

**RICHMOND REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
September 24, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT

W. Canova Peterson, IV, **Chairman**..... Hanover County
Parker C. Agelasto..... City of Richmond
Manuel Alvarez, Jr.Goochland County
Jonathan Baliles City of Richmond
Nick Britton (Nonvoting)..... DRPT
Daniel A. GeckerChesterfield County
Kathy C. Graziano City of Richmond
David Green.....GRTC Transit System
Wayne T. Hazzard (Alternate)..... Hanover County
Edward L. Henson, III..... Town of Ashland
Patricia S. O’Bannon..... Henrico County
Mark Riblett (Alternate)..... Secretary of Transportation Designee
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting)FHWA
Frank J. Thornton..... Henrico County
Von Tisdale (Nonvoting)RideFinders
Carson L. Tucker Powhatan County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve A. Elswick, **Vice Chairman**Chesterfield County
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting)..... VDA
James H. BurrellNew Kent County
Sean M. Davis..... Hanover County
Thomas Fletcher (Nonvoting)..... CTAC
Angela L. Gray RMTA
James M. Holland.....Chesterfield County
Susan F. LascoletteGoochland County
Ryan Long (Nonvoting) FTA
Floyd H. Miles, Sr. Charles City County
Brian Montgomery (Nonvoting).....EDAC
Michelle R. Mosby City of Richmond
John RutledgeCRAC
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.New Kent County
David T. Williams Powhatan County

CALL TO ORDER

TPO Chairman W. Canova Peterson, IV, called the September 24, 2015 meeting of the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to order at approximately 9:35 a.m. in the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission board room.

CERTIFICATION OF MEETING QUORUM

TPO Secretary Barbara S. Nelson reported that a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Peterson introduced and welcomed Nick Britton, Statewide Manager of Transit Planning for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), as a TPO board member, and he reported the appointment of Chris Arabia, DRPT Manager of Mobility Programs, as a new alternate nonvoting TPO board member.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the TPO Agenda

Chairman Peterson called for requests for amendments to the agenda and David Green, GRTC CEO, moved that the resolution of endorsement for GRTC's HB 2 application to extend Route 19, agenda item 1.D.3., be removed from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathy C. Graziano. The TPO voted unanimously to remove this item from the agenda as requested.

On motion by Kathy C. Graziano, seconded by Edward L. Henson, III, the TPO unanimously voted to approve the November 5, 2015 meeting agenda as amended.

B. Minutes of the September 24, 2015 TPO Meeting

On motion by Kathy C. Graziano, seconded by Edward L. Henson, III, the TPO unanimously approved the minutes of the September 24, 2015 TPO meeting as presented.

C. Open Public Comment Period

Roy L. Bryant, Jr., TPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) member and representative of the NAACP said he is here to speak to the leaders of Chesterfield and Richmond. He said we have a bus service, GRTC, which is much needed by the people in the City. Mr. Bryant said when GRTC first started to develop Bus Rapid Transit, Mr. Coles and a Mr. Hagin made an agreement with the NAACP to put a loop in at Rockett's Landing so that the bus would go over to Williamsburg Road to pick up the black citizens so they could access this 30-minute fast ride out Broad Street. He said a change was made [in GRTC management] and Mr. Green and Ms. Carrie Rose Pace did not know that this route change was made. Mr. Bryant said he is here to plead to the people in power noting that he is a senior citizen who rides the bus and it is very difficult for him to walk all the way from Williamsburg Road to where the bus line will be. He noted there are a lot of senior citizens in that area who would like for the bus to make that loop at the beginning of the route. Mr. Bryant said there is supposed to be equality on the bus and when he hears the word bus, it brings to him back to the civil rights era and he said there are a lot of "Rosa Parks" down there in the City and the BRT line that's going to come down there is not even going to come over where "Rosa Parks" can get on the bus. He said those citizens need transportation to jobs and he asked the TPO to look at this. Mr. Bryant said he was at a public meeting for three hours last night with citizens from up and down Broad Street, and they have concluded that this bus service [BRT] needs to be delayed until some questions are answered. He expressed thanks to the Governor for already addressing the parking issue associated with this project. Mr. Bryant said the citizens are tired of being waged by the tail and all he is asking is "let us get on the bus." Mr. Bryant said he goes to all of the [BRT] meetings and when he asks if they have put the loop in yet and they always say no.

