

Central Virginia Transportation Technical Committee

828 Main Street, 12th Floor, July 11, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. (Hybrid Meeting)

Final Minutes

PRESENT

Paul Harvey, Chair (U/R) Campbell County
Erik Smedley (U/R) Bedford County
Abigail Courington (U/R) Bedford County
Ryan Roberts (U) City of Lynchburg
Rachel Frischeisen (U) City of Lynchburg
Matt Perkins (R) Town of Altavista
Jamie Gillespie (R) Town of Altavista
Josh Moore (U) Greater Lynchburg Transit Company
Tyler Creasy (U/R) Amherst County
Catherine (Leslie) Gamble (U/R) Amherst County
J.P. Morris (U/R) VDOT-Salem District
Jared Thompson (R) (virtual) Town of Bedford
Rick Youngblood (U/R) (virtual) VDOT-Lynchburg District
Carson Eckhardt (U/R) (virtual) VDOT-Lynchburg District
Kathryn Benedict (U/R) (virtual) FHWA-Virginia
Mitch Huber (U/R) (virtual) DRPT-Virginia

ABSENT

Mary Zirkle (R) Town of Bedford
Tom Martin (U) City of Lynchburg
Sara McGuffin (U) Town of Amherst
Andrew LaGala (U) Lynchburg Regional Airport
Terry McGhee (R) Town of Appomattox
Johnnie Roark (R) Appomattox County
Chelsea Beytas (U/R) Federal Transit Administration

U- Members representing the urbanized area of the region

R- Members representing the rural area of the region

STAFF PRESENT

Mariel Fowler CVPDC/CVTPO
Kelly Hitchcock CVPDC/CVTPO
Ada Hunsberger (virtual) CVPDC/CVTPO

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brayley Whitcomb VDOT-Salem District

1. Welcome and Virtual Participation Acknowledgement.

Paul Harvey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Harvey requested that those attending virtually enter their names in the chat box to assist staff tracking assistance.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Harvey entered a motion to approve the May 9, 2024, minutes. MOTION: Erik Smedley moved to approve the minutes. Matt Perkins seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

3. **Smart Scale Projects: Action Requested**

Attachment 3: CVPDC and CVTPO Resolutions

Ms. Fowler asked for a recommendation to send to the PDC and TPO for the projects that localities will be submitting to Smart Scale. Mr. Smedley disclosed that the Route 608 project may not be moving forward, but it would not hurt to keep it in the recommendation by the PDC. Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to recommend approval. Mr. Smedley moved to approve the motion. Josh Moore seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

4. **FY24-27 TIP Amendment: Action Requested**

Attachment 4: Narrative of Changes

Ms. Fowler explained the changes requested by VDOT to amend the TIP to reconcile the cost of the VPRA's projects for the Amtrak Service expansion. No public comments have been received yet, and the amendment will go to a public hearing at the TPO meeting on July 18, 2024, for approval. Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendment. Mr. Moore moved to approve the motion. Mr. Smedley seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

5. **Commuter Assistance Program**

- *Survey results and next steps*

Ms. Hunsberger went over the results of the commuter needs assessment survey, which will serve as the strategic plan for the program and collect data on commuter patterns in our region. She thanked the localities for their assistance in spreading the word. It received 330 responses. After presenting the information on a slide deck, Ms. Hunsberger shared that a draft will be ready for the TTC member to review with a new website, branding materials, and more under development.

6. **FY24 Work Program Update**

- *221 Corridor Study*

Ms. Fowler shared that the schedule had to be pushed back some. We are looking at the first public meeting in September and running the survey at the same time. This would help spread the word, refer people to the website, and post it on social media. More details will be shared as soon as they are available.

- *PSI Safety Study*

Ms. Fowler explained that the concepts are being developed and finalized to be shared with the Steering Working Group. A meeting may be held from the end of July to the beginning of August. More details will be shared as soon as they are available.

