



Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization
September 19, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Meeting
CVPDC Office, 828 Main St., 12th Floor Lynchburg, VA

Final Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeremy Bryant, Chair.....	Amherst County
Frank Rogers	Campbell County
Rick Youngblood	VDOT Lynchburg District
Dwayne Tuggle	Town of Amherst
Josh Moore	Greater Lynchburg Transit Company
Wynter Benda.....	City of Lynchburg
John Sharp.....	Bedford County
Tom Lawton	Campbell County
Mitch Huber (virtual)	Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transit

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Hiss.....	Bedford County
Kathryn Benedict.....	FHWA-Virginia
Sara McGuffin.....	Town of Amherst
Drew Wade.....	Amherst County
Kenny Craig	Liberty University

OTHERS PRESENT

Thomas Ruff (virtual).....	Timmons Group
Emily Routman (virtual)	Timmons Group
Carson Eckhardt (virtual)	VDOT Lynchburg District
Alec Brebner	CVPDC/CVTPO
Patti Lassiter	CVPDC
Sandy Dobyns	CVPDC
Mariel Fowler.....	CVPDC/CVTPO
Kelly Hitchcock	CVPDC/CVTPO
Reggie Bennett	Town of Altavista
Gary Shanaberger	Town of Altavista

1. Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum

Jeremy Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:00 and thanked everyone for attending.

MOTION: Rick Youngblood made the motion to approve the meeting agenda for September 19, 2024. Wynter Benda seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

2. Proposed FY2024-2027 CVTIP Amendment (Public Hearing) *Jeremy Bryant, Chair*

The CVTIP amendment is requested by Lutheran Family Services of Virginia as they will seek FTA 5310 dollars to purchase two passenger vans to provide paratransit services for residents at group homes and day support programs that serve Bedford County and Lynchburg City. A 30 day comment period,

August 16 – September 16, 2024, was held and no comments were received. The TTC, at the September 12, 2024 meeting, recommended CVTPO amendment approval.

Frank Rogers asked if the services would be extended to other areas. Hitchcock noted the request was for services from Bedford County and Lynchburg City group homes, so believed that was the service area. John Sharp asked for confirmation that a locality or other agency was not responsible for the local match; it was confirmed the match was provided by Lutheran Family Services.

Jeremy Bryant opened the Public Hearing to receive comments at 4:06 p.m. There was no one to speak. The Public Hearing was closed at 4:06 p.m.

MOTION: Wynter Benda made the motion to approve the FY2024-2027 CVTIP Amendment to include FTA 5310 funding for Lutheran Family Services to fund two 9-passenger vans for paratransit services. Tom Lawton seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes: July 18, 2024.....*Jeremy Bryant, Chair*

The chair asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the July 18th meeting minutes. No comments were received.

MOTION: Frank Rogers made the motion to approve July 18, 2024 CVTPO Meeting Minutes as submitted. Wynter Benda seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. FY2025 Urban Work Program Update*Kelly Hitchcock, CVTPO*

a. Route 221 Study

Hitchcock noted the first Public Meeting was held Thursday, September 12th at Forest Middle School. EPR PC, project consultants, provided detailed displays of corridor data and took community input. There was good participation at the meeting.

Hitchcock noted the 221 Corridor Public Survey was open and available through October 4, 2024. It is open right now and will be available through October 4th. As of September 19th, 764 individuals, generating over 1,000 comments, had participated in the survey. Staff is getting good input from the citizens. EPR will be considering those comments, data, and coordination with locality/VDOT stakeholders and present recommendations for second public meeting in late winter 2025, with project completion in Spring.

b. Lynchburg Multimodal Plan

Kelly gave a brief overview of the plan that is specifically looking at the multimodal connections - bicycle, sidewalks, with a focus on creating good connectivity to the transit system – in Lynchburg City. Timmons Group, the project consultant, facilitated the project Kickoff Meeting July 25, 2024. The project has a diverse stakeholder group, including Centra, Lynchburg City Schools, GLTC, Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living (CVACL), Lynchburg Center for Independent Living (LACIL), United Way, and multiple Lynchburg City Departments. Compiling existing plans and data, development of the Project Management Plan, and outreach strategy are the current activities. The next project meeting is September 26th, where the Steering Committee will finalize the outreach campaign, to include website, marketing, survey, etc.

c. U.S. DOT Thriving Communities Program

The CVPDC received a USDOT Thriving Communities grant, in partnership with Lynchburg City and GLTC, to advance a 12th Street Corridor and Transit-Oriented Development Plan. The Thriving Communities program is a 3-year Technical

Assistance grant program. Consultants from: ABT Global, Nelson/Nygaard and EPR, along with staff support from Smart Growth America, and USDOT will assist in guiding the program over the 3-year cycle. The project kickoff was held August 9th. The project team is developing the Scope of Work; with final Work Scope due to USDOT by October 3, 2024.

