

MPO Policy Board

Minutes: January 22, 2020

DRAFT

Committee – Voting Members

Ann Mallek, *Albemarle County*
John Lynch, *VDOT – Culpeper District*
Lloyd Snook, *City of Charlottesville*

Staff

Sandy Shackelford, *TJPDC*
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, *TJPDC*
Lucinda Shannon, *TJPDC*
Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*

Non-Voting & Alternates

Brad Sheffield, *JAUNT*
Chuck Proctor, *VDOT-Culpeper District*
Julia Monteith, *UVA Office of the Architect*
Stacy Londrey, *DRPT*

Call to Order:

Ms. Mallek called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Matters from the Public:

Sean Tubbs from Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) noted that the agenda for this meeting was not online and that there was an issue with the website. He is hoping that gets cleared up. He went on to say that the Policy Board is his favorite body because it is a representative of the working community between the City and the County whose members debate the finer points of some of the issues that come up, for example, the Zan Road bridge. He noted that the community has been growing steadily over the years and is expected to continue growing. UVA expects to add an additional 5700 new positions but are also limiting parking spaces, but are looking at transportation alternatives. He mentioned the potential funding for the Afton Express bus. He is excited to see that come to fruition. Once they are in place, the next hurdle is to get folks to ride the bus. The PEC, the Center for Civic Innovations, and the City are holding a listening session, being facilitated by the Institute for Environmental Negotiation, in City Space at 6:30 this evening. The main question is to find out why commuters ride alone. Once the stories are gathered from the commuters, it will help governing bodies make better decisions.

Response to Matters from the Public:

None

Select Policy Board Officers

Mr. Boyles recommended that the Board not elect a new Chair and Vice Chair yet because there were so few board members at the meeting. It was noted that in years past, the Chair and the Vice Chair alternated between the City and the County. The only City representative at the meeting is Lloyd Snook, and it is his first meeting.

Mr. Boyles said as the members are considering the Chair and Vice Chair for election at the next meeting, he said what has happened in the past is that the two of them meet with staff for an hour about two weeks before the meeting to develop the agenda.

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda:

Ms. Shannon said the Hydraulic Program had been removed from the agenda.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Snook seconded and the agenda was unanimously approved with the changes.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Mallek postposed the approval of the July 24, 2019 and the October 1, 2019 minutes until the next meeting.

Review TIP Amendments

Ms. Shannon explained the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and that the amendments report on what is expected to be spent on what projects in FY20 and FY21.

Mr. Proctor noted that the document tells the federal government how much VDOT would like in reimbursement for work that has already been completed.

Ms. Shannon explained the changes to the TIP and Ms. Mallek opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Tubbs noted that it is important to have the Automatic Passenger Counters (APCs) on the buses to get accurate data as the federal government moves to allocate money based on this data. As a frequent bus rider, he noted that the fareboxes often do not work, so the data is often inaccurate. Trolley rides are also inaccurate. He is looking forward to having the APCs on transit vehicles in the future.

The public meeting was closed.

Ms. Mallek made a motion to approve the TIP amendments. Mr. Lynch seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Policy Board Meeting Schedule for 2020

Ms. Shannon reviewed the draft Policy Board meeting dates. Mr. Boyles noted that the November, 2020 meeting is scheduled for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. If it moves to the work prior, it conflicts with the Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Ms. Mallek suggested adopting the schedule as is with the understanding that it may change in the future.

Regional Transit Partnership MOU

Mr. Boyles reviewed the amendment to include the University of Virginia in the Regional Transit Partnership MOU.

Mr. Snook make a motion to approve the modified MOU. Ms. Mallek seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Safety Performance Measure Targets

Ms. Shannon reviewed the new Safety Performance Measure Targets for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Mr. Boyles said that the MPO Tech committee requested that the worksheet that the state sends to the MPOs to fill out be more localized. He said it is easiest to just adopt the state's numbers, but perhaps there are some items on the worksheet that have a higher or lower priority. Perhaps next year that the City and County staff work with a consultant or with the TJPDC staff to determine if any of the numbers need to be adjusted.

Mr. Proctor noted that the data provided from the state is a summation of five years of data.

Ms. Mallek made a motion to approve the Safety Performance Measure Targets as proposed. Mr. Lynch seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Smart Scale Submissions

Mr. Proctor presented possible Smart Scale projects for consideration and the requirements needed to submit applications for the projects. He noted that there is an interactive map on the VTRANS website to explain the requirement categories in more detail. He continued on to explain the process for scoring and developing applications.

He went on to discuss the schedule for submission, with the pre-application period ending on April 2. From April to June 1, the projects are screened to see if they are eligible. August 6 is the cut-off date for applications. From there, the projects are scored. In January, the projects will be presented to the CTB for consideration.

He continued discussing the County projects and noted that a couple of the projects that were submitted last round were quite expensive, including the Zan Road project, so they are being re-evaluated, with both VDOT and a consulting firm, to determine how to bring down the costs so they can once again be considered.

Ms. Mallek noted that it will be important to reach out to the land owners who will be impacted by these projects.

Mr. Boyles said there has been some discussion on the County side of the project.

Mr. Proctor continued discussing the City projects being considered.

He also noted that it will be important to submit projects that are less expensive. VDOT will come back to the Policy Board with alternatives to consider so they have a better chance of being funded.

Ms. Mallek asked Mr. Proctor to email the presentation to the Board.

CTAC Update

Ms. Hersh-Ballering said the CTAC committee is excited to do outreach and they are coming up on their first outreach event near the Tom Tom Festival, but it will not be part of it, so it will be free. There will be virtual reality (VR) equipment from CTAC member, Dr. Donna Chen's, lab to experience bike-ped safety. While the public is waiting to try the VR, they will have the opportunity to talk with CTAC members and what they are working on re: transportation.

She also mentioned that the committee members were interested in seeing the state support action to meet the Safety Performance Measure Targets for the region.

Mr. Boyles noted that the CTAC is losing a member who represents Albemarle. He will be moving out of the area. That appointment will need to be filled.

Staff Reports

FY18-21 TIP Adjustments

Ms. Shannon said that for information purposes only, there was an adjustment to maintenance and from DRPT.

Other Staff Updates

Mr. Sheffield said that JAUNT just launched an all-electric transit vehicle.

Ms. Mallek asked about the Crozet Connect.

Mr. Sheffield said it is strong, but the occupancy is leveling off because of capacity. Until JAUNT has more vehicles or larger-capacity vehicles, they don't anticipate much more ridership. Mr. Sheffield said many UVA employees are interested because UVA said they would pay for them to ride.

Additional Matters from the Public

None.

Ms. Mallek adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.