

**RICHMOND REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
February 1, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cynthia I. Newbille, **Chairman** City of Richmond
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
Jennifer B. DeBruhl (Nonvoting)..... DRPT
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
William E. Melton Powhatan County
Patricia A. Paige..... New Kent County
W. Canova Peterson, IV..... Hanover County
Frank J. Thornton..... Henrico 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
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting) VDA
Amber B. Lancaster (Nonvoting)..... CTAC
Susan F. Lascolette Goochland County
Melissa McGill (Nonvoting)..... FTA
Floyd H. Miles, Sr..... Charles City County
Brian Montgomery (Nonvoting) EDAC
Ivan Rucker (Nonvoting) FHWA
John B. Rutledge..... CRAC
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. New Kent County

ALTERNATE MEMBERS PRESENT, NOT VOTING

Tiffany T. Dubinsky (Nonvoting, Alternate)..... DRPT
Mark Riblett (Alternate) Secretary of Transportation Designee, VDOT

CALL TO ORDER

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Chairman Cynthia I. Newbille called the February 1, 2018 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.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Newbille introduced and welcomed three new members to the RRTPO:

- Jennifer B. DeBruhl, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Chief of Public Transportation, RRTPO nonvoting member;
- Tiffany T. Dubinsky, DRPT Statewide Transit Planner, RRTPO nonvoting alternate; and
- William E. Melton, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors, voting member

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of RRTPO Agenda

Chairman Newbille called for changes to the agenda and none were offered. On motion of David T. Williams, seconded by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., the RRTPO voted unanimously to approve the February 1 RRTPO meeting agenda as presented.

B. Approval of December 7, 2017 RRTPO Meeting Minutes

Chairman Newbille called for changes to the minutes and none were offered. On motion by W. Canova Peterson, IV, seconded by David T. Williams, the RRTPO approved the minutes of the December 7, 2017 meeting as presented.

C. Open Public Comment Period

There were no requests to address the RRTPO.

D. RRTPO Chairman's Report

Chairman Newbille had nothing to report.

E. RRTPO Secretary's Report

Barbara Nelson, RRTPO Secretary, reported on the following items included in the agenda package:

1. Transportation Highlight: Commerce Corridor – This is a newsletter highlighting some of the events that have been taking place in the Commerce Corridor.
2. Quarterly Billing Report – This report highlights the work activities for October 1 through December 31 and includes the billing reports submitted to DRPT and VDOT for reimbursements.

Ms. Nelson reported on the following additional items:

1. Federal Certification Review Report Update – Correspondence from FHWA indicates there has been a procedural delay in processing and approval of the final report and it is anticipated that RRTPO staff will have that report in two weeks and available for RRTPO review at the March 1 meeting.
2. MPO Planning Area Boundary Review – Goochland and Powhatan counties, have requested MPO boundary adjustments; these requests will be provided to TAC for review and recommendation for RRTPO consideration in late spring.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. CMAQ Program Status Reports

Barbara Nelson said there were three presentations scheduled on CMAQ programs, not projects, funded by the RRTPO. This information item focuses on how these programs positively impact air quality and congestion in the region. The representative from the

City of Richmond was not able to be present today and the presentation on the City of Richmond Trip Reduction Program will be rescheduled.

Chris Gullickson, Economic Development Officer with the Port of Virginia, provided a report on the expanded Green Operator Program. He expressed thanks to the RRTPO and staff for their support of the Port of Virginia and the barge service at the Richmond Marine Terminal (RMT). Volume continues to grow month over month at RMT with 7.2% growth moving 1.61 million containers in calendar year 2017. Exports and imports are nearly even with three sailings a week in each direction. Highway emission reductions are down significantly over 2016 with reductions in four of the six tracked emissions categories reduced in the 43% to 49% range. The larger barge put into service last year increased capacity by 50% taking more trucks off the road between Hampton Roads and Richmond. There is increased use of the barge by current customers and several new customers, and there is interest from businesses as far away as the Bristol area. A 40-foot container size generator was put into service which expanded the capacity to move refrigerated cargo. Mr. Gullickson responded to questions as follows:

- In preparation for a barge accident, a maritime incident response team trains on a regular basis and systems are in place for team measures. Additionally, because the James River barge service to Richmond is recognized as part of America's Marine Highway, the Coast Guard and FEMA are a part of the response plan.
- Several studies demonstrate a high safety record for barge service with incidents significantly lower than those for truck or rail.
- There is no consideration dredging to accommodate large ships at RMT; permitting is in place for a \$320 million maintenance dredging project in Hampton Roads.