Mr. Bryant said on a regional note, he was recently driving down the highway and stopped his car so a 68-year-old white lady carrying two bags could get across the street. He said citizens in that area need the bus line to go from Jefferson Davis Highway where it stops at

the City line on out to Route 10 where everybody is trying to go to shop. Mr. Bryant said people are getting killed and injured on Jefferson Davis Highway because they do not have transportation, white and black. He said there's not a bus coming from Henrico and he asked Henrico to get the buses where they can pick up people at least to get them to a grocery store or a dollar store where they can spend what little bit of money they have. He said he would appreciate that from Henrico and the City of Richmond. He thanked the Chairman for listening to his comments.

Chairman Peterson thanked Mr. Bryant for reminding the TPO what they're all about. He said it is transportation, getting the citizens around to the places they need to be, and he said Mr. Bryant did a good job of bringing that back into focus.

There were no additional requests to address the TPO and Chairman Peterson closed the public comment period.

D. Consent Action Items –

Chairman Peterson noted that consent agenda item I.D.3., had been removed and so the consent agenda consisted of two items. He asked if there were requests to pull either item from the consent agenda item for discussion and none were voiced. On motion of Kathy C. Graziano, seconded by Edward L. Henson, III, the TPO unanimously approved the following resolutions:

1. VDOT Request for FY 15 – FY 18 TIP Amendments: Ungrouping Three TAP Projects

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) amends the *FY 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* adding three new projects to the ungrouped section as follows:

- UPC 106201, Le Gordon Drive Sidewalks – Sidewalk facilities from Charter Colony Parkway to Midlothian Wood Boulevard.
- UPC 106247, Mary Munford and Fox Elementary Schools Sidewalks – Sidewalks adjacent to both elementary schools.
- UPC 106246, Cannon Creek Greenway - A multi-use trail from Valley Road to Hospital Road in the City of Richmond.

2. HB 2 Application: Meadowville Technology Parkway – Revision to Resolution of Endorsement

WHEREAS, through the House Bill 2 process, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization has the opportunity to endorse local applications for House Bill 2 candidate projects on Corridors of Statewide Significance and the Regional Network;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization approves the revised House Bill 2 resolution of endorsement included in agenda Item I.D.2.

E. TPO Chairman's Report –

Chairman Peterson had no business to report.

F. TPO Secretary's Report –

1. Governor's Transportation Conference

Barbara Nelson reported on the Governor's Conference she attended October 28 – 30 in Virginia Beach, which was opened by Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey

Layne. She said the theme was Virginia's new economy and the Secretary focused on Virginia's focus on good governance and pragmatic solutions and how House Bill 2 represents a process for selecting projects through a data-driven process to meet Virginia's needs from multiple perspectives including transportation and economic. The topics and presentations spanned all modes of transportation with key areas being conversations about Virginia's ports and the impacts and opportunities that shifting international trade presents; developing technology including Virginia's role in autonomous vehicles and connected vehicles; GO Virginia, the growth and opportunity initiative, with a focus on regions as economic engines; and high speed and higher speed rail. Secretary Foxx closed the conference with a number of remarks including the need for a long-term national transportation bill.

2. Richmond Regional Transit Vision Plan Public Meetings

Ms. Nelson said a notice on meetings for the Regional Transit Vision Plan are included under agenda tab three. She reported the kickoff meeting was held last evening at Main Street Station an initiative being undertaken by DRPT supported by the TPO. She said there are two more meetings to receive public input as the transit vision unfolds with a targeted completion timeline of summer 2016.

