

MPO Policy Board Meeting

Minutes, August 28, 2024

DRAFT

Video of the meeting can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20vieVKaDOK>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Ann Mallek, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Ned Gallaway, Albemarle	x	Sara Pennington, Rideshare	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Natalie Oschrein, Charlottesville	x	Sarah Simba, TJPDC	x
Sean Nelson, VDOT	x	Gorjan Gjorgjievski, TJPDC	x
Stacy Londrey, VDOT (alternate)	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Jason Espie, Jaunt	x	Ben Chambers, City of Charlottesville	x
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x	Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle	x
Julia Monteith, UVA		Sean Tubbs *	x
Garland Williams, CAT		Neil Williamson *	x
Steven Minor FHWA		Peter Krebs *	x
Dan Koenig, FTA		Charles Proctor, VDOT *	x
Lee Kondor, CTAC *	x		
Chuck Proctor, VDOT			
Mitch Huber, DRPT (alternate) *	x		
Mike Murphy, Jaunt			
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT	x		

* attended online via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER (0:00)

The MPO Policy Board Chair, Mr. Gallaway, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Christine Jacobs called roll.

Ms. Jacobs introduced both Sarah Simba and Gorjan Gjorgjievski to the board.

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

- a. **Comments by the Public:** John Falls of Rugby Road said he is watching county development south of the city including an elementary school and he said it is important to connect Avon Street and 5th Street Extended, and probably through Biscuit Run. He understands that they are trying to avoid putting roads through parks, but he said it really needs to be done. He said it is a 5-mile barrier between the two most important roads south of the City. He said they spent 10 years winding route 29 so as not to build connecting roads. He said he also notes that there are many roundabouts being added and that he thinks the area will look like smallpox. He said if there are not connecting roads put through, "you are not doing



your duty.”

He also introduced himself to both Brian Pinkston and Natalie Oschrein because he is going to send them each an email about some ideas within the City and he’d like them to pay attention to them.

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

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 4:04)

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to approve the agenda, Brian Pinkston seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the May 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston noted that the meeting started at 4:00 p.m., not 4:00 a.m. Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Natalie Oschrein seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with Ann Mallek abstaining.

4. NEW BUSINESS (MINUTE 5:25)

Remote Electronic Participation and All-Virtual Meeting Policy

Christine Jacobs outlined the new electronic meeting policy that the General Assembly adopted. She noted that 50% of the meetings can be all-virtual, but there cannot be two virtual meetings in a row. She also noted that in an all-virtual meeting, the participant’s camera must be turned on to be considered “present.” When a camera is turned off, it is as if they are no longer in the meeting, which may affect quorum for voting.

The existing policy of attending remotely for an “in person” meeting remains the same. There must be a quorum in person to allow those online to participate in the meeting as voting members. Those who are participating online must state the reason for attending virtually.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to adopt the new electronic meeting policy. Natalie Oschrein seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacobs read the statement about visual communication and consideration of attendance for clarification.

5. HIGHWAY SYSTEMS FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION (FFC) PRESENTATION (MINUTE 12:36)

Sarah Simba gave a brief introduction to the FFC, and the reasoning for the development of the new guidance. She continued with the seven types of roadway classifications. She provided information on the function of a road which includes mobility, land access, and a balance between both mobility and land access.

Principal and minor arterials are mobility roads. Local roads provide land access. Major and minor collectors provide the balance between mobility and local roads.

She presented an example of functional classification information with correct and incorrect scenarios. She continued with the process for making functional classification changes on existing roads for requests from local governments in MPO regions.

She noted the importance of classifying future roadways early in the planning process. It helps determine eligibility for future funding. The guidance allows VDOT to assign a functional classification for roads to be constructed within four years. It is recommended that VDOT include new roadways that are included in the six-year statewide transportation improvement plan.

Ms. Jacobs continued by stating that the Board defers on making a recommendation so staff can bring a final map to the Policy Board that is aligned with the updated changes. It is currently incomplete and needs edits.

There was a brief discussion about the classifications.

Ms. Simba presented how to request changes to an existing road's functional classification.

