



Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization
November 16, 2023, 4:15 p.m. Meeting
 CVPDC Office, 828 Main St., 12th Floor Lynchburg, VA

~ DRAFT MINUTES~

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Rogers, Vice-Chair Campbell County*
 Chris Winstead..... VDOT Lynchburg District*
 Wynter BendaCity of Lynchburg*
 Dwayne Tuggle..... Town of Amherst*
 Josh Moore..... Greater Lynchburg Transit Company
 Mitch Huber..... Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transit
 Kathryn Benedict FHWA

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeremy Bryant Amherst County
 Robert Hiss..... Bedford County
 Charlie Watts Campbell County
 Sara McGuffin Town of Amherst
 Drew Wade Amherst County
 Marty Misjuns..... City of Lynchburg
 Kenny Craig..... Liberty University

OTHERS PRESENT

Linda Green Commonwealth Transportation Board
 Rick Youngblood (virtual)..... VDOT-Lynchburg District
 Richard ConnerCVPDC Chair, Town of Appomattox
 Alec BrebnerCVPDC/CVTPO
 Kirsten Trautman CVPDC
 Kelly HitchcockCVPDC/CVTPO

*Denotes CVTPO voting member

1. Call to Order

Frank Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:16 P.M.

Rogers thanked Mrs. Linda Green, Commonwealth Transportation Board, Mitch Huber, DRPT, and Kathryn Benedict for joining the CVTPO meeting. Rogers led the attendee introductions.

Ms. Green thanked the CVTPO for inviting her to the meeting and provided a brief overview of the program guidance and support she has received in her new role by Chris Winstead, Rick Youngblood, and the entire VDOT Lynchburg District. She confirmed her commitment to the Commonwealth and the region.

Rogers called for quorum confirmation. As a result of last minute emergency situation, a quorum was not met. Rogers confirmed that the meeting, including the Public Meeting, would be held. However, a quorum for approval actions would need to be held for a future meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes: June 15, 2023

No quorum, thus no review or approval action. Rogers asked if there were any edits, none were noted.

3. Proposed FY2024- 2027 CVTIP Amendment (Public Hearing)

Frank Rogers, at 4:20 p.m., opened the Public Hearing to provide comment or ask questions by the public to the proposed Amendment to the FY24-27 CVTIP. No public comments were received; Kelly Hitchcock confirmed that no previous written or verbal comments were received during the October 16 to November 15, 2023 30-day comment period. The Public Hearing was closed by Frank Rogers at 4:22 p.m.

Hitchcock expanded on the proposed FY24-27 CVTIP Amendments. Noting the amendment included inclusion of rail service as requested by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) to account for the use of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding by VPRA for commuter rail service that traverses through the CVTPO area on two Roanoke service trains. Additional Amendments for GLTC to account for a range of FTA 5339 and 5307 program, much of which are transferred from the FY21-24 CVTIP. Josh Moore expanded on the GLTC program amendments.

Hitchcock outlined the range of program wording and description refinements, including FTA requested wording for GLTC stating “The Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) used the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process of the CVTPO to satisfy the public hearing requirements of 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c). The TIP public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comment on the TIP satisfies the program-of-projects requirements of the Urbanized Area Formula Program”. Hitchcock noted this sentence was added on pages 7 and 20 of the proposed amended TIP. Hitchcock further pointed out other small editing and working adjustments made through request and review by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) were made.

Rogers noted that the CVTPO, with a lack of quorum, could not advance a motion. However, Rogers noted that the public comment period and public hearing had been held and confirmed the CVTPO can and will act at the next meeting.

4. VDOT SMART SCALE Round 6 Proposed Changes

Alec Brebner provided a quick overview of the Round 6 SMART SCALE changes and an overview of some proposed program changes and potential impact to localities and CVTPO. Brebner provided an overview of the proposed changes and highlighted two areas of concern and the focus of the proposed letter, provided in the Board package, to submit to the CTB. The first issue is to express the request to include MPOs earlier in the SMART SCALE review, early evaluation process and the second to not add new restrictions to the High-Priority Projects (HPP) to maintain the role of MPOs/TPOs as applicants (the step 2 regionally submitted applications).

There was good discussion with the following reflecting some key discussion points.

- Linda Green confirmed that she is still listening to stakeholders to learn and understand all the issues and concerns. She stressed that VDOT Lynchburg District staff are always

looking out for our District and that she is interested in hearing all comments and will enter the December CTB meeting with knowledge and open mind before casting her vote.

