

TRANSPORTATION ACCOUNTABILITY

C O M M I S S I O N

Performance Standards Subcommittee Meeting June 8, 2007

Meeting Summary

Members present:

Mark Goodwin – UPS Freight
Geraldine Holmes - AARP Virginia
Hugh Montgomery – Institute for Defense and Homeland Security
Hunter Watson – Davenport & Company LLC
Blair Williamson – S.L. Williamson Company, Inc.

Others present:

Ralph Davis – Office of the Secretary of Transportation
Mary Lynn Tischer – Commonwealth’s Multimodal Transportation Planning Office
David Ekern – VDOT Commissioner
Matthew Tucker – DRPT Director
Larry Jones – VDOT, Management Services Division
Kimberly Spence – VDOT, Transportation and Mobility Planning Division
Katherine Graham – Commonwealth’s Multimodal Transportation Planning Office
Randall Burdette – DOAV Director
Keith Wandtke – VDOT, Policy Division
Michael Garrett – VDOT, Policy Division
John Gruber – DMV
Marsha Fiol – VDOT, Transportation and Mobility Planning Division
Robin Grier – VDOT, Transportation and Mobility Planning Division
Brad Shelton – VDOT, Transportation and Mobility Planning Division
Amy Hewett – VA. Chamber of Commerce
Scott Cummings
Rusty Harrington – DOAV
Mike Edwards – VACO
Steve Pittard – DRPT

Chairman Mark Goodwin welcomed the Committee members and visitors and reviewed the meeting agenda. He then asked if there were any citizens present who wished to make a comment. There were none.

The April 27, 2007 meeting summary was approved without comment.

Mr. Matthew Tucker, Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), presented DRPT's current goals and performance measures, the department's mission and vision, and proposed new key objectives and performance measures. Mr. Tucker told the Committee that DRPT is mainly a funding agency. Their output is money and the outcome is public benefit. Therefore, DRPT's objectives were categorized as outputs or outcomes and the measures were assigned accordingly. Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis reminded the Committee that Mr. Tucker's recommendations were the result of the concern at the April 27th meeting that the proposed DRPT measures were too broad. Mr. Goodwin asked Mr. Tucker if he could put timelines on the new measures. Mr. Davis noted that it will be the charge of each agency to define targets and timelines for any performance measure they use. The target date currently being used for some of the measures is 2010, however, interim dates will need to be identified. The Committee accepted Mr. Tucker's proposal.

Mr. Davis told the Committee that Governor Kaine had requested a meeting with the Accountability Commission Chair and Subcommittee Chairs regarding the results of the Interim Report. The Governor had mentioned that he thought it was a good report and was on the track of what he intended when he established the Commission; however, he would like to discuss the next steps and the final report contents.

Mr. Davis presented a synopsis of the agency presentations from the April 27th meeting on existing and proposed measures. The Committee agreed to the new measures as presented by Mr. Davis and listed in the table below.

AGENCY	MEASURES
DRPT	Increase in transit ridership
	Increase in volume of freight shipped by rail
	Number of jobs created and maintained through transit initiatives
	Number of jobs created and maintained through rail initiatives
	Increase in transit ridership for elderly, disabled and low income citizens
VDOT	Annual Hours of Delay
	Number of Fatalities
	Pavement/Bridge Condition
	Projects Completed On Time
DOAV	Number of Enplanements
	Economic Activity Generated

	Ratio of Grants Executed to Allocation
AGENCY	MEASURES
VPA	Number of Port-Generated Jobs
	Number of Containers (TEUs)
	Containers Per Acre/Per Year
DMV	Number of Fatalities
	Wait Time for Majority of Customers
	Average Number of Interactions to Complete a Single Transaction

Mr. Davis told the Committee that these measures would be reported to the full Commission at the July 30th meeting and if approved, included in the final report.

Mr. Goodwin did express concern that VPA did not suggest a measure on profitability. He suggested that the measure on the number of containers should be able to show whether they are profitable containers. Currently, VPA tracks the number of containers but it is not known if they track the profitability of the containers. That will be researched and, if the data is available, the measure can be adapted to reflect it. Mr. Davis mentioned that the VPA is currently conducting a study to determine the number of jobs created by port activities. He noted that it is difficult to measure return on investment for a public agency because typically it is the agency goal to provide a service, not make a profit. It is necessary, however, to show the value of public benefit of the services provided.

Mr. Davis reminded the Committee that the Executive Order was specific in its charge to the Commission, but that other reform measures have been discussed that were not specifically part of that charge. Considering that Committee members have brought them up numerous times over the course of the Commission’s work, it was important to bring them to the table for formal discussion. These issues and the Subcommittee’s recommendations are as follows:

1) Project Selection - Goals and outcome performance measures are essential elements for accountability. However, the mix of projects selected and implemented is critical to the success of the overall transportation program.

Subcommittee’s Recommendation: Use an objective methodology based on a set of overarching goals as a tool to assist in project selection.

2) Public Awareness: Transportation agencies have not done an adequate job in communicating with and educating the public.

Subcommittee’s Recommendation: Develop new strategies for informing the public and provide better communication between transportation agencies and their stakeholders.

3) Transportation Investment: The 2007 Transportation Initiative (HB 3202) represents an important step forward in addressing transportation needs. However, the adequacy of the transportation investment will be an ongoing issue, and resources should be linked to performance in future planning and funding initiatives.

Subcommittee's Recommendation: Develop and incorporate methods of linking requirements and resources to performance and the benefits achieved in future planning and funding initiatives.

4) Senior Mobility: The Commonwealth's transportation program does not adequately address mobility needs of the rapidly growing senior population.

Subcommittee's Recommendation: Utilize the limited mobility population objective and performance measure developed by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to serve as a basis for allocation of funds to address the needs in this area.

Mr. Davis reminded the Committee that the next meeting of the full Commission is July 30th. Subcommittee chairs will be asked to present their Committee's recommendations to the full Commission at that meeting.

Mr. Goodwin commented that there seems to be a lot of time between the last meeting and the due date for the final report. Mr. Davis told the Committee that there needs to be a considerable amount of time dedicated to writing the report, getting review, receiving input and finalizing the report.

Mr. Davis told the members that Chairman Squires was presenting the Interim Report at the June 20th Commonwealth Transportation Board workshop and encouraged the members to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.