

THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (TJPDC)

Minutes, November 3, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT	IN PERSON	REMOTE	STAFF PRESENT	IN PERSON	REMOTE
City of Charlottesville			Christine Jacobs, Executive Director	x	
Michael Payne	x		David Blount, Deputy Director/Legislative Director	x	
Liz Russell	x		Don Reed, Finance Director		
Albemarle County			Ruth Emerick, Chief Operating Officer		
Ned Gallaway, Chair	x		Sandy Shackelford, Planning/Transportation Director		
Jim Andrews	x		Ian Baxter, Planner II	x	
Fluvanna County			Lucinda Shannon, Senior Regional Planner	x	
Tony O'Brien, Vice Chair	x		Sara Pennington, TDM/Rideshare Program Manager		
Keith Smith, Treasurer	x		Gretchen Thomas, Administrative Assistant		
Greene County			Isabella O'Brien, Planner I		
Dale Herring	x		Ryan Mickles, Planner III		
Andrea Wilkinson			Lori Allshouse, Program Director - VATI	x	
Louisa County			Brandon Boccher, PT Housing Grant Administrator		
Rachel Jones	x		GUESTS/PUBLIC PRESENT		
Tommy Barlow			David Foley	x	
Nelson County			Lawrence Alpern	x	
Jesse Rutherford	x		David Eames	x	
Ernie Reed	x		Robert Babyok	x	
			Sean Tubbs		x

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) Commission Chair, Ned Gallaway, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Sandy Shackelford took attendance by round table introductions and certified that a quorum was present.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC:

a. Comments by the Public:



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

Lawrence Alpern was present to express concern about the bowtie transportation improvement proposed in the final transportation system recommendations prepared for the Zion Crossroads areas. He is concerned that the bowtie will cause more congestion and lead to new safety issues than is reflected in the analysis. He is concerned that large trucks will have difficulty navigating through the roundabouts and that it will cause significant traffic back-ups.

David Eames was also present to express concerns about the bowtie. He is concerned about the lack of rigorous analysis of alternatives and believes that additional configurations should be considered including a three-lane roundabout.

Robert Babyok was also present to express concerns about the bowtie configuration. Mr. Babyok stated that the study was incomplete and relied on faulty data that included safety data from the time that the diverging diamond interchange was under construction. One of his concerns is that the configuration relies on two lanes of traffic entering a single lane roundabout.

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

3. PRESENTATIONS:

a. FY22 Annual Financial Audit Report

David Foley, CPA with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates reviewed the FY22 Annual Financial Report and Audit with the Commission. Mr. Foley explained that the audit includes a review of the financial statements, internal controls that the Commission has over its accounting, and federal compliance. Robinson, Fox, Cox Associates determined the audit was clean in all areas with no material findings.

Motion/Action: On a motion by Jesse Rutherford, seconded by Jim Andrews, the Commission unanimously accepted the FY22 Annual Financial Audit as presented.

b. VATI Quarterly Presentation/Update

Lori Allshouse, VATI Program Director, informed the Commission of the most recent activities underway as part of the project. This included the execution of all agreement with DHCD, Firefly, and partner counties; the development of a project webpages; and completed field work. Ms. Allshouse informed the Commission that the TJPDC submitted a 2023 VATI grant application to cover eligible unserved areas from the 2022 grant request in Albemarle, Cumberland, Greene, and Madison Counties.

c. Zion Crossroads Gateway Plan

Sandy Shackelford, Planning and Transportation Director, reviewed the gateway plan that the TJPDC developed in collaboration with VDOT, Louisa County, and Fluvanna County. Ms. Shackelford reviewed recommendations for developing a unified sense of place for Zion Crossroads between the

two localities and provided an overview of the transportation improvement recommendations that were developed in a parallel study that was completed by consultant procured by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

d. Regional Transit Vision Plan

Lucinda Shannon, Senior Regional Planner, reviewed the recommendations developed through the Regional Transit Vision Plan that is almost complete. Ms. Shannon reviewed the extensive public engagement that occurred as part of the plan development, and reviewed the constrained and unconstrained visions. She also explained that the visions were based on assumptions around future funding resources that could be dedicated. She noted that the next step would be to conduct a Governance Study to identify potential revenue sources, determine a governing structure, and evaluate the overall feasibility of moving forward towards implementation.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: Action Items

a. Minutes of October 6, 2022 Meeting

Motion/Action: On a motion by Jesse Rutherford, seconded by Jim Andrews, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting minutes as presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. TJPDC Quarterly Activities Report

David Blount reviewed the revised TJPDC Quarterly Activities Report format. He explained that the report was intended to be more visually pleasing and easier to read and would include a brief explanation of the programs the TJPDC administers in addition to specific quarterly updates.

b. FOIA Letter

David Blount reviewed a draft letter from the Commission to Delegate Bennett-Parker requesting additional flexibility for local governments to allow public meetings to be conducted electronically. There was general consensus from the Commission to submit the letter as presented.

c. Quarter One Financial Reports

Christine Jacobs reviewed the FY23 first quarter financials including the unrestricted cash on hand and the incurred expenses to-date compared to overall anticipated program income.

