

**RICHMOND REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 5, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cynthia I. Newbille, **Chairman** ..... City of Richmond  
Andreas D. Addison ..... City of Richmond  
Parker C. Agelasto ..... City of Richmond  
Manuel Alvarez, Jr. .... Goochland County  
Joi Taylor Dean ..... RMTA  
Steve A. Elswick ..... Chesterfield County  
Kimberly B. Gray ..... City of Richmond  
David Green ..... GRTC Transit System  
James M. Holland ..... Chesterfield County  
Angela Kelly-Wiecek ..... Hanover County  
Amber B. Lancaster (Nonvoting) ..... CTAC  
Floyd H. Miles, Sr. .... Charles City County  
Larry J. Nordvig ..... Powhatan County  
Barton A. Thrasher ..... Secretary of Transportation Designee, VDOT  
Von S. Tisdale (Nonvoting) ..... RideFinders  
David T. Williams ..... Powhatan County  
Christopher Winslow ..... Chesterfield County

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Patricia S. O'Bannon, **Vice Chairman** ..... Henrico County  
Kathy Abbott ..... Town of Ashland  
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting) ..... VDA  
Susan F. Lascolette ..... Goochland County  
Melissa McGill (Nonvoting) ..... FTA  
Brian Montgomery (Nonvoting) ..... EDAC  
Patricia A. Paige ..... New Kent County  
W. Canova Peterson, IV ..... Hanover County  
Jitender Ramchandani (Nonvoting) ..... DRPT  
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting) ..... FHWA  
John B. Rutledge ..... CRAC  
Frank J. Thornton ..... Henrico County  
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. .... New Kent County

**ALTERNATE MEMBERS PRESENT, NOT VOTING**

Mark Riblett (Alternate) ..... Secretary of Transportation Designee, VDOT

**CALL TO ORDER**

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Chairman Cynthia I. Newbille called the October 5, 2017 RRTPO meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. in the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission board room.

**CERTIFICATION OF MEETING QUORUM**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Newbille led the RRTPO in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

## **I. ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. Approval of RRTPO Agenda**

On motion by Larry J. Nordvig, seconded by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., the RRTPO voted unanimously to approve the October 5, 2017 RRTPO meeting agenda as presented.

### **B. Approval of September 7, 2017 RRTPO Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Newbille called for changes to the minutes and none were offered. On motion of Manuel Alvarez, Jr., seconded by Larry J. Nordvig, the RRTPO unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

### **C. Open Public Comment Period**

There were no requests to address the RRTPO.

### **D. Consent Action Items**

On motion of Steve A. Elswick seconded by David T. Williams, the RRTPO unanimously approved the following resolutions:

#### **1. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects: Resolutions of Support**

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization approves the twelve resolutions of endorsement for FY19 – FY20 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding as presented.

#### **2. GRTC TIP Amendments**

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) amends the *FY18 – FY21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* adding the following new projects:

- STIP ID GRTC037: Capital Cost of Contracting - Vanpool obligating a total of \$2,200,000 in FTA Section 5307 funds and local match in fiscal years 2018 to 2021;
- STIP ID GRTC048: Expansion of Rolling Stock obligating a total of \$1,575,000 in FTA Section 5307 funds and local match in fiscal year 2018;
- STIP ID GRTC049: Paratransit Vehicles Purchase obligating a total of \$2,340,960 in FTA Section 5339 funds and local match in fiscal year 2018;
- STIP ID GRTC050: Property Demolition obligating a total of \$1,018,200 in FTA Section 5307 funds and local match in fiscal year 2018; and
- UPC T41: Renovation of Transportation Facility obligating a total of \$1,217,640 in TEA-21 earmark funds and local match in fiscal year 2018.

#### **3. VDOT TIP Amendments**

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization amends the *FY18 – FY21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* adding the following new projects:

- UPC 111716: Richmond-Henrico Turnpike – Southern Segment Widening; adds this project to the TIP and obligates \$6,129,000 for the preliminary engineering and right-of-way phases – Henrico;
- UPC 111732: I-64 at Gaskins Road Interchange Modification Report; adds this project to the TIP and fully obligates \$400,000 for the project – Henrico;
- UPC 111466: I-95 Auxiliary Lanes between Route 288 and Route 10; adds this project to the TIP and obligates \$7,820,000 for the preliminary engineering and right-of-way phases – Chesterfield; and

- UPC 111984: I-95 Auxiliary Lanes between Route 288 and Route 10 - GARVEE Debt Service; adds this project to the TIP and obligates \$9,020,669 for debt service related to UPC 111466: I-95 Auxiliary Lanes between Route 288 and Route 10.

