

U.S. Department of Transportation Planning Certification Review

Ivan Rucker
September 7, 2017

Preliminary Report for the Richmond Regional
Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO)



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

**Richmond TMA Planning Certification
Review**

Definition, Purpose and Frequency of Review

- What is it?** In depth, documented review of planning process
- What for?** To ensure planning and program process consistent with federal law and regulations
- How often?** At least every 4 years



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

Richmond TMA Planning Certification
Review

Certification Review

The Certification is not just a review of the MPO or its staff; rather, it is a review of the planning process conducted by all agencies (State, MPO, and transit operators) charged with carrying out the process on a daily basis. This shared responsibility is specifically addressed in the regulations:

The MPO, State(s), and the providers of public transportation shall cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process.

[23 CFR 450.314(a)]



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

Richmond TMA Planning Certification
Review

Planning Certification Review

❑ **Date:** August 10, 2017 (CTAC &EDAC), and August 16-17, 2017

❑ **Participants:**

- ❖ **Federal Transit Administration, Region III**
- ❖ **Federal Highway Administration**
 - ❖ Virginia Division
 - ❖ D.C. Division Office
 - ❖ Resource Center
- ❖ **Virginia Department of Transportation**
 - ❖ Richmond District Office
 - ❖ Central Office
- ❖ **Richmond MPO (RRTPO) Staff**
- ❖ **GRTC**
- ❖ **CTAC and EDAC**
- ❖ **DRPT**



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

**Richmond TMA Planning Certification
Review**

Planning Certification Review

Regional Public Meeting: August 10, 2017

CTAC and EDAC

James Barrett, Henrico County
Virginia Cowles, League Woman Voters
Walter Johnson, NAACP
Herbert Richwine, Chesterfield County
Julien Williams, City of Richmond
Chris Lloyd, AARP

Roy Bryant, NAACP
Lisa Guthrie, New Kent County
Upton Martin, Ashland
Nicholas Smith, Virginia Conservation Network
Lloyd Vye, Richmond Area Bicycling Association
Brian Montgomery, Senior Connections

Others Present

Ken Lantz Jr., RRPDC
Marsha Fiol, VDOT
Phil Riggan, RRTPO
Sheryl Johnson, RVA Rapid Transit
Chris Wichman RRTPO
Sulabh Aryal, RRTPO
Penny Johnson
Alice Tousignant, LWV

Tiffany Dubinsky, RRTPO
Sarah Rhodes, RRTPO
Great Ryan, RRTPO
Jin Lee, RRTPO
Emily DelRoss, GRTC
Nathan Beyah
Barbara Nelson, RRTPO
Jasmine Amanin, VDOT



Planning Certification Review

CTAC and EDAC

General Input

- ❖ Engage “millennials”
- ❖ Need more visualization techniques
- ❖ Richmond TPO is not known -increase PR
- ❖ Citizen Guide
- ❖ High praise for MPO staff and their work/assistance

Question: What is single major issue for the Richmond TPO region with respect to regional transportation and your community or organization?

Overwhelming Consensus: The Richmond TPO region is lacking in providing for regional, multimodal options (specifically transit) to jobs and other opportunities/services – particularly for elderly populations and low-income populations regardless of race.

*The FHWA and FTA shall consider the public input received in arriving at a decision on a certification action. [23 CFR 450.336(b)(4)]



Planning Certification Review

Highlights:

Commendations:

- √ Staff and Leadership
- √ Cooperation (VDOT, GRTC, TPO)
- √ Public Involvement
- √ Unified Planning Work Program
- √ 2040 Long Range Plan Process
- √ Fiscal Constraint
- √ Transportation Improvement Program
- √ Congestion Management Plan
- √ TDM/RideFinders
- √ Safety
- √ Security
- √ Freight
- √ Prioritization Process
- √ CTAC and EDAC



Planning Certification Review

Recommendations

❑ UPWP

We recommend the following activities be included in the next UPWP:

- ❖ Update to the 2004 Regional Bike Plan as part of “active transportation” initiative.
- ❖ Citizen Guide to understanding and participating in the RRTPO’s regional planning process.
- ❖ End products should be clearly stated and tasks clear and more concise
- ❖ Assess project prioritization process in light of Smartscale

❑ Transit Revenues

- ❖ We recommend that VDRPT provide 20 years of forecasted transit revenues to the RRTPO for inclusion into the 2040 Plan.

❑ Title VI Coordinator

- ❖ We recommend the identification of a Title VI Coordinator with knowledge and understanding of the effective and efficient implementation of the Title VI/Nondiscrimination program, or the Acting Title VI Coordinator be trained to effectively implement the RRTPO’s Title VI Program. (FHWA/FTA can provide assistance/training upon request).



Planning Certification Review

Recommendations cont'd

❑ Revisit 2040 Plan EJ (using travel demand model)

- ❖ In support of Title VI/Environmental Justice and in consideration of public comments received, we recommend that the RRTPO, in cooperation with VDOT and/or VDRPT and GRTC, revisit the 2040 Plan's EJ analysis (within a year) to include an analysis of regional measures such as **accessibility** to opportunities (e.g. employment, education, healthcare, etc.). The analysis should include the following scenarios:
 1. Base year for Plan (current transportation system);
 2. No-Build (no recommendations in Plan are built); and,
 3. Full implementation of all projects in the 2040 Plan

In revisiting the EJ analysis, it should include a clear assessment of benefits and burdens of building or not building recommendations in the Plan, and it should determine if there are any disproportionately high and adverse impacts. Findings and any recommendations should be included.

❑ Title VI/Nondiscrimination

- ❖ Per VDOT's Title VI Plan, we recommend that the VDOT and/or VDRPT conduct a comprehensive Title VI review of the RRTPO/RRPDC within a year.



Planning Certification Review

Corrective Actions (120 days)

❑ Bylaws

- ❖ We request the RRTPO to have adopted bylaws that are consistent with federal requirements.

❑ Voting Membership [23 USC 134 (d)(2)(B), 23 USC (d)(3)(C)]

- ❖ We request the RRTPO to include the Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) as a voting member.

❑ Agreements [23 CFR 450.314 (e)]

- ❖ We request that the RRTPO have a written agreement among the Richmond TPO, Tri-Cities MPO, GRTC, Petersburg Area Transit, and the State that describes how the planning process will be coordinated to assure development of consistent metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs across the MPA boundaries. This includes a reflection of coordinated data collection, analysis, and planning assumptions across the Richmond-Tri-Cities MPA.



Planning Certification Review

Corrective Actions cont'd (120 days)

□ **Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurance [49 CFR 21.7(a)(1)]**

- ❖ As a condition of receiving any Federal financial assistance from the USDOT, through the FHWA, we request that the RRTPO have a signed Title VI Assurance (DOT Order No. 1050.2A). The Assurance must be reviewed and executed by the PDC Executive Director for the Richmond TPO, and we recommend it be attached to the MPO Title VI Plan.



Planning Certification Review

FHWA/FTA Joint Finding:

The RRTPO's transportation planning and program development process substantially meets federal requirements, and we jointly certify the transportation planning process subject to the specified corrective actions being addressed. In addition, we *strongly* recommend that the MPO consider action on all recommendations.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

**Richmond TMA Planning Certification
Review**