



Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization
July 18, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Meeting
CVPDC Office, 828 Main St., 12th Floor Lynchburg, VA

Draft Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Frank Rogers, Vice-Chair Campbell County
Chris Winstead VDOT Lynchburg District
Greg Patrick City of Lynchburg
Dwayne Tuggle Town of Amherst
Josh Moore Greater Lynchburg Transit Company
Sara McGuffin Town of Amherst
Drew Wade Amherst County
Jeremy Bryant Amherst County
Marty Misjuns City of Lynchburg
John Sharp Bedford County
Tom Lawton Campbell County
Kenny Craig Liberty University
Mitch Huber (virtual) Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transit

MEMBERS ABSENT

- Robert Hiss Bedford County
Kathryn Benedict FHWA-Virginia

OTHERS PRESENT

- Thomas Ruff (virtual) Timmons Group
Emily Routman (virtual) Timmons Group
Rick Youngblood (virtual) VDOT Lynchburg District
Alec Brebner CVPDC/CVTPO
Patti Lassiter CVPDC
Sandy Dobyns CVPDC
Mariel Fowler CVPDC/CVTPO
Kelly Hitchcock CVPDC/CVTPO

1. Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum

Frank Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:01 and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Adoption CVTPO FY25 Virtual Meeting and Participation Policy Frank Rogers, Chair

Kelly gave a brief overview of the recent Code of Virginia’s update to more easily accommodate virtual meetings. This update allows for up-to TWO full meetings to be virtual (if needed), and members to be able to utilize the call in option 2 times per meeting year. That would theoretically make it possible for four (4) virtual occurrences (hope not) within a meeting year. If we need to utilize a full virtual meeting, the determination will be guided by the Chair.

MOTION: Sara McGuffin made the motion that the CVTPO adopt in FY25 the virtual and member participation policy according to Code of Virginia § 2.2-3708.3. Tom Lawton seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes: May 16, 2024 *Frank Rogers, Chair*

The chair asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the May 16th meeting minutes. No comments were received.

MOTION: Sara McGuffin made the motion to approve the May 16th meeting minutes. Jeremy Bryant seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. Proposed FY2024-2027 CVTIP Amendment (Public Hearing)..... *Frank Rogers, Chair*

The CVTIP amendment is being requested by VDOT to better incorporate what program funding as presenting in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to match the Virginia Public Rail Authority (VPRA) cost of the Amtrack commuter route services. The CVTIP already showed the VPRA program funding within the transit section, but VDOT is asking to incorporate the program funding . Frank Rogers opened the Public Hearing to receive comment at 4:05 p.m. There was no one to speak. The Public Hearing was closed.

MOTION: Marty Misjuns made the motion to approve the FY24-27 CVTIP Amendment. amendment. Tom Lawton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

5. Resolution of Support Consideration for SMART SCALE Applications *Frank Rogers, CVTPO*

Hitchcock summarized the four (4) Smart Scale applications being submitted from the CVTPO area. Of the four , three (3) are from Campbell County and one (1) from Lynchburg. All projects were submitted in SMART SCALE Round 5 but have been expanded and adjusted in coordination with Lynchburg District planners. Discussion ensued about the importance of these projects for the safety of the citizens in the region.

MOTION: Marty Misjuns made the motion to support approve the CVTPO Resolution of Support to the four CVTPO area SMART SCALE Round 6 applications. Sara McGuffin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

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

a. Intersection Safety Study

The timeline for the Intersection Safety Study has been updated to extend the project to December. Working with the consultants and locality planners, as none of the projects are targeted for near-term VDOT funding cycles, it was determined extending the timeline provides more opportunity to develop and prepare for public interest this Fall. Program details will be presented at the November TPO meeting.

b. Route 221 Study

Hitchcock noted this project includes a project development extension. Similarly, the recommendations will be developed for readiness in future VDOT funding rounds. The 221 study is larger and thus has an extension to spring 2025. Staff is coordinating with Erik Smedley and Salem District in developing outreach to business/residents along the corridor. The CVTPO will be kept informed of project progress and public meetings.

c. Lynchburg Multimodal Plan (package error)

Hitchcock provided a brief overview of the Lynchburg Multimodal Plan project. The Timmons Group is the project consultant and the Kickoff Meeting will be held July 25, 2024. Staff will

provide an overview of the project, timeline, steering committee, and outreach plan at the next TPO meeting.

Thomas Ruff, Senior Project Manager – Transportation Planning, Analysis and Design, Timmons Group, the project consultants, introduced himself, provided a brief project overview and timeline. Ruff noted the project will begin data collection and GIS analysis. Timmons is looking forward to developing a good plan for all the multimodal biking, walking, and transit throughout the city.

The multimodal project will be a 14 to 16 month effort. Hitchcock noted although a City project, information and development methodology will be transferrable and valuable within the entire TPO area and region. Hitchcock also invited anyone to attend the community meetings and question the methodology. The project will set the stage as we move forward to the long-range transportation plan update starting later in the program year.

d. U.S. DOT SS4A - CVPDC Safety Action Plan

The USDOT Safe Streets for All (SS4A) - Safety Action Plan project, funded by USDOT and PDC match, is a region-wide study. As such, information about the study will be presented at the PDC meeting due to the relevance of the safety/high injury network information to the entire region and don't want folks hearing redundant information. The first project meeting is scheduled for August 21st.