#### **E. RRTPO Chairman's Report**

Chairman Newbille had no report.

#### **F. RRTPO Secretary's Report**

Barbara Nelson, RRTPO Secretary, noted the August 2017 RRTPO Work Status Report under tab three of the agenda package and offered to answer questions. Ms. Nelson noted the schedule for upcoming public hearings on the DC2RVA Draft Environmental Impact Statement was e-mailed to the RRTPO and advisory committees and DRPT provided schedule cards available near the sign-in table. A Rail Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 9:00 a.m., in Blackwell Auditorium at Randolph Macon College in Ashland. It is anticipated that the Rail Subcommittee will provide a recommendation on review of the three least objectionable alternatives presented at the September CTB workshop and prior to CTB action on a recommendation on the DC2RVA alignments that will go to FRA for a final decision. A question was raised as to the meeting date and Ms. Nelson said the correct date will be e-mailed to RRTPO members. Angela Kelly-Wiecek noted that the Rail Subcommittee meeting is scheduled during the RRTPO meeting and the October 11 DC2RVA public hearing in Ashland conflicts with a Hanover County Board of Supervisors meeting. She expressed disappointment with scheduling considerations. Steve Elswick suggested communicating to VDOT and DRPT check relevant schedules before scheduling meetings.

Larry Nordvig noted the dangerous conditions on the two-lane U.S. Bicycle Route 1 on Genito Road from Chesterfield County into Powhatan County expressing concern for the safety of bicyclists. He asked if the RRTPO could study this area for safety improvements noting that VDOT is not able to make improvements. Mr. Elswick affirmed that this bicycle route becomes even more dangerous in Chesterfield County. Barbara Nelson noted a recommendation from the recent certification review to re-visit the 2004 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and said this will be a work task in the FY19 work program. Concern for this corridor could be addressed in that effort and as part of current conversations and work efforts.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Regional Commuter Benefits Program: Discussion**

Barbara Nelson said this item was continued from the September 7 meeting and noted the staff report and draft initial assessment included under tab four. The assessment was developed in response to a discussion at the February 2017 RRTPO meeting with direction that staff would include a work task in the FY18 work program to address this topic. An initial framework was developed and is presented for RRTPO response. Action requested is to continue the discussion at the board level; referral to TAC for additional review, discussion, evaluation and development of recommendations for RRTPO review to determine if the program would be appropriate; or to provide other action. Ms. Nelson said the framework, as developed, is sound and while there is not extensive regional coverage for fixed route transit across the region, a program such as a region-wide commuter benefit program would reflect the region's commitment to encouraging ride-sharing, workforce

mobility and access to jobs, and it is worthy of additional review and discussion. Should the assessment be referred to TAC, the recommendation would come back to the RRTPO in the March timeframe. TAC discussion brought forward the following major points:

- This program could provide funds for RideFinders, the region's ride-sharing/ride-matching partner, to incentivize the start-up of a commuter benefit program for new or prospective commuter benefit program participants.
- This funding stream could support the establishment of vanpools in areas that currently do not have transit and incentivize corporations to establish those programs.
- There is no funding source dedicated to providing RideFinders with money to encourage this type of business development.
- What the framework would put in place is that while the marketing and education would be done through RideFinders, the decision of which programs to fund would rest with the RRTPO.
- The program would most appropriately be funded with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.
- This item is before the RRTPO to make sure that the direction as reflected in the work program is consistent with the RRTPO's request.
- The funding would not go to advertising but rather to incentivize a one-year program with financial assistance; in addition to using CMAQ funds, the employer would contribute to the cost of the program as well.

There were several suggestions to provide TAC with specific guidance in their evaluation of this potential program including:

- answering the question why wouldn't RideFinders implement the program;
- considering developing a program that would augment or complement RideFinders;
- making sure there is no duplication of efforts;
- making sure the resources would not fund an advertising campaign; and,
- considering a one-year pilot program instead of six months.

