



**Hybrid Meeting: Large Conference Room & GoToMeeting**

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Access Code: 323-793-957

**Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Agenda**

1. **Call to Order** ..... *Dwayne Tuggle, Chair*
2. **Board 2021-2022 Elections**..... *Ada Hunsberger, CVTPO*
3. **Approval of Minutes: January 21, 2021**..... *Dwayne Tuggle, Chair*
4. **Census Proposed Changes**.....*Philipp Gabathuler, CVTPO*
5. **Transportation Alternatives Program**..... *Ada Hunsberger, CVTPO*
6. **Electronic Meeting Policy**.....*Ada Hunsberger, CVTPO*
7. **Matters from the Members** ..... *Dwayne Tuggle, Chair*
8. **Adjournment**.....*Dwayne Tuggle, Chair*
9. **Informational Items:**
  - Staff Report
  - The next scheduled meeting of the CVTPO will be at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2021.**

The CVTPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights regarding this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the CVTPO. Sign language or non-English language interpreters will be provided if needed and requested in advance of this meeting. Please contact the CVTPO at 434-845-3491 to request an interpreter.

# Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization

## ~ MINUTES~

April 15, 2021, 4:00 pm

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Booth ..... Greater Lynchburg Transit Company  
Sarah Carter..... Town of Amherst  
Kenny Craig ..... Liberty University  
Dean Rodgers ..... Amherst County  
Daniel Sonenklar ..... Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation  
Dwayne Tuggle ..... Town of Amherst  
Chris Winstead ..... VDOT Lynchburg District  
Beau Wright ..... City of Lynchburg

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Jimmy Ayers ..... Amherst County  
Robert Hiss..... Bedford County  
Jennifer Moore ..... Amherst County  
Frank Rogers ..... Campbell County  
John Sharp..... Bedford County  
Charlie Watts..... Campbell County  
Reid Wodicka..... City of Lynchburg

### OTHERS PRESENT

Gary Christie ..... CVPDC  
Mallory Cook ..... CVPDC  
Philipp Gabathuler ..... CVPDC  
Ada Hunsberger ..... CVPDC/CVTPO

### Call to Order

Dwayne Tuggle, chair, called the meeting to order via GoToMeeting at 4:00 p.m.

#### 1. Board 2021-2022 Elections

Staff recommended tabling of the 2021-2022 Board Elections until the next scheduled CVTPO meeting. The election will be reviewed at the next meeting of the TPO.

#### 2. Approval of the January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Sara Carter, seconded by Chris Winstead, the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### **3. Proposed TIP Amendment (Public Hearing) & Administrative Adjustments**

Philipp Gabathuler reviewed the proposed amendment to the TIP, which incorporate funding from DRPT for local social service agencies to provide paratransit service.

In order to be in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the amendments must first be approved and incorporated into the TPO's TIP.

The first proposed change is for the Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living for funding of two handicap-accessible minivans. The second change relates to funding for Lutheran Family Services of Virginia for two handicap accessible vans.

The public comment period ran from March 15 through April 15 and no comments have been received at this time. A public hearing was held during the meeting and no comments were received.

A motion was made by Sara Carter, seconded by Beau Wright, to approve the proposed amendment as presented, and it was unanimously approved.

### **4. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Ada Hunsberger provided an overview of the various work programs the CVTPO oversees. Upcoming and ongoing programs include the Regional Potential for Safety Improvement (PSI) Study, the Greenways, Blueways, and Trails Plan, and an update to Title VI Plan. DRPT funded activities include continued implementation of GLTC's Transit Strategic Plan, support of GLTC's funding applications, and an ADA Bus Stop Accessibility Survey.

A motion was made by Beau Wright, seconded by Sara Carter, to approve the Unified Planning Work Program as presented, and it was unanimously approved.

### **5. Matters from the Members**

Chris Winstead reminded members that there will be a virtual public meeting to receive input on the Six-Year Improvement Program on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

### **6. Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

## CVTPO Response to Census Proposed Changes

Mr. Vincent Osier  
Geographic Standards, Criteria, and Quality Branch  
Geography Division  
U.S. Census Bureau

Mr. Osier:

The Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization (CVTPO) is responding to the Notice of Proposed Program and Request for Comments published in the federal register on February 19, 2021. After reviewing the proposed changes to the process of defining urban areas, and evaluating the likely impacts to our urban area, we are sharing the following comments.

