

**OVERVIEW OF HB2 AND SALEM DISTRICT
I-81 POTENTIAL CANDIDATE PROJECTS**

Salem District Auditorium
731 Harrison Avenue
Salem Virginia 24153
August 27, 2015, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

We had very productive I-81 meeting on Thursday, August 27, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. with members of our General Assembly, local government and local PDC/MPOs. An overview of HB-2 and Salem District I-81 potential candidate projects was presented in the district auditorium. The following were in attendance:

Name	Organization	Title
Jennifer Boyd	Virginia General Assembly – 21 st District	Legislative Assistant to Senator John Edwards
Ralph Smith	Virginia General Assembly – 19 th District	Senator
Dave Suetterlein	Virginia General Assembly – 19 th District	Legislative Assistant to Senator Ralph Smith
Terry Austin	Virginia General Assembly – 19 th District	Delegate
Jeremy Ruch	Virginia General Assembly – 8 th District	Legislative Assistant to Delegate Greg Habeeb
Eric Bateman	Virginia General Assembly – 7 th District	Legislative Assistant to Delegate Nick Rush
Blake Roark	Virginia General Assembly – 6 th District	Legislative Assistant to Delegate Jeff Campbell
William Fralin	Commonwealth Transportation Board	Salem District member
Court Rosen	Commonwealth Transportation Board	Rural-at-Large member
Wayne Strickland	Roanoke Valley TPO	Executive Director
Dan Brugh	New River Valley MPO	Executive Director
Kevin Byrd	New River Valley Regional Commission	Executive Director
Pete Huber	Pulaski County	County Administrator
Emily Gibson	Montgomery County	Planning Director
Tom Gates	Roanoke County	County Administrator
Richard Caywood	Roanoke County	Asst. County Administrator
Kathleen Guzi	Botetourt County	County Administrator
Cody Sexton	Botetourt County	Information Specialist
Ken King	VDOT – Salem	District Engineer
Tommy DiGiulian	VDOT – Salem	Project Development Engineer
Anne Booker	VDOT – Salem	SWRO Director
Alex Price	VDOT – Salem	Location and Design Manager
Darrel Johnson	VDOT – Richmond TMPD	Rural Planning Program Manager
Michael Gray	VDOT – Salem	District Planner
Jason Bond	VDOT – Salem	Communications Manager
Dan Collins	VDOT – Salem	Residency Administrator
David Clarke	VDOT – Christiansburg	Residency Administrator

Below is a high-level summary of the meeting discussion and comments:

- Delegate Terry Austin had concerns about funding distribution between districts. CTB member Fralin explained that each district would still receive an allotment and before HB2 Salem District received about ten percent of the statewide funding allocation. He noted that this is approximately the same amount the Salem District will receive under the new District Grant allocation method.
- Pulaski County Administrator Pete Huber expressed the need for a comprehensive emergency plan for alternate routes. He pointed out the Old Route 100 bridge over Peak Creek as an example of a structure in Pulaski that could not handle detours. It was noted that at one point there was some discussion about a system of flip signs that local responders could implement during detours. Detour plans exist for I-81 and Ken King will have the operations staff follow up with both reviewing the plans for needed updates and evaluating the possible use of flip signs.
- Wayne Strickland inquired about the piecemeal approach to project development on I-81 with avoidance of costly bridge replacements. He specifically asked if the smaller improvements on I-81 were funded over time if the end product would be a wider interstate. It was explained that these smaller projects would not result in additional general purpose lanes but the addition of auxiliary lanes would provide improved operational performance of the existing lanes.
- Richard Caywood expressed concerns about the overall strategy of focusing on smaller projects versus the ultimate buildout that is being considered as part of the current NEPA study between exits 150 and 118. Ken King responded that the idea is to leverage the available funds in a strategic approach to make systematic operational improvements. Mr. Fralin commented that is very difficult to do what you need to do given funding constraints.
- Tom Gates inquired about how economic benefits are factored into decisions. Tommy DiGiulian explained that economic development is one of the more difficult factors to quantify. Kathleen Guzi relayed that it seems easier to quantify the impacts of existing development than it will be for future developments. Mr. Fralin pointed out that the HB2 implementation guide had some very specific criteria for how this factor is scored, and he encouraged localities to become very familiar with the guide and its appendices.
- Kevin Byrd initiated discussion about how site-specific economic benefits are determined in terms of proximity to the interstate. Mr. Fralin pointed out that a project score would be significantly lower once the development site is greater than a mile away from the interstate.
- Pete Huber from Pulaski County suggested a project might be considered to add an auxiliary lane at the New River bridge crossing to help alleviate a short segment of congestion.
- Ken King thanked everyone for attending and noted that the Salem District staff has been working with the planning staff of the Counties, MPOs and PDCs to support the HB2 application process. He reiterated VDOT's commitment to support localities and planning organizations with this new process and encouraged people to contact VDOT with any questions or assistance that might be needed.

Prepared by
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