3. Transit Means Business Forum

Ms. Nelson noted a flyer regarding a December 1 meeting being cosponsored by the Virginia Transit Association and the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce on the relationship that transit has with business modeled after an effort in Northern Virginia.

4. TPO September Work Status Report

5. TPO September Financial Status Report

Ms. Nelson reported on both the Work Status and Financial Status reports saying that the major work effort in September has been development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2040, which will likely be a recurring topic on the TPO agenda for the next six or seven months. She offered to answer questions and none were asked.

Pat O'Bannon reported that she believes driverless vehicles will be available much sooner than people think, maybe in the next five years or so. She said she vacationed on Siesta Key in Florida and driverless vehicles were being tested and were everywhere. She said she had become aware that the Uber model is being considered for using driverless vehicles. Chairman Peterson noted that one of the biggest research centers on transportation technology is in southwest Virginia with Virginia Tech's intelligent highway system. Ms. O'Bannon commented that this technology may supplement transit for the elderly and those with disabilities.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. DC2RVA: Alternatives Analysis Update for December Public Meetings

Randy Selleck, DRPT Deputy Project Manager for DC2RVA, provided an update on the rail project, gave an alternatives development overview, reviewed the Richmond Region screening status and discussed next steps in the process. Mr. Selleck said public meetings will be held in early December that will provide a first opportunity to review a reduced set of proposed alternatives, on maps, and to comment on those alternatives. He reviewed the schedule for completion of the process which should result in a draft Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in late 2016, a draft Final

EIS in mid-2017 and a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Record of Decision (ROD) in late 2017. Mr. Selleck reviewed basic study assumptions including one additional main track the length of the corridor to be guided by design layout with consideration to higher design speeds. He reviewed rail alignment options for additional track being considered for different sections of the corridor ranging from no-build to unconstrained build. Mr. Selleck reviewed the four-stage rail alignment screening process defining each stage. He reviewed rail alignment options considered noting constraints, opportunities for increased speed and track capacity for each corridor segment. Mr. Selleck reviewed screening options considered for Ashland and Richmond saying DRPT and the consultants will meet next week with Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, Ashland and Hanover so the localities will have the most current information prior to the December public meetings. He said next next steps include continuing the screening process, operations and ridership modeling, station facilities planning, continued stakeholder input, refinement of rail concepts and completion of the draft Tier II EIS. Mr. Selleck said the Richmond public information meeting is scheduled for December 10 at the DMV, 2300 West Broad Street in Richmond, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. with a presentation scheduled for 6:00 p.m. He said all information presented at the public meetings will be available on the website (dc2rvarail.com) beginning December 7. Questions and discussion following this presentation brought forward the following major points:

- Mr. Selleck is available to provide his presentation for constituent meetings and other community groups on request.
- A cost-benefit analysis is not a part of the screening process but is an important part of the analysis later in the EIS process. A high speed rail grant is funding the study, but because of constraints in the corridor and shared track by freight and passenger rail, higher speed rail service is more about increasing capacity. The biggest concern being reliability, and additional capacity will address that concern.
- Stage four of the screening process addresses station locations, operations and impacts; accessibility by other modes; ridership; economic activity around the station location; split service configurations; operational plan potential.
- A service development plan will be prepared to detail what trains stop where and on what schedule providing a mix of service types.
- Freight and passenger rail traffic is comingled and will be for the foreseeable future, so capacity increase with a third track the entire length of the corridor, and a fourth in part of northern Virginia, should eliminate, with careful scheduling, such issues as passenger trains standing still while freight trains pass. Anticipated passenger growth far outweighs projected freight traffic growth.
- A western bypass project has already been launched to provide passenger rail bypass through Acca Yard and reconfiguration of the yard will eliminate some conflicts that occur in that bottleneck.
- CSX will own the third track as it owns all rail infrastructure within the right-of-way.
- Given funding, construction will move forward following the Record of Decision (ROD). DRPT is seeking ways to move forward with improvements prior to a ROD in sections of the corridor already in the CSX right-of-way where there are no environmental issues.

