

Harrison County Transportation Study Project Advisory Committee

Meeting One, June 29, 2000, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
District 4 Headquarters, Division of Highways, WVDOT
Meadowbrook Road at I-79, Bridgeport, WV

Summary of Meeting One

(July 13, 2000 Revised)

Purpose & Objectives

The first meeting of the Project Advisory Committee was held June 29, 2000 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the District 4 Headquarters of the WVDOT in Bridgeport. The meeting was held to introduce members to the project scope of work and schedule and to provide an overview of the proposed technical approach.

Attendance

The following Project Advisory Committee members (27 total) were present at the meeting:

Jim Hunt	Ron Hanlan	Dolores Ternago
Joe Timms	Kathy Wagner	Kenneth Yost
Bill Foster	Wayne J. Northey	Joe Gero
Richard L. Wood	L. Wallace Brake	Ann Marie Merandi
Kim Haws	J. Thomas Small	Phyllis Freedman
Thomas Hall	Jeff Silka	Tim LeMasters
Tom Vidovich	Ronald C. Smith, Jr.	P.R. Watson, Jr.
Barbara Warner	Frank Angotti	Louis Spatafore
Jeff Mikorski	Larry A. Linch	Ralph J. Bean, Jr.

Lee Martin, Denny Lamm, Bruce Carter, Jim Mattingly, Beth Taylor, Roy Smith, David Kates, James Hall, Ed Corkrean, Terry Shulte, John A. Bellotte, Cecil B. Highland, Jr., James Griffith, Robert Boylan, The Honorable William R. Sharpe, Larry Mazza, The Honorable Joseph M. Minard, The Honorable Samuel J. Cann, Tom Keeley, Marvin Murphy, and Roger Diaz were not present.

Richard L. Warner, Susan Watkins, and Mark Scoular, of the WVDOT were in attendance. Lewis Grimm and Larry Clegg of the consulting engineering firm BRW, Inc., and Steven Schukraft of Mary Means & Associates, Inc, (MMA) represented the consultants.

Presentation/Discussion Summary

Welcome. Welcoming remarks from Lewis Grimm were offered and members of the consultant teams, WVDOT staff, and the advisory and committee were introduced.

Discussion of Project Background. Lewis Grimm mentioned that it has been 25 years since a similar type comprehensive transportation planning effort has been undertaken for Harrison County. He noted that other counties in the State including Marion, Monongalia and Mercer Counties have initiated similar planning processes over the past several years. Mr. Grimm discussed the planning requirements mandated by federal legislation (the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)) as they pertain to the project and explained how these requirements will guide the study. Mr. Grimm emphasized the multi-modal nature of the study, saying that all modes of transportation will be addressed.

Overview of Study Scope, Outcome, Approach & Schedule. Mr. Grimm provided a brief overview of the study scope, anticipated outcomes, approach and schedule. Notice to proceed was received on March 1, 2000 to begin an estimated 24-month project to develop a short-range and long-range transportation plan for Harrison County. Data will be collected during the summer months which will provide a base line of traffic information for use during the study. During the fall months, a short-range plan (Year 2010) identifying improvements as well as a QRS II based travel demand model will be developed. It is anticipated that long-range (2020-2025) alternatives will be developed during winter and spring with a final plan ready by March of 2002.

Comments & Discussion. The following comments questions and responses were offered by meeting participants:

In response to a question concerning projects or plans underway, Mr. Grimm stated that existing data and projects listed in WVDOT's three-year transportation improvement program will serve as the baseline for the study.

Participants requested that the following information be provided to Advisory Committee members: copies of County and urban area road network maps, copies of excerpts from the 1977 county transportation plan, and a map of proposed projects to be completed in the next three years.

Discussion about the possibility of examining the potential extension of the Route 279 by-pass beyond Bridgeport to connect with Corridor "H" was held. Mr. Grimm stated he will approach it from a conceptual standpoint but will focus on the transportation system internal to Harrison County.

Funding availability and its affect on proposed enhancements such as trails was discussed and Grimm stated that the plan would consider fiscal constraints.

A question was raised about meeting notices and how to encourage increased public involvement. Grimm reviewed the project team's plans for the newsletters, press releases and a project web site.

Questions about the relationship between the HCTS and Corridor H impacts on I-79 and US Route 50, and the coordination with surrounding counties were raised. Richard Warner of the WVDOT indicated that these issues would be addressed as they come up over the course of the study.

In response to a question about airport traffic and freight movement, Grimm stated that both truck and rail would be addressed through the study.

A suggestion was made that subcommittees of the full project Advisory Committee be formed to deal with local community issues and concerns as they arise. These smaller task groups would then report back to the full committee.

A representative of the Chamber of Commerce mentioned that they are identifying sites for industrial development and that additional information regarding the road network would be useful for their work.

Next Meeting. Grimm will be testing dates for meetings during the month of October (Mondays are not good). Members requested that members be provided better notice for subsequent meetings.

Delegate Barbara Warner suggested that the Harrison County Roads Committee, and possibly the Chamber of Commerce Roads Team, get together prior to the next full Advisory Committee meeting to identify specific issues and concerns to be addressed by the study.

This concludes the meeting summary.

Comments or questions regarding the meeting summary should be provided to Richard Warner of the WVDOT (Phone: 304-558-3156, e-mail: rwarner@dot.state.wv.us) in advance of the next meeting of the Committee. Revisions to the summary will be made as necessary and a revised draft will be forwarded to members for their review.

Enclosures:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Meeting attendance sign-in sheet
3. Mailing List of Advisory Committee Membership (June 29, 2000)
4. Currently Planned WVDOT Projects in Harrison County
5. Excerpt from 1977 Clarksburg/Harrison County Transportation Study Final Report
6. Clarksburg / Bridgeport Urban Area Highway Map
7. Harrison County State Highway Map (2 part)