

MPO Policy Board Meeting

Minutes, February 28, 2024

DRAFT

Video of the meeting can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Gre6PKafjs>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Ann Mallek, Albemarle	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	
Ned Gallaway, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville *	x	Sara Pennington, Rideshare	
Sean Nelson, VDOT	x	Curtis Scarpignato, TJPDC	
Stacy Londrey, VDOT (alternate)	x	Ruth Emerick, TJPDC	x
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Jason Espie, Jaunt	x	Sean Tubbs *	x
Sandy Shackelford, TJPDC	x	Neil Williamson *	x
Julia Monteith, UVA	x	Paul Grady *	x
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Ben Chambers, City of Charlottesville	x
Paige DeBold, FHWA		Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle	x
Dan Koenig, FTA		Peter Krebs, Piedmont Environmental Council	x
Lee Kondor, CTAC *	x	Kevin McDermott, Albemarle *	x
Chuck Proctor, VDOT *	x	Michael Barnes, Albemarle	x
Tiffany Dubinsky, DRPT			
Daniel Koenig, FTA			
Daniel Wagner, DRPT	x		
Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x		

* attended online via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER (0:00)

The MPO Policy Board Chair, Mr. Brian Pinkston, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:00 a.m. Sandy Shackelford called roll.

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to allow Natalie Oschrin to attend virtually. Ann Mallek seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 2:11)

a. Comments by the Public:

Paul Grady, a citizen who lives just outside of Crozet, said in the last MPO Policy Board meeting there was discussion about the Fontaine interchange, and he thinks the concept is a horrible idea. He said at one point the concept of the diverging diamond option was discussed, but the cost was prohibitive so it was dismissed. He said that was not a good enough explanation for him. He thought the idea behind Smart



Scale was that the best projects should be brought for application and that cost was not going to be the deciding factor. He asked why the diverging diamond is not a viable option.

b. Comments provided via email, online, web site, etc.: None.

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION* (MINUTE 4:23)

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Ann Mallek seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the January 25 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Pinkston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. US29 AND FONTAINE AVENUE INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (MINUTE 5:12)

Sean Nelson presented the current design of the Fontaine Interchange (displaced left turn lane) and noted the issues/challenges with it. He said VDOT came up with alternatives including conventional interchange improvements. He continued by detailing the project and what the decisions were based upon.

He continued with projected morning and afternoon maximum peak traffic queues. He presented the model that VDOT and Michael Baker's created with signaled intersections. He noted that the signals proposed by VDOT help to keep traffic moving and offers additional capacity and a shared-use path.

Mr. Nelson presented three options, and they include: 1) Move forward with the existing project as scoped, 2) Pull the project (and therefore decline awarded funding) and reapply for the full diverging diamond interchange improvement or another preferred alternative for the project, or 3) Pursue one of the conventional intersection configurations proposed by VDOT and their consultant team (as presented at this meeting). There was extensive discussion about the differences between the options.

It was noted that the diverging diamond was not considered because the footprint was too large for the area they have to work with, and he said they would have to build sound walls. He noted that if there is capacity added, like there would be with the diverging diamond, there needs to be sound mitigation added.

Mr. Nelson said there is no cost estimate or signage design yet.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to approve the alternative plan as presented by Sean Nelson. Brian Pinkston seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with Mr. Nelson abstaining.

Ms. Mallek noted that with Smart Scale, it is the goal to get the best projects they can, but it is still reliant on the dollars available. The decision to approve a project is determined by other "up the chain" of command at the CTB.

5. APPROVAL OF SAFETY TARGETS (MINUTE 30:10)

Ms. Shackelford reminded the Board that there needs to be approval of safety targets because it is a federal requirement. She noted that the CA-MPO has historically adopted the state targets.

She reviewed the statewide targets and the regional targets. She said the MPO Technical committee recommended the aspirational targets as presented by Ms. Shackelford.

There was discussion about whether to choose the state targets or aspirational targets as presented.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to approve the 2024's projections based on aspirational targets. Brian Pinkston seconded, and the motion passed with Natalie Oschrin abstaining.

