



Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization (CVTPO)

September 21, 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)

The Commonwealth has programmed \$111 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (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 amendment to the FY24-27CVTIP has been available for public comment for thirty days (8/18 – 9/18) 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 3b)

The proposed amendments have been available for public comment and the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) recommended approval at their 9/14/23 meeting. A resolution (Attachment 3b) is provided for CVTPO consideration.

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

4. FY2024 Urban Work Program Update (all informational items)

a. Intersection Safety Study (Attachment 4a)

EPR, Inc. will lead a study of six intersections identified by VDOT and localities to evaluate current travel conditions and provide safety improvement recommendations. The six 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 are currently taking traffic counts and a project kickoff will take place in late October. Attachment 4a presents the project schedule.

b. Route 221 Study (Attachment 4b)

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 will be held in late October; *Attachment 4b* provides the project schedule.

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). A summary will be presented to the CVTPO at the November 16th meeting.

d. FY 2024 – 2027 CVTIP pending updates

CVTPO staff will be executing additional FY2024-2027 CVTIP Amendments to reflect necessary changes to reflect requested Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) wording and formatting within Section 4: Public Transportation & Transportation Demand management (TDM) Projects of the CVTIP. This area includes Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC), changes related to Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) and Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living. Requested changes are to: 1) adjust TIP project box format to delineate federal and state funding more clearly and 2) include project descriptions that correlate to the adopted Transit Asset Management (TAM) Performance Measures. The FY24-27 Amendments will be brought back to CVTPO adoption consideration at the November 16, 2023 meeting.

5. Matters from the Board and/or Staff

a. Disadvantaged Community Designation – Federal Evaluation Tools (Attachment 5a)

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 5a 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 Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Program

USDOT program providing planning and construction funding opportunities. An element of the grant funding through the Neighborhood Access & Equity (NAE) program can be funded 100% with federal dollars in eligible disadvantaged communities. Applications due September 28th.

Recommendation: Authorize CVTPO Chair to submit a support letter, on behalf of the CVTPO, to any RCN application that may be developed/generated within the CVTPO area.

c. VDOT MPOs FY25 Urban (PL) Funding Allocation Discussion

VDOT provides all MPOs a yearly funding allocation as a function of the Federal dollars awarded to the Commonwealth. Allocation based on a formula that is based on urban area population. Each decennial Census presents a funding formula allocation evaluation opportunity. VDOT, in consultation with MPOs across the Commonwealth are in discussion on evaluating the MPO PL allocation equation. A number of factors are presenting significant impacts to some MPOs on the implication of the allocation formula scenarios.

Attachment 5c provides a summary of current allocation scenarios. As can be seen, the CVTPO, regardless of the scenario does not see significant dollar allocation differences, with the total change for the CVTPO being \$37,719, from the high at \$286,458 and low of \$248,739. However, the impact on the smallest and largest MPOs is significant depending on the Base Rate allocation as a function of Census definition changes for urban areas.

The VAMPO is working closely with VDOT on the evaluation process. Alec Brebner serves on the VAMPO Executive Committee, who are on behalf of all MPOs coordinating discussion and advancing scenarios that best serve all the MPOs. The decision will impact the FY25 CVTPO PL allocation and PL allocations for future years.

d. State and Federal agency partner updates

Opportunity for State and Federal agency representatives to provide any updates.

e. Other

Open discussion opportunity.

6. Adjourn

Informational Item

The next CVTPO meeting will be November 16, 2023. A quorum at this meeting will be required to advance adoption actions.