
MPO Policy Board
Minutes: March 25, 2020
DRAFT

Committee – Voting Members

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

Staff

Sandy Shackelford, *TJPDC*
Gretchen Thomas, *TJPDC*
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, *TJPDC*
Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Lucinda Shannon, *TJPDC*
Christine Jacobs, *TJPDC*

Non-Voting & Alternates

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

Alex Ikefuna, *City of Charlottesville*
Wood Hudson, *DRPT (absent)*
Tony Cho, *FTA (absent)*
Travis Pietila, *CTAC*
Mack Frost, *FHWA (absent)*
Dan Butch, *Albemarle County*

Others

Diantha McKeel, *Albemarle County*
Liz Palmer, *City of Charlottesville*
Kevin McDermott, *Albemarle County*
Sean Tubbs, *Piedmont Environmental Council*
Neal Williamson, *Free Enterprise Forum*

Call to Order:

Ms. Mallek called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Ms. Mallek asked that those who were in attendance please introduce themselves.

Mr. Boyles said that because of the current novel coronavirus situation and “stay at home” orders, most everyone at today’s meeting is attending virtually. Since there is no regulation currently in place to allow for voting this way, no votes can be taken this meeting. He suggested that there may need to be a change in the Policy Board’s regulations for voting in the future.

Matters from the Public:

Sean Tubbs thanked the board for the continuity in hosting the meetings, even if they are virtual.

Response to Matters from the Public:

None

Select Policy Board Officers

Currently, the County is Chair and the City is Vice. It usually gets alternated each year. Since there will be no voting at this meeting, it needs to be put off until the next meeting. The current officers will stay in effect until the elections can be voted upon.

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda:

Since there is no voting, there was no formal acceptance of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Shannon noted that if there were any changes to the various minutes, they should be emailed to her. The minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Shannon noted that the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a five-year plan. The TIP could be referred to as the short-range plan. No federal transportation project can move forward without approval in the TIP. The TIP can be amended and updated, but the monies in the TIP are constrained.

She went on to say that in March, the TIP has been drafted and it will be approved at the April 29 meeting. As time goes on, there will be more discussion on changes.

Mr. Gallaway asked for an update on the \$18 million allocated to this MPO for a transportation project. He said it feels like time is passing and there are no answers about where that money will be spent. He noted that a decision needs to be made so the money is not lost.

Mr. Sheffield remarked that JAUNT has a set of capital projects for fiscal year '21. There will be security improvements to the facility, expansion of rolling stock, and a new commuter route from Zion Crossroads to Charlottesville.

Mr. Williams said CAT will have an annual update for transit agencies. It will include new vehicles and three new City routes. He noted that many of the timeline boxes have "TBD" in them because of the current state of affairs. The busses being ordered for CAT are made to certain specifications. There is no "template" for the busses. Busses can sometimes take two years to receive, depending on the workload from the factory. With the current shutdown, it will probably be more than two years.

Mr. Sheffield said that the JAUNT busses do not have that same issue because their vehicle bodies are put onto Ford or Chevy chassis. JAUNT's busses only takes 6 months to one year for delivery.

Smart Scale Submissions

Ms. Shannon reviewed the potential submissions for the County, the City, the PDC and the MPO.

Ms. McDermott noted that the Hydraulic Panel will be getting together and will be inviting the Policy Board to join in their discussion.

Mr. Proctor gave a recap of the meeting re: Hydraulic Road and Route 29 held on March 6. He said there is \$18 million to use in support of another Smart Scale application in the area. He

noted that it will be important to present a scaled-down version of the project for it to be approved.

Mr. Proctor reported that the Zan Road Bike Ped concept would cost \$9 – 12 million is only 16 feet wide. In order for it to have vehicles to pass over, it must be 28 feet wide and would cost \$25-30 million.

He went on to cover the other options that may be viable for the money, including US29/Hydraulic Options A, B and E, and the roundabout option.

Ms. Mallek asked for Mr. Proctor's presentation so she could bring it to the Board.

Mr. Gallaway asked that the presentation be put on the TJPDC website and also on the RT29 Solutions website.

Mr. Proctor went on to say that historically, projects between \$6-7 million have been funded. He noted that the projects don't have to be finalized, but he does need guidance on the pre-application which is due April 3.

Update from Transit Providers re: CV19 Response

Mr. Williams said CAT is attempting to limit the exposure to drivers by only allowing passengers to get on and off at the back entrance of the bus (on the side). There will be no service on Sunday so the staff can deep clean the vehicles. He also noted that there are 17 drivers who are high-risk, so they are currently short staffed.

Mr. Sheffield said JAUNT currently has lower ridership. There is no one coming into the office and tasks are "chunked off". There is minimal interaction with staff and the public. Staff also cleans the busses and is working with CAT and UTS to get the help needed to do that. Other than that, JAUNT is maintaining service as needed.

Mr. Hudson thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Sheffield for being on the front lines. He noted that the state allocated emergency money to transit agencies. He said there is \$11 million coming as aid.

Mr. Williams said that he has been working with DRPT and they have been very responsive and wonderful to work with.

Additional Matters from the Public

Ms. McKeel thanked the Board for having the meeting. She said it makes her work much easier.

Ms. Palmer appreciated the opportunity to participate.

Ms. Mallek said in the future, it would be nice to make public access more available through technology.

Ms. Mallek adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.