

MPO Policy Board

Minutes: December 16, 2015

Committee – Voting Members

John Lynch, *VDOT Culpeper District*
Satyendra Huja, *City of Charlottesville*
Ann Mallek, *Albemarle County (Chair)*
Brad Sheffield, *Albemarle County*
Kristin Szakos, *City of Charlottesville (Vice-Chair)*

Staff

Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Wood Hudson, *TJPDC*
Will Cockrell, *TJPDC*
Nick Morrison, *TJPDC*
Chuck Proctor, *VDOT-Culpeper District*
Angela Foroughi, *VDOT Culpeper District*

Non-Voting & Alternates

Karen Davis, *JAUNT*
John Jones, *CAT*
Julia Monteith, *UVA Office of the Architect*
Cheng Yan, *FHWA*

Committees

Luke Juday, *Citizens Transp Advisory Committee*

Public

Neil Williamson, *Free Enterprise Forum*

Call to Order:

Chair Mallek called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.

Matters from the Public:

None

Response to Matters from the Public:

None

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda:

The Policy Board approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Mallek asked if there were any comments on the September 23 and October 8, 2015 meeting minutes. There were no comments. Ms. Szakos made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lynch provided a second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Staff Update & Committee Reports:

Mr. Boyles updated the committee that the seven projects in our area for the HB2 have made it through to the next round and are heading to Richmond for consideration. The project the MPO submitted is Exit 118. The process going forward is that the CTB will receive the evaluation rankings in January to February and in March or April they will approve the projects for the 6-year improvement plan.

Mr. Cockrell told the committee that there were TIP adjustments on November 11 and November 20. They were road projects that were just adjustments and that they did not need a public hearing.

Mr. Cockrell noted that there is a new MPO website which is more similar to the PDC's website. The TIP adjustments are on the site for review.

Mr. Boyles said the MPO is working with PACC, Albemarle, Charlottesville and UVA to work together to create a steering committee to define a scope of work for a regional transit service (NOT a regional transit authority) between UTS, JAUNT and CAT. The three agencies will communicate and collaborate to share services and work to improve current transit services in the area. Some of the needs being considered include the inter-regional transit service with Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro. They are considering developing public transportation from Harrisonburg to Charlottesville. CAT, JAUNT and the MPO are on an advisory committee for this endeavor.

PUBLIC HEARING: Amendments to the LRPT:

Mr. Cockrell explained the premise for the public hearing for amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

- Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) has several proposed amendments to the TIP. For FY 2017: Purchase Replacement Bus (30-ft BOC 306): Reduce cost from \$135,949 to \$87,000; Purchase Support Vehicles Replace #10 and #12: Reduce cost from \$42,000 to 24,300 and Change total from \$84,000 to \$48,600; and, Purchase Support Vehicles: Add one new vehicle for \$24,300. For FY 2018: Purchase Replacement Bus 30-ft Replace #200: Reduce total from \$751,730 to \$442,000; Purchase Support Vehicle Replace #811: Reduce total from \$44,100 to 27,050; and, Purchase Support Vehicle: Add new vehicle for \$27,050.

He noted that the overarching theme of the change is that the projects are less expensive than previously thought. There was an overestimation on the cost of the busses when the plan was put in place.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Szakos made a motion to approve the changes to the LRTP, Mr. Huja provided a second and the motion was passed unanimously.

2016 Meeting Schedule:

Mr. Boyles asked the committee to consider the schedule for this upcoming year. The committee currently meets every month and he suggested keeping that schedule and canceling instead of trying to schedule "special" meetings. Ms. Szakos noted that the other MPO committees meet quarterly and perhaps the Policy Board could do the same.

Mr. Sheffield said he thought it would be easier to create a meeting than cancel it.

Ms. Mallek noted that in the past there was a lot of learning going on so monthly meetings were needed. That is not necessarily the case now. Her preference is to keep the monthly schedule and cancel.

Mr. Boyles noted that there are regulations in the bylaws for creating a meeting, but not for cancelling.

Ms. Mallek noted that January, February and March would be important to have meetings because of the actions taking place at the CTB.

Mr. Boyles concluded that at the January meeting he would bring the work plans for the year and a decision could be made at the next meeting about the schedule.

Transit Updates: CAT, JAUNT, UTS, RideShare

Ms. David noted that the 40th anniversary is over. Ridership is down 15%. This may be due to the fact that they have trimmed back their service and are no longer running on Mondays. This has resulted in a 900 trip per month decrease.

She updated the committee that the 29 Express Commuter Route has been approved. The planning details will be release early in 2016. There will be 8 new drivers and 17 new busses.

Mr. Jones mentioned that the CAT fare-box project was coming to a close. They are working with a vendor on any glitches that may arise. The UVA id card is working well, with only a .003% failure rate.

Mr. Jones noted that their ridership was also down a few points. He surmised it may be from the nicer weather and lower fuel costs. He also stated that CAT will have two new 35-foot busses ready this week.

Mr. Jones told the committee that he got a call from Wegmans on Monday afternoon (December 14) and they told him with 100% certainty that they will be opening early. They will be open October, 2016 for employee orientation and shelf stocking and will be open for business to the public November, 2016. With that information, he noted that CAT will be adding a route (Route 12) to service that area sooner than expected. Wegman's is expected to pay \$100,000 in a one-time payment to help curb the costs for adding service and the infrastructure required for the service.

Mr. Jones reported that GO Driver was graduating seven drivers and they have already been hired to drive school busses. In the past, however, CAT has hired 18 drivers from that program and 17 of those are still working.

Mr. Sheffield noted that he asked Tom Foley to include that program in the budget because it is currently only available to the City. He noted that if it was open to the County, participation would rise.

Ms. Monteith updated the Board on the status service for UTS on Lee Street (near the hospital). The route will be detouring because the hospital is beginning an emergency room expansion. She noted that the infrastructure will change to only one lane each way. It will close over the university's holiday break.

Mr. Boyles said he would ask Ms. Pennington for an update on Rideshare. Ms. Mallek asked to have her report on where the current Park and Ride lots are and what spots have been rejected as future lots.

Mr. Boyles pointed the committee's attention to a draft agreement he put in the packet between JAUNT, MPO, CAT, the City and the County and VDOT. It is a requirement of joint cooperation. He noted that the last review of it is quite old and Mr. Boyles said he will work on updating the agreement and will present it at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Ms. Szakos thanked Mr. Huja for his service to the committee over the many years.

Mr. Boyles introduced Change Yen as the new FHWA representative on the committee, replacing Ivan Rucker. Mr. Wayne Fedora introduced himself from FHWA as the Acting Division Administrator of the Virginia Division. He said his position parallels John Lynch's level only on the state level. Mr. John Simpkins introduced himself as part of the Virginia Division of FHWA. He is the Planning and Environmental Team Leader. They said they were looking forward to working with the committee.

Additional Matters from the Public:

Mr. Neil Williamson spoke from the Free Enterprise Forum. His concern was with CAT service to Wegman's but after this meeting, it seems it has worked itself out. He thanked the MPO for working with the business community.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57