On motion of Christopher Winslow, seconded by James M. Holland, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization voted unanimously to refer the Regional Commuter Benefits Program to the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee to provide further evaluation and development of a recommendation on implementation strategies with a report back to the RRTPO in March 2018 or later.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Innovations in Transportation**

Barbara Nelson introduced Cathy McGhee, Director of the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC), the VDOT Research Division, who provided a presentation, "Connected and Automated Vehicle Implications for Planning and Operations." Ms. McGhee delineated the difference in connected vehicles (CV) and automated vehicles (AV) and the levels of communication technology or automation for each. She reviewed safety applications and considerations for deployment and the challenges associated with each. She discussed the kinds of communication technologies being developed for CVs to communicate with each other, and the implications of CV deployment for safety, mobility and the environment. Transition to AVs will have a mixed fleet on the roads with various levels of automation ranging from full human driver control to full system automation. There are cars on the road today with partial

automation, but they still have human drivers monitoring the driving the environment. Research is being done on difficult AV challenges such as roundabouts, pedestrians, road work vehicles, etc. There are AV implications for safety, cyber-security, roadway capacity, travel demand, auto ownership and mobility as a service, all of which vary with the type of automation and level of adoption. Ms. McGhee reviewed advice for states as they prepare for AVs and discussed what VDOT is doing to prepare for the impacts of this technology on long-range planning and investments and on policy development for implementation. She discussed connected and automated corridors in Northern Virginia and the testing that is being done with both CV and AV technologies. Ms. McGhee responded to RRTPO questions.

#### **B. SMART SCALE Regional Application Needs**

Sarah Rhodes, RRTPO, noted the staff report in tab 6 of the agenda package and said the RRTPO is requested to establish categories of regional needs to guide regional application development for the FY20 – FY25 SMART SCALE cycle. The application cycle opens on March 1, 2018 and is anticipated to close on August 1, 2018. Regional need categories approved by the RRTPO in July 2016 were reviewed at the September 12 TAC meeting and TAC recommended by consensus that these regional need categories should continue to guide regional project application development for the FY20 – FY25 SMART SCALE cycle. Additionally, re-evaluating previously developed regional applications that were not funded may result in applications for this funding cycle. TAC will use RRTPO direction to develop a recommendation for an initial candidate project pool to be presented at the December 7 RRTPO meeting.

On motion of Angela Kelly-Wiecek, seconded by James M. Holland, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) authorizes the development of project applications for the FY20 – FY25 SMART SCALE application cycle with candidate projects focusing on the following regional needs:

1. Operational efficiency improvements for mainline and commuter corridors;
2. Safety and large-scale operational needs within the I-95/I-64 Overlap Study Area; and
3. Projects to address the capacity needs in the 30-mile gap of the I-64 corridor from Bottoms Bridge in New Kent County to York County in the Hampton Roads region.

#### **C. SMART SCALE Technical Guide Revisions**

Barbara Nelson, RRTPO Secretary, noted background information included in tab seven of the agenda package reporting that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) released the revised SMART SCALE Technical Guide for public comment on August 21 with additional revisions received at the September CTB meeting. The RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been reviewing proposed revisions and will continue review at its October 10 meeting. The CTB will receive comments at the October 2 VDOT Richmond District Six-Year Improvement Program fall meeting. The comment deadline is October 20 with CTB action scheduled for October 24. There were revisions to 10 of the 11 chapters of the Technical Guide, and revisions have been narrowed to four main issues as presented in the staff report. There are two items of particular concern, proposed application limits and revisions to the economic development measures. Continuing changes and revisions requiring additional

clarification or lacking explanation are also of concern. The result of SMART SCALE revisions will significantly impact the region's ability to compete in the next round of applications. Ms. Nelson said comments included in the agenda package as well as any comments from the RRTPO and from the October TAC meeting could be crafted into a consolidated comment for submission to the CTB prior to the comment deadline. There was extensive RRTPO discussion with the following major points brought forward:

- If the CTB decides to implement application limits, suggestions were made to set limits for each jurisdiction based on population, on road mileage or on daily commuter counts, or modify the criteria in some other manner.
- The Richmond region does not have the regional funding mechanisms for funding projects that Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads have and is at a disadvantage.
- Application limits are being instituted because there is a limited capacity at the state level for processing applications; it took nearly three months to process the 404 applications submitted in round one of SMART SCALE. With the longer application period, the maximum would need to be about 1,000 statewide.
- Applications are a way of documenting what the needs are and communicating those needs to the state.
- The RRTPO needs to identify their concerns, but also identify at least one or multiple solutions and recommendations for the problems noted.
- One suggested comment requests a deadline extension for final action by the CTB until December 6 to allow additional time for considering proposed changes.

