

**RICHMOND REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
March 12, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Manuel Alvarez, Jr., Chairman	Goochland County
W. Canova Peterson, IV, Vice Chairman	Hanover County
Parker C. Agelasto	City of Richmond
Jonathan Baliles	City of Richmond
Steve A. Elswick	Chesterfield County
Kathy C. Graziano	City of Richmond
David Green	GRTC Transit System
Wayne T. Hazzard (Alternate)	Hanover County
James M. Holland	Chesterfield County
Amy Inman (Nonvoting)	DRPT
Susan F. Lascolette	Goochland County
Floyd H. Miles, Sr.	Charles City County
Patricia S. O'Bannon	Henrico County
Mark Riblett (Alternate)	VDOT
Carson L. Tucker	Powhatan County
David T. Williams	Powhatan County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting)	VDA
James H. Burrell	New Kent County
Tammye Davis (Nonvoting)	FHWA
Sean M. Davis	Hanover County
Daniel A. Gecker	Chesterfield County
Angela L. Gray	RMTA
Edward L. Henson, III	Town of Ashland
Ryan Long (Nonvoting)	FTA
Brian Montgomery (Nonvoting) (Alternate/ EDAC Acting Chairman)	EDAC
Michelle R. Mosby	City of Richmond
Ellen F. Robertson	City of Richmond
John Rutledge	CRAC
Frank J. Thornton	Henrico County
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	New Kent County
Von Tisdale (Nonvoting)	RideFinders
Julien Williams (Nonvoting)	CTAC

OTHERS PRESENT

Travis Bridewell	City of Richmond
Roy Bryant	CTAC
E. Todd Eure	Henrico County
Tom Flynn	City of Richmond
Walter Johnson	CTAC
Barbara K. Smith	Chesterfield County
Ronald Svejkovsky	VDOT
Joseph E. Vidunas	Hanover County

RRPDC STAFF PRESENT

Daniel N. Lysy, TPO Secretary	Chuck Gates	Greta Ryan
Sulabh Aryal	Ken Lantz	Sharon Robeson
Bob Crum	Jin Lee	Randy Selleck
Tiffany Dubinsky	Sarah Rhodes	Chris Wichman

CALL TO ORDER

TPO Chairman Manuel Alvarez, Jr., called the March 12, 2015 meeting of the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to order at approximately 10:50 a.m. in the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission board room.

CERTIFICATION OF MEETING QUORUM

TPO Secretary Daniel N. Lysy reported that a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Request for Changes/Additions to TPO Agenda –

There were no requests to amend the agenda. On motion of Carson L. Tucker, seconded by David T. Williams, the TPO voted unanimously to approve the agenda as submitted.

B. Open Public Comment Period –

There were no requests to address the TPO.

C. Consent Action Items –

Dan Lysy noted the two consent action items included in the agenda enclosures packet. He said if there were no requests to pull either of these items for discussion, staff would request that the TPO take action to approve them as submitted. On motion of Patricia S. O'Bannon, seconded by Kathy C. Graziano, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) approved the following resolutions with all voting in favor except for one vote in abstention (abstention referred to the meeting minutes due to absence from that meeting):

1. Minutes of the January 29, 2014 TPO Meeting –

2. RSTP Funds Reallocation –

On motion of Patricia S. O'Bannon, seconded by Kathy C. Graziano, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) authorizes the reallocation and shift of \$2,529,699

in RSTP funds from the Richmond – Henrico Turnpike reconstruction project (between Azalea Avenue and Hanover County Line, UPC 18122, in Henrico County) to Sadler Road widen and reconstruction phase one project (between Dominion Boulevard and Cedar Branch Court, UPC 104148, in Henrico County).

D. TPO Chairman’s Report –

[Chairman Alvarez addressed this item later in the agenda.]

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. TAC Recommendation for TPO Action on House Bill (HB) 2 Proposed Weighting Factors and Area –

Chairman Alvarez said as part of the HB 2 process, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is requesting input from the TPO prior to its March 18 meeting. He said it would be good to review what has been proposed so far, which doesn’t agree with the TPO’s earlier suggestion to the CTB. Dan Lysy said stakeholder input workshops have been held over the last few weeks and the TPO Technical Advisory Committee has been very involved in those meetings along with stakeholders from across the state. He said this is the TPO’s opportunity to provide review comments to the CTB prior to their March 18 meeting when they are expected to consider proposed methodology for weighting and ranking HB 2 projects. He said staff and TAC felt it was especially important to provide TPO input to the Richmond District CTB member and to the CTB prior to their March 18 meeting.

Mr. Lysy said the two items of concern to staff and TAC were the relative weighting of prioritization factors and the area in which the Richmond Region has been placed along with Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads for application of those factors. Mr. Lysy under HB 2 legislation, congestion is required to be the highest factor only for Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. He noted that in October, the Richmond TPO ranked congestion as being of medium importance with economic development, accessibility and safety all being ranked as high, and environmental quality and land use/transportation as low. Mr. Lysy said the ranking that VDOT has proposed weights congestion mitigation as being in the high range at 35%, accessibility at 25%, and economic development and others at 10%. He said TAC developed a revised recommendation for weighting, shown on page two of the attachments of the TAC recommendation. TAC recommends economic development, accessibility and safety as high, each at 25%, with congestion mitigation as medium at 15% and environmental quality and land use as low at 5%, thereby reflecting the TPO’s recommendation made at its October 2, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Lysy read the proposed resolution included in the agenda stating the TPO’s recommended weighting for prioritization factors; authorizing that a letter be sent to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation stating that the TPO does not support the draft typology which places the Richmond Regional TPO

study area in the same category as Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads for purposes of weighting project scores and outcomes; and supporting the creation of a separate typology area for the Richmond Regional TPO study area that reflects the TPO recommended weights for the HB 2 prioritization factors.

