

WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES
of the
July 8, 2020 Meeting

held via
Zoom/Call In

at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Leland Mitchell
David Rotenizer

PATRICK COUNTY

Clayton Kendrick

HENRY COUNTY

Jim Adams, Chairman

MARTINSVILLE

Kathy Lawson, Treasurer
Jennifer Bowles
Ronikka Hannans

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Ron Searce, Vice-Chairman
Vic Ingram
Greg Sides

DANVILLE

Lee Vogler
James Buckner

ROCKY MOUNT

Ralph Casey

ABSENT

Tim Tatum, Franklin County
Tommy Slaughter, Henry County
Wes George, Henry County
Clyde DeLoach, Patrick County
Jerry Adams, Patrick County
Kimberly Walker, Danville

STAFF

David Hoback, Executive Director
Leah Manning, Deputy Director/Regional Planner
Michael Armbrister, Associate Director/Senior Planner
Joe Bonanno, AICP, Regional Planner

GUESTS

Mike Burnette, Franklin County Director of Economic Development
Lisa Cooper, Franklin County Senior Planner

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. with a quorum present. The new Board member, James Buckner representing the City of Danville, and guests were welcomed.

2. **Introduction of Michael Armbrister, WPPDC Associate Director/Senior Planner**

The Chairman introduced the newest PDC staff member, Michael Armbrister, Associate Director/Senior Planner. Mr. Armbrister provided background information and was welcomed by all.

THE BOARD:

Welcomed Michael Armbrister, the new Associate Director/Senior Planner for the PDC.

3. **Points Arising from Previous Meetings**

There were none.

4. **Request for Additional Project to be included in the West Piedmont Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for submission to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration: Sewer Infrastructure Repair and Replace, Jones Creek Interceptor, City of Martinsville—WPPDC/P(20)26**

The Deputy Director provided an overview of this request from the City of Martinsville to add the Jones Creek Interceptor project to the 2020 CEDS project priority list for potential EDA funding. She explained that the project met the goals and objectives of the 2020 CEDS document to improve infrastructure needed to grow the regional economy and provide adequate utilities to support businesses and industries in the region. The amendment would allow the City of Martinsville to apply for potential EDA funding in the amount of \$3 million.

Mrs. Lawson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rotenizer, to approve the proposed CEDS amendment as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Unanimously approved the requested amendment to the 2020 West Piedmont CEDS project priority list as presented.

5. **INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: City of Martinsville EDA CARES Act Application for Sewer Infrastructure Repair and Replace, Jones Creek Interceptor Project--WPPDC/P(20)27**

The Deputy Director reported that the City of Martinsville had submitted an EDA grant application in the amount of \$3 million through the CARES Act Recovery Assistance Program. The project involved repair/replacement of 5,700 LF of the Jones Creek Interceptor, a 36" corrugated metal pipe that was at least 50+ years old. She noted that the primary sewer line serves approximately 350 businesses and industries in Martinsville and Henry County. In addition, the line serves the SOVAH Health Hospital as well as Patrick Henry Community College, Kings Grant Retirement Center and more. She advised the project was critical and would provide reliable utility service and prevent potential temporary closings.

Ms. Bowles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to make favorable comment on the proposed project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to make favorable comment on the City of Martinsville's proposed project.

6. **INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) EDA CARES Act Application for Industry 4.0 Robotics/Integration Project—WPPDC/P(20)28**

The Deputy Director briefed the Board on the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research's grant application for approximately \$2.5 million to be submitted through the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration's CARES Act Supplemental Funding Program. She noted that PDC staff was providing assistance on the application to assist with equipment costs for the Industry 4.0 Robotics/Integration initiative; approximately \$2.5 million had been committed by the Danville Regional Foundation as match. The state-of-the-art equipment would be housed in the new Center for Manufacturing Advancement facility to be constructed on the IALR campus in Danville. The Deputy Director indicated the unique project would help build a pipeline of skilled workers to attract new industries with high paying jobs and help manufacturers be more resilient with these trained technicians. Further, the project would span the West Piedmont Region and eventually be expanded into the entire GO Virginia Region 3 footprint. She also highlighted the fact that this initiative could serve as a national model.

