

# Central Virginia Transportation Technical Committee

828 Main Street, 12th Floor, September 12, 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  
Tyler Creasy (U/R) ..... Amherst County  
Natalie Wilkins (U) ..... Greater Lynchburg Transit Company  
Ryan Roberts (U) (virtual)..... City of Lynchburg  
Rick Youngblood (U/R) (virtual) ..... VDOT-Lynchburg District  
Mitch Huber (U/R) (virtual) ..... Virginia Department of Rail

### ABSENT

Josh Moore (U) ..... Greater Lynchburg Transit Company  
Mary Zirkle (R) ..... Town of Bedford  
Tom Martin (U)..... City of Lynchburg  
Matt Perkins (R) ..... Bedford County  
Steve Foster (U/R) ..... Bedford County  
Sara McGuffin (U)..... Town of Amherst  
Andrew LaGala (U) ..... Lynchburg Regional Airport  
Terry McGhee (R) ..... Town of Appomattox  
Johnnie Roark (R)..... Appomattox County  
Carson Eckhardt (U/R) ..... VDOT-Lynchburg District  
J.P. Morris (U/R) ..... VDOT – Salem District & Public Transit  
Chelsea Beytas (U/R) ..... Federal Transit Administration  
Kathryn Benedict (U/R) ..... FHWA Virginia  
Jared Thompson (R) ..... Town of Bedford

*U- Members representing the urbanized area of the region*

*R- Members representing the rural area of the region*

### STAFF PRESENT

Mariel Fowler ..... CVPDC/CVTPO  
Alec Brebner ..... CVPDC/CVTPO  
Kelly Hitchcock..... CVPDC/CVTPO  
Patti Lassiter..... CVPDC/CVTPO

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Feng Liu (virtual)..... Cambridge Analytics

#### **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 July 11, 2024, minutes.

**MOTION:** Erik Smedley moved to approve July 11, 2024 minutes as presented. Tyler Creasy seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

**3. FY24 -2027 CVTIP Amendment – Action Requested**

***Narrative of Changes – Attachment 3***

Mariel Fowler introduced the proposed CVTIP amendment request to FTA5310 from The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit (VDRPT), on behalf of the Luther Family Services of Virginia (dba encircle) to provide funding for two 9-passenger vans for paratransit services. Staff is asking for the TTC recommendation to the TPO, which is meeting next week at 4:00 pm on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Since it is an amendment we had an open public comment period from August 16-September 16. As of today, staff have not received any public comments. Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendment.

**MOTION:** Erik Smedley moved to recommend adoption of the FY24-27 CVTIP Amendments as outlined to the CVTPO. Tyler Creasy seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

**4. CVTPO Model Development Update**

***Presentation by Cambridge Systematics – Feng Li***

Ms. Fowler introduced Feng Li of Cambridge Systematics who gave an overview of the development of the Model that has been done to date. This is the model that will be used as the foundation for the 2050 Long Range Plan. Mr. Li explained the purpose and forecasting of the model and how it is used to assist with long-range transportation planning and evaluation of transportation improvements and infrastructure investments. The overview also contained information on model data input, model components and model outputs. Feng shared information for the model calibration and validation testing to be sure those measures are correct.

Rick Youngblood commented that the sensitivity test currently being done to the model is literally just a testing mechanism to make sure the validation is correct. The outcomes that you see are not necessarily what you'll see, it's just part of the testing process.

**5. Central Virginia Comprehensive Safety Action Plan**

Ms. Fowler gave an update on the next steps for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Staff has been coordinating Boards and Council meetings with the localities. The first Board meeting has been scheduled with Appomattox for September 16<sup>th</sup>. Staff is ready to assist any locality anyway they can. If you would like to have staff present to your Board or Council reach out to Kelly or Mariel to get on the schedule. If you will be presenting this yourself and would like a copy of slides customized with data for your locality, please reach out to Kelly or Mariel. Staff is considering having one meeting per locality and for that locality to invite the public safety, your nonprofits, parks and rec, economic development.

Ms. Fowler shared that staff is refining our outreach strategy for our stakeholder and focus groups. Ms. Fowler encouraged everyone to post the flyer with the QR code and the website link on their public boards for citizens to have access to the survey. Be on the lookout for invitations for these events.

**6. FY24 Work Program Update**

a. 221 Corridor Study

Ms. Fowler gave a brief update on the 221 Corridor Study. Staff will be having a public meeting this afternoon, September 12 at Forest Middle School. The meeting has been posted on the website, and on social media. The survey for this project is live on CVTPO website if you know of anyone that might be

interested. The Forest public meeting represents the first public input phase for this project. Next will be EPR attending to show some of the improvements. That is tentatively scheduled in the December timeframe. After that EPR, will take some time developing some improvement and meet again in the summer. All information shared this evening will be posted on our website.

b. PSI Safety Study

Ms. Fowler informed the Committee that EPR recently shared the concepts for their proposed improvements with the Amherst County Representatives. Based on that feedback EPR will incorporate comments and be working on the final report. The report will be reviewed by the project stakeholders and then brought to the TTC.