Chairman Alvarez said at the stakeholder outreach workshop four categories were proposed and Mr. Lysy confirmed that the numbers recommended to the TPO by TAC and staff do not match the numbers recommended in any of the other proposed categories. Mr. Lysy said that the TPO would be asking that a new category be established for the Richmond area which would reflect the ranking that TAC and staff are recommending. Pat O'Bannon said there is no question that if the Richmond Region is lumped in with Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads that it will receive no money noting that in other venues those two regions tend to overwhelm other regions. Mrs. O'Bannon said she considers the proposed letter to the Secretary of Transportation as Plan A and she would like to continue on with a Plan B which has every jurisdiction's chairman writing a letter and pursuing other strategic follow-up efforts. She stressed that it is very very important that the CTB needs to hear this message. She said historically, the Richmond Regional TPO has always done very well with the money working cooperatively and making concerted efforts to complete major regional projects such as Route 288. Mrs. O'Bannon agreed that congestion is a huge issue for both Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia but said the Richmond Region has important safety issues as well as needs for economic development and accessibility. Carson Tucker concurred wholeheartedly with Mrs. O'Bannon's remarks.

Chairman Alvarez noted that at the stakeholder meeting, he tried to make the point that being categorized with Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia would penalize the Richmond Region for having done great work in effectively planning for a number of years. He said focusing on economic development and safety would be very important for the Richmond TPO. Jim Holland said he would concur completely with that assessment. He said going back to the Secretary of Commerce's recent comments at the RRPDC meeting about private sector/public sector jobs, it puts a premium on economic development, and safety is important as well. Mr. Holland said he understand congestion is important, but noted that if the Richmond TPO gets lumped with these two larger regions that have serious congestion problems, the Richmond Region would be almost like a stepchild region unable to compete by sheer numbers. Canova Peterson said when he looked at the breakdown of the categories on the map included in the agenda package, everybody should be able to agree with Mrs. O'Bannon's comments. He noted that the Richmond Region shouldn't be included in the other categories with Roanoke, Bristol, and Fredericksburg or with the smaller jurisdictions. He said he believes Richmond is unique in the state and should be considered separately. Chairman Alvarez said he believes that's exactly what the TPO would be doing by going with the weighting proposed in the TAC report.

Mr. Lysy said he agrees with all of the previous comments saying that the Richmond area is one of the three major metro regions in the state, so he can see how VDOT would try to lump the three largest regions together, but the problems that Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads have in terms of congestion have resulted in their being singled out in legislation, and given the fact that they each have their own transportation district, they are vastly different than the Richmond Region. He said the next largest area after the Richmond TPO is Roanoke and they are not even close comparison to this region. He said it is totally warranted that Richmond be established as a separate evaluation category. Mrs. O'Bannon noted that HB 2 legislation came about to correct a problem and the Richmond Region wasn't part of that problem. She said the problem did not stem from the way this TPO ranked projects noting that they have a good process. She said she doesn't want this region to be penalized for having done a good job over the years.

On motion of David T. Williams, seconded by Steve A. Elswick, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) recommends that the House Bill (HB) 2 prioritization factors for projects reviewed and ranked in the Richmond Regional TPO study area use the following weights:

Congestion Mitigation	15%
Economic Development	25%
Accessibility	25%
Safety	25%
Environmental Quality	5%
Transportation and Land Use Coordination	5%

and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TPO submit a letter to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation stating that the TPO does not support the draft typology as presented at the HB 2 District Stakeholder Outreach Workshop, which places the Richmond Regional TPO study area in the same category area as Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads for purposes of weighting project scores and outcomes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TPO supports the creation of a separate typology area for the Richmond Regional TPO study area that reflects the TPO recommended weights for the HB 2 prioritization factors.

Chairman Alvarez noted that the Goochland Board chairman has already written a letter as well promoting this same approach and that letter will be submitted to the CTB.

I. D. TPO Chairman's Report –

[Deferred from earlier in the meeting.]

Chairman Alvarez said the TPO is planning to hold the March 5 Regional Transportation Forum that was cancelled due to weather on June 4 with the location to be determined.

Additionally, Chairman Alvarez noted the introduction of a new employee, Chris Wichman. Mr. Lysy noted that Mr. Wichman comes to the RRPDC from the Hampton Roads TPO and he asked that he say a few words. Mr. Wichman said he would mostly be working in the areas intermodal planning and passenger rail service including the study DRPT is conducting for Richmond to Washington, D.C. He said he also will work in the areas of performance measurement. He said he is looking forward to working with the TPO board on some of its ongoing efforts. Chairman Alvarez welcomed Mr. Wichman.

Bob Crum announced that Randy Selleck, RRPDC Principal Planner in the Urban Transportation Planning Division for several years, has accepted a great professional opportunity to work with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Mr. Crum said one of Randy's main responsibilities has been management of the preparation of the update and maintenance of the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan which is a big effort and process. He said Randy will be interacting and engaging on the passenger rail study between Richmond and Washington, D. C. Mr. Crum thanked Randy personally for all the work he has done at the RRPDC and for his contributions to the region.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Alvarez adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:05 a.m. and noted the next meeting will be on April 2, 2015 starting at 9:30 a.m.