- Green noted that she has been in communication with Chris Winstead, Rick Youngblood and VDOT staff to understand the numbers, the impact on changes on projects, and understand potential for other funding for those removed under proposed adjustments.
- Winstead stressed that VDOT staff always thinks broadly on projects and evaluating according to parameters of multiple funding paths. Winstead noted he is not aware of new MPO HPP application restrictions.
- Rick Youngblood noted that there are, and have always been, some caveats where by applications are along Corridors of Statewide Significance, COSS, regional network corridors. Youngblood noted there is some COSS slight adjustments and that MPOS will be able to only apply the regional projects and localities the identified safety projects. MPOs can apply for COSS projects.
- Winstead noted that District has a strong track record in advancing projects. Noting that staff, working with localities, MPOs, stakeholders, adjust to whatever the program guidelines and develops projects and applications.
- Winstead stressed the role of VDOT staff in evaluating and implementing programs/projects according to CTB guidelines. Confirmed that he would abstain from any vote on a CVTPO letter to the CTB.
- Youngblood noted that review of past HPP awards did show more bike/ped. Youngblood note that VDOT considers, as a matter of course, pedestrian and bicycle needs in all projects.
- Frank Rogers noted from his perspective the goal is to not limit the number of applications. He noted confidence in ability to adjust to a scoring matrix; the key being against any action that overly tilts the advantage to high density areas and reduces the ability of this region to be in the evaluation mix.
- Wynter Benda noted the recognition and concern of this region to show the same cost/benefit ratio as high density region. Benda questioned Winstead & Green if there is a better funding pot request, beyond HPP, that has a better ability to advance this region's priority projects.
- Green suggested that Winstead or Youngblood highlight the location variables, A & B for NOVA/Golden Crecent areas and C & D for small MPOs/Rural areas, developed to balance scoring and information on the District Funding program.
- Winstead noted two SMART SCALE funding streams HPP & District Grant Program (DGP). DGP, dedicated District funding from \$0.82 (gas) & \$0.83 (diesel) gas tax stays in the District.
- Winstead in current SYIP approximately \$590 million in projects, opposed to \$135 million about 10 years ago. Further noted that most funding that comes to the District is via the DGP, not the HHP, in terms of dollars.
- Green noted she has been led through the evaluation and noted, while a large project, only one was removed that was bike/ped oriented versus safety/ED. Green stressed the need to look at the most important factors as we consider the evaluation.
- Brebner stressed his goal is to ensure that each MPO has and maintains the ability to determine what and how it defines regionally significant projects.

- Rogers noted he defers to staff in expressing desires to CTB in and effort to maintain the culture of collaboration that defines our region.

5. FY2024 Urban Work Program Update

a. Intersection Safety Study

Hitchcock provided a brief update on the project, which had the project kickoff meeting October 31st. It was noted that currently there are six intersections however, with coordination and confirmation from Amherst County there may be an adjustment at the Amherst Hwy (Route 163) & Merrymoor Drive (Route 1059) intersection.

b. Route 221 Study

EPR have started data review and the project kickoff has been moved to January.

c. Regional Safety Data Analysis & Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Hitchcock provided a brief overview of the regional safety data analysis that has been led, as function of VDOT-Central Office support through their on-call program, by Kimley-Horn. Mark Herman, P.E. Kimley-Horn and Ryan Krunz, VDOT-Central Office, presented the preliminary data high-injury roadway segments and intersection data to the TTC at the 11/9/23 meeting. The data will be updated to reflect the most recent VDOT crash data and provide to each locality staff for review and segment length/evaluation methodology confirmation. The culmination of the data and report is the foundation for the pending Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. A summary of the effort will be presented to the CVTPO.

6. Matters from the Board and/or Staff

a. State and Federal agency partner updates.

Frank Rogers opened the floor to the agency partners to share any updates or key items for the CVTPO.

Mitch Huber, DRPT, noted he will be working with Roanoke and Lynchburg transit and MPOs; that the pending grant cycle will be open December through early February; that there is new program eligibility that provides for safety amenities; and that 5303 funding can provide for microtransit and transit-oriented development projects. Huber also noted a current DRPT modernization in transit fleet study that is working closely with workforce, employment, environment partners to evaluate future needs. The draft study is anticipated in spring 2024.

Kathryn Benedict, FHWA, noted that she did not have any specific information for this meeting but confirmed her pleasure to be working with the CVTPO and confirmed her role as a resource and partner to assist with USDOT discretionary funding programs. Benedict did confirm her communication with Hitchcock in the submittal of the Thriving Communities grant application.

b. US DOT Thriving Communities Grant Program

Hitchcock confirmed that a US DOT Thriving Communities Grant Program application for Technical Assistance, with focus being along 12th Street in the City of Lynchburg, was

submitted November 15th. If awarded, technical assistance in the form of a consultant support would be provided for three years. Awards announcements are anticipated early 2024.

7. Adjournment

Frank Rogers, thanked Mrs. Linda Green for her attendance and leadership on the CTB and adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.