Transportation Focus Group

COMMUNITY
STRATEGIC PLAN
ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Below is the meeting summary for the third Transportation Focus Group meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to select approximately three objectives for each goal established at the second meeting. All of the Focus Group information will be incorporated into the Community Strategic Plan *document which will be considered by the Board of Supervisors later this year.*

Meeting Date: 4/7/16

Recorder: Tammi Wood

Meeting Location: Public Safety Building

Number of Participants: 26

Number of Small Groups: 3

Host: Supervisor George Assaid

Lead Staff: Richard Caywood and Megan Cronise

Staff Facilitators: David Holladay, Sarah Vaughan, Karen Oliver, Tammi Wood

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Topics with Top Three Goals

Topic 1: Infrastructure Improvements

Goal 1. Improve maintenance and construction of roads

Goal 2. Sustainable, walkable and accessible community

Goal 3. Coordinate and improve regulations

Topic 2: Multimodal Connectivity, Balance and Accessibility

Goal 1. Extend public transit in County

Goal 2. Create opportunities for all users (multigenerational) to access business/activity centers,   neighborhoods, healthcare

Goal 3. Encourage/promote mixed-use town centers with multi-modal access

Topic 3: Connect Roanoke (to the world)

Goal 1. Develop/Improve relationship with other jurisdictions (e.g. smart road, med school)

Goal 2. Create a seamless, intermodal system with motorized and people-powered transportation

Goal 3. Improve air service

Objective Development: All Objectives Discussed for Each Goal

Topic 1: Infrastructure Improvements

Goal 1. Improve maintenance and construction of roads

Objective 1: Coordinate signal timing for efficiency – Challenger Avenue & 419 with cities

Objective 2: Coordinate utility improvement/capital projects before road projects

Objective 3: Improve curb ramps for disabled users

Objective 4: Increase maintenance of existing road network

Objective 5: Revisit Eastern Circumferential road

Objective 6: Plan now with VDOT for future road improvements

Objective 7: Build roads to last longer

Objective 8: Review and possibly revise road policies between Roanoke County and VDOT (devolution)

Objective 9: Incorporate Complete Streets policies for new and redesigned roads

Objective 10: Lobby for equitable funding – explore other mechanisms for funding

Objective 11: Encourage road interconnectivity

Goal 2. Sustainable, walkable and accessible community

Objective 1: All neighborhoods should be able to access a greenway

Objective 2: Determine feasibility and necessity of constructing sidewalks on existing roads

Objective 3: Expand bus service into Roanoke County

Objective 4: Provide bicycle access on trains

Objective 5: Install electric vehicle charging stations

Objective 6: Construct planned greenway network

Objective 7: Provide streetscape improvements with sidewalks, trees, pedestrian lights (solar-powered), native vegetation

Objective 8: Prioritize 2004 CTB Complete Street Plan and implement

Objective 9: Improve accessibility to bus stops and routes

Objective 10: Provide incentives to use multimodal transportation

Objective 11: Encourage corner stores and services within neighborhoods

Objective 12: Improve access to existing services

Objective 13: Add bike lane to Bike Rte. 76

Goal 3. Coordinate and improve regulations

Objective 1: In rural and semi-rural areas, post speed limits more frequently

Objective 2: Street design that encourages safe speeds

Objective 3: Enforce speeds with cameras

Objective 4: Allow mixed-use zoning for higher densities

Objective 5: Provide school capacity for new housing developments

Objective 6: Add sidewalk requirements to Zoning Ordinance

Objective 7: Increase infrastructure for walking and bicycling to County Schools (ex. Safe Routes to School grant)

Objective 8: Eliminate stop signs

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Objective 9: Work with VDOT to encourage alternatives for intersection control – addresses air quality & congestion
Objective 10: Synchronize traffic lights
Objective 11: Incorporate all modes of transportation in new and existing developments
Objective 12: Timed and computerized signals to speed limit and a announce/publicize
Objective 13: Ensure ADA compliance at all levels for new construction
Objective 14: Add audible pedestrian signals to new traffic lights
Objective 15: Adopt the Austrian Traffic Light system
Objective 16: Improve coordination between localities for road and pedestrian projects

Topic 2: Multimodal Connectivity, Balance and Accessibility
Goal 1. Extend public transit in County
Objective 1: Develop strategic funding plan to implement Transit Vision Plan
Objective 2: Adopt/Endorse Transit Vision Plan
Objective 3: Choose priorities from Transit Vision Plan
Objective 4: Identify and fund pilot project/route
Goal 2. Create opportunities for all uses (multigenerational) to business/activity centers, neighborhoods, healthcare
Objective 1: Fund CORTRAN with extended hours
Objective 2: Apply grants to build safe routes to schools for high & middle schools
Objective 3: Pedestrian facilities on 419 – sidewalks/crosswalks, Tanglewood area, Oak Grove area
Objective 4: Adopt/Endorse Pedestrian Vision Plan
Goal 3. Encourage/promote mixed-use town centers with multi-modal access
Objective 1: Review & update development ordinances
Objective 2: Invite policy makers to experience/visit existing developments
Objective 3: Decentralize transit routes and transfer hubs
Objective 4: Provide incentives
Objective 5: Promote alternative transportation lifestyle
Objective 6: Identify town center locations