1. **Limited Ability to Comment**-Without 2020 Census data at the block level, it is nearly impossible to evaluate the proposed methodology and its potential impacts on the size and shape of current urban areas. This Notice of Proposed Program and Request for Comments should remain open, or be reissued once the Census Bureau has released the full 2020 data set.

2. **The proposed methodology for defining urban areas is restrictive, and not replicable between decennial censuses**-the only time when data is gathered at the block level. American Community Survey (ACS) estimates at the block group level must stand in for blocks between Census years. For smaller urban areas, block groups are large, and have lower housing density than individual blocks. Using block groups as a proxy for blocks excludes a number of census blocks that would otherwise qualify as urban.

3. **A one size fits all approach to defining urban areas is inadequate**-In regions with larger census blocks, the proposed reduction in hop distance between urban blocks to 0.5 miles is inadequate to add the adjoining census block as a qualifying area. The proposed requirement to use a separate road connection for each jump assumes a dense roadway network as a defining characteristic of urban areas, and does not permit connections between urban blocks within regions with a more "suburban" roadway network.

4. **The proposed methodology will result in irregular urban area boundaries** where census blocks have irregular shapes and longer perimeters as compared to a regularly shaped census block of the same area. Irregularly-shaped blocks result in a lower shape index value, which excludes them as qualifying areas. Excluding the census blocks that are surrounded on all three sides with qualifying census blocks also adds to the irregular boundaries, and will make it difficult to align demographic data from the Census with regional planning processes and planning area boundaries.

We urge the Census Bureau to simplify the process of defining urban areas, and expand the qualification criteria so that the Census' definition of urban areas to reflect actual communities, rather than a block-by-block patchwork of urban and rural land use types. While this exercise may be interesting from an academic perspective for demographers, we find no increased benefit or utility to this approach as end users of Census data.

Sincerely,  
Ada Hunsberger, Regional Planner  
Central Virginia Planning District Commission



## **CVTPO Policy for Participation in Meetings via Video Conference or Telephone<sup>1</sup>**

1. A quorum of the Policy Board members must be physically present.
2. At the beginning of each meeting the Board must vote to allow electronic participation to verify that the policy is being followed by the member claiming exemption from personal attendance.
3. The member must notify the chair or staff on or before the day of the meeting that he or she plans to use the exemption.
4. The member must identify the reason for the use of the electronic meeting provision a) a temporary disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's attendance or  
  
b) a personal matter which prevents the member's attendance. The nature of the personal matter must be specifically identified and included in the minutes. There is no definition of what constitutes a "personal matter."  
  
c) a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance.  
  
d) If a member's personal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location, he/she may attend electronically
5. The minutes shall also include a statement as to the remote location where the member is connected electronically.
6. There is no limit to the number of times a member may use: .
  - a. the temporary disability or other medical condition reason,
  - b. a family member's medical condition,
  - c. residence more than 60 miles from the meeting location.
7. The use of personal matters (b) is limited to 25% of the annual meetings of the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> This policy shall also apply to the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) as they are an advisory committee of the Transportation Planning Organization.



## Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization (CVTPO)

July 15, 2021

### Staff Report

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Board 2021-2022 Elections**
- 3. Approval of Minutes: April 15, 2021**
- 4. Census Proposed Changes**

Earlier in 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau requested comments on proposed changes to the Census definition of Urbanized Areas. The federal register notice documenting these proposed changes is available here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/19/2021-03412/urban-areas-for-the-2020-census-proposed-criteria>

CVTPO staff prepared a letter on behalf of the organization to oppose some of these changes. These comments can be seen in the agenda attachment.

- 5. Transportation Alternatives Program**

The Transportation Alternatives Program is a federally funded program to fund a number of different types of improvements including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS), and many other types of improvements.

VDOT's pre-application for the Transportation Alternatives Program was due on July 1, with the full application deadline being October 1. In order to submit a full application, each application must be accompanied by a resolution of support from the TPO.

- 6. Electronic Meeting Policy**

Due to the end of the State of Emergency, appointed boards will need to resume in-person meetings. We are able to adopt a policy to allow participation virtually, though those members will not be able to vote, nor constitute a quorum. The applicable state code is available here: [\(https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/2.2-3708.2/\)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/2.2-3708.2/).