Chairman Peterson noted that the TPO would probably want to wait until after the December public meetings to consider providing input.

B. Socioeconomic Data Analysis Report 2012 – 2040

Barbara Nelson said the data that supports this report was approved by the TPO in April following an intensive two-year data development process involving significant effort by staff from the PDC and local jurisdictions. She said the data is used by the TPO to populate the travel demand model, as a resource for scenario planning and to support PDC planning efforts. She said the report being presented by Billy Gammel provides analysis of the TPO-approved data and paints a picture of the region through 2040.

Billy Gammel reviewed major takeaways from the analysis report: the Richmond Region has had an 88% population growth since 1970; population is expected to grow 42% and employment is projected to grow 43% between 2012 and 2040; the largest industries in the Region include retail, health care and educational services; and based on current density 15 regional activity centers have been identified. Mr. Gammel reviewed historical population trends and projected population growth to 2040 showing Chesterfield, Hanover and Powhatan increasing more than 50%. He said Powhatan, Goochland and New Kent counties are projected to have the greatest growth in employment by 2040 with employment growing more than 50 percent in five of the Region's nine jurisdictions. Mr. Gammel noted three top employment industries, Retail, Accommodation and Food Services, Health Care and Educational Services, account for 46% of the Region's employment. He reviewed the top ten employers in the Region noting the three top employers as Capital One, Virginia Commonwealth University and the Henrico School Board. Mr. Gammel reviewed regional maps showing 2012 and projected 2040 population density and employment and he provided definitions for urban, suburban and rural population density areas. Mr. Gammel discussed regional activity centers and provided a map showing the location of the 15 regional activity centers identified in the analysis report. Following Mr. Gammel's presentation, questions and discussion brought forward the following major points:

- In response to a question about how the data would affect TPO planning, Barbara Nelson said the TPO plans to use the data to conduct a series of scenario planning efforts to look at where population and employment growth are occurring and to consider alternative modes of transportation and corridors for connecting activity centers looking at changes within certain corridors to address the needs. She said the regional travel demand model will be used to conduct scenario planning alternatives analysis beginning in 2016 to create a baseline analysis for projections in the 2045 MTP on whether land use is growing in a way consistent with transportation resources, and then evaluating the system that would be required to support projected growth and determining the associated cost.
- Dan Gecker said the region should determine where it wants growth to occur and locate infrastructure so that growth will occur where the region wants it to occur so that the infrastructure that is built will determine the development pattern. He said his comments are not about staff's work on the report, but about the thought process that the TPO and the PDC go through when looking at these reports. Additional discussion ensued touching on what kind of infrastructure would influence development, how location of infrastructure is influence by development, how often the data is updated and other considerations.

- Staff is constrained to VEC population threshold forecast numbers prepared by Weldon Cooper with a plus or minus variance of 10 percent for the whole region. Local comprehensive plans, future land use, master plans, items already approved by local government already in the pipeline and other data are examined by the Socioeconomic Data Committee to evaluate and adjust population forecasts.
- There was significant discussion as to how population projections are developed for each locality based on historical projections, the locality's projections and other available data. Concern was expressed that there appears to be no standard for developing projections since all the localities are not using the same methodology to arrive at their projections.

C. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2040

Tiffany Dubinsky, RRPDC staff, noted that information this item is included in agenda tab 6 as well as some inadvertently omitted enclosures that were mailed and e-mailed last Thursday. She noted the copy of her presentation already distributed. Ms. Dubinsky provided an update on the MTP schedule, activities by the MTP Advisory Committee (AC), and reviewed the 2040 MTP Project Ranking and Selection Process, as recommended by the MTP AC at their September 30 meeting, being presented for TPO approval. She also reviewed next steps. Ms. Dubinsky noted TPO approval of the MTP 2040 goals in September. She said local staffs are currently developing project applications due November 30 for staff evaluation and the MTP AC will consider draft goals for allocation guidelines in December for TPO consideration on January 7, 2016. She said in February, the TPO will see project lists that are the end result of the project ranking and selection process. She said the focus is looking are regionally significant projects that may be potentially funded with federal funding sources. She said the key to this adapting what MAP 21 has been calling performance based planning and programming taking a more quantitative approach in evaluating projects trying to remove as much subjectivity as possible. She said the scoring weights and the project application form are the enclosures that were omitted from the agenda package and were subsequently mailed and e-mail on Thursday, October 29. She said these are the two elements that staff is requesting TPO action on. Ms. Dubinsky explained how the nine TPO-approved MTP 2040 goals will be used in evaluating project applications and how they address the goals for the regional transportation network and its needs. She noted the projects will be evaluated by project type and by the four time bands to develop the constrained project list taking into account VDOT revenue projections. She said there will also be an Unfunded Regional Needs list, formerly called the "Vision Plan" which will serve as a vetted list of TPO priorities for reference for any unanticipated financial opportunities. Ms. Dubinsky reviewed the resolution presented for TPO action on the cover page of agenda tab 6 and offered to answer questions. No questions or comments were offered.

On motion of Kathy C. Graziano, seconded by Edward L. Henson, III, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) approves the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Project Ranking and Selection Process for implementation in the financially constrained plan as part of the 2040 MTP Update.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. TPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report

In the absence of CTAC Chairman Tom Fletcher, Barbara Nelson referred the TPO to the staff report included under agenda tab 7 and offered to answer questions. No questions were voiced.

B. TPO Elderly and Disability Advisory Committee (EDAC) Meeting Report

In the absence of EDAC Chairman Brian Montgomery, Barbara Nelson referred the TPO to the staff report included in agenda tab 8 and offered to answer questions. No questions were voiced.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Upcoming TPO Policy Board Meetings and Future Meeting Topics

- Chairman Peterson noted the next TPO meeting is December 3 and noted Executive Committee felt like it would be premature for the TPO to take any action on a preferred alternatives for the DC2RVA rail plan prior to the December public meetings and that comments be held to the January 7, 2016 meeting.
- Barbara Nelson noted a letter regarding a fall transportation open house meeting on the House Bill 2 process and how it will affect the Six-Year Improvement Program. She said the Richmond meeting will be conducted on November 30 at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center on North Laburnum Ave. Mark Riblett said this meeting is one of nine being held across the state and differs from past meetings in that it is not a public hearing. He said the opportunity at this meeting will be to provide feedback on the HB 2 applications that were submitted. He said the meeting starts at 4:30 and will be an open house for the first hour with the second half being a town hall meeting when there will be discussions with state officials on the merits, comments and other input regarding the HB 2 process or applications.
- Chairman Peterson reported that he has asked Ms. Nelson to look at holding the annual regional transportation forum at the Richmond Times-Dispatch production facility which provides easy access at Rt. 295 and Rt. 301 in Hanover County in March 2016.
- Ms. O'Bannon requested that a speaker from Uber, which seems to be the model coming forward, be added to Future Meeting Topics.
- Mr. Thornton requested that a better sound system be investigated for the Board Room and Ms. Nelson said she believes that item is included in the Draft FY 2017 RRPDC budget. Chairman Peterson requested that Ms. Nelson pass along the TPO request for an upgrade to the Board Room sound system.

B. Next Meeting December 3

Chairman Peterson noted the 2016 TPO and Committees Meetings Schedule. After brief discussion, and on motion of Carson L. Tucker, seconded by Edward L. Henson, III, the TPO unanimously approved the 2016 meetings schedule as presented.

C. Other Business

No other business was presented.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Peterson adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.