Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Regional Vision ▪ Collaborative Leadership ▪ Professional Service

MPO Policy Board Meeting

Minutes, December 18, 2024

DRAFT

Video of the meeting can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO7esv6ZUuI

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Ann Mallek, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	
Ned Gallaway, Albemarle	x	Sara Pennington, Rideshare	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Natalie Oschrin, 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		Peter Krebs, Piedmont Environmental Council	x
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x	Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle County	x
Julia Monteith, UVA	x		
Garland Williams, CAT			
Steven Minor FHWA			
Dan Koenig, FTA			
Lee Kondor, CTAC	x		
Chuck Proctor, VDOT	x		
Mitch Huber, DRPT	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 4:30 p.m. This meeting was an all-virtual meeting and read the remote electronic meeting notification. Ms. Simba called roll.

Ned Gallaway noted there was an addition to the agenda. He noted that the next meeting is in February and the first meeting of the year is when the board typically elect the Chair and Vice Chair. He noted that an agenda item needs to be added to create a nominating committee to make recommendations for the leadership at the February meeting.

<u>Review and Acceptance of the Agenda</u>

Motion/Action: Natalie Oschrin made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Brian Pinkston seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 5:52)

Comments from the Public: Peter Krebs reported that earlier today, the PEC signed a letter of support for the PDC's RAISE grant application for the Rivanna River Pedestrian Bridge. He said the PEC is grateful to the PDC for being persistent in doing this work and wants to say that it is important and will be really good for the community. Not only will the bridge connect the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, not only will it connect major economic hubs, not only will it connect low-income residents to grocery stores and to one of two hospitals and a major employer, it will also be a key piece along the Rivanna River in which both Albemarle County and the City are very invested in this multi-mile greenway that will pass by Thomas Jefferson's birthplace. He continued by saying the bridge is right at the bullseye where many of these factors come together. He noted that just last night he was at the City's Park and Rec master plan public meeting, and the City is considering what might be a $30-40 million greenway system over the course of 10 years, so the bridge is strategically located and very important. He said the PEC would be happy to help in any way they can. He said to expect to receive the letter of support later today.

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

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 8:57)

Approval of the October 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Action: Briant Pinkston made a motion to approve the minutes. Natalie seconded and the motion passed unanimously with Sean Nelson abstaining.

4. NEW BUSINESS (MINUTE 9:52)

CA-MPO Performance Safety Targets

Gorjan Gjorgjievski presented the board with the background of the Performance Safety Targets. It is a federally mandated process. He continued with the projected five-year average based on historical trendlines for fatalities, serious injuries, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

He said the state has given several safety targets, which he presented to the board. He reported that the MPO Tech committee recommended that the Policy Board adopt the aspirational safety targets that are in line with the comprehensive safety action plan.

There was some discussion about the verbiage of "target" and "goal". Ann Mallek weighed in saying she would like to have speed cameras on some of the roadways to discourage speeding and therefore increase safety.

Christine Jacobs said she recognizes that it does not feel right or good to set a goal or target that is above zero for fatalities and injuries, however, the safety targets are set by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Policy Board can either adopt the same ones or set another target. Chuck Proctor noted that it does not matter which number is in there, but next year will show whether you met the target or not. There is no penalty for setting that goal and not meeting it. The goal is to set a realistic expectation.

Sandy Shackelford noted that if the Policy Board would like to submit a different number than that of the state, it must provide reasoning for doing so.

Sean Nelson said driver behavior is out of the Board/State's control, so the goal is to target the behaviors that lead to the fatalities and serious injuries.

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to adopt the CAMPO performance safety targets based on aspirational targets. Ann Mallek seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

TIP Adjustment

Lucinda Shannon presented the Board with adjustments to two Charlottesville Smart Scale projects that have been approved for two years and there has been a delay. The federal funding is diminishing, and the state is increasing the funding to keep the budget balanced. The total amount stays the same, but the funding comes from different sources. The Board does not need to take any action.

RAISE 2025

Christine Jacobs gave a background and summary of the RAISE grant. She noted that the application has scored well the last two times it was submitted, but because of cost the first time and competitiveness of other projects the second time, it was not awarded. TJPDC is resubmitting the application for a third time and staff has been working with USDOT and VDOT to see where the application can be bolstered into getting a higher score.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek moved to approve the resolution in support of the TJPDC submitting the application for the RAISE grant. Brian Pinkston seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. FORMATION OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE (MINUTE 39:10)

Ned Gallaway stated that the members of this committee have typically been included a non-voting member. Julia Monteith and Mr. Nelson have both been on the committee in the past. Mr. Gallaway presented to the board that he, Mr. Nelson and Ms. Monteith comprise this committee.