Three project team members, Alisha Meador, Economic Development Manager, Lynchburg City, Charlotte Lester, Neighborhood Planner, Lynchburg City, and Kelly Hitchcock will attend the Thriving Communities Program Convening, October 10-11, 2024 in Washington D.C.

Frank Rogers asked for clarification, questioning if essentially these are plans that will culminate in recommendations that we will then put forward for federal or state funding in subsequent cycles. Kelly responded that it could be and would be the goal of the projects, but did note that some recommendations could have other, non-construction and additional agency funding sources. but each of these projects could have some recommendations that could have other funding sources. Hitchcock noted that each project has a goal of providing expanded opportunities for localities to apply for federal dollars and align with VDOT program priorities and funding programs.

Rick Youngblood stated that part of the Thriving Communities Program is private partnerships. Part of the study will be generating a community support aspect, and expanding opportunities for multiple funding sources.

5. Opportunity for Public Comment *Jeremy Bryant, Chair*

Jeremy Bryant opened the meeting for any public comment. No one was present and no public comments were received; the public comment period closed.

6. Matters from the Board and/or Staff*Jeremy Bryant, Chair*

a. State & Federal agency partner updates

DRPT:

Mitch Huber, DRPT, reported the Rail CRISI grants would be closing. Huber noted there had been contact with Amherst County about a potential application for a rail crossing application. DRPT has launched the Connects Communities Campaign to promote public transit across the Commonwealth and expand connection to people to employment.

VDOT:

Rick Youngblood, VDOT-Lynchburg District, gave an update on current projects in the region. VDOT is coordinating with city staff as VDOT on two approved STAR studies. These are targeted studies for the Campbell Avenue Corridor and Graves Mill. The consultant on Graves Mill will be RK&K, EPR is the sub to them. WSP will be the consultant on Campbell Avenue with EPR being their sub.

Youngblood noted that VDOT has received approval for a new study in Campbell County. The study will be focused on a section of Route 501; this will update a past passing lane study that is outdated. Some preliminary operational analysis has been undertaken; RK&K will be the lead consultant.

VDOT is getting ready to kick off the scope review for the Central VA Training Center. The work plan has been approved by VDOT Central Office. Youngblood noted will be a challenging study; funding is provided via the General Assembly money, and we must go through a standardized review process as part of that.

Rick noted the ongoing English Tavern Road study that is approaching the final stages.

Rick noted that VDOT currently has 10 district-wide studies and confirmed 12 Smart Scale studies were received and are happy to report all 12 will move forward to the validation and scoring aspect.

b. 2025-2029 Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan

Ada Hunsberger, Program Manager, Central Virginia Commuter Services, will provide an overview at the 5:00 p.m. CVPDC meeting where she will present the ***2025-2029 Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan***, a document that outlines the operating services for of the Central Virginia Commuter Services program, the regional Commuter Assistance Program that was previously known as RIDE Solutions.

DRPT requires an approved 2025-2029 Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan in order to be eligible for future grant program funding. Ada has been coordinating with local and state stakeholders to develop the Draft Plan that outlines operating services and resources needed to operate the program. The Draft 2025-2029 Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan has been reviewed by the TTC, DRPT and VDOT and a 30-day public comment period will be held from October 23 to September 25, 2024. The final CAP Strategic Plan will be brought for CVPDC approval consideration at the November 21, 2024 meeting. With approval, the CVPDC will be eligible to submit a DRPT CAP application in January 2025.

c. CVPDC Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Initiative (Attachment 6c)

Mariel Fowler, Senior Planner, at the 5:00 PM CVPDC meeting, will provide an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure program overview. Similar to the Commuter Assistance Program, while transportation-focused, represents information with relevance to the entire region thus will be presented at the CVPDC meeting.

d. DRPT Central Virginia Rail Economic Development Study

Emily Stock, Chief of Rail Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) will provide an overview of the *Central Virginia Rail Economic Development Study*, at the 5:00 pm CVPDC meeting. DPRT, in partnership with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), has led this study to evaluate rail-centric economic development opportunities in the region, including both passenger and freight rail enhancements to encourage intermodal and other non-intermodal market opportunities.

