



## Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization (CVTPO)

November 16, 2023 Meeting

### Staff Report

**1. Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum**

If needed, concurrence of Electronic Meeting Policy

**2. Approval of Minutes: June 15, 2023 (Attachment 2)**

June 15, 2023 CVTPO meeting minutes provided for review and approval consideration.

Recommendation: Approval of Minutes.

**3. Item a) Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment to the Central Virginia Transportation Improvement Program (CVTIP) FY2024 – 2027 (Attachment 3a) (Attachment 3b)**

The following changes to the FY2024-2027 CVTIP are proposed for CVTPO adoption consideration. The changes are a result of direct project Amendment request as result of anticipated corrections by GLTC and program inclusion by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; details of the program amendments below. Additionally, wording changes and GLTC program description additions to reflect direct request from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), have been made. Details of the proposed changes are detailed below.

Amendments include the following:

- Project inclusion by Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA):  
The Commonwealth has programmed \$111 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to the VPRA to be used on four state-sponsored Amtrak commuter routes. FHWA has confirmed that CMAQ funding can be used for state-sponsored routes for operation and capital equipment expenses. VPRA must incorporate within MPOs across the Commonwealth TIP Amendments for those Amtrak routes that traverse through their regions. VPRA is seeking inclusion for expenses for two trains on the Roanoke Route (Route 46) that traverse through the CVTPO region. Proposed Project Amendments are provided as *Attachment 3a*. The full FY24-27 CVTIP, with proposed wording adjustments and the project changes is provided as *Attachment 3b*.
- Project and Program Amendments by Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) to reflect a range of program and fleet service funding within FTA 5339 and 5307 programs, many of which were transfers from the FY21-24 TIP. A full summary of the Amendments is provided as *Attachment 3a*.
- CVTIP general wording additions and edits, per FTA request.
  - Added the following sentence:  
“The Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) uses 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.” (pg 7 and 20).

- Adjusted the transportation funding table to separate and distinguish FTA-funded programs (pg. 12).

Proposed amendment to the FY24-27CVTIP has been available for public comment for thirty days (10/16 – 11/15) and duly advertised in the News & Advance, and on the CVTPO website. This hearing is an opportunity for the public to speak for or against the amendments.

Action: Call for Public Hearing to receive public comment.

#### **Item b) Consideration for the CVTPO Resolution Amending the FY21-24 CVTIP (Attachment 3c)**

The proposed amendments have been available for public comment and the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) recommended approval at their 11/9/23 meeting. A resolution (Attachment 3c) is provided for CVTPO consideration.

Recommendation: Staff recommends CVTIP 2024 – 2027 Amendment Resolution adoption.

#### **4. VDOT SMART SCALE Round 6 Proposed Changes**

Alec Brebner, Executive Director, has provided a summary of the proposed VDOT SMART SCALE Round 6 changes. There are a number of proposed changes that have impacts to the localities and the project scoring. Brebner serves on the VAMPO Executive Committee and has been involved in the proposed change evaluations and will provide an overview.

Brebner’s SMART SCALE report is provided as *Attachment 4a*. Brebner has also prepared a draft letter (*Attachment 4b*) for CVTPO consideration for submittal to the CTB and Mr. Sheppard Miller, Secretary of Transportation, on behalf of the CVTPO and its member localities.

Recommendation: Staff recommends CVTPO approve the submittal, on behalf of the CVTPO, the letter to Honorable Sheppard Miller, Secretary of Transportation, that expresses to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) recommendation to observe articulated regionally significant projects within the High-Priority Project types and in evaluating the impacts of land-use planning on transportation project evaluation.