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to create the committee as presented. Ann Mallek seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 40:37)

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Gorjan Gjorgjievski gave a background on the SS4A program. He proceeded with the process overview that consist of identifying issues and opportunities, establishing priorities, developing strategies, and plan development and review. The project is set to be completed in Spring, 2025.

He described their ongoing work with surveys, pop-up events, virtual public meetings, and Charlottesville initiatives. He reported that the survey results find that driver behavior is a concern along with just under half of the respondents stating there is a need for additional sidewalks and/or bike lanes.

Mr. Gjorgjievski defined their High Injury Network (HIN) Methodology and options. He continued by presenting the plan development engagement they are currently using which includes collecting and analyzing data, visiting sites and developing countermeasures, prioritizing strategies and projects, and drafting and reviewing the safety action plan.

He presented the survey response highlights in both Charlottesville and Albemarle.

Mr. Gjorgjievski thanked the Board's support of the project and the process. Without it, the project would not have been successful.

5310 DRPT Grant
Ms. Shannon noted that this grant application is for the Mobility Management (PATH) program. It is a yearly application to continue funding for the program. It is also required that TJPDC notify the MPO that there is an application being submitted for the 5310 funds. She is requesting a letter of support from the Board today.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek moved for adoption of the resolution and the letter of support. Natalie Oschrin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Dates & Meeting Schedule
Ms. Jacobs noted that the next meeting date is February 26, 2025 in person from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Water Street Center in Charlottesville, VA. There will be a schedule of meeting dates presented at the February meeting.

7. VDOT UPDATES ON PROJECTS (MINUTE 1:07:17)

MPO Smart Scale Projects
Chuck Proctor said VDOT is wrapping up scoring of the Smart Scale projects. The ranking and scores will be presented at the CTB meeting in January.

STARS and Pipeline Studies Update
Mr. Proctor said there have been three STARS study kick-off meetings. The meeting have been about the Main/Ridge/Ater Streets intersection and the other is on the US29 Corridor from Barracks Road to Woodbrook. The corridor study is actually two projects, one in the City and one in the County, including the interchange at the 250 bypass. They are currently reviewing the framework document that will be sent out for signatures, and then the study will be implemented.

Regarding the Pipeline, there are a couple of areas in the region they are looking at. The first is the Exit 188 interchange, and the other is the 5th Street interchange up to 5th Street Station Parkway. He said VDOT met with the CTB on those locations and the CTB must vote on them. Once they are approved, VDOT will start those studies.

8. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:12:30)

CTAC – Lee Kondor had nothing to report.

DRPT – Mitch Huber said Tiffany Robinson is the new DRPT Director. He said the pre-application webinar for the 5310 grant process is on their website. He said their grant application cycle opened on December 1 and closes on February 1. Please reach out if there are any comments, questions, or concerns on that. He noted that agencies interested in a 5310 grant needed to submit a letter of intent no later than the end of the year. He also said if any MPOs need to extend their FY24 5303 contract to let DRPT know because they all expire at the end of the year. Lastly, he said the Commonwealth received three Consolidated Rail Infrastructure (CRISI) grants and one of them is related to Charlottesville, namely the Buckingham Branch tie preplacement program for $6 million.

Jaunt – Jason Espie said Jaunt represented the results of the rural transit needs assessment study and the micro-transit feasibility study at the most recent Regional Transit Partnership meeting. They are still working on the results of the electric vehicle implementation study as well, which they are hoping to complete by the end of the calendar year. He said they are working with TJPDC and PATH. He said they are also working on submitting grant applications as well.

UVA - Julia Monteith did not have any updates.

Albemarle County – Jessica Hersh-Ballering said the Albemarle County Board should expect to see a resolution of support on their January 15th agenda to support the Rivanna River Bridge RAISE application.

VDOT – Sean Nelson said the Hydraulic bundle is substantially complete. They are continuing to construct the pedestrian bridge with a hopeful deadline of next Fall. He said the next phase of construction in Albemarle is the 240/250 roundabout. Acquisitions will begin in mid-January and start contacting landowners in February, but utility work will start at the beginning of the year through March, with construction starting sometime in March or April. They are hoping to finish all the elements of that bundle by the Fall of 2027.

He continued by sharing that they are working on the procurement on the Fontaine interchange, the Fontaine streetscape, and the District Avenue roundabout bundle. VDOT is hoping to have public hearing on that bundle in March or April. The goal is to have that project awarded by December of next year (2025).

City of Charlottesville – There was no report from Charlottesville.

FHWA – No report.

9. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:21:16)

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Committee materials and meeting recording may be found at
https://campo.tjpdc.org/committees/policy-board/