**7. Electric Vehicle charging Infrastructure Imitative**

Ms. Fowler shared some updated information about different programs that localities can use to advance charging infrastructures for electric vehicles. The Charging Smart program is only being offered in 11 states right now but is supposed to be expanding to other states. The program is being offered to localities only and not to TPOs or PDCs. They want to work directly with localities. If you're interested, you only need a letter of commitment from a division director department director or county administrator. They also ask that the locality's board or council has been made aware of the effort. You will need to do an assessment of where you are in the process and based on that information you will receive a scorecard with your designation.

Ms. Fowler shared information regarding two other programs being offered by Virginia Clean Cities. One is the Mid Atlantic Electrification partnership and the other is Rural Reimagined. These programs are more directed to localities that already have a site in mind from an EV charging infrastructure. These programs are considered mini grants and can help localities with a percentage of the costs. Some of them can help cover equipment installation costs and some can help cover equipment plus installation costs. If you are interested reach out directly to Virginia Clean Cities. Mr. Creasy asked "Where are localities typically putting this? I feel like they would need to be contacting gas stations." Ms. Fowler answered, "They are looking for sights where people can spend a couple of hours shopping, like a grocery store." Mr. Creasy asked, "So in theory, you still have to get a permission letter from the private property owners?" Ms. Fowler answered, "That's correct." Mr. Creasy responded, "It seems that they should be contacting the private property owners and not the localities." Ms. Fowler stated, "The localities involvement with this is with the permitting process, type of permits for the installation, and site plan approval."

**8. Matters from the Committee**

a. 2023-2024 Bicycle Facilities Metric Report Updates

Kelly Hitchcock shared a VDOT map that David Cook with Transportation Mobility Planning Division for Virginia Bicycle Facility Inventory. Ms. Hitchcock shared that this map is updated yearly, to reflect infrastructure implemented between July 1 and June 30. Ms. Hitchcock encouraged committee members to let her know if there are pedestrian or bicycle projects that have been completed but are not on the map.

b. DRPT Presentation to the CVPDC by Emily Stock (CV Rail Study Update)

Hitchcock gave a status update on the DRPT Rail Study noting the draft was complete, and currently in DRPT/General Assembly review stages. Ms. Stock will provide an overview at the CVPDC meeting.

c. VDOT and DRPT Program Updates

Ms. Fowler provided an overview of the VDOT and DRPT programs provided, information includes opening and closing dates as well as some webinar links.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Ready, Set, Go Technical Assistance Program

Ms. Fowler mentioned that there are limits to the amount requested for each of the components so double check what those requirements might be. For the Ready, Set, Go transportation alternative grant program this is a VDOT assistance program. The new round for your TA application will be next year. If you have one in mind, this would be a good time to start thinking about that and reach out for planning support to develop the application at no cost to the locality. Mariel reminded the committee that participation in the program does not guarantee a full application being completed. You still need to apply and put in for the application and you will have a 20% cost match.

Kelly reiterated that the next grant cycle may seem a long way off, but it will be different than other grant cycles. There will be no stacking of TA applications. The other difference is the locality that wants to put in a TA application must have the project(s) in their CIP. Ms. Hitchcock reminded the committee that through David Cooks office and the State's Pedestrian Planners, they have the Roadway Reconfigured Technical Assistance program. If you have a lane project that needs to be reconfigured, they are the people to help you. David's office also has a road counter program. If you are ever wondering how many people are walking or biking a particular road they can put a counter out for you. This upcoming TA application cycle will definitely be a higher degree of prep and readiness in order to be competitive.

d. Federal Grants Information

Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program

Ms. Fowler reminded the TTC of the Reconnecting Communities pilot program presented at the July TTC meeting. Ms. Fowler gave a brief description of the new Reconnecting Communities Institute Program. Through the pilot program you will either be identified as a grant recipient, or you have identified a negative impact within your transportation infrastructure. If you are the later one and are really not sure where to begin, the Institute Program is for you. This program is free assistance, designed to help you get started, develop a plan and how to address it. They help, from pre planning to construction. The website takes an express of interest and only takes 15 to 30 minutes to complete. This will be open until November of 2025.

**9. Adjourn:**

Paul Harvey reminded everyone that the next meeting is October 10, 2024, and asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Tyler moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Erik Smedley. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.