Von Tisdale, RideFinders Executive Director, expressed appreciation to the RRTPO, DRPT, the City of Richmond, and Henrico and Chesterfield counties for their support. She gave a brief introduction of the RideFinders program governance, funding and services and reviewed 2017 program highlights. The vanpool program had 46,152 passengers traveling 88,786,874 passenger miles in 1,208,355 passenger trips noting a 9% increase in the number of customers in 2017. The RideFinders program eliminates about 5,000 vehicles from the roads per day and annually eliminates 30 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), with 17 million of that VMT eliminated in the Richmond region, significantly reducing congestion and eliminating 31 million pounds of greenhouse gases annually. RideFinders had expenditures of \$759,767 in the year ended June 30, 2017 and had a compliant audit. Ms. Tisdale responded to questions regarding the amount of funding from various sources noting the \$500,000 base allocation of CMAQ funds from the RRTPO, \$35,000 from Crater PDC, DRPT support, and localities and other partners; income received through sales in the Commuter Store is pass-through revenue and is income neutral.

B. FY18 – FY21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Barbara Nelson reviewed a VDOT request to add two new projects and one GARVEE bond debt service project to the FY18 – FY21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The three projects and costs were, Deepwater Terminal Road Extended – Richmond, total cost of \$4,497,000; #SMART18 – Bailey Bridge Connector – Chesterfield, total cost of \$22,960,000; and #SMART18 – Baily Bridge Connector – GARVEE Debt Service, total debt service interest of \$7,562,358. Local concurrence was received for all projects.

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

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

- UPC 111713: #SMART18 – Bailey Bridge Connector: adds this project to the TIP and obligates the preliminary engineering phase – Chesterfield
- *UPC 111981: #SMART18 - Bailey Bridge Connector - GARVEE Debt Service*; adds this project to the TIP and obligates \$7,562,358 for debt service related to UPC 111713: #SMART18 – Bailey Bridge Connector.
- UPC 104281: Deepwater Terminal Road Extended: adds this project to the TIP and obligates the right-of-way and construction phases – Richmond

C. FY19 UPWP Priorities

Barbara Nelson noted the staff report in tab five of the agenda package. Proposed priorities for the FY19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) were previewed at the December 7 RRTPO meeting and are being presented for RRTPO approval prior to development of the draft FY19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Ms. Nelson reviewed the UPWP development phases; provided background on federal and state planning and programming requirements; and discussed funding sources and requirements. The FY19 UPWP will continue to be organized into four core program areas: Program Management, Transportation Planning, Modeling and Data Applications, and Financial Programs with work tasks in each section correlated to the RRTPO-approved *plan2040* goals. FY19 UPWP priorities are to fully address the recommendations from the August 2017 federal certification review report, to complete existing work tasks that span from FY18 into FY19, and to advance a limited number of new initiatives. FY19 focal areas for new initiatives are in two categories: 1) transportation investments to support regional commerce, workforce mobility and accessibility; and 2) expanding access to transit through multimodal connectivity and park and ride facilities. Ms. Nelson noted that there is the opportunity for the RRTPO to modify priorities prior final action on the work program in May. In response to a question, Ms. Nelson said staff anticipates receipt of the certification review report in the next two weeks noting that staff has been working from the detailed presentation provided at the September 2017 meeting regarding corrective actions, recommendations and commendations to inform work tasks. Once the final report is received, work efforts may be modified accordingly.

On motion by David T. Williams, seconded by Kathy Abbott, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization unanimously approved the work priorities for the FY19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as presented.

D. SMART SCALE: FY20 – FY 25 Candidate Project Pool

Barbara Nelson provided an update on the regional FY20 – FY25 SMART SCALE applications. Changes to the SMART SCALE technical guidance limiting the RRTPO to 10 regional applications and many partners are also limited to 10 or fewer applications. Work is being done with TAC to identify and select the best projects to meet the regional needs that were identified by the RRTPO in October. Currently there are approximately 24 possible candidate projects which are being considered by TAC and the hope is to have a final recommendation from the February 13 TAC meeting for

RRTPO consideration in March; however, a final recommendation may not be brought to the RRTPO until later in the spring. The application period opens on March with a trigger date of June 1 when the applications must be in the system to be considered.

