

MPO Policy Board
Minutes: September 23, 2020
DRAFT

Committee – Voting Members

Ann Mallek, *Albemarle County (absent)*
John Lynch, *VDOT – Culpeper District*
Michael Payne, *City of Charlottesville (Chair)*
Lloyd Snook, *City of Charlottesville (absent)*
Ned Gallaway, *Albemarle County*

Non-Voting & Alternates

Brad Sheffield, *JAUNT (absent)*
Karen Davis, *JAUNT (absent)*
Chuck Proctor, *VDOT-Culpeper District*
Stacy Londrey, *VDOT – Culpeper District*
Hal Jones, *VDOT – Culpeper District (absent)*
Julia Monteith, *UVA Office of the Architect*
Garland Williams, *CAT (absent)*
Juwhan Lee, *CAT (absent)*

Staff

Sandy Shackelford, *TJPDC*
Gretchen Thomas, *TJPDC*
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, *TJPDC*
Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Lucinda Shannon, *TJPDC*
Sara Pennington, *Rideshare/TJPDC*

Dan Butch, *Albemarle County (absent)*
Wood Hudson, *DRPT*
Tony Cho, *FTA (absent)*
Travis Pietila, *CTAC (absent)*
Richard Duran, *FHWA*

Call to Order:

Mr. Payne called the virtual meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Mr. Payne read a legal preamble to the meeting allowing the MPO Policy Board to meet electronically.

Ms. Shannon reminded the attendees that the meeting is being recorded.

Matters from the Public:

Mr. Wolf Josey said re: the Fontaine Avenue project, part of the Smart Scale application, he said he has been a resident of the Fry Springs area for years and knows the area very well. He knows it is a great gateway into grounds and the University. He said he was surprised by the widening of the asphalt near the existing median strip, pulling up healthy trees. He is also surprised by the turn-around lane's design and how a significant of an impact it would make as far as an entry point is concerned. He said it would make the entryway much less desirable.

Response to Matters from the Public:

None.

Public Participation Plan

Ms. Shackelford reported that staff is updating the Public Participation Plan. She said there was a 45-day public comment period and reviewed the comments that included both simple and substantive revisions.

She said the board could adopt the plan as it was originally presented, adopt the plan with the revisions recommended by the Technical Committee with or without Smart Scale, or table the discussion to do a more robust update at a later date.

She mentioned that the staff would like to adopt the plan with the revisions to ensure compliance with regulations, and then revisit the plan at a later date to add more robust updates to the plan.

Mr. Gallaway said it might be important to find individuals in the community who could be of help in getting information out to the public, instead of waiting for the public to find the information themselves. He said this could be included in the “more robust” updates in the future.

Public Participation Plan Public Hearing

Mr. Payne opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Payne closed the public hearing.

Mr. Gallaway made a motion to approve the Public Participation Plan as amended. Ms. Londrey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Administration:

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Gallaway made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Payne seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Reschedule November, 2020 Meeting

Ms. Shannon said the board agreed that Tuesday, December 1 or Thursday, December 3 worked to reschedule the November meeting. It was decided that Tuesday, December 1 from 4 – 6 p.m. would be the next Policy Board meeting.

Approval of July 22, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Gallaway made a motion to approve the July 22, 2020 minutes. Mr. Payne seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Formal Resolution of Support for MPO Smart Scale Application:

Mr. Proctor explained the updated concept sketch and changes to the County’s Fontaine Avenue’s Smart Scale application to the Policy Board and meeting participants.

Mr. Boyles said there was a question that came up at the CTB meeting last week. He said it is important to be clear in identifying the objective with a project like this. This one addresses congestion, safety, and west-bound turn movement onto I-64. He asked what the one overall benefit of the project was.

Mr. Proctor said the safety aspect is highest benefit.

Mr. Kondor from the Citizen's Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC), showed his design on the screen and said that his proposed alternative design would cost \$17 million, which is \$3 million less than the current proposed design for the Fontaine Avenue project. He noted that CTAC abstained from voting on the project.

Ms. Monteith said UVA had a team of people who took a look at the project approximately a month and a half ago and then gave it to the public for their comments. She read the comments from the public. She finished the comments by saying that the group felt the project needed a lot more scrutiny before moving forward.

