CA-MPO

Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Draft Minutes
July 16 , 2025

A recording of this meeting can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8QXbatm4Og

OFFICERS		STAFF	
Sarah Medley, Charlottesville, Chair	x	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
Donna Chen, MPO – Vice-Chair		Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
		Sarah Simba, TJPDC	x
		Gorjan Gjorgjievski, TJPDC	x
		Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	
VOTING MEMBERS		**GUESTS / PUBLIC**	
Stuart Gardner, MPO		Chuck Proctor, VDOT *	x
Jose Gomez, Albemarle County		Garland Williams, CAT	x
Patrick Healy, Charlottesville	x	Bruce White, CAT	x
Ethan Heil, Charlottesville	x		
Lee Kondor, Albemarle	x		
Marty Meth, Albemarle County	x		
Nathan Moore, Albemarle County *	x		
Danny Yoder, Charlottesville			
Peter Thompson, Albemarle County	x		
Vacant, Charlottesville			
Vacant, MPO			

** online participant*

Call to Order

Chair Sarah Medley called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. **Attendance (Minute :54)**
   Sarah Simba took attendance.

2. **Matters from the Public (Minute 2:25)**
   Paul Grady, citizen of Albemarle, did not realize there was an "MPO" in the past, but started attending the CHART committee and made 10 presentations to that committee. He has a plan he would like to present to the committee at a future date. He said the presentation would take about 20 minutes. He said he will come back to the September meeting after sending a message about what the project is all about and getting approval from the committee. He said it is about the Hydraulic/Emmet Street "disaster."

Nathan Moore stated that he was joining remotely from home due to a work emergency.

Motion/Action: Patrick Healy made a motion to allow Nathan Moore to participate remotely. Lee Kondor seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **General Administration (Minute 7:19)**

Acceptance of the Agenda
Motion/Action: Lee Kondor made a motion to approve the agenda. Patrick Healy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of the Minutes of May 21, 2025 minutes
Motion/Action: Lee Kondor made a motion to approve the minutes. Patrick Healy seconded, and the motion passed with Peter Thompson abstaining.

Remote Participation Policy

Taylor Jenkins presented the virtual meeting policy stating that half of the meetings can be virtual, but they may not be virtual consecutively. This means that the committee can meet virtually up to three times a year but could only be held that way every other meeting.

Motion/Action: Lee Kondor made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Ethan Heil seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business (Minute 12:10)

CTAC Bylaws

Sarah Medley thanked the committee for their participation in the discussion of the bylaws at the last meeting. She said there will be a meeting on Friday on the purpose of the committee.

Lee Kondor said he would like to add in Section 2B as a fourth bullet: “propose prospective solutions to identify transportation systems deficiencies to the MPO Policy Board.”

Marty Meth noted that there is very little time spent on public transportation and feels there should be something in the bylaws that focuses the committee on transit as well as the infrastructure.

Ethan Heil said the committee should define how CTAC interfaces with the bike/ped advisory committee and with CAT.

Nathan Moore said in Section 2A in the last line, regarding “broadest range of citizens in the region,” perhaps instead of “citizens,” change the word to “people.”

Sarah Medley said in Section 2B, the second bullet seems aspirational, and she would like it to be more operational.

Marty Meth said he would like to see the committee meet more times than six times a year to keep momentum and consistency. He would like to see eight or nine meetings instead. He realizes that it puts more pressure on the staff’s time.

Lee Kondor noted that the committee can meet more often for special meetings as was done in the past. He said there needs to be “at least” six meetings a year.

Taylor Jenkins reminded the committee that the MPO Policy Board only meets every other month as well as other MPO committees. As an advisory committee to the Policy Board, it is something to consider.

Ms. Medley provided more detail regarding what she meant about being more “operational” as a committee.

Mr. Heil said it might be good to have members assigned to different committees in the City and County (i.e., bike/ped) and be responsible for sharing and gathering information to bring back to the committee.

Peter Thompson said he would like to know what the Policy Board is looking for from the committee. He said perhaps there are groups in the community (i.e., C3) that already gather data that could bring that information to the committee.

Ms. Simba said perhaps the members could create a summary of the items that are discussed at the meeting to bring to the Policy Board and the Technical Committee.

Ms. Medley said she will bring all of the information gathered at this meeting to the subcommittee meeting on Friday and then will bring that to the Policy Board.

Mr. Thompson suggested that Garland Williams and Bruce White be moved up on the agenda so they can leave after their presentation. There was no objection.

<u>Charlottesville Area Transit FTA Low or No Emissions Project (Minute 41:25)</u>

Garland Williams introduced himself and noted that the presentation has been given to the RTP, the Technical committee, and the Policy Board. He said he was not certain that the No/Low Emissions grant would be available with the current administration. They finished their grant on Monday and are hoping they can take advantage of the discretionary grant.

Bruce White introduced himself and noted that Kimley-Horn & Wendel were working on the feasibility study, site evaluation, and the transition to zero emission plan last year when he joined CAT. He noted that the transition plan is long-term and may take between 15 and 20 years.

Mr. White continued by sharing the existing CAT six-acre site/location, the City-owned three-acre parcel and the Delany-owned four-acre parcel. He noted that the Delaney parcel would be adventitious to have for future planning, but they have not agreed to the sale.

He continued by sharing the conceptual site plan from Wendel. It is a new maintenance facility including infrastructure for hydrogen and battery electric buses.

He shared that Phase I, the new maintenance facility, including all of the assumptions they made, the cost would be approximately $40 million. He said there will be a 20% local match from the City for a total of $48 million.