#### **5. FY2024 Urban Work Program Update (all informational items)**

##### **a. Intersection Safety Study (Attachment 5a)**

EPR, Inc. is leading a study of six intersections identified by the localities and VDOT to evaluate current travel conditions and provide safety improvement recommendations. The six proposed study intersections are:

- Amherst Hwy (Bus 29) & Sprouse Drive
- Amherst Hwy (Bus 29) & Rothwood Rd (657)
- Amherst Hwy (163) & Old Town Connector (210)
- Amherst Hwy (163) & Merrymoor Drive (1059)
- Forest Rod (221) & Rustic Village Rd/Gumtree Rd (609)
- Perrowville Rd (663) and Mays Mill Rd (622)

EPR have completed traffic counts and lead the project Kickoff Meeting October 31, 2023. An overview of the preliminary traffic evaluation is provided as *Attachment 5a*.

b. Route 221 Study (Attachment 5b)

EPR Inc., are leading a Route 221 (Forest Road), between Perrowville Road and Graves Mill Rd, study. The study is centered on identifying improvements that address existing and future congestion, safety concerns, access management and multimodal mobility needs. The study does not focus on the full length rather on three specific areas being:

- Perrowville Rd to Thomas Jefferson Rd (Route 811);
- Ambassador Rd to Cloverhill Blvd; and
- Enterprise Dr to Graves Mill Rd.

EPR, Inc is currently working on the background research, base mapping, crash analysis and traffic counts. A project kickoff is anticipated for December.

c. CVTPO/CVPDC Safety Data Analysis/Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

VDOT-Central Office, through on-call consultants Kimley-Horn, are providing pro-bono technical assistance to the CVPDC in evaluating the region's crash data and analyzing the data using a range of factors, including social economics, employment, and land use. The Safety Data Analysis will provide the data foundation for the pending Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, funded through the \$270,000 USDOT SS4A grant. The Kimley-Horn consultants are actively working on the data development, including overlaying crash and high injury/accident network with the USDOT Disadvantaged Communities Data – Equitable Trans Community (ETC) Explorer and Climate & Economic Justice Screen Tool (CEJEST). The preliminary data was presented to the TTC at the 11/9/23 meeting, with the full data to be provided with the most recent VDOT crash data, to the TTC in late November. A summary will be presented to the CVTPO at the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**6. Matters from the Board and/or Staff**

a. Disadvantaged Community Designation – Federal Evaluation Tools (Attachment 6a)

The Federal Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the American Rescue Plan include commitments to invest in traditionally underserved or disadvantaged communities. A number of tools have been developed to assist jurisdictions in evaluating, based on a range of factors including environmental burden, social vulnerabilities, climate and disaster risk burden, health vulnerability and transportation insecurity, if areas of a community are defined as Disadvantaged.

*Attachment 6a* provides an overview of some of the evaluation tools and a summary of those CVPDC area, based on these tools that are defined as Disadvantaged. These tools are valuable in determining eligibility for federal programs where the match is reduced or eliminated for underserved or disadvantaged areas.

*Recommendation:* Informational item. Valuable to review and consider in evaluation projects and program grant eligibility.

b. US DOT Thriving Communities Grant Program

USDOT has initiated the Thriving Communities Program to provide technical assistance – in the form of paid consultant support – to localities/agencies to assist with planning, capacity building support to advance a pipeline of transportation projects and community revitalization activities to expand mobility and affordable transportation options, coordinate with affordable housing and efficient land use, preserve or expand jobs to benefit communities and disadvantaged

populations. The program provides three-years of technical assistance. CVPDC to submit an Letter of Intent (LOI) for seeking technical assistance with focus on Lynchburg City.

*Recommendation:* No action at this time. LOI applications picked, anticipated early 2024, will then develop a final application, that would include agency and partner support letters.

- c. State and Federal agency partner updates  
Opportunity for State and Federal agency representatives to provide any updates.
- d. Other  
Open discussion opportunity.

## **7. Adjourn**

### **Informational Item**

The next CVTPO meeting will be January 18, 2024. A quorum at this meeting will be required to approve CVTPO Safety Targets and approval for Multimodal and Comprehensive Safety Action Plan consultant(s).