Mr. Buckner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rotenizer, to make favorable comment on the proposed project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to make favorable comment on the proposed Institute for Advanced Learning and Research proposal.

7. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: County of Franklin EDA Disaster Supplemental Application for Summit View Business Park Connector Road Project--WPPDC/P(20)29

The Deputy Director detailed Franklin County's \$3.7 million proposal to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration's Disaster Supplemental Program as a result of Tropical Storms Florence and Michael. She explained that the \$12.8 million project would assist with construction of a 1.35-mile connector road to serve the Summit View Business Park. Matching funds included \$5.4 million through VDOT's Revenue Sharing Program and \$3.75 million from VDOT's 2018 Smart Scale award to the County. The Deputy Director stated that the new roadway would create better traffic flow and freight movement within the Park, provide access to additional sites to be developed in the Park, and help strengthen economic resiliency with the creation of new jobs and private investment in an Opportunity Zone.

Mr. Mike Burnette of the Franklin County Office of Economic Development, was present to address any questions.

Mr. Vogler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lawson, to make a favorable comment on the application. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to make favorable comment on the proposed Franklin County project.

8. Consideration of Year 2020 Smart Scale Transportation Project Applications for WPPD Region—WPPDC/P(20)30:

- Franklin County: Iron Ridge and U.S. Route 220, Henry Road and U.S. Route 220, Bonbrook Mill and U.S. Route 220, Brooks Mill Road and Scruggs Road, Lakemount Drive and Route 122, Harmony School Road and Route 122 - Resolution WPPDC 2020-7
- Franklin County: U.S. Route 220 and Route 613/Naff Road to be Submitted by RVARC – Resolution WPPDC 2020-8
- Henry County: U.S. Route 220 North (above Bassett Forks), U.S. Route 220 at Morehead Avenue/Route 87, U.S. Route 58 and Dogwood Drive – Resolution WPPDC 2020-9
- Patrick County/Town of Stuart: Route 8 and Ashby Drive, Stuart Sidewalk Improvements – Resolution WPPDC 2020-10
- Pittsylvania County: U.S. Route 29 and Malmaison Road, U.S. Route 29 and Lawless Creek Road, U.S. Route 29 and Tightsqueeze Road – Resolution WPPDC 2020-11
- City of Danville: Piedmont Drive Pedestrian Accessibility Improvements, Riverside Drive Improvements from Piney Forest Road to Audubon Drive, Riverside Drive from Park Avenue to Westover Drive, Riverside Drive from Arnett Blvd to Main Street – Resolution WPPDC 2020-12
- City of Martinsville: Fayette Street/Route 57 Complete Streets/Safety Improvements at Albert Harris Elementary School and Fayette Street from Ailcie Street to Pine Hall Road, Market Street and Moss Street Pedestrian Improvements – Resolution WPPDC 2020-13

The Executive Director provided a brief overview of the Smart Scale program and each project to be considered in the region. Before diving into the details, Mr. Bonanno presented descriptions for various innovative intersection designs, particularly the continuous green T and the restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT).

The Executive Director suggested that, while each locality would have individual resolutions for their respective projects, in the interest of time the Board may want to entertain consideration of the projects as one block vote if there were no objections. The Chairman noted that, should anyone want to extract a project for consideration, to state that when making a motion. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed. With that, the Executive Director explained the activities to be undertaken within each proposal.

Mrs. Cooper, Principal Planner in the Franklin County Department of Planning and Community Development, was present to address some of the Franklin County project details.

Based on the concurrence for one block vote, Mr. Vogler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowles, to provide the respective resolutions to endorse each locality's projects. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to provide respective resolutions of endorsement for each locality's projects under consideration.

9. Other Business

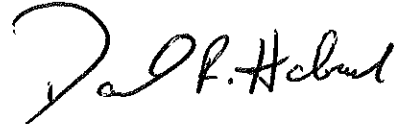
The Executive Director reminded the Board members that the next meeting would be held on August 27th. He also recognized the new Board members and personnel.

10. Comments from Commissioners

Mr. Rotenizer noted that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Armbrister, but would miss Ms. Manning.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.



David R. Hoback
Executive Director

Attachments