



**Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Region 2000 Conference Room, Lynchburg, VA 24504

**~DRAFT MINUTES~**

**February 21, 2018, 4:00 pm**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Lee Beaumont..... Liberty University
- Brian Booth..... Greater Lynchburg Transit Company
- Nick Britton ..... Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Sara Carter ..... Town of Amherst
- William Mays, *Vice Chair*.....Amherst County
- Turner Perrow, *Chair*..... City of Lynchburg
- Dean Rodgers..... Amherst County
- Frank Rogers..... Campbell County
- John Sharp..... Bedford County
- Bonnie Svrcek..... City of Lynchburg
- Dwayne Tuggle..... Town of Amherst
- Chris Winstead..... VDOT Lynchburg District

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

- Carl Boggess.....Bedford County
- Charlie Watts ..... Campbell County

**OTHERS PRESENT**

- Margaret Carmel .....*News & Advance*
- Susan Cook .....Local Government Council
- Mariel Fowler.....Bedford County
- Philipp Gabathuler ..... Local Government Council/CVMPO
- Jennifer Martin..... Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living
- W. Scott Smith..... Local Government Council/CVMPO

**1. Call to Order**

Turner Perrow, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**2. Approval of Minutes – October 19, 2017 Meeting**

Upon a motion by Will Mays to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting, seconded by Bonnie Svrcek, this motion carried by unanimous vote.

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment** – There were none.

**4. CVMPO Hand Books**

Scott Smith handed out CVMPO handbooks that he put together for each of the CVMPO members, to use for policy guidance.

**5. Adoption of MAP21 Targets for Highway Safety & Transit Rolling Stock Condition**

Scott explained that several years ago Congress passed MAP21, which is the new federal highway funding package. As part of that, the states and the MPOs are required to develop metrics for measuring the success of certain components of the transportation process. The first two components are:

- 1) Transit rolling stock
- 2) Safety targets

The MPO was given the option of developing our own targets, or using the state-wide targets. As most of the small MPOs around the state, this MPO will be using the state-wide targets.

The motion to adopt MAP21 targets for highway safety and transit rolling stock was made by Will Mays and seconded by Frank Rogers. The motion was unanimously approved.

**6. Amendment of CVMPO Title VI Plan**

Staff recommended that the plan be amended to designate the Region 2000 Local Government Council Transportation Planning Director as the current Title VI Coordinator.

Sara Carter made the motion to amend the plan with this. Bonnie Svrcek seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**7. Amendment to FY 2017-18 CVMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Scott advised that the region would like to have a van pool study done, by having a consultant who is familiar with this business advise if we are looking at the right areas and viable routes.

There is \$23,000 left from last fiscal year in the DRPT (public transit) funding that rolled over into this year that has not been allocated. In order to use this money for a van pool study, DRPT has advised that this has to be stated in the UPWP.

Frank Rogers made a motion to edit the text from studying the viability of inter-city bus service between Lynchburg and Charlottesville and/or Lynchburg and Roanoke to talk more about van pools. The motion was seconded by Dean Rodgers and approved unanimously.

#### **8. Update on Graves Mill Road Corridor Study**

Scott Smith presented the Graves Mill Corridor website ([gravesmillplan.com](http://gravesmillplan.com)), and showed the group documents that have been uploaded to the site that they can look at, at their convenience. He explained that projections show that Graves Mill Road, particularly the interchange with the expressway, will reach capacity in the next 15 to 20 years. The goal is to make recommendations to be sure that this connector between the expressway and US 221 stays viable. The first public meeting was in December, with a good turnout. Staff and consultants took all the data collected, along with public comments, and posted some of that on the documents portion of the website. A second public hearing will be held in March to share proposed solutions.

Information and suggestions will be presented to the Bedford County Board of Supervisors and the City of Lynchburg and/or Planning Commission. The report will also help guide and develop Smart Scale and other funding applications.

#### **9. Update on Route and Schedule Changes to The Hopper (Downtown Circulator Bus)**

Brian Booth, from the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company, explained that as of January 22 redesigned routes and operating hours of The Hopper went into effect. Church Street was eliminated from the route and service was incorporated down to Jefferson Street. Operating hours are Monday through Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Frequency was reduced from 20 minutes to 10 minutes.

#### **10. Matters from the Members**

- Scott Smith advised that the MPO by-laws have not been updated since 1999, and were originally written in 1982. He asked for volunteers to meet as an ad hoc committee to look at the by-laws and come back in April with proposed amendments. Turner Perrow offered to serve on the committee. Scott will contact others by phone.
- Chris Winstead announced that March 1 is the date for opening the Smart Scale portal for the pre-application process to begin. The pre-application deadline is June 1, and the deadline for the full application is August 1. Localities are limited to four applications each. He also advised that the Commonwealth Transportation Board has initiated some changes in regard to Smart Scale. A

maximum number of applications is being provided, in Tier 1 and Tier 2. These are stratified by population. He further explained that this is the third round of Smart Scale, and is for the 2024-2025 time frame.

- Turner Perrow advised that at a recent Economic Development meeting it was stated that the #1 concern with economic development was the ability to fly into and out of Lynchburg. He suggested that the MPO sponsor a project to improve air traffic for the region.

Bonnie Svrcek suggested that Mark Courtney be asked to attend the next MPO meeting.

- Nick Britton advised that DRPT started inter-city bus service between Washington D.C. and Blacksburg on December 1, and it is doing very well. In response to this, DRPT has decided to re-visit the plan, which was done in 2013. One of the corridors considered in 2013 was Rt. 29, and they will probably look at Washington D.C. to Danville or somewhere in Northern Virginia to Danville.
- Chris Winstead reported that in the Lynchburg District over the last five years over ½ of the fatalities have not been wearing seatbelts, and over 60% of these have been road departures. Throughout the district they are working on placing rumble strips which are fairly effective reducing these crashes by 30 to 40%.

**11. Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**12. Informational Items** - There were none.