

Virginia Statewide Directional Signing Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes November 12, 2014

Meeting time: 9:30 a.m.
Virginia Tourism Corporation, West Tower, 19th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

1. Introduction

Rick Burgess served as Chair in place of Ray Khoury. Rick opened the meeting and all attendees introduced themselves while a sign-in sheet was distributed.

Committee Members Present

Michael O'Connor	Virginia Petroleum, Convenience, and Grocers Association (VPCGA)
Marie Henderson	Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) (Attended for Valerie Guffy)

VDOT Support Staff

Rick Burgess	VDOT – Traffic Engineering Division
Dee Audet	VDOT – Traffic Engineering Division
Anne Margaret White	VDOT – Traffic Engineering Division

Virginia Logos Staff

Bill Jones	Virginia Logos (VL) – Regional Manager
Jason Newcomb	Virginia Logos – General Manager
Todd Pitcher	Virginia Logos
Barrie Bowers	Future Law, LLC

Committee Members Not In Attendance

Ray Khoury	VDOT Traffic Engineering Division
Martha Mitchell Meade	American Automobile Association (AAA)
Karen King	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Roger Cole	National Association of Truck Stop Operators (NATSO)
Katie Frazier	Virginia Agribusiness Council
Kristian Havard	Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association (VHTA)
Dale Bennett	Virginia Trucking Association (VTA)
Leighton Powell	Scenic Virginia
Valerie Guffy	Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC)

Guest

Katie Hellebush	Virginia Wine Council
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2. Previous Meeting Minutes: May 14, 2014

Copies of the minutes were distributed and accepted.

The current agenda was corrected to reflect upcoming meeting dates:
May 13, 2015 and November 12, 2015.

3. IDSP

a. Status of Participation (Virginia Logos)

Virginia Logos distributed an update report dated November 12, 2014.

Continued growth was noted in the Logos and TODS programs. VDOT continues to work with Virginia Logos to maintain all signs in the IDSP program.

b. IDSP Annual Report on Revenue/Expenses FY14 (VDOT)

Dee Audet presented a summary report. Revenues and expenses for FY14 and FY15 projected were reviewed as well as planned expenses/projects such as the removal of bridge-mounted IDSP signs. No impact as a result of budget cuts is expected as the program is self-funded. No fee increases will occur for customers due to prudent use of revenue by IDSP staff.

Mike O'Connor questioned if VDOT is happy with 3.5% revenue-over-expense buffer. Rick Burgess replied that 10% is allowed by law and 5% is desirable. Decreasing revenue would affect the buffer. If revenue decreased, the expenses would be reduced, such as construction inspection. Formerly, there was no outside inspection. Currently, practices are more in line with other VDOT sign contracting. Construction inspection ensures VL that their contractors are delivering what they are paying for. Concerning the QA/QC Program in the expense report, VDOT is trying not to over-inspect, but to achieve a comfort level without incurring excessive expenses. QA/QC and inspections are performed by third party contractors.

Mike O'Conner inquired about the income destination for the SGS and TODS programs. For the SGS program, annual fees from for-profit entities go to VDOT while the annual fee (for administrative costs) is paid to Virginia Logos. For the TODS program, all fees go to Virginia Logos.

c. Electric Vehicle Charging Station GMSS (VDOT)

Virginia Clean Cities requested a GMSS for electric vehicles (EV) on state right of way. The September 10, 2014 request letter was distributed. This sign is not fully approved by FHWA in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), but has been provisionally approved by FHWA in their March 24, 2014 letter that was also distributed. VDOT needs criteria established for this type of sign before it can proceed with the request. Mike O'Connor suggested that the SDSAC consider whether the sign is a good idea before requesting FHWA approval. Rick Burgess indicated FHWA had approved the alternative symbol, but the criteria for allowing signing for EV facilities would need to be developed before either the MUTCD approved symbol or the alternative symbol could be used in Virginia under the IDSP.

Upon request of the committee, Rick Burgess requested that the review of criteria for EV GMSS signs be tabled until the next SDSAC meeting on May 13, 2015 and the suggestion was approved by the committee. He also requested that any other conversation about the criteria be directed to him in the meantime. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) would need to approve the criteria before the EV symbols could be used in Virginia under the IDSP.

4. Open Discussion

No items were presented by the attendees.

Rick Burgess presented legislation (HB125) from the 2014 General Assembly session concerning "Virginia's World War II Alliance Route". The bill directs VDOT to place signs between the seven sites included in the Alliance. Fabrication and maintenance would be paid for by the Alliance and installed under permit. The Alliance would like signs similar to the Civil War Trail signs. This issue is still pending consideration by VDOT.

5. Next Meeting Agenda Items

The EV Charging Station GMSS criteria will be discussed at the May 13, 2015 meeting.

6. Next Meetings

The next two meetings are scheduled for May 13 2015 and November 12, 2015.

7. Adjourn