

**MPO Technical Committee Meeting**

Draft Minutes, November 16, 2021

Video of the meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2MTZgnTk7Q>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Alex Ikefuna, Charlottesville	x	Sandy Shackelford, TJPDC	x
Jeanette Janiczek, Charlottesville	x	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	<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
Chuck Proctor, VDOT	x	Tony Cho FTA	
Stacy Londrey, VDOT (alternate)			
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x		
Stephen Johnson, Jaunt	x	<b>GUESTS/PUBLIC</b>	
Bill Palmer, UVA	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 November 19, 2021 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2MTZgnTk7Q>

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The MPO Technical Committee Chair, Rory Stolzenberg, presided and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Sandy Shackelford read the Notice of Electronic Meeting and Commissioner and Public Protocol. Gretchen Thomas confirmed she could see all attendees and will record them in the minutes.

**2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:07):**

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



**3. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MEETING MINUTES (MINUTE 1:43):**

**Motion/Action:** Tim Keller made a motion to approve the minutes, Chuck Proctor seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. VIRGINIA TRANSIT EQUITY AND MODERNIZATION STUDY (MINUTE 2:15):**

Wood Hudson shared the resolution that requires exploring a variety of topics that will create recommendations to advance transit equity and modernization efforts. He reviewed the study's goals, process, timeline, how DRPT will be proceeding and next steps. There was some discussion on how this will affect the localities. For more info, please visit <https://www.vatransitequity.com/>

**5. ROUND 5 SMART SCALE CHANGES (MINUTE 23:54):**

Chuck Proctor shared a CTB presentation showing the changes to Smart Scale Round 5. He then discussed the impacts on the potential projects.

**6. SMART SCALE PROJECT UPDATES (MINUTE 49:37):**

Mr. Proctor gave updates on the locations that have updates for the Smart Scale projects currently being considered. There was discussion on how it may affect the localities.

**7. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:12:15):**

Ms. Shackelford reported that the TJPDC is short-staffed and are not able to move forward as quickly as Staff would like on the UPWP. Staff is prioritizing projects that have tighter deadlines and are finding ways to meet the goals with the limited staffing.

She also reported that she put out an RFP for strategic plan, but got no response because many of the consulting firms are also understaffed. There may be a need to increase the fee to attract consultants which would require a budget readjustment in the UPWP.

Lastly, there is a new planner, Isabella O'Brien, starting on Monday and TJPDC is also in the process of searching for a higher-level planner as well.

Ms. Pennington said Rideshare has been promoting the Afton Express in the month of October. As of November 15, she reported that ridership has been continually increasing to nearly 40 passengers a day, even with fares kicking in in October. Rideshare is setting up engagement and marketing opportunities and asked the board for suggestions on where to promote Afton Express.

She also reported on Discover Transit month. In October, Rideshare partnered with Jaunt, CAT, and UTS and promoted transit together on numerous platforms.

Lucinda Shannon gave an update on the TIP adjustments. She then reported on the Transit Expansion Study and the Transit Vision Plan. She asked the committee to attend and share the information.

The following is the Expanded Transit Service to Albemarle County survey-  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/85862f72f1c6488bbc7aac5f37ed6c24>

Ms. Shannon asked the committee members and guests to register for and share the information for this Thursday's 6:30 pm meeting on the Regional Transit Vision Plan-  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/eba42b02fcf44a46a18d0d824b3ef911>

**8. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:30:02):**

Bill Palmer said Emmet Street was closed for utility work. It should be open now, but there may be temporary closures in that area.

Mr. Hudson said the Transit Ridership Incentive Program is new this year and named the chosen transit organizations for the program, including CAT.

He said there is a new tool online called the Virginia Transportation Navigator. Disability and senior navigation and they offer transit resources as well.

He also reported that DRPT is hosting transit webinars.

Lastly, he said the Virginia Passenger Rail reporting is available on the DPRA website.

Jeanette Janiczek said Belmont Bridge is having its first traffic shift starting today. The bridge will begin demolition in about a month. She reminded the committee that since there are changes coming in the membership of the City Council, there may be changes in the Smart Scale projects being considered for application.

Rory Stolzenberg reported that the City has passed their comprehensive plan.

Kevin McDermott gave an update on many of the projects the County is currently working on.

Stephen Johnson said they have a new CEO starting on December 1.

Chuck Proctor reported VDOT is wrapping up the review of the initial study locations for Smart Scale and providing comments back to those who have submitted them. Regarding the pipeline, he said that VDOT has done the initial studies (Phase I) and is starting Phase II, the alternatives analysis. He also noted that there will be webinar on the Smart Scale application process on November 22.

Sandy Shackelford reminded the committee that TJPDC is hiring for a Planner III/IV.

**10. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:49:19):**

Peter Krebs said the rezoning in Albemarle Rio Place is going before the Board tomorrow. He is excited about the Rivanna River Bridge project moving forward. He also said there is staff transitioning in several key organizations, he does not want the Bike/Ped Committee to be forgotten.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Stolzenberg adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.