals for more pedestrian and bicycle amenities throughout the town, including an identified “greenway” within the project area in addition to specifically prioritizing historic preservation, natural resource protection and outdoor recreation

opportunities along the Banister Lake/Banister River “blueway” as part of the Old Banister Town neighborhood redevelopment plan; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the US Hwy 501 and VA Hwy 360 modern roundabout creates a significant cost-savings opportunity to build the same needed pedestrian/bicycle, vehicle traffic-calming and environmental improvements in conjunction with the VA Route 360 Bridge Replacement Project on the Banister River since by being in close proximity, it will effectively address safety, congestion and the preservation of Virginia’s transportation network while laying the foundation for future US Hwy 501 improvements as a major transportation corridor.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of Halifax, Virginia to support the design and construction of the Banister River Bridge Replacement Project with the new structure adhering to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines for contextual design as referenced in Chapter 7-“Bridges and Other Major Structures” and slower design speeds to include the highway corridor enhancements attached to the *Community Resources Information Sheet* submitted to VDOT Environmental Engineer Regina K. Newman on June 14, 2007 and to support the funding for construction of a modern roundabout at US 501 and VA 360 as a major “gateway” into the historic County Seat.

This resolution duly adopted this 9th day of October, 2007.

Mr. Espy requested that the Coalition support the Town of Halifax’s resolution requesting that VDOT study improvements to the intersection of 501/360. He noted that endorsement by the Coalition indicates to the Commonwealth Transportation Board public awareness of the need for improvement at the intersection. He explained that the Route 360 bridge replacement has been moved to a high priority on VDOT’s project list, and the timing is consistent with adding the study of an improvement at the 501/360 intersection. VDOT’s policy is currently to study roundabouts before signalized intersections, which is consistent with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan. He noted that right of way should be attainable as there is a vacant lot at the intersection. Mr. Barkley, Halifax Residency Administrator, suggested the improvement could be timed with the bridge replacement because of the close proximity of the two sites. A traffic study would be required. Focus for funding would be on considering resources within VDOT as they are scooping these projects. Mr. Espy noted that the Town of Halifax has recently been through revitalization to be more pedestrian friendly, and a priority now is to relieve traffic congestion. Since there is not a lot of funding, support of the Coalition would help when Six Year Improvements are being considered.

In reply to Ms. Porter’s inquiry about the effect on residential property in the area, Mr. Espy noted the area was mixed use. He stated that installing a roundabout is a concept not a design, but a similar roundabout in Amherst County has not been disruptive for residents. At the 501/360 intersection, there is a service station and vacant lot.

After discussing the location on an aerial photo, Chairman Lovelace suggested that a future meeting be held in vicinity so members would be more familiar with the area.

Mr. Epps noted that the bridge replacement is scheduled for advertising in late 2009 or early 2010. Bridge construction will take approximately one year.

Mr. Davidson suggested that on their long-term priorities list, Halifax County could swap one of their projects to put this one higher on the list and realign their list.

Mr. Austin advised that to sell a project the priorities may depend on money available and #15 may be done before #1. The priorities are a wish list. He noted that federal dollars would fund the Banister Bridge Project.

Chairman Lovelace suggested changing the priority list at the next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Bryan Foster, seconded by Mr. Mike Davidson and carried, to endorse the resolution for a roundabout at the intersection of Route 501 and Route 360 in the Town of Halifax as opposed to a signalized intersection.

VOTE:

Ayes:	All
Nays:	No one
Abstained:	No one

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairman Lovelace adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Campbell County Office Building, CED Conference Room, Rustburg, Virginia.

Ronald Lovelace Chairman