e. VDOT Transportation Alternatives and Revenue Sharing Program Cycle

The FY27-28 TA and Revenue Sharing cycles are advancing next year (pre-application opening April). There are important factors to consider in the pending and future rounds:

- TA projects capped at \$2.5M federal (\$3.125 M total project)
- Applicants can no longer re-apply for additional TA funds in future cycles
- Must have dedicated Public Hearings; not part of consent calendar
- Submitted funding projects must be in the applicant's Capital Improvement Plan

Rick Youngblood commented that because of rising costs the TAP program will become a lot like VDOT's Revenue Share program. The more funding the locality can bring to fund your projects the better the locality will be in the long run. This is one of the reasons for the change with the CIP requirement, like in Revenue Share, the locality will already have the project funds dedicated. VDOT sees that this opportunity for local funding is going to be necessary, more than likely, to fund some your local projects.

Jeremy Bryant, Chair asked the question whether this will be weighted based on a locality's ability to pay. In this Region there are smaller localities compared to Richmond City.

Rick confirmed that the Lynchburg District CTB member, Linda Green, will have the capacity to make the decision project she recommends for funding. Youngblood is confident that anyone who understands the program, sees the local commitment and challenges for smaller area, is sure that will add some weight. This is not a guarantee, but suggested as the region's CTB member, Green will recognize what the local governments are doing. Of course, there will be staff discussions with Rick's office since project development and local assistance starts there.

Wyner Benda stressed the challenge of competing with Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia areas on the weighting factors. Noted he believes our region needs to think of and present local applications as regional applications and further consider how we leverage the CVTPO/CVPDC such that our regional applications receive higher scores/funding.

Frank Rogers asked if other localities use local funds for revenue sharing. Rogers noted Campbell does not budget for revenue sharing rather they have private/outside contributors or citizens. John Sharp stated it was rare for Bedford County to budget for revenue share projects. Jeremy Bryant noted that Amherst County is getting ready to do one but usually has not. Sharp stated that it is going to be a problem for Bedford County to capture those state dollars as Bedford will not start taxing their citizens to fund these projects.

f. OIPI Growth & Accessibility Planning (GAP) Technical Assistance Program

The Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, OIPI, an agency within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, has announced the Growth & Accessibility Planning (GAP) Technical Assistance Program. Applications are due November 1, 2024.

f. Other

John Sharp brought a recent news article to the attention of the committee about Electric Vehicle raise concerns about whether safety infrastructure can handle their weight in a crash. The Senate recently had a hearing and the National Transportation Safety Board Chair, Jennifer Homendy said she was concerned about the additional weight of the electronic vehicles causing more severe crashes. Homendy in the article suggested that the current guardrails and crash attenuators are rated up to 5,000 lbs., and that some EVs are going up to 10,000 lbs. This has become a safety concern. John expressed concern with the issue of greater fatalities and about the cost to localities having to replace infrastructures because they will be insufficient for the weight of Electric Vehicles.

7. **Central Virginia Safety Action Plan.....** Mark Herman, Kimley-Horn

Mark Herman, Kimley-Horn, presented the CVPDC High Injury Network (HIN), summarizing the regional crash data and accident trends that will be used as a foundation for the Central Virginia Safety Action Plan. Mark stated that the main focus of this Safety Action Plan is on reducing fatalities and serious injuries. While there will be discussions about crashes, the purpose of this plan is not focused on crashes as a whole, but on the crashes that result in more serious consequences.

Herman provided an overview of the introductory data that has been collected, along with the incorporation of USDOT and VDOT's Safe System Approach will be used over the eight-to-ten-month project planning process. Mark explained emphasis areas represent are ways we can define and think about fatalities and serious injuries, are primarily either human/behavior types actions (e.g. speeding or impaired driving) or can be attributed to physical characteristics (e.g. design) features that can impact the types of crashes. As such, the project will consider education focused or any improvements that involve enforcement or emergency medical services. The study will also consider at priority-identified location design/engineering recommendations.

With no further slides or questions, the Chairman thanked Mark for sharing the data and presentation.

Kelly noted that project locality focus group meetings have been scheduled during October . The meetings will be led by EPR/Kimley-Horn consultants to hear about additional safety concerns/locations. Hitchcock noted that public input process should begin in October and that the

8. **Adjourn** *CVTPO Chair*

MOTION: Tom Lawson made the motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Rick Youngblood. All were in favor and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:28 PM.

Informational Item: The CVTPO next meeting: November 21, 2024

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 participation 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.

By:



CVTPO Chair

Date:

11/21/24