Motion/Action: On a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Tony O'Brien, the Commission unanimously approved the quarterly financial reports as presented.

d. Regional Housing Partnership Appointment

Motion/Action: On a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Jim Andrews, the Commission unanimously appointed Kenny Allison as the Workforce Investment Board representative to the Regional Housing Partnership.

6. RESOLUTIONS:

None

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Monthly Report: Christine Jacobs informed the Commission that the Housing and Community Development Grants Manager position had been filled, that the PDC is making progress in hiring a VATI program administrative assistant and is still working on hiring a transportation planner. The TJPDC has reviewed its benefits package, and in an effort to be more competitive, has determined that it will start offering VRS retirement for employees when they begin working instead of waiting until their six-month probationary period is up. She also let the Commission know that staff will be decorating gingerbread houses and that the Commission members will be asked to vote on their favorite houses at their December meeting.

Three Regional Housing Partnership committees have started to meet to implement the recommended activities identified in the Strategic Plan (Executive, Data, and Communications Committees). Delegate Sally Hudson will attend the December quarterly meeting in an effort to engage elected officials on local/regional/state housing initiatives. Planning continues for the Regional Housing Summit scheduled for March 24th at the Omni Charlottesville. Staff continues its work to draft the required Annual Action Plan to access HOME-ARP funding and is currently meeting with all member jurisdictions to identify priorities for local allotments. The TJPDC has also received notice from USDA that we were awarded the full \$215,000 Housing Preservation Grant amount requested.

As part of the Safe Streets for All grant application, staff secured support from VDOT through its Highway Safety Improvement Program to conduct a crash analysis in all six jurisdictions; this work will be conducted regardless of whether the grant is awarded and will begin in early 2023. Staff has begun work on the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan, now named Moving Toward 2050, and continues to work with the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment to develop a project prioritization process. The TJPDC assisted Nelson County with a Growth & Accessibility Planning Grant application to conduct a small area plan in Nellysford with the intention of designating it as an Urban Development Area.

The TJPDC is exploring a Mobility Management grant application through DRPT to develop a one-call center to support seniors and individuals with disabilities with accessing appropriate transit and transportation options. Staff has also developed a required Title VI plan for the MPO and the

TJPDC. The plan was approved by VDOT and will be presented at the Commission meeting in December. TJPDC staff met with Darrell Byers, the new recently appointed member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board representing the Culpeper District, to introduce ourselves and share some of the priority transportation initiatives in the region. Staff is preparing a grant application for a Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) Strategic Plan to develop a required five-year strategic plan for the RideShare program; the grant requires a 50/50 state/local share, but the TJPDC will not be seeking additional funding from member governments to support the local match. Staff has conducted an initial review of RFPs to hire the consultants to prepare a Comprehensive Economic Development Plan for Region 10 and Region 9; eight proposals were received and scored by a selection committee, and staff will conduct interviews with the top three consultants.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Roundtable Discussion by Jurisdiction:** Each Commissioner was invited to share updates from their jurisdiction.
- b. Items for Next Meeting – December 1, 2022**
 - i. 2022 General Assembly Report
 - ii. Regional Transit Governance Study Presentation
 - iii. Title VI Presentation
 - iv. Mobility Management Presentation

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion/Action: On a motion by Jesse Rutherford, seconded by Dale Herring, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the November 3, 2022, Commission meeting at 9:10 pm.

Commission materials and meeting recording may be found at www.tjpd.org

From: [Eames, David \(de6g\)](#)
To: [Sandy Shackelford](#)
Subject: Tonight's TJPDC Meeting: The Zion Crossroads Gateway Plan
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 4:54:44 PM
Importance: High

CAUTION - EMAIL FROM EXTERNAL SENDER - Please pay special attention to links and attachments

Dear Ms. Shackelford,

I am writing to you in reference to the Zion Crossroads Gateway Plan that will be discussed at tonight's TJPDC meeting (November 3rd 2022) as I wish to share my strong objection to the Bowtie configuration proposed for the Rt.15/Camp Creek Parkway intersection.

I live at 325 Turkey Trot Lane, Zion Crossroads, Virginia 22942. I am a recent member of the Spring Creek Land Development, LLC Board of Directors and a retired aerospace engineer with over 40-years of experience.

As an engineer, I have been trying to understand how the TJPDC arrived at such an absurd and expensive configuration that should have been rejected early on in the design process.

Most of my career has been spent in the early stages of product development. It appears to me that the TJPDC did not complete, or document, a rigorous "Analysis of Alternatives" for this critical intersection. If they had done so, they would have undoubtedly arrived at a much simpler solutions like: improved traffic light sequencing and lane markings or a 3-lane roundabout.

I therefore urge the TJPDC to reject this absurd Bowtie concept and seriously consider alternative affordable solutions.

Sincerely,

David J.H. Eames

AIAA Fellow

University of Virginia

School of Engineering and Applied Science

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

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