There was continued detailed discussion about local area roads.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to defer action on the resolution. Brian Pinkston seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) ADJUSTMENTS (MINUTE 52:17)

Lucinda Shannon presented the TIP adjustments to the Board (included in the agenda packet). This is just an administrative process, informational only, and no action was necessary.

7. VDOT UPDATE ON PROJECTS (MINUTE 54:13)

Chuck Proctor presented the Board with a Smart Scale Update. He reviewed the three CA-MPO projects. He briefly reviewed the 5th St-I64 interchange improvements. VDOT is still waiting on cost estimates for this project.

Next, he reviewed the US250-Pantops project and the numerous portions of the project. He noted the cost of the project is \$36 million. There was discussion about portions of the project, including the Park and Ride lot.

He continued with the Barracks Road corridor improvements. The project cost estimate is \$129 million.

Next, he reviewed Albemarle's project, the US250 at Old Trail/WAHS intersection improvement. He said the cost estimate is \$46 million.

He then reviewed the Rio Road-Hillsdale/Old Brooke Road intersection improvements. The cost estimate for this is \$45 million.

He continued by reviewing Barracks Road corridor improvements project at Georgetown Road to the US 29/250 intersection. The cost estimate is \$27 million.

He reviewed the US29-Plank Road intersection improvement. The cost estimate for this project is \$17 million.

He noted that the 5th Street intersection cost estimate came in while the meeting was underway. He reported that it came in at \$79 million.

8. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:20:50)

MPO Tech Officers

Christine Jacobs reported that the MPO Tech committee now has Ben Chambers as the Chair and Alberic Karina-Plun is Vice Chair.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Update

Gorjan Gjorgjievski gave background on the project and its goals and objectives. He reviewed the steps that have been taken to date and the types of public engagement that have been undertaken. He noted that the next step will include developing strategies based on the data and feedback collected.

December Meeting Date & Time

Christine Jacobs reported that the October meeting falls during another conference. Only Sean Nelson is going to that conference, so the meeting date remains.

Ms. Jacobs said the December meeting is close to the Christmas holiday, so she suggested that December 18 be the new date for that month at the same time. The committee concurred that December 18 works for the majority.

She also noted that VDOT is starting their next round of their Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) study. Staff reviewed the three locations are US29 between Hydraulic and Woodbrook, US29 between Teale Lane and Hydraulic Road, and Ridge McIntire/South Water Street intersection in the City of Charlottesville. VDOT is reaching out to the MPOs and jurisdictions to make sure there is no cause for concern with the areas they will be reviewing for improvements.

8. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE)

CTAC – Lee Kondor reported that CTAC discussed wanting to get involved in some of the projects at an earlier stage in the LRTP.

DRPT – No report.

Jaunt – Jason Espie said they are wrapping up their three studies and they are looking forward to presenting the recommendations to this board in the future.

VDOT – Stacy Londrey said VDOT will coordinate with localities, MPOs, and PDCs re: applications for revenue sharing projects/studies and transportation alternatives programs. She said they did this last cycle, but they will start earlier for the next one.

Sean Nelson said the roundabout at Hillsdale is open. They are currently working on the intersection and there is concern about the “no left turn” area onto Hydraulic. There are many people still making that left, but most were distracted drivers (on their phones) who recognized their mistake too late. He has made a phone call to Virginia State Police to help with enforcement.

Ann Mallek said there is concern with the design of the Hillsdale roundabout and described a scenario about a potential collision. She suggested maybe putting in a curb to mitigate drivers from moving out of the travel lanes. Sean Nelson said he would make note of it.

Sean Nelson continued stating the VDOT is working with the City, Albemarle and UVA on the Fontaine Avenue design build project. He said they have to change the name of the project because it encompasses more than just Fontaine Avenue now. He said they hope to have procurement complete by the beginning of next year and a reward sometime in 2026.

He said the Pantops improvement project including an additional turn lane at Rt250 and Rt20 intersection with a median going back up the hill near the car dealerships. He said there will be a public meeting about that project at the Hilton Garden Inn on September 10 at 4:30 p.m.

UVA – No report.

Albemarle County – Jessica Hersh-Ballering said Staff are working on preparing revenue-sharing and TAP grants.

FHWA – No report.

9. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:39:51)

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

**Committee materials and meeting recording may be found at
<https://campo.tjpd.org/committees/policy-board/>**