

Central Virginia Transportation Technical Committee

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

Draft Minutes

PRESENT

Josh Moore, Serving as Chair (U) Greater Lynchburg Transit Company
Erik Smedley (U/R) Bedford County
Steve Foster (U/R) Bedford County
Ryan Roberts (U) (virtual) City of Lynchburg
Tyler Creasy (U/R) (virtual) Amherst County
Jared Thompson (virtual) Town of Bedford
Rick Youngblood (virtual) VDOT-Lynchburg District
Carson Eckhardt (virtual) VDOT-Lynchburg District
Mitch Huber (virtual) Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transit
Chelsea Beytas (virtual) Federal Transit Administration

ABSENT

Paul Harvey (U/R) Campbell County
Mary Zirkle (R) Town of Bedford
Sara McGuffin (U) Town of Amherst
Andrew LaGala (U) Lynchburg Regional Airport
Matt Perkins (R) Town of Altavista
Terry McGhee Town of Appomattox
Johnnie Roark Appomattox County
J.P. Morris (U/R) VDOT – Salem District
Tom Martin (U) City of Lynchburg
Kathryn Benedict (U/R) FHWA-Virginia

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

1. Welcome and Virtual Participation Acknowledgement.

Josh Moore, GLTC, served as TTC Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Moore requested that those attending virtually enter their names in the chat box to assist staff in preparing the minutes.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Moore entered a motion to approve the February 8, 2024, minutes. MOTION: Rick Youngblood moved to approve the minutes. Tyler Creasy seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

3. FY2024-2027 CVTIP Amendment

Mariel Fowler provided an overview of the FY24-27 CVTIP Amendments. Ms. Fowler confirmed the 30-day comment period was underway, closing on April 15, 2024. Ms. Fowler confirmed no comments have been

received to date. MOTION: Rick Youngblood motioned for the TTC to recommend to the CVTPO that the CVTIP Amendments be approved. Tyler Creasy seconded the motion, which was carried with full approval.

4. FY24 Work Program Update

Ms. Fowler mentioned that we continue to work with the localities and EPR on the PSI study. She commented that Jeanie (from EPR) shared that Traffic data collection is underway, so work can start on the analyses.

Ms. Fowler updated on the Route 221 study, stating that it is slightly after the intersection study, with EPR also being the consultant. She mentioned that Erik Smedley, Salem, and Lynchburg District VDOT reps met with EPR on Tuesday, April 9th, to gather data on background growth and other development information needed to determine future traffic volumes. She shared that the growth rate along the main segment is projected at 2%. Data collection is still underway before moving on to the analyses.

For the GLTC Survey update, Ms. Fowler mentioned that the mobile fare survey launched on February 27 and closed on March 31st. 13 participants responded, and the results will be shared with the GLTC Board at their upcoming May meeting. The goal is to gauge how user-friendly the app is or if there are any areas for improvement, as well as how well the ability to pay with a credit card is being received. Mr. Moore added that a follow-up survey will be executed when the mobile fare system has been used for a few months. It was also mentioned that Phase 2, the Smart Card, is coming.

Ada Hunsberger provided an overview of the Commuter Survey activities. She noted that she will communicate with the TTC locality members to confirm contact and request that information about the Commuter Survey be posted on the locality website. Ms. Hunsberger also noted that she will include social media posting information. The survey will run from mid-April to mid-May.

For updates to the Safety Data Analysis, Ms. Fowler noted that it is still ongoing, and study details will be provided at the next TTC meeting.

5. FY25 Rural and Urban Work Program

Ms. Fowler provided urban and rural work program drafts for the committee's consideration and recommendation to the TPO. She expressed that since distributing the packet, comments from federal agencies have been received for the UPWP, and staff is working on incorporating them. She noted that the UPWP changes will reflect the federal program and coordination wording edits, and no funding or program activities from the draft provided will be changed. Mr. Moore asked if there were any further questions regarding the Urban or Rural Work Program. There were no further questions.

MOTION: Erik Smedley moved for a recommendation of approval, seconded by Tyler Creasy, that the TTC approve the FY25 Rural Work Program and recommend approval by the CVPDC. With all in favor, the motion carried.

MOTION: Erik Smedley moved for a recommendation of approval of the FY25 UPWP with changes included by staff to the TPO, which was seconded by Ryan Roberts. With all in favor, the motion carried.

6. Matters from the Committee

a. 2050 Lynchburg Model – VDOT information request

Ms. Fowler asked localities for information on any local projects not included in the SYIP, TIP, or CL RTP, and being funded by other means. She explained that this is a VDOT information request related to the work being done for the 2050 LRTP. VDOT will need the information by the end of the month.

b. SMART SCALE Program Updates

Ms. Fowler reminded the committee that the SMART SCALE portal for full applications opens on June 1st. She mentioned that projects not in the LRP will need a resolution from the PDC or the TPO, depending on location. Therefore, to make plans to have these resolutions by September 1st, the last day to upload them to the portal.

c. VDOT and DRPT Program Updates

Mr. Moore noted that the FY2025 – 2030 SYIP, for STIP inclusion consideration, will be held in Lynchburg on May 1st at the Lynchburg District office. Rick Youngblood noted that the meetings would not include SMART SCALE elements but would include VDOT State of Good Repair. Moore noted the meeting would consider rail, transit, TDM, bicycle, and pedestrian projects. These are projects for CTB June consideration.

Mr. Youngblood noted that VDOT-Lynchburg District has three (3) Project Pipeline projects underway, with various moving into Phase 3. Moving towards finalizing the Wards Road Study, where improvements are anticipated in the SMART SCALE Round 7 cycle. Rick noted the English Tavern Road Study, addressing the considerable growth along the corridor, will be holding a Public Meeting in May. The specific date is forthcoming, anticipated to be held at Highland Heights Church.

Mitch Huber noted that DRPT is leading the Connecting Commuters campaign to highlight the ConnectingVA app and the Virginia Trip Planner. Mr. Huber noted that the 5303 program applications were due in early May. DRPT, for the first time, will hold the SYIP Public Hearing at the DRPT offices on May 16th and noted the meeting can be attended in person or virtually. Finally, Mr. Huber noted there is a new \$5 million Clean Bus Planning Award program that has opened for bus electrification, and schools or public transit can apply.

Carson Eckhardt noted that VDOT is actively moving through the SMART SCALE Round 6 pre-screening process. Mr. Eckhardt noted 15 projects submitted from the Lynchburg District.

d. Federal Grants Information & Updates

For the Safe Street for all Safety Action Plan, Ms. Fowler shared that the selection committee met with 3 consulting firms on Wednesday April 10, 2024, hearing about their proposed approach and strategies for the region. She expressed that they were all very knowledgeable and capable, but a consensus has been made to pick one. Ms. Fowler mentioned that the name of the firm will be shared once they have been notified they were selected.

Ms. Fowler gave a brief summary of the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP), which issued a NOFO and has a deadline for applications on June 17, 2024, stating that this is a new grant program with 44.5 million dollars in funds to plan, design, and construct safe and connected active transportation projects. She mentioned that the e-mail she sent with the April agenda had a link to the website where there are slides to the webinar slides and the video will posted. Kelly Hitchcock added that there are requirements where underserved-disadvantage community projects can qualify for a 100% match as long as certain percentages are met.

Ms. Fowler asked the group if they were interested in hearing more about the Virginia Clean Cities organization, which focuses on efforts toward Electric Vehicle Infrastructure. She continued, saying that if there was interest, a presentation could be arranged for the next TTC meeting.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Rick Youngblood moved to adjourn the meeting, and Erik Smedley seconded it. The vote was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.