7. **FY25 Work Program Update**

- *Comprehensive Safety Action Plan*

Ms. Fowler provided an overview of what the consultant has helped develop for branding and shared the logo that has been created so far. She asked for first impressions and feedback. She requested information from the group to share public events and venues for community meetings, provide contacts to request GIS data, post to websites and social media, as well as dates to present and introduce the project at board meetings with each locality. Ms. Hitchcock emphasized the importance of the plan's methodology that focuses on Vision Zero, but it is not solely to eliminate crashes but to prevent them and how the plan will address identified safety issues. Ms. Fowler also explained that at the board/council meetings, there will be an invitation for board/council members to participate in the stakeholder or focus work groups if they so desire. The expectation is that localities' leadership is aware of the ongoing efforts in the community. At a

later date, there will be another meeting with localities' boards/councils asking for a commitment to adopt the plan in order to be able to apply for funds under demonstration or implementation grants under the SS4A program. Ms. Benedict added that in order to receive funds for demonstration and implementation projects, localities will need to apply for them during future rounds. Just adopting the plan does not mean localities get the funding automatically.

- *Lynchburg Multimodal Study*

Ms. Fowler updated the group that the kick-off meeting will be held on July 25th, 2024, with Timmons Group, the consultant leading the effort, and will provide an overview with participating stakeholders. Ms. Hitchcock added that there will be some overlap with stakeholders from the city of Lynchburg, since they also will be emphasizing the work for the Comprehensive Action Plan.

8. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Information Request

- *Attachment 8: Working Document with Summary of Resources*

Ms. Fowler prepared a table with a summary of resources she found during her research to assist localities in advancing EV charging infrastructure in their communities. She explained the table has different funding applications that differ in requirements, teaming agreements, applicant eligibility and cost-matching, as well as the level of data gathering and analysis for preparation. The ones that look like they could potentially be a good fit for planning purposes have closed, but to be ready for the next round, if there's interest, sign up to receive updates. There are lots of resources to assist with technical data, such as mapping tools, layers, and locators.

Ms. Fowler added that there are programs you can sign up to receive direct technical assistance via teleconferences and e-mails. Virginia Clean Cities receives funding from the Department of Energy to assist communities with their EV charging efforts. They are also a good resource to help answer any questions. At the PDC next week, Ms. Fowler will be presenting the following recommendations: One is to keep sharing and staying informed on resources, grant applications, and funding opportunities. Another one is, in preparation to meet requirements for the next round of funding applications, such as the VDOT NEVI, the CVPDC can engage and facilitate communications and connections between economic development directors and/or the chamber of commerce and their business networks as a resource, with outreach via e-mail, newsletter, website, and EV partners (such as the VCC with their network of technology providers) which can lead to identifying potential business locations especially those along the 460 and 29 corridors (office buildings, shopping centers, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, tourist destinations) interested in becoming a partner with the locality and utility provider. As an option, the VCC can provide suggestions and be the buffer between localities and technology providers since they are brand-neutral. Matt Perkins added that segments of 29 are in his community (Altavista) were identified as target areas and that it would be helpful to bring people with technical knowledge and capacity to assist since there is interest.

9. Matters from the Committee

- *VDOT and DRPT Program Updates*

Mr. Hubert shared some updates from the DRPT. Their STIP was approved and available on the Open Data Portal. He provided a reminder for Smart Scale deadlines: July 15 for final details and documents and August 1 for final applications. MPOs and grant recipients are being sent revisions to contracts and agreements to be reviewed and executed. FRA announced NOFO for railroad crossing elimination programs; MPOs and localities can apply. For any assistance, contact Mitch to develop the application. Ms. Hitchcock provided a brief overview of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, with applications due September 30, 2024, and planning and construction grants are available. Technical assistance and writing clinics are also available.

- *Federal Grants Information & Updates*

Kathryn Benedict reminded everyone that she is available for any specific questions or assistance on any federal discretionary grant programs. Ms. Hitchcock provided information on the roadway reconfiguration technical assistance program through the TMPD with David Cook, which is an opportunity to partner with VDOT and look at possible road diets for bike lanes, re-striping, and safety issues. She also added that VDOT has a pedestrian count loan program that localities can request to assist with project data.

Josh More shared that the GLTC will start the micro-transit service on August 2nd, and accessible vans will be available upon request to pick you up and take you to your location within certain limits. Rick Youngblood offered information regarding the RAISE grant opportunity for the city of Lynchburg for the Holcomb Path Road connection project, which meets the grant requirement's metric. Erik Smedley shared that Bedford County, in partnership with Franklin County, West Piedmont PDC, and CVPDC staff, has been awarded a grant for a 122 corridor study and will be kicking off soon.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Harvey reminded everyone that the next meeting is August 8, 2024, and asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Josh Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, and Matt Perkins seconded it. The vote was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.