Ms. Nelson responded to questions with the following major points brought forward:

- In the last round of SMART SCALE there were approximately \$9 billion in funding requested for \$1 billion in available funding. In this round there will be only \$500 million available with continued strong demand, making it very competitive.
- An evaluation process is being developed that focuses on candidate projects identified in statewide and regional plans that have positive impacts to the regional transportation system and that have the best chance to be selected for funding.

E. FY19 – FY24 RSTP and CMAQ Update

Barbara Nelson noted the staff report included in agenda tab six and provided a status report for the FY19 – FY24 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funding cycle. Funding requests represent a variety of multimodal interests, including: highway, technology, bicycle and pedestrian, transportation demand management, studies, and intermodal. The application period ended November 17 and applicant meetings were held in November and December. Anticipated available funding is approximately \$20 million in RSTP and \$8.5 million in CMAQ with most of the funding available in FY23 and FY24. Ms. Nelson reviewed applications for existing projects requesting additional funding and new project applications summarizing that there are 33 applications requesting a total of \$90.2 million. Next steps include completion of project evaluation and selection; project prioritization and scheduling; and a TAC recommendation for final project selection and allocation tentatively scheduled for April RRTPO consideration. Should final funding allocation numbers not be available from VDOT in time, then RRTPO action will be delayed until May to allow consideration of final allocation numbers.

III. AGENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Transportation Agency Updates

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

- Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Meeting Update
 - The January meeting was the last under the McAuliffe administration and the new administration will be in place for the February meeting.
 - Intercity Passenger Rail Station Policy was approved January 10 with an amendment to include language regarding cost benefit analysis.
 - VTrans Tier I recommendations were approved January 10.
 - The CTB will meet February 20 and 21; VDOT Central Office auditorium.
- SMART SCALE Round 3
 - SMART SCALE Administrators and Pre-Application Training will be held February 13, 10:00 a.m., at RRPDC offices; RSVP with District Office.
 - The application period opens March 1; potential applicants should schedule a meeting with VDOT District staff and residencies as soon as possible

DRPT

- The FY19 Grant Application Cycle ends February 1.
- Staples Mill Amtrak Station Parking Lot Expansion: Phase I saw opening of the new parking area to the public in mid-January; work will begin on the existing lot.

- Virginia Breeze – Intercity Bus Program
 - The Commonwealth’s first intercity bus route began December 1, 2017.
 - providing service seven days a week between Blacksburg and Washington, D.C. with one bus daily in each direction. Performance is exceeding expectations.
 - Schedule and ticket information are available online at CatchTheVABreeze.com.
- Transit Technology and Innovation
 - DRPT has announced the cooperative statewide procurement, the first of its kind, of Mobileye Shield+ Driver Assistance System (DAS) technology for all public transportation providers in Virginia.
 - As part of a \$450,000 pilot program, DRPT is also providing funding to ten public transit agencies to retrofit up to 40 buses with innovative pedestrian collision avoidance systems.

B. Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report

In the absence of the CTAC Chairman, Barbara Nelson noted the January 18, 2018 CTAC meeting report included under agenda tab seven and provided a brief overview of the meeting presentations. There was brief discussion of why there is a significant increase in ridership in the CARE program, attributable in part to the aging population and there being fewer transportation choices. Ms. Nelson noted this topic is scheduled for a future RRTPO meeting when more details will be provided.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Topics

Chairman Newbille noted future meeting topics included under agenda tab 8.

Angela Kelly-Wiecek noted the General Assembly is in session and commented on the shrinking transportation funding and the need to keep in touch with legislators about funding transportation needs. She suggested for future meeting topics adding a component to RRTPO meetings that would advise what legislative items are before the General Assembly that the RRTPO might collectively support as a region with all nine jurisdictions speaking together as one voice. To continue to attract businesses, the region needs to continue to fund those resources that make it attractive.

B. Upcoming Meeting: March 1

Chairman Newbille announced that the next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2018.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Manuel Alvarez, Jr., seconded by Canova Peterson, Chairman Newbille adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.