

MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Minutes, January 23, 2024

Recording of the meeting can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR2-zag_VJ0

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
James Freas, Charlottesville	x	Sandy Shackelford, TJPDC	x
Ben Chambers, Charlottesville		Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	
Rory Stolzenberg, Cville PC	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Alb Co	x	Curtis Scarpignato, TJPDC	x
Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle	x	Ruth Emerick, TJPDC	
Luis Carrazana, Albemarle PC	x		
Charles Proctor, VDOT	x	NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x	Tony Cho FTA	
Jason Espie, Jaunt	x	Donna Chen, CTAC Liaison	
Bill Palmer, UVA Ofc of Architect	x		
Daniel Wagner, DRPT	x	GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x	Will Cockrell, EPRPC	x
Richard Duran, FHWA		Alan Simpson, EPRPC *	x
Tommy Safranek, Charlottesville	x	Peter Krebs, PEC	x

* attended online via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Rory Stolzenberg called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Sandy Shackelford called roll.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 2:07)

a. **Comments by the Public:** None

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

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 2:16)

December 5, 2023 Minutes

Luis Carrazana moved to approve the minutes. Ben Chambers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. MOVING TOWARD 2050 (MINUTE 2:36)

Completed Needs Assessment Outputs

Sandy Shackelford thanked EPRPC for their work on this project. She noted the Needs Prioritization Evaluation Metrics were tackled first. She noted that even though there are aggregate scores, they are not the only needs that can be considered as part of the process.



She continued by explaining the different levels of the needs identified in the study.

She noted the next steps which include committee members providing feedback on the needs outputs presented, comparing the needs prioritization data outputs to public feedback, determining candidate projects that meet needs, creating a short list of candidate projects for consideration in the long-range plan, identifying gaps between needs/candidate projects developed, and scheduling stakeholder meetings to review initial findings.

The committee members gave feedback on the needs presented.

Alan Simpson shared a heat map of the public who provided feedback. He noted that Crozet was heavily represented in the heat map in addition to the City and the more populated portions of Albemarle heading northbound.

There was discussion about how the data was collected and how EPRPC logged the information.

Ms. Shackelford requested that the committee members look over the projects and give feedback on the candidate projects for consideration. She will share more data with the committee as she gets it.

Will Cockrell reiterated that this information is just data. It will help the committees (both MPO Tech and Policy Board) make the most informed decision possible.

Ms. Shackelford said there should be an updated list of projects by the next meeting in February.

5. SMART SCALE ROUND 6 (MINUTE 26:57)

Round 6 MPO Eligible Projects

Ms. Shackelford identified the projects currently identified for MPO to submit for this round of Smart Scale.

She noted that there were some changes in how the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will be scoring the projects, including Land Use now being a multiplier. The changes also limited the types of projects that the MPO would be eligible to submit.

She continued by reviewing the projects identified and the pros and cons of each given the new scoring and time constraints, with some additional explanation from Chuck Proctor (VDOT).

VDOT Pipeline Project Updates

Chuck Proctor gave an update on the VDPT pipeline projects.

Ms. Shackelford asked the members were comfortable moving forward with the four projects described (interchange improvement at I-64/5th St, Peter Jefferson Parkway/Rolkin Road improvements, US 250 and Barracks Road, and Ivy Road, including US 250 interchange). There was additional discussion about the projects.

6. US 29 AND FONTAINE AVENUE INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT DISCUSSION (MINUTE 1:08:15)

Ms. Shackelford gave the background on the project. She presented the current design and Mr. Proctor gave additional details.

She noted some of the concerns and challenges with the current design's left turn concept and presented VDOT-reviewed project alternatives, the displaced left turn (DLT) and conventional intersections.

She continued by explaining the alternatives and their pros and cons.

Ms. Shackelford offered the options under consideration, including moving forward with existing project as scoped (DLT), request cancellation of the project and reapply for the full diverging diamond interchange or another preferred alternative, or pursue one of the conventional intersection configurations.

She continued by presenting the factor for consideration in the decision-making process.

7. FY24-27 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS (MINUTE 1:44:27)

Ms. Shackelford gave an explanation of the TIP. The first TIP amendment updates the financial allocation for FY24 for the replacement rolling stock amount that CAT has received. As they receive rolling stock early, they have to adjust what they will be spending in the future.

The second TIP amendment is a new TIP block being proposed by CAT for a capital improvement project, adding an operations annex to their current facility, and improvements to the administrative offices. There is funding allocated in 2024, none in 2025 and those projects would begin in 2026.

The third TIP amendment is the inclusion of the federal money for TJPDC's new Mobility Management Project.

The fourth through tenth TIP amendments remove boxes referencing Jaunt spending allocations since Jaunt is not a direct recipient of federal funding, therefore, they do not need to be programmed into the MPO's TIP.

Motion/Action: Alberic Karina-Plun made a motion to recommend the TIP amendments. Ben Chambers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:49:35)

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Curtis Scarpiganto gave an update on the SS4A grant project. He said there was a summit in January where staff heard feedback. Staff is currently working with jurisdictions to obtain letters of commitment.

Transit & Mobility Management Programs

Lucinda Shannon presented the committee that the Mobility Management Program is up and running as of January 1.

RAISE Grant Application for the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge

Ms. Shackelford reported that staff received consensus from the Policy Board to resubmit the RAISE grant application. Staff is working on updating it.

Rideshare/Commuter Assistant Program Strategic Plan

Sara Pennington noted that Rideshare is in the process of submitting their FY25 grant. She also noted that after a slight delay, they have officially kicked off their strategic plan process.

7. ROUNDTABLE (MINUTE 1:52:00)

Charlottesville

James Freas said the Charlottesville Development code will be presented to City Council and they are working to prepare for that.

Ben Chambers said the alternative fuel study will be presented to Council in a few more sessions to finalize the study and determine what fuels to use moving forward. The current recommendation is for both battery-powered and hydrogen-powered buses. In tandem with that study, staff is putting together the Transit Strategic Plan which lays out what they will be doing in the next decade or so.

Mr. Chambers also said they are working on their sidewalk prioritization project and are scoping a review of their parking permit program. He also noted that they just recently had their first “neighborhood walk” which will occur the second Sunday of each month. He said there were approximately 100 people on the first walk.

Albemarle

Mr. Karina-Plun gave an update on the rural roads project.

Jessica Hersh-Ballerger reported on their comprehensive plan update. She noted that they have opted to focus on the transportation needs of the rural and the urban needs separately.

VDOT

Mr. Proctor said that he has a consultant working on the project recommendations for the County.

DRPT

Daniel Wagner said their grant cycle is open but will be wrapping up on February 1. He said there is a new grants management software, and they have office hours from Tuesday through Thursday from noon to one starting today, if you are having any issues with the new program, please reach out to them so they can help troubleshoot with you. He also said there are many YouTube videos that help explain the new software.

He also noted that there will be a new marketing campaign encouraging ridesharing and transit in the Commonwealth.

Lastly, he noted there is a lot of interest in the Virginia Breeze bus line. He said they are working with a consultant who is helping them do a robust outreach to the public.

Rideshare

Sara Pennington said there is a VDOT meeting tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. at the Crozet library regarding the Crozet Park and Ride.

CAT

Ben Chambers had nothing more to report.

Jaunt

Jason Espie introduced himself. He reported that there currently a bus electrification study and a micro-transit demand and rural-transit demand studies that are ongoing, and he is new to the organization and is working to learn about those.

UVA

Bill Palmer said UTS is back on its normal operating schedule. He is hoping in the future to have a something to share on the new TDM report.

8. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 2:04:09)

None

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Stolzenberg adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.