He said the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) passed in 1970 is required by the FTA to use federal funds for the project. The focus areas include hazardous materials, traffic analysis, cultural

resources, noise and vibration, and natural resources. He said they are looking at both of the undeveloped lots and all of the NEPA on both looks good. They are doing the work now so that if they ask for the data, they will already have it.

He noted that they are going for the "categorical exclusion (CE)" submission.

He continued by sharing an overview of the BEB pilot charging infrastructure, which he noted will be the first piece of the infrastructure that will be implemented.

Mr. White noted that they can pull off a main line for electricity that is already located near the site.

Mr. White noted that they have good sources for hydrogen (from WV or VA or potentially producing their own) and will be starting with a pilot program for the buses, as approved by City Council. Mr. Williams said the transition to hydrogen will happen within the next five to seven years.

Mr. White said Gilly and New Flyer are the only hydrogen bus manufacturers that meet the specifications that CAT is looking for (35' bus vs the typical 40' or 60' buses). The hydrogen buses are fuel cell electric buses.

Mr. Heil noted that it is important to know the source of the hydrogen because sometimes the offset of lower carbon emissions from the bus may be offset by how the hydrogen is sourced.

Mr. Williams and Mr. White discussed the challenges and benefits of battery electric and hydrogen buses.

<u>Travel Demand Management (TDM) Study (Minute 1:25:57)</u>

Taylor Jenkins shared the TDM draft scope of work including the background of the study. She noted that through the development of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), CA-MPO staff identified the need to complete a comprehensive TDM study to identify strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled, increase trips made by walking, bike, and using transit, and enhance connections between transit, bike/ped networks, and park-and-ride facilities.

She noted that before staff created their scope of work, they studied similar study examples, which she presented to the committee.

She continued by sharing Tasks 1 – 4 for the study itself. She noted that land use policy and parking programs for employees are being considered.

She asked the committee for recommendations for public engagement. She noted that the next steps will include staff incorporating MPO Technical committee, Policy Board, and CTAC feedback.

Mr. Heil said it would be good to present options for safety, particularly for bike/ped. He wondered if Wahoo Commute would be willing to share their data about where folks are commuting to and from.

Ms. Jenkins said the Policy Board will be voting to approve the scope of work at their next meeting on August 27, 2025.

Ms. Medley said to talk with the low-income housing groups, including PHAR and CRHA, to determine the impact on them.

Mr. Healy said it would be interesting to learn more about the extensive greenways in Minneapolis and Madison, WI and how the City might use the already available and often underused pathways.

Mr. Meth said it is important to ask those who are in assisted living homes and those who still use cars how they are using the roads.

Ms. Medley said to ask parents who are driving their children to school, so perhaps the local PTOs and "back to school bashes" would be good sources.

Mr. Thompson said to set up tables and ask the public at local gatherings.

5. Staff Updates and Meeting Schedule (Minute 1:43:35)

FY26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
Ms. Jenkins presented an update on the final draft of the UPWP, noting that the final numbers came in late this year, so the final draft was delayed.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Final Plan
Gorjan Gjorgjievski reported that the plan has been adopted with all federal requirements met. The next step is to get the plan out to news media and the jurisdictions. There is hope that the jurisdictions will be able to implement some of the recommendations.

He said he is meeting with City staff to discuss the plan for the East High Street/ Meade intersection.

Lastly, Mr. Gjorgjievski said staff have applied for the SS4A grant in conjunction with UVA and Honda. He said he will keep the committee posted about when the award is announced.

MPO Policy Board Activities
Sarah Simba noted that there is a summary of the Policy Board activities included in the agenda packet so the committee is aware of what is happening at that level.

FY26 Calendar of Meetings
Ms. Jenkins presented the committee with a calendar of meeting dates. She noted the recommendation is to have the meeting every other last Wednesday of the month in order to be closer to the Policy Board's meeting.

Mr. Thompson noted that the November meeting would be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving which will probably need to be moved.

Mr. Meth recommended that the January meeting be virtual due to weather concerns.

Ms. Medley recommended that the July meeting also be virtual due vacation schedules.

6. **VDOT Updates on Projects & Studies (Minute 1:57:35)**
Chuck Proctor reported that the community involvement meeting for the Ridge Street study in the City will be held the week of August 11 with an informational meeting potentially at City Space.

He said at the same time as that meeting VDOT will be kicking off presenting alternatives for that area.

The 29 Corridor North study had its initial public outreach meeting and VDOT is working on the existing conditions report, the traffic forecast, and finalizing the Phase II scope.

Regarding the pipeline studies, the 5th Street study and the Exit 118 study, VDOT put out a public survey and had the second stakeholders working group meeting and VDOT is waiting on the development of the existing conditions report. Once they get that, it will be reviewed and they can start the Phase II portion of that study.

He noted that there will be a meeting with Albemarle and CA-MPO next week for possible applications for Smart Scale Round 7.

7. <u>Roundtable Updates (Minute 2:00:34)</u>

Mr. Heil said he is curious about the CAT Advisory Board and wondered why it never met or never meets.

Mr. Meth said there are still some traffic issues at River Rd and 250. He said it might be good to look at that area.

Mr. Thompson said becoming more aware of traffic, bike/ped issues, traffic engineering, etc. can be a blessing and a curse. He would like to get smart traffic lights. He also noted that there doesn't seem to be good mechanisms for getting feedback to policy makers.

8. <u>Additional matters from the public (Minute 2:08:01)</u>

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.