

CA-MPO

Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee Draft Summary Minutes March 20, 2024

	RHP Committee Members		Staff
Х	Lee Kondor, Albemarle County	X	Laurie Jean Talun
Х	Nathan Moore, Albemarle	Х	Christine Jacobs
Х	Jose Gomez, Albemarle		Gretchen Thomas
	Marty Meth, Albemarle County		
Х	Peter Thompson, Albemarle		
Х	Sarah Medley, City of Charlottesville		
Х	Greg Weaver, City of Charlottesville		
Х	Ethan Heil, City of Charlottesville		Guests / Public
	Karim Habbab, City of Charlottesville	X	Alan Simpson
Х	Patrick Healy, City of Charlottesville	Х	Chuck Proctor
	Donna Chen, MPO		
Х	Chapman Munn, MPO		
	Stuart Gardner, MPO		

0. Call to Order

Chair Lee Kondor called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Attendance

Laurie Jean Talun took attendance, and each individual introduced themselves.

2. Introduction of New Members

Jose Gomez and Peter Thompson introduced themselves.

3. Matters from the Public

Sarah Medley reported that there is a lack of sidewalks on Blenheim Ave in Charlottesville near the parking lot of the IX Building. Speed humps may also be a resolution to address the issue of traffic and pedestrians in that area.

Lee Kondor suggested that this be brought before the City of Charlottesville, and could potentially be a SS4A activity.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes from January 17, 2024, were approved.

5. SMART SCALE Alternatives Selection

Because of a delay in the arrival of the speaker, this section was delayed until after item # 6.

6. Moving Toward 2050

Alan Simpson presented about the Long Range Transportation Plan, including citizen participation. The focus of the plan is on pedestrian safety and accessibility in general.

Next steps are to finalize the priority project list using stakeholder and public feedback, develop implementation strategies, and adopt the LRTP in May of 2024.

Sarah Medley noted that there was not a great deal of public feedback, but the prioritization of the projects was based on public feedback previously.

Alan Simpson explained that a heatmap of public comments was used to develop the initial plan, although not in determining the priority level of each project.

Sarah Medley asked how public input will be incorporated into the next round.

Christine Jacobs said that it is a part of the whole process, not the only chance for public input.

Chair Kondor noted that some of the items on the priority list are already approved projects.

5. SMART SCALE Alternatives Selection

Chuck Proctor from Virginia Department of Transportation provided a presentation about the Barracks Road and I-64 & 5th Street Interchange projects.

Public feedback regarding Barracks Road was received last week through a survey. He pulled out the solutions that had the most public buy-in, and presented them to CTAC. The path will have a 12 foot off-set. The goal is to have the least amount of impact possible on right-of-way, and least impact on the residences beside the intersection.

Georgetown Road Roundabout survey received 1,447 responses. 66% were in favor, and 43% of the comments were negative. Charles reported that the typical response to roundabouts tends to be polarized. This is a significantly positive response to roundabouts for this specific location. Chuck Proctor reported that he is seeing an increase in comfort with roundabouts, as people in our region become familiar with them, and learn about the increase in safety and decrease in crashes.

Albemarle County will submit the Western portion of the Smart Scale Application, and the MPO will submit two additional applications, including the second application which is all inclusive.

Chair Kondor asked whether it would be feasible for the shared use path to go under the ramps instead of requiring such sharp turns.

Chuck Proctor said it may be possible, but not feasible, because adding a structure to allow the shared use path to go under the ramps, may not be feasible to fund. This plan will address congestion and safety issues at the location, but may not be cost effective with a change such as that.

Chair Kondor asked if an additional roundabout might be required in the Western portion as well.

Chuck Proctor said this discussion has not yet been had.

Sarah Medley asked how bikes will be able to cross the road where there is a barrier in the Western portion.

Chuck Proctor said the most likely method will be rapid flashing beacons.

Chair Kondor suggested the presentation about the Interstate 64 – 5th Street Interchange begin.

Chuck Proctor presented on the topic. Public input will begin next week. They are offering four alternatives to the public.

There were no questions about this project.

Chuck Proctor introduced the next projects that Albemarle will submit to Smart Scale: US 250 – Pantops. This application will provide crosswalks at Rolkin Road, and sidewalks along 250.

7. Unified Planning Work Program

Christine Jacobs presented the UPWP to the committee. The annual plan must be submitted yearly, and describes the activities the MPO will undertake in that year. The final vote about UPWP will be completed in April, to be submitted federally in May.

Christine reviewed the additional priorities that CA-MPO had been interested in expanding when possible, in addition to the federal requirements.

Two federal agencies fund the MPO's planning activities: (1) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which is administered through VDOT, and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which is administered through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). Local contributions from each locality involved in the MPO contribute 10% of the total MPO funding.

Christine reviewed the funding that will be received and administered through the MPO. In the UPWP, each task is shown tied to the funding it will receive.

Next steps for the UPWP: A final draft will be delivered in April, and will be seeking recommendation to the Policy Board to approve it. It will then be submitted in May to the funders.

8. Additional Matters from the Committee and Public

All comments were made by members of the Committee.

A comment was made that the desire is to be more visionary, and find strategies to move away from car use as much as possible.

The concern was also raised that cars drive too fast in our community, and a question raised about who can impact these changes, and how we can keep this at the center of the CTAC and MPO work.

Charles Proctor reported that he reviews safety data every year, and comes up with multimodal solutions to address the locations where a high number of safety issues occur.

Christine Jacobs acknowledged the great desires that are shared by those in leadership, throughout the MPO and even the Planning District regionally, but the challenge is finding the funding to do everything that is desired with transportation and transit.

Christine Jacobs reported that the RAISE grant has been submitted.

9. Next meeting: April

Chair Kondor reported that the review of the LRTP requires a meeting in April instead of May.