5. SMART SCALE ROUND 6 PROJECT SELECTION UPDATES (MINUTE 51:50)

Ms. Shackelford previewed the recommended MPO applications for Round 6 of Smart Scale. The projects currently identified and recommended are the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) at I-64/5th Street (exit 120), the Peter Jefferson Parkway/Rolkin Road improvements, and US 250 and Barracks Road project. She also reviewed the projects that have been screened out.

Chuck Proctor presented the Barracks Road pipeline study and noted that there is a roundabout proposed for Georgetown Road. He continued by describing the Barracks Road corridor and the options for that project. He also reviewed the 29/250 bypass interchange options. He noted that the MPO can submit the entire study or the interchange improvements. He said it will be important to hear from the public about their preferences on the options offered.

Mr. Proctor recommended the MPO submit the two roundabouts and a portion of the shared-use path.

It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with Mr. Proctor's recommendations.

6. FY25 PROPOSED UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) (MINUTE 1:17:00)

Ms. Shackelford showed the tasks in the budget, including the new initiatives the MPO is considering for the future. The first initiative is a travel demand management (TDM) study, the second is an affordable housing connectivity study, and the third is a one-page resources for pedestrian navigation of innovative intersections. She noted that the TDM study is recommended most highly by staff.

Mr. Gallaway asked the members of the board to give their recommendations. It was the consensus that staff prioritize the TDM study, then the affordable housing connectivity study, and lastly, the pedestrian navigation resource.

7. MOVING TOWARD 2050 (MINUTE 1:30:00)

Ms. Shackelford summarized what the staff has been doing with the project identification process. She noted that there is a story map on the website to visualize the process. There is a list of the projects as they go through that process (included in the agenda packet). She reviewed the draft priorities in numerous categories. She said she is looking for feedback, including a public hearing and an online option for commenting. She said the plan needs to be adopted in the May meeting.

Ms. Jacobs noted that Ms. Shackelford's last day is March 8, so she will not be on staff to finish out the LRTP, but staff will have support from EPR, the consulting firm who has been working with CA-MPO throughout the process thus far.

8. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:39:30)

Move Safely Blue Ridge

Ms. Shackelford said CA-MPO staff have been meeting with localities to get commitment for the safety targets.

Mobility Management

Ms. Shackelford said Mobility Management has officially hired a staff member who will begin on March 1. Mr. Gallaway said the TJPDC Board meeting had an update presentation on Mobility Management at the February 8 meeting which was recorded. (Recording located here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ4s6Vs-MsU>)

Roundtable Update

CAT - Garland Williams said CAT is finishing up their alternative fuel study and they will have two pilot projects that use alternative fuels, one electric and the other using hydrogen cell technology. Mr. Gallaway said the members of his district are thrilled with Micro-CAT.

VDOT - Stacy Londrey is happy to welcome Sandy Shackelford to VDOT's planning staff.

VDOT - Sean Nelson reported that if something is not ready for Smart Scale, he strongly recommends not moving forward with it. He also said he has been working with the City and they now have a signed project development improvement program. It is the only one in the state.

City of Charlottesville – Ben Chambers said next week they will be determining safety action targets. They will be more aggressive with their targets. Later in the month, they will be putting out their draft sidewalk list for prioritization. They will also be looking at their parking permit policy. He said they have their monthly walk series on the second Sunday of the month at noon. March's walk will be in the Fry Spring neighborhood.

Albemarle County – Jessica Hersh-Ballering said staff is working on the comp plan update. She said the Council will get to see the goals and objectives soon. She also said they are getting ready to release their RFP for the Three Notch'd shared use path master plan. She said they are reviewing the updated process requirements for Smart Scale applications.

UVA – Julia Monteith did not have anything additional to report.

Jaunt – Jason Espie said Jaunt is undergoing three studies. He said he is working with Lucinda Shannon to see how they can help with Mobility Management.

CTAC – Lee Kondor said one of his projects (Louisa Road/Milton Road/250), which CTAC recommended it as an alternative design, but it was not accepted for prioritization this round, but noted that if the future, if the Board desired, they could resurrect it.

9. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:48:55)

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

The next meeting will be on March 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the Water Street Center. (NOTE: This is a change from the regular schedule due to conflicts with numerous Board members' schedules.)

Committee materials and meeting recording may be found at
<https://campo.tjpd.org/committees/policy-board/>