

MPO Policy Board Meeting

Minutes, June 25, 2025

DRAFT

A video of this meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eD-WVaJA1bQ&t=337s>

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	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Jason Espie, Jaunt *	x	Peter Krebs, Piedmont Environmental Council	x
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x	Tonya Schwazendruber, Albemarle County	x
Julia Monteith, UVA	x	Ben Chambers, City of Charlottesville	x
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Sean Tubbs *	x
Steven Minor FHWA		Zoë McComber	x
Daniel Koenig, FTA		Jen Fleischer	x
Sarah Medley, CTAC	x	Bruce White, CAT	x
Chuck Proctor, VDOT			
Mitch Huber, DRPT *	x		
Mike Murphy, Jaunt			
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT	x		
Wood Hudson DRPT (alternate) *	x		

* attended online via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER (MINUTE 6:33)

The MPO Policy Board Chair, Ned Gallaway, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Gorjan Gjorgjievski called roll.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE

Comments from the Public: Paul Grady, citizen just outside of Crozet. He said he is stunned that the Kroger is closing its Hydraulic Road store. He was hoping Kroger would become a partner in extending Hillsdale Drive south to Holiday Drive. He said that connection has to be made. He gives a 1-1/2 thumbs up to the diverging diamond at I-64 on Pantops. The only criticism he has is that the traffic lights are not well-coordinated with the rest of Richmond Road. He continued by saying the lights on Long Street aren't well-coordinated either.

He said regarding the roundabout at Hydraulic and Hillsdale, he gives that 1-1/2 thumbs up. He has noticed people changing lanes in the roundabout and he says there should be some signage to discourage that.



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

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Lastly, regarding the extension of the left turn lane on the 250 bypass and Hydraulic Road is still only half as long as it needs to be.

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

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 9:46)

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of April 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to approve the minutes. Natalie Oschrein seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS (MINUTE 10:30)

Travel Demand Management (TDM) Study

Taylor Jenkins presented the board with the background of the TDM study to be completed by the MPO staff, and not by consultant. She reiterated that prior to the start of the new FY, it would be good for the board to ensure the scope capture regional needs and provide their feedback on the scope of work provided. She presented three similar study examples staff have reviewed. She continued by giving an overview of the Tasks that will be undertaken for the study during the MPO FY26 UPWP.

Ms. Mallek suggested that staff look at Strava data. It was also noted that the SS4A grant, if awarded, will benefit from the information gathered with this study.

Ms. Oschrein noted it might be beneficial to ask “would you prefer to live closer to where you work” to collect that data point; stating the fact that housing is still a cause that could be pushing people away while they may still need to communicate to and from the MPO area. She suggested to consider an additional layer if the study to understand the connection between housing and transportation.

Ms. Medley said it is important to find on-demand services for those who need transit/transportation in emergency, i.e., Guaranteed Ride Home program through Rideshare, based on the University transportation model.

Ms. Jacobs said this study is a learning opportunity to garner information about the area and how best to use that information for future decisions while building that capability.

Ms. Monteith asked for clarification on the purpose of the three selected study? Ms. Jenkins stated that the preselected examples were simply serving as a guide for a methodology for MPO staff to consider, and not to shape the scope of work or replicate the same thing.

A board member asked for clarification on StreetLight and how the data collected from this platform could help inform decisions in the MPO area. Ms. Jenkins responded and reiterated that this GPS based cellphone data source, a tool that provides VDOT and its partners with statewide access to transportation data. There are other data sources that will be considered by the MPO as well.

Another and final scope of work will be brought to the Policy Board at their next meeting for review and final feedback to the MPO Policy Board member at their next meeting on August 27, 2025.

Charlottesville Area Transit FTA Low or No Emission Project

Garland Williams gave an introduction about their capital spending projections. He said \$1.1 billion of federal funding is for the No or Low Emissions grant.

Bruce White, Senior Project Manager with Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT), said they have been working on three projects for the past year. The first is with Kimley-Horn, and they produced a feasibility study. The next project was done by Wendel, and they did a site evaluation. The third was the transition plan using both of the preceding projects.

He presented the board with the existing CAT site. It is only about 15 years old, but the infrastructure does not support battery electric- or hydrogen-powered vehicles. They looked at retrofitting the site, but the cost was going to be \$15-20 million. It is more economical to start fresh. That also allows for phasing in the vehicles as they become available.

