

**MPO Policy Board**  
Minutes: July 22, 2020  
DRAFT

**Committee – Voting Members**

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

**Staff**

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

**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)*

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.

**Matters from the Public:**

Peter Krebs, with the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), said regarding agenda item #8, that Albemarle County had a Smart Scale meeting and there was a controversial project that needed more time for consideration and public input, so it has been tabled. The City had a controversial project but decided to have community engagement after they had made their decision to apply and then would have a project kick-off. While he understands the logic behind each of these decisions, he feels it is very important to hear more from the public no matter which process is used.

**Response to Matters from the Public:**

None.

**Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment:**

Ms. Shannon explained that there is an amendment to the TIP because VDOT reallocated money for road maintenance. This amendment needs approval from the Board.

### Public Hearing

Mr. Payne opened the public hearing.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Payne closed the public hearing.

Mr. Payne made a motion to approve the TIP amendment. Ms. Mallek seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **General Administration:**

#### Review and Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Payne made a motion to accept the agenda. Ms. Mallek seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Reschedule November, 2020 Meeting

Ms. Mallek suggested that since the November 2020 meeting is so close to the Thanksgiving holiday that it be moved to early December to combine both the November and December meetings.

Ms. Shannon said she would send a poll to the Board for a consensus on the best date for everyone.

#### Approval of May 27, 2020 Minutes

Ms. Mallek stated that she had sent a correction to Ms. Shannon prior to the meeting, which Ms. Shannon has made.

Ms. Mallek made a motion to approve the May 27, 2020 meeting minutes as corrected and Mr. Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Formal Resolution of Support for Local Government Smart Scale Projects:**

Ms. Shannon noted that the projects in the agenda packet are the ones supported by the localities and the PDC. She proceeded to review the projects listed in the packet.

Kevin McDermott, Transportation Planner for Albemarle County, stated that there are five potential projects for the county and their staff was looking to pare down that list. Before they can do that, they need the MPO to make a resolution on all the potential projects and then the county will pick which projects to submit.

Mr. Payne made a motion to approve all listed projects and to create a formal resolution of support. Ms. Mallek seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Formal Resolution of Support for MPO Smart Scale Application:**

Ms. Shannon stated that there have been some sizable changes to the 29/Fontaine Ave interchange project, so she is looking for a resolution of support for the Hillsdale Drive South extension and the Hydraulic Road and US 29 projects. Ms. Shannon continued saying in September, there will be a request for a resolution to support the 29/Fontaine Ave interchange

project because they did not want to ask the Board for support based solely on what was presented at this meeting.

Mr. Boyles said the changes were made up to just a few hours prior to this meeting. He said he would like to have community engagement, perhaps virtually, sometime in August and then come back to the Board for a final resolution for that one project.

Ms. Mallek asked why there were changes to the project.

Mr. Lynch explained there was an effort to reduce the cost while salvaging the benefits of the project to give it more of a chance for funding. The movements through the intersection will be different. He noted that it would be worth waiting to see if it is feasible with the public's input and support.

Ms. Mallek said the project needs to be reviewed prior to the August 5 Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Ms. Shannon said she would schedule a public meeting to discuss the changes to the project prior to the August 5 meeting.

Mr. Payne made a motion to pass the resolution for the Hillsdale Drive South extension and the Hydraulic Road and US 29 projects. Ms. Mallek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **Formal Resolution of Support for new FOIA Officer:**

Ms. Shannon noted that David Blount, the Legislative Liaison for TJPDC, is already the FOIA Officer for that organization, so it makes sense that he would be the MPO's FOIA Officer as well.

Ms. Mallek made a motion to appoint David Blount as the MPO's new FOIA Officer. Mr. Gallaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **Discussion**

##### **Process and use of committees in development of Smart Scale Projects**

Mr. Boyles noted that the Route 20 Bike Path and the Preston/Grady intersection projects could have utilized increased community engagement. He said that for the MPO projects, he is looking to put together a policy for any controversial or larger-scale projects that demand more time and community involvement prior to the pre-application period. That way, when the Policy Board gets to this point in the application process, everyone will have knowledge of the details of the concept and will have had the chance to provide input.

Mr. Boyles said the down side to this is that projects have to be identified much earlier than they have been in the past, which would mean more work for the local government staff and the local government bodies to recommend projects to the MPO. The other downside is that once the pre-application date gets closer, VDOT usually helps with conceptual design. In this case, VDOT may not be able to help with that design work. The MPO does not do design work, so money would be needed to help pay for the concept designs.

Ms. Mallek said she saw the problem with the Bike Path project was less about a lack of knowledge about the project and more that the choices being made were made by people "out of

the loop,” including private advocacy groups. This included key decisions about spending money. She wants to prevent those kinds of things from happening again in the future. She said the meetings need to be more official and need to be announced to the public, and they should have agendas and minutes.

Ms. Mallek said it is important that the localities work with MPO staff during the whole process.

#### Review Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Ms. Shackelford directed the Board to the memo and the draft Public Participation Plan in the agenda packet. This is a federally mandated document to be certain that the public has input on planning documents and processes. She noted that even with the federal requirements, the MPO wants to go above and beyond to include the public in transportation planning.

Ms. Mallek noted that it is critical to follow the PPP in order for it to actually work. She asked Staff to consider ways to include a way to record meetings. She asked that staff highlight the changes that were made to the original PPP before it is sent to the Board so they know what parts to review.

#### Staff Updates

Ms. Shannon noted that the Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is now open for public comment. It relates to the MPO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and can be located on VDOT’s STIP website. A link to the draft STIP is provided in the July Policy Board meeting packet.

Ms. Shannon explained that there is an informational flyer in the packet on the MPO area’s ongoing design and construction projects. It describes where to find information on transportation projects and gives links to all the projects.

Mr. Boyles described the INVEST in American Bill as an infrastructure funding bill and MPOs around the country are sending support letters for Congress to consider. He went on to say that the Long Bridge Congressional Act of 2020 to fund an additional leg of the Long Bridge, a rail bridge that crosses the Potomac from Virginia into DC.

Mr. Payne made a motion to send both letters of support. Ms. Mallek seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Shannon said she will prepare the letters and send to the Board leadership for signatures.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

None.

#### Additional Matters from the Public

None.

Mr. Payne adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.