

Central Virginia Transportation Technical Committee

828 Main Street, 12th Floor, September 14, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Final Minutes

PRESENT

Paul Harvey, Chair (U/R)..... Campbell County
Catherine (Leslie) Gamble (U/R)..... Amherst County
Josh Moore (U)..... Greater Lynchburg Transit Company
Erik Smedley (U/R)..... Bedford County
Rick Youngblood (U/R)..... VDOT-Lynchburg District

ABSENT

Mary Zirkle (R)..... Town of Bedford
Todd Carroll (U)..... Liberty University
Kevin Jones (U/R)..... Federal Highway Administration
Andrew LaGala (U)..... Lynchburg Regional Airport
Sara McGuffin (U)..... Town of Amherst
Johnnie Roark (R)..... Appomattox County
Russell Thurston (R)..... Town of Brookneal
Ryan Roberts (U)..... City of Lynchburg
Sharon Williams (R)..... Town of Altavista
Tyler Creasy (U/R)..... Amherst County
Mariel Fowler (U/R)..... Bedford County
J.P. Morris (U/R)..... VDOT – Salem District
Daniel Sonenklar (U/R)..... Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

U- Members representing the urbanized area of the region.

R- Members representing the rural area of the region.

OTHERS PRESENT

Carson Eckhardt..... VDOT-Lynchburg District
Kelly Hitchcock..... CVPDC/CVTPO
Kirsten Trautman..... CVPDC
Alec Brebner..... CVPDC/CVTPO
Sara Oakley..... CVPDC
Ada Hunsberger..... CVPDC

1. Welcome

Paul Harvey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Josh Moore made a motion to approve the July 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Erik Smedley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. FY24-27 CVTIP Amendment

Paul opened the floor to Kelly Hitchcock to speak on the CVTIP Amendment.

Hitchcock noted that the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority requested inclusion to TIPs across the Commonwealth to reflect anticipated Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funding for financial support to Amtrak commuter services, specifically for the CVTPO two trains on the Roanoke Route that traverse through the CVTPO region. The 30-day public comment period started August 18th and will run through to September 18th; to then be taken to the CVTPO for adoption consideration at the September 21, 2023 meeting.

Hitchcock said she will be coming back to the TTC and CVTPO for the additional FY24-27 CVTIP Amendments to reflect pending changes requested by FTA. The changes are to reflect wording and GLTC project descriptions within the CVTIP. Part of the pending adjustments will include CVTPO website adjustments.

MOTION: Rick Youngblood made the motion, seconded by Josh Moore, to recommend approval of the amendment to the CVTPO.

4. FY24 Work Program Update

- a. CVTPO Travel Demand Update
VDOT central offices and their consultants are continuing the LRTP Travel Demand model update.
- b. PSI/ Intersection Safety Study
EPR will begin the traffic counts in mid to late September. A project kickoff meeting will be scheduled for October.
- c. Route 221 Study
The traffic counts are actively beginning. Background research, base mapping, and crash analysis have also been initiated. It was noted the project kickoff meeting will to be scheduled for October.
- d. Safety Data Analysis & Safety Action Plan
Kelly noted that Mark Herman, Kimley Horn, is working on the Safety Data analysis as presented at the July 13th meeting. Herman is currently pulling the Crash Data and is also overlaying the information with the USDOT Disadvantaged Communities Data- Equitable Transportation Community Explorer and Climate Economic Justice Screen Tools. The final step will be to pull together and coordination with the VDOT High Injury Network. Hitchcock confirmed that Hermen noted he would have all information certainly by the November meeting, only possibly by the October meeting.
- e. Rural Work Program
Kelly introduced Ada Hunsberger to discuss the Commuter Needs Study. VDOT/DRPT and PDC will be joining to conduct a study on current commuter patterns, this study is anticipated to be completed in October 2024. Hunsberger noted the goal is to have two surveys – a general public and an employer-focused – ready for distribution in early 2024. Hunsberger noted she is developing a project subcommittee and will have a draft survey for TTC review anticipated for the next meeting.

5. VDOT FY25 PL Funding Allocation Scenarios

Kelly explained that VDOT, in consultation with the MPOs across the Commonwealth is evaluating the FY25, and the future year, PL funding allocations. Opportunity for evaluation of a function of new Census numbers and the new Census urban definitions.

Hitchcock noted, that the CVTPO will not have considerable funding impact regardless of the final scenario determined. A quick review of the scenarios was provided showing the range of scenarios from 50k base to 75k base, to \$100k base then the remainder of Funds adjusted according to population. VAMPO, with leadership from the Executive Committee, which includes Alec Brebner, Executive Director, CVPDC, is working through different scenarios. Kelly said for the PDC- from 50K (which is current) to 100K, only to see \$37,319 from the highest of \$286,458 from the 100k base. They will be keeping the existing formula at \$251,367. While this doesn't impact the MPO much, Kelly wanted to be able to keep everyone informed.

6. VDOT Smart Scale Evaluation

Kelly opened the floor to Alec Brebner to speak on the Smart Scale changes.

Alec Brebner provided an overview of the current SMART SCALE Round 6 proposed application changes. Currently, VDOT is recommending limiting the number of applications that a locality can submit from 4 to 2. Another potentially impactful change is adjustments to the land use rating element. Brebner noted that VAMPO is watching and preparing comments to the process and that he will be attending the CTB meeting to articulate the VAMPO thoughts on the proposed changes. Brebner reiterated the PDC will be able to aid localities with applications.

7. Matters of the Committee

a. VDOT and DRPT Program Updates

Rick stated that he is currently working on the project pipeline for the next round of projects. The new English Tavery Road study in Campbell County will be starting soon.

b. US DOT Grant Program – Area Applications

Hitchcock provided an overview of the pending Reconnecting Communities applications. No locality noted knowledge or intention of the September 28th applications.

c. VDOT Carbon Reduction Program

As a function of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, each state must establish a Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) to FHWA. The program has \$35 million, with 65% going to the TMAs and the remaining 35% obligated to other MPO areas. VDOT is currently developing its CRS plan, the draft to FHWA will be sent on November 15th. Details will be shared with localities. Hitchcock noted that Ada will be following as she executes the commuter study.

d. Other

- Kelly reminded folks that VDOT HSIP applications are due October 31.
- October TTC meeting. It was agreed as the Kimley Horn Safety Data Analysis is likely not to be ready until November, it was agreed to not have an October TTC meeting. The next meeting will be November 9th.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Josh Moore motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rick Youngblood seconded the motion. All were in favor. Paul Harvey adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.