It was agreed after some discussion that the SS4A – Safety Action Plan project will be discussed at the last half of future TPO meetings to allow for those PDC locality/members to come to the PDC meeting early to participate in this project discussion item.

7. Opportunity for Public Comment*Frank Rogers, Chair*

Frank Rogers opened the meeting for public comment. There was no one at the meeting to offer public comment.

8. Matters from the Board and/or Staff*Frank Rogers, Chair*

a. State and Federal Partner Updates

- Mitch Huber, DRPT, reported the STIP was approved and if anyone would like to know about funded projects can review on the DRPT Open Data Portal. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has opened up the rail crossing elimination grant. Huber noted the if Lynchburg is still interested in looking at the quiet zones and rail crossing improvements this grant could address that planning effort and urged folks to reach out to him if there is grant program interest.
- Chris Winstead, VDOT, thanked all the communities for their continued cooperations with SMART SCALE round six. He does not anticipate a draft funding scenario until January; normally coming out the day before the General Assembly session begins. Winstead does not yet know the Lynchburg District SMART SCALE funding distribution between High-Priority Project Program (HPPP), statewide program, (statewide) and the District Program. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved the current FY25-30 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) at approximately \$627 million, the healthiest Winstead has seen since in his position.
- Rick Youngblood, VDOT, added that the Central Virginia Training Center has received funding to have a master plan completed. As part of that request from the Business Alliance, they were awarded \$200,000 to conduct a Road and Intersection analysis for a potential new connection to the Center. to the property. VDOT is working with RK & K consultants developing a Scope. As this project progresses, TPO, PDC, Amherst as stakeholders will participate. Youngblood noted the project completion is slated for July/August 2025.

- Josh Moore, GLTC, mentioned that invitations have been sent out for the Mico Transit service launch, starting officially August 2. Moore noted GLTC is pleased to offer this new service.
- Hitchcock reported for Kathryn Benedict, FHWA, who could not attend the meeting. USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) grant has opened. Applications are due September 30, 2024. Hitchcock noted there is a lot of interest in these dollars being distributed throughout the country. US DOT has developed a series of technical advisory assistance programs to support smaller communities' readiness and success in applications to the program and are encouraged to utilize the free support opportunities. Hitchcock noted information has been provided to locality staff and that PDC staff is available to coordinate if there is any application interest.

b. EV Charging Infrastructure Overview

Hitchcock noted that PDC staff was requested by Robert Hiss, at the April 18, 2024 meeting to research Electric Vehicle (EV) charging program information. Hitchcock noted that Mariel Fowler, Senior Planner, is the PDC staff that is leading the EV Charging Infrastructure program review and planning efforts. As a topic relevant to the entire region, similar to the Safety Action Plan, information and a presentation by Mariel on efforts to date will be provided at the CVPDC meeting.

Marty Misjuns asked if there are any dollars being requested of CVTPO to support this project. Hitchcock noted no direct dollars at this time. Misjuns requested a 2-minute program highlight. Mariel Fowler provided a quick overview, noting currently it did not appear a CVPDC locality was ready for a direct federal program grant at this time. A table of all program details and strategy forward will be developed, and shared with the CVTPO and CVPDC, over the coming months.

Marty Misjuns expressed his reservations to advancing program or project efforts to the EV Charging programs and noted his misgivings is utilizing CVTPO program funds, including match funding, for these efforts. Frank Rogers thanked Marty for sharing his concerns and noted the value in staff hearing these concerns in advance of the CVPDC Board presentation. Rogers assumes that any action by the CVPDC would be within the next couple months which gives CVTPO ample opportunity to weigh in on the level of support as an organization.

John Sharp stated that his assumption that should there be advancing match funding would likely come from local governments or private businesses, not the CVTPO. Discussion ensued about funding sources and possible areas that could be interested in have a charging station. It was agreed that while the topic is region-wide, it was agreed that any program information will be provided/shared with the CVTPO.

c. DRPT Central Virginia Rail Economic Development Study

Hitchcock reminded the CVTPO that DRPT, in partnership with VEDP, is leading the Central VA Rail Economic Development Study, led by DRPT, in partnership with VEDP. The study being a follow up action from the 2020 Inland Port Study with focus evaluating rail-centric economic development opportunities. Hitchcock noted that DRPT did not have anything to report at this time to the CVTPO. However, will be prepared to provide information to the CVPDC at the September 19, 2024 meeting.

9. 2024-2025 CVTPO Board Elections*Frank Rogers, Chair*
 The CVTPO's fiscal year begins in July, thus, time for Board Elections. Next in Chair rotation is Amherst County. Jeremy Bryant, Administrator, Amherst County is prepared to be the Chair and served as Vice-Chair. John Sharp, Supervisor, Bedford County is prepared to serve as Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Sara McGuffin motioned that Jeremy Bryant serve as CVTPO Chair and John Sharp as Vice-Chair. Drew Wade seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

10. Adjourn..... *CVTPO Chair*

MOTION: Chris Winstead made the motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Greg Patrick. All were in favor and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

1. Informational Items

- a. CVTPO next meeting: September 19, 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.