The RRTPO agreed that the possible comments presented in the agenda package be sent to TAC for revisions and strengthening; any changes would be sent to the RRTPO for comments prior to submission to the CTB by the October 20 deadline. Mr. Elswick suggested that board members speak with their TAC member to communicate any changes they would like to see made to the comments.

On motion of Angela Kelly-Wiecek, seconded by Christopher Winslow, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) authorizes the RRTPO Secretary to submit comments to the Commonwealth Transportation Board regarding revisions to the SMART SCALE Technical Guide that incorporate RRTPO policy board and Technical Advisory Committee comments.

#### **D. Commerce Corridor Study**

Chris Wichman, RRTPO, reviewed the development of the Commerce Corridor Study noting funding and an on-call consultant provided by the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, and other partners and stakeholders who participated in the process. He defined the study area and discussed the development process including public input efforts. The study team and stakeholder advisory committee developed two documents, the *Commerce Corridor - Technical Report* which details the comprehensive study of existing and future transportation demand and system needs for multiple economic development scenarios, and the *Commerce Corridor - Implementation Plan* which identifies and positions a recommended list of infrastructure projects to compete for federal, state and regional funding in the short, medium, and long term. The Implementation Plan includes a set of action steps for the RRTPO to undertake to advance solutions and includes detailed critical

next steps to advance each of the sixty recommended infrastructure projects or policy initiatives. The *FY18 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP) describes how the study implementation will be advanced through development of SMART SCALE funding applications, participation in work groups and related studies, and continued monitoring of implementation progress as a core component of the freight and intermodal program in UPWP work task 2.5.

On motion of James M. Holland, seconded by Kimberly B. Gray, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization adopts the Commerce Corridor Study and directs the coordination of project funding applications, planning efforts and initiatives to be advanced through the FY18 and future Unified Planning Work Programs.

#### **IV. AGENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Transportation Agency Updates**

Bart Thrasher, designee for the Virginia Secretary of Transportation, reported as follows:

VDOT:

- The fall transportation meeting was held Monday with a good turnout.
- SMART SCALE training for round three was also held Monday with about 60 staff members and attendees from VDOT, MPOs, localities and transit operators.
- Comments on the SMART SCALE proposed changes are due by October 20.
- The next CTB meeting will be held October 24.
- FHWA approved the FY18-FY21 STIP on September 30.
- There was a kick-off meeting on performance measures last week with the state and MPOs and there is more to come on that topic.

DRPT:

- DC2RVA Public Hearings are being held over the next couple of weeks in Richmond, Ashland, Fredericksburg, Quantico and Alexandria.
- The Virginia State Rail Plan was presented to the CTB Rail Subcommittee in September.
- Try Transit week was held last month and was very successful.
- DRPT grants management workshops will be conducted on October 31 in Fairfax, November 2 in New River Valley and November 9 in Williamsburg.

Relative to the SMART SCALE discussions, James Holland noted comments from Richmond District Commonwealth Transportation Board member Carlos Brown at last fall's Transportation Forum that one of the region's disadvantages was the lack of local funding for regional transportation projects.

##### **B. Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report**

Amber Lancaster, CTAC Chairman, reported there were briefings on two topics on Complete Streets. Erika Young, Smart Growth America, provided a national perspective on complete streets principles and programs sharing examples of this concept from other parts of the country. Phil Riggan, RRTPO, provided a regional perspective on complete streets implemented regionally and locally and areas that may

need to be looked at for improvement. CTAC will work to develop recommendations for moving forward with implementation of complete streets in the region. Catherine Bray reviewed continued progress on developing a locally relevant low-income threshold on ways to move forward with this planning tool.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Future Meeting Topics**

Chairman Newbille reminded members of the Fifth Annual Transportation Forum on November 30 at Main Street Station. She noted future meeting topics included under agenda tab 10 and asked RRTPO members to review these topics.

**B. Upcoming Meetings**

Chairman Newbille announced that the next meeting is scheduled for November 2, with the Forum on November 30 followed by the December 7 RRTPO meeting. A calendar invite will be sent for the Transportation Forum.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Newbille adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

BSN/sr