

MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes, September 21, 2021

Video of the meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHxZxReTEZU>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Alex Ikefuna, Charlottesville	x	Sandy Shackelford, TJPDC	x
Jeanette Janiczek, Charlottesville		Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Rory Stolzenberg, Charlottesville PC	x	Gretchen Thomas	x
Kevin McDermott, Albemarle	x		
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle	x		
Tim Keller, Albemarle PC	x	NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Chuck Proctor, VDOT	x	Tony Cho FTA	
Stacy Londrey, VDOT (alternate)			
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x		
Stephen Johnson, Jaunt		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Bill Palmer, UVA		Ben Fry	x
Patrick Clark, UVA (alternate)		Peter Krebs, PEC	x
Juwhan Lee, CAT		Sean Tubbs	x
Wood Hudson, DRPT	x		
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
Richard Duran, FHWA			
Jeanette Janiczek, Charlottesville			

Note: The City of Charlottesville has declared a local state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the nature of this declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission to assemble in a single location in the city. This meeting was held utilizing electronic virtual communication with the Zoom software application, and in accordance with virtual meeting provisions contained in Code of Virginia § [2.2-3708.2](#). A recording of the meeting was made available to the public on September 22, 2021 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHxZxReTEZU>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The MPO Technical Committee Chair, Rory Stolzenberg, presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Lucinda Shannon took attendance by roll call, and certified that a quorum was present. Mr. Stolzenberg read the Notice of Electronic Meeting and Commissioner and Public Protocol.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:15):

- a. **Comments by the Public:** None
- b. **Comments provided via email, online, web site, etc.:** None

3. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MEETING MINUTES (MINUTE 1:24):

Motion/Action: Tim Keller made a motion to approve the minutes, Kevin McDermott seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



4. RIVANNA RIVER BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT (MINUTE 2:02):

Ms. Shackelford reminded the committee of the timeline and the status of the process. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee is being created and will be moving forward together in the future. Ms. Shackelford asked the committee for feedback on who else might be important to have on the list of stakeholders. There was a discussion about parking concerns that have been raised and other consideration factors that need to be addressed.

Motion/Action: Kevin McDermott recommended that the list created be presented to the Policy Board, Ms. Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. SMART SCALE CULPEPER DISTRICT PROJECT PIPELINE PROCESS (MINUTE 39:36):

Chuck Proctor said there was a kick-off meeting for the projects with the stakeholders. Crash and count data is being collected now and the info will be brought to the stakeholders in October with suggestions for resolving those issues. There will be a website that goes live on September 28 available for public consumption, in addition to a media push to make the public aware of the process. There will be public outreach later in the year to get input.

6. NORTH 29 CORRIDOR STUDY UPDATE (MINUTE 1:05:10):

Lucinda Shannon gave an update on the North 29 Corridor study. There was a public meeting last week with a large turnout. There is a survey available on the website to get additional information and comment which ends at the end of September.

7. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:09:40):

Ms. Shackelford said one of the items approved for the UPWP was to complete a strategic plan for the MPO. There will be a consultant retained to get this completed.

Tentatively, the next meeting will be in person next month, barring any motion from the City.

Lastly, there will be a joint MPO meeting in October with the SAW MPO in Staunton.

Ms. Pennington said Rideshare is working with CAT, Jaunt and UTS for Try Transit. The program is in place to reinforce how easy it is to take transit and how to address any obstacles that the public may feel exist. There will be information shared weekly in October on this program.

The Afton Express launched on Sept 1 and so far, there are 11 – 22 trips per day. Ridership is slowly ticking up. There will be additional marketing and advertising efforts in the future.

8. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:17:40):

Wood Hudson shared that the Transit Equity and Modernization Study is wrapping up the data collection phase. The data will be presented to the General Assembly in December. Would like to get on the November MPO Technical Committee's agenda to discuss the results.

Smart Scale: If you are considering a project with a transit element or if it is going to be transit-specific, please contact him.

Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP): Shared info on a new statewide program that their team is looking at applicants. If interested, there is additional info on the DRPT website.

Virginia Breeze: The bus service is being expanded. There are now five Routes with the additional of the Highlands Rhythm route that runs from Bristol to Northern Virginia via I-81.

Inner City Bus: There is a one-time FDA grant opportunity open right now for inner city bus companies to receive financial assistance for the impact of Covid-19. Edibility and criteria data are on the FTA website.

The VA Passenger Rail Authority is hosting a meeting on September 28. It will be an in-person meeting but also broadcast on www.VPRA.Virginia.gov. There is additional info on the website.

The Freight Rail Enhancement to Increase Goods and Highway Throughput (FREIGHT) grant program is being reviewed by the CTB Extension of Train routes. It should be adopted by CTB at their December meeting. Look for additional information on their website.

Mr. Hudson is working on the Virginia state rail plan currently and there has been a great deal of engagement on it.

Lastly, he said the DRPT is monitoring a lot of the performance measures and it will need to demonstrate a number of variables for grant funding in the future.

Kevin McDermott said Albemarle is excited to get underway on a number of locally-administered sidewalk projects.

He also reported that the Rio Road Corridor study is ongoing on now from the City to the County line with lots of opportunity for public engagement.

He went on to say that the Crozet Master Plan is advancing to the board next month for final approval.

Lastly, he said the County is preparing to submit revenue sharing grant applications for this year.

Alex Ikefuna said there is a new NDS Director, James Fritz. There will be a combination of housing, redevelopment and grants administration departments. Secondly, the Planning Commission is meeting tonight (9/21/21) to discuss the comprehensive plan. The joint public hearing is scheduled for October.

Rory Stolzenberg had nothing more to add.

Christine Jacobs reported that the TJPDC is hiring for a Transportation Planner III/IV and are exploring the possibility of a grant to look at the process for the LRTP process.

Chuck Proctor said VDOT is trying to get with localities to see what project they will be submitted for Smart Scale. They currently have the Rivanna River Crossing, the pipeline projects, and the North 29 corridor study going on.

Rory Stolzenberg welcomed Jessica Hersh-Ballering to the committee.

10. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:35:44): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Stolzenberg adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.