

**RICHMOND REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
November 2, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cynthia I. Newbille, **Chairman** City of Richmond
Patricia S. O’Bannon, **Vice Chairman** Henrico County
Kathy Abbott..... Town of Ashland
Andreas D. Addison..... City of Richmond
Parker C. Agelasto City of Richmond
Manuel Alvarez, Jr..... Goochland County
Nick Britton (Alternate)..... DRPT
Joi Taylor Dean..... RMTA
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
Patricia A. Paige..... New Kent County
W. Canova Peterson, IV..... Hanover County
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting) FHWA
Frank J. Thornton..... Henrico County
Barton A. Thrasher..... Secretary of Transportation Designee, VDOT
Christopher Winslow Chesterfield County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting) VDA
Steve A. Elswick..... Chesterfield County
Susan F. Lascolette Goochland County
Melissa McGill (Nonvoting)..... FTA
Floyd H. Miles, Sr..... Charles City County
Brian Montgomery (Nonvoting)..... EDAC
Larry J. Nordvig..... Powhatan County
Jitender Ramchandani (Nonvoting) DRPT
John B. Rutledge..... CRAC
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. New Kent County
Von S. Tisdale (Nonvoting) RideFinders
David T. Williams..... Powhatan 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 November 2, 2017 RRTPO meeting to order at 9:30 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

Manuel Alvarez requested amendment of the agenda to add approval of an FY19 – FY20 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside project resolution of endorsement for Goochland County. This item was to be added to the agenda as item I.D.3 under the consent agenda. On motion by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., seconded by W. Canova Peterson, IV, the RRTPO voted unanimously to add this item to the RRTPO agenda.

On motion by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., seconded by Patricia A. Paige, the RRTPO voted unanimously to approve the November 2, 2017 RRTPO meeting agenda as amended.

B. Approval of October 5, 2017 RRTPO Meeting Minutes

Chairman Newbille called for changes to the minutes and none were offered. On motion of Manuel Alvarez, Jr., seconded by Christopher Winslow, the RRTPO approved the minutes as presented with all voting in favor except two votes in abstention.

C. Open Public Comment Period

There were no requests to address the RRTPO.

D. Consent Action Items

On motion of Patricia S. O'Bannon, seconded by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., the RRTPO unanimously approved the following resolutions:

1. FY18 – FY21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments:

VDOT Request

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

- UPC 112042: Route 1 Improvements, Ashcake Road to Arbor Oak Drive; adds this project to the TIP and obligates \$3,367,519 for preliminary engineering and right-of-way – Ashland
- UPC 108639: Elkhardt Road Improvements; adds this project to the FY18 – FY21 TIP and obligates \$3,720,000 for right-of-way and construction – Chesterfield
- UPC 111467: Route 288 and US 360 Ramp, Route 360 Park and Ride; adds this project to the FY18 – FY21 TIP and obligates \$12,976,500 for preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction – Chesterfield
- UPC 111468: Cold Harbor and Catlin Road Intersection Improvements; adds this project to the FY18 – FY21 TIP and obligates \$1,123,200 for right-of-way and construction – Hanover
- UPC 110911: Richmond-Henrico Turnpike - North Segment; adds this project to the FY18 – FY21 TIP and obligates \$3,311,000 for preliminary engineering and right-of-way – Henrico
- UPC 109083: I-95/I-64 Overlap Roadway Lighting; adds this project to the FY18 – FY21 TIP and obligates \$7,092,684 for construction – Richmond
- UPC 111465: I-95/I-64 Overlap Emergency Pull-Offs; adds this project to the FY18 – FY21 TIP and obligates \$6,580,162 for right-of-way and construction – Richmond

- UPC 90931: Route 711 Intersection Improvements; adds this project to the FY18 – FY21 TIP and obligates \$783,294 for right-of-way – Powhatan
- 2. **2017 Transportation Performance Measures Report**
RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization accepts the *Transportation Performance Measures – Progress Report 2017* as a Fiscal Year 2018 Unified Planning Work Program work task complete.
- 3. **FY19 – FY20 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside: Goochland County Request**
RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization approves Goochland County’s request for a resolution of endorsement for FY19 – FY20 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding for the West Creek Trail.