Topic 3: Connect Roanoke (to the world)
Goal 1. Develop/Improve relationship with other jurisdictions (e.g. smart road, med school)
Objective 1: Roanoke County participate in regional committees/planning
Objective 2: Publicize projects we collaborate on & invite jurisdictions to do more of same. Alert system expanded? Increase Comm Dev readership by 20%
Objective 3: Set up citizen advisory committee for transit
Goal 2. Create a seamless, intermodal system with motorized and people-powered transportation
Objective 1: Bicycle & trail connected to Blue Ridge Parkway
Objective 2: Reconstruct south Rte. 220 bottlenecks

Objective 3:   Higher speed freight and passenger – Roanoke County lobby for it
Objective 4:   Bus service (Valley Metro) to airport & passenger rail
Objective 5:   Study population centers for future & current needs
Objective 6:   Develop hubs (park & ride, etc.) strategic locations
Objective 7:   Move Mega Bus stop to Roanoke County
Objective 8:   Improve broadband

Goal 3. Improve air service

Objective 1:   Bring in more carriers with grants, subsidies so prices are lowered, more direct flights
Objective 2:   Market ourselves to carriers and new businesses – Economic Development and CVB
Objective 3:   Ask airport to market to new businesses
Objective 4:   Roanoke County encourage citizens to fly – home
Objective 5:   Roanoke Valley Region – encourage cooperation
Objective 5:   Offer package deals for transportation options
Objective 6:   Greenway to airport
Objective 7:   Build/Open Explore Park

Objective Development: Group Consensus on Top Three Objectives for Each Goal

Topic 1: Infrastructure Improvements

Goal 1. Improve maintenance and construction of roads

    Objective 1:   Lobby for equitable funding and explore other mechanisms for funding

    Objective 2:   Encourage road interconnectivity

    Objective 3:   Revisit Eastern Circumferential road

Goal 2. Sustainable, walkable and accessible community

    Objective 1:   Expand bus service into Roanoke County

    Objective 2:   Provide streetscape improvements with sidewalks, trees, pedestrian lights (solar-powered), native vegetation

    Objective 3:   Improve accessibility to bus stops and routes

Goal 3. Coordinate and improve regulations

    Objective 1:   Ensure ADA compliance at all levels for new construction

    Objective 2:   Facilitate better traffic flow at traffic signals (e.g. Austrian Traffic Light system, time and computerize traffic signals to speed limit and announce/publicize)

    Objective 3:   Incorporate all modes of transportation in new and existing developments

Topic 2: Multimodal Connectivity, Balance and Accessibility

Goal 1. Extend public transit in County

    Objective 1:   Develop a strategic funding plan to implement the Transit Vision Plan

    Objective 2:   Adopt or endorse the Transit Vision Plan

    Objective 3:   Choose priorities from the Transit Vision Plan

Goal 2. Create opportunities for all users (multigenerational) to access business/activity centers, neighborhoods, healthcare

    Objective 1:   Adopt and endorse the Pedestrian Vision Plan

    Objective 2:   Restore funding to previous levels for CORTRAN with extended hours

    Objective 3:   Construct pedestrian facilities on 419 – install sidewalks and crosswalks in the Tanglewood and Oak Grove areas

Goal 3. Encourage/promote mixed-use town centers with multi-modal access

Objective 1:   Decentralize transit routes and transfer hubs

Objective 2:   Review and update development ordinances

Objective 3:   Identify town center locations

Topic 3: Connect Roanoke (to the world)

Goal 1. Develop/Improve relationship with other jurisdictions (e.g. Smart Road, medical school)

Objective 1:   Participate in regional committees and planning

Objective 2:   Publicize projects we collaborate on and invite jurisdictions to do more of the same (ex. Expand the Alert System, Increase Community Developments readership by 20%)

Objective 3:   Set up a citizen advisory committee for transit

Goal 2. Create a seamless, intermodal system with motorized and people-powered transportation

Objective 1:   Develop hubs (park and ride, etc.) at strategic locations

Objective 2:   Connect bicycles and trails to the Blue Ridge Parkway

Objective 3:   Provide bus service (Valley Metro) to airport and passenger rail

Goal 3. Improve air service

Objective 1:   Roanoke County should encourage its citizens to fly in and out of the Roanoke airport with "Fly Home" or "Fly Roanoke" slogans

Objective 2:   Offer package deals for transportation options

Objective 3:   Build and open Explore Park