Mr. Gallaway moved for the approval of the Smart Scale application for the Fontaine Avenue project as presented. Mr. Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gallaway noted that the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors preferred the previous design.

Discussion

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Needs Assessment

Ms. Shannon said there is an ongoing needs assessment for electric vehicle charging stations in Region 10, which includes areas outside of the MPO. She asked for comments and recommendations on the assessment. She said CTAC and the Technical committee members have sent her information and she wanted to get input from the Policy Board as well.

Mr. Lynch said the Town of Culpeper was looking at something similar, so he recommended she add that to her list of those to contact.

Discussion

Process and Use of Committees in Development of Smart Scale Projects

Mr. Boyles has proposed a policy to initiate SmartScale considerations in January to consider at least two MPO projects that either 1) have been submitted in the past that didn't score well, 2) projects that haven't been submitted in the past, but have gained in priority, and 3) projects that are in VTRANS and in the CA-MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan, and move them forward in the application selection process. This will allow for more community input and public engagement 16-18 months before the applications are due.

He went on to say that the downside to this is that these projects often require some technical assistance. Often VDOT can help with that, but not always. If the MPO can go to the local governments early enough, they would be petitioned for money to help with a consulting engineer. The timing this year is not amenable to this, so hopefully VDOT will be able to help.

Mr. Boyles said there will be a formal policy for adoption at the next meeting re: considering Smart Scale projects much earlier than in previous years.

Staff Updates

MPO 2020 Annual Report

Ms. Shannon gave the committee the Annual Report that the MPO submitted to VDOT for activities completed throughout the year.

Update Title VI Plan Draft

Ms. Shannon said the Title VI plan has been updated with the changes highlighted in blue. See packet for the draft. In future years, there will be a more robust plan.

The Title VI Plan will be approved at the next meeting.

TIP Administrative Adjustment Memo

Ms. Shannon said there were some administrative adjustments to the TIP. See packet for the memo and tables.

Items Added to the Agenda

None.

Ms. Shackelford said the information to be voted on at the next meeting will be forwarded to the Board at least a week prior to the meeting.

Additional Matters from the Public

None.

Mr. Payne adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

From: [Sandy Shackelford](#)
To: [Jessica Ballering](#); [Nick Morrison](#); [Lucinda Shannon](#)
Cc: [Chip Boyles](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Public Participation Plan
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 2:55:27 PM

All,

This comment came in after I had already sent out in the memo with the other comments, but could you please make sure it gets sent to your various committees as well for consideration when discussing the Public Participation Plan.

Thanks!

Sandy Shackelford, AICP
Director of Planning & Transportation
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
434-422-4823

From: Lee Kondor <leekondor@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Sandy Shackelford <SShackelford@tjpd.org>
Subject: Comments on Public Participation Plan

Sandy,

I first apologize for submitting this at the last minute, but as a new member of the CTAC, this is the first opportunity I had to review the PPP in detail.

Most of my comments are of an editorial nature and are as follows:

1. "PPP" is used as an acronym for Public Participation Plan, and as such, it should be included in the Glossary of Acronyms.
2. The acronym "GIS" appears in the fourth bullet on page 5. Some readers might not know this acronym stands for Geographic Information System, so it, too, should be added to the Glossary of Acronyms.
3. I believe that the list of plans and studies in Section 4 starting on page 7 should specifically include Smart Scale proposals. Smart Scale proposals are the means by which the LRTP is implemented, and such proposals are potentially of greater interest to the public, particularly in the vicinity of the affected area, than high-level documents such as the LRTP. Furthermore, public comment should be expanded to public input. I have personally, and at my expense, developed alternative designs to some recent Smart Scale proposals, but the opportunities for public input to these proposals come almost too late in the process for someone like myself to consider alternatives and have VDOT actually seriously consider them. It would be better to announce when a prospective transportation improvement project is first being considered and make the public aware of the issue to be addressed. That would give interested parties

as much time as VDOT to develop potential solutions to the issue so that the MPO Policy Board has more than one option to consider.

Thank you.

Lee Kondor
1051 Glenwood Station Ln, Unit 204
Charlottesville, VA 22901-5718
leekondor@gmail.com