E. RRTPO Chairman’s Report

Chairman Newbille noted the Transportation Forum at Main Street Station on November 30 saying this agenda item will be discussed later on the agenda.

F. RRTPO Secretary’s Report

Barbara Nelson, RRTPO Secretary, reported on the following items:

1. **Transportation Highlight: Regional Transportation Demand Model** – This planning effort began in 2015 to help develop capacity within the region using the RTDM to assist internal planning and regional efforts. Ms. Nelson reviewed three work tasks completed for the model covering model documentation and training, highway analysis and transit analysis. There were two transit-related training opportunities, TBEST (Transit Boarding Estimation and Simulation Tool) through the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and STOPS (Simplified Trips-on-Project Software) through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). A fourth work task, focused on freight, is underway and should be completed this fall. Ms. Nelson reviewed additional uses of the model for the RRTPO and for regional partners. Mr. Holland commented on the importance of sharing this information with regional partners and Ms. O’Bannon noted the need for an acronym guide.
2. **Quarterly Billing Report** – This report includes a work status report and financial report for the first quarter of FY18. The financial report shows the percentage of budget spent to date at 22 percent of available funds. Task 2.4, Richmond Area Rail Studies, is at 100 percent of budget due to significant involvement in the DC2RVA rail planning effort. In December, the RRTPO will be requested to reprogram carryover funds to rail as indicated with FY18 budget approval in May.

Frank Thornton expressed concern about transparency and the need to reenergize efforts to inform the general public about what it is the RRTPO does and its actions on issues of concern in the region. There was a suggestion that RRTPO activities and actions be reported in regional newspapers. Chairman Newbille noted Mr. Thornton’s comment and said staff could begin to look at a communications strategy for RRTPO consideration.

Ms. Nelson reported that the CTB took action on SMART SCALE revisions on October 24. Key changes include: revisions to the application limit allowing local jurisdictions with populations greater than 200,000 and MPOs with populations greater than 500,000 to submit up to 10 applications; no revisions to the congestion mitigation measures; revisions to the application submittal and review schedule; changes to the early screening and eligibility review provisions and other changes which will be

reported to TAC on November 14 with a report to the RRTPO in December. The final version of the Guide will be released on November 9.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions)

Terrell Hughes, Conceptual Planning Manager at VDOT, provided an overview of the VDOT STARS program created to develop comprehensive, innovative transportation solutions using a data-driven approach to reduce crashes and congestion bottlenecks and solve critical traffic and safety challenges. A comprehensive multi-disciplinary team approach is used to develop candidate projects which provide a continuous pipeline of projects for implementation. STARS projects typically result in multiple improvements that may be eligible for funding and implementation under various programs and can be programmed in the Six-Year Improvement Program. Implementation can be tracked as a measure of performance. There have been 26 STARS projects in the region from 2007 to date with four ongoing projects in Goochland, Powhatan, Henrico and Chesterfield counties. Mr. Hughes provided a program website for more information (<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/stars.asp>). The following major points resulted from questions and discussion:

- Data for this data-driven program is gathered from various third-party sources such as INRIX, DMV, statewide planning system, MPOs, PDCs and others; knowledge from the localities brings this all together.
- The advantage to a locality of receiving STARS funding is having a multidisciplinary team looking at innovative solutions that would compete better for funding; the extra vetting produces more accurate cost estimates.
- The STARS program is a partnership, a unified effort by the RRTPO, VDOT District and Central Office staff and the localities. The congestion management process and planning documents developed and approved by the RRTPO are among the tools VDOT uses to recommend corridors to be advanced in STARS.
- The STARS program does the work up front so projects are already vetted and are much more competitive by the time they get to SMART SCALE.

B. MPO Boundary Review

Barbara Nelson noted at the request of Goochland County, the RRTPO Executive Committee reviewed the status and process for RRTPO boundary expansion at its October 5 meeting. Discussion included an overview of the boundary discussion from late 2016 to present; changes to delivery of RRPDC rural transportation planning assistance; and addition of a limited area versus expanding the planning area boundary to coincide with the RRTPO boundary. Major points considered were as follows:

- since 1995 re-designation, the boundary has been adjusted twice;
- a review of the planning area boundary should be considered following the decennial census or prior to data collection and analysis in preparation for development of the next long-range transportation plan;
- development of *plan2045* will begin in FY19 with the plan to be approved in late 2021, so it is timely to explore expansion of the current boundary; and
- density per square mile is no longer a single determinant for the MPO boundary and federal guidelines allow the boundary to coincide with the geography of the regional economic development and growth forecasting areas.

The RRTPO Executive Committee agreed to recommend TAC evaluation of the current MPO boundary considering the following points:

- Review the existing boundary and recommend adjustments that should be considered in preparation for developing the 2045 long-range transportation plan;
- request input from Charles City, Goochland, New Kent and Powhatan counties on whether there are boundary adjustments they want TAC to consider; the county requesting a boundary expansion would provide RRTPO staff an explanation of the request, including a description of the area to be added, by February 1, 2018;
- develop a process policy confirming that the MPO boundary will be evaluated as an initial step in updating the long-range transportation plan and following the release of the decennial census data with TAC considering if there are other times when an MPO boundary review should be considered;
- evaluate and recommend changes, if any, to the current boundary for consideration; and
- provide the TAC review and recommendation to the RRTPO for review and action by June 2018.

Following RRTPO discussion, and on motion of W. Canova Peterson, IV, seconded by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., the RRTPO voted unanimously to move forward with the RRTPO Executive Committee recommendation.

C. Transportation Safety Performance Measures and Targets

Chris Wichman, RRTPO lead staff, provided an update on the process to develop safety targets for the RRTPO to meet federal requirements. States and MPOs are required to report performance measures and targets related to bridge and pavement condition, safety, system performance, congestion mitigation and air quality, and freight. In FY18 the RRTPO is required to report the first set of MPO-area targets for the safety performance measures. To facilitate development of safety targets, the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established a Performance Measures and Target Setting Working Group which provided TAC with recommended safety targets and potential initiatives or strategies for the region to consider. TAC will finalize the transportation safety performance measures and targets recommendation for RRTPO consideration in December. There was RRTPO discussion of vision zero, no fatalities, for pedestrian, bicycle and other highway fatalities.

III. AGENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation Agency Updates

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

- The CTB is expected to approve the VTrans Tier 1 recommendations and to decide on the recommended alternative for DC2RVA at the December 5 and 6 meetings at the VDOT Central Office on Broad Street.
- Localities are requested to continue to work with District staff on SMART SCALE for the March kickoff.
- The design phase of the design-build I-64 widening project at Bottoms Bridge in New Kent is in progress and ground breaking is scheduled for February 2018.
- The DC2RVA Tier II EIS is in the final public comment period with the 60 days concluding on November 7.
- All 26 platforms for the Pulse project are under construction and all 27 crews are on site and working.
- The DRPT Grant Management Workshop will be held in Williamsburg on November 9.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Topics

Chairman Newbille reminded members of the Fifth Annual Transportation Forum on Thursday, November 30 at Main Street Station. She noted future meeting topics included under agenda tab 7 and asked RRTPO members to review these topics. Recommendations for other future meeting topics may be shared at meetings or directed to Barbara Nelson.

B. Upcoming Meeting: December 7

Chairman Newbille announced that the next meeting is scheduled for December 7.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Newbille adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

BSN/sr