He said there is a three-acre lot sitting next to their current six-acre facility, which the City owns. There is also a four-acre lot next to the three-acre lot that they are hoping to purchase in the future in order to expand the way they need to.

He continued showing the infrastructure and the need for parking for the additional buses needed to meet the route demands. He shared the conceptual site plan from Wendel.

He said the costs are mainly associated with a new maintenance facility. He presented the assumptions for the capital costs summary and the projected costs (~\$37 million) with a five percent inflated cost accounted for. He said the request they will ask for is \$39.9 million. CAT wanted to be sure to include increases in construction costs, supply chain issues, inflation, etc. There is a local match request for 80/20. Mr. Williams said CAT has already saved a portion of their match.

Mr. White continued with the explanation of the NEPA process (the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970). It is required by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to use federal funds for the project. He described the five focus areas (hazardous materials, traffic analysis, cultural resources, noise and vibration, and natural resources) and noted that CAT is approximately 60% through the requirements of NEPA.

Mr. White said CAT is trying for a "Categorical Exclusion" (CE) submission.

He continued with the battery electric bus (BEB) pilot charging infrastructure site explanation. He said CAT has two BEBs on order and are expecting them in June of 2026. Mr. Williams said they got approved of two additional BEBs.

There was a discussion about using solar in this project and there are designs for solar as electricity generation source. This could be a possibility to consider. The new maintenance facility is the focus of this request, based on the financial report provided by Kimly Horn. No or greater impact is expected long term as of now. Considering the school and transit buses location today.

The grant prioritizes families and children—this is FTA money throughout. The money will come from USDOT through —these funds cannot be used for school buses even if we wanted to do so regionally.

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve a resolution of support for the grant application. Ann Mallek seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATIONAL

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), Regional Move Safely Blue Ridge (Minute 1:06:05)

Gorjan Gjorgjievski presented the board with the background of SS4A. He noted that both the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle have adopted resolutions to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries by half by 2045, and the City of Charlottesville said the goal is to eliminate fatalities by 2045.

He reviewed the planning process, the key methodology, High-Injury Network (HIN), the 4 “Es” of roadway safety, including engineering, education, enforcement and emergency response.

He continued with an overview of the three rounds of public engagement they employed.

He reviewed the proposed solutions that were devised through the study: spot improvements, systemic improvements, and policies and programs.

Lastly, he reviewed the next steps including funding opportunities through SS4A implementation funding, SMART SCALE, Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and revenue sharing. He said there could be an annual update of crash data on the Move Safely Blue Ridge website to monitor the progress towards the goals set.

CA-MPO CTAC Membership & Appointments (Minute 1:16:46)

Taylor Jenkins said the CTAC committee has two member terms that have expired, and one person has resigned. The Policy Board is the appointing body for that committee.

Ned Gallaway noted that the Albemarle representative asked what the point was for the committee if there is no long-range transportation plan formation underway. In the pre-agenda it was discussed to bring the knock on the door that will happen at the next MPO Policy Board. It was time to reconsider the charge of CTAC.

Sarah Medley said the committee recently reviewed the bylaws and there was a discussion about the purpose of the committee. Everyone is interested in being more active in regional planning and advising the Policy Board and Technical committees, but the bylaws do not provide for those opportunities. She said they have come up with some amendments to the bylaws and will present them to the Policy Board once they have completed those updates.

Mr. Gallaway said he would be willing to engage with the CTAC committee. The next meeting Policy Board is in August.

There was a discussion about the purpose of the committee.

How to engage with the public where they are. Ms. Mallek noted that perhaps staff go back and look at the committee’s engagement 15-20 years ago. (Pete Anderson, UVA Architect at the time, was on the committee.) She said she would be happy to engage with the committee as well. Taylor Jenkins said she would be the point person for that.

6. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:30:00)

TIP Administrative Modifications/Amendment

Gorjan Gjorgjievski said there have been two requests for adjustments. The first adjustment is #13 from DRPT and is a request to add funding to the FY25 in the amount of \$215K (\$34K will be State funds \$172K will be Federal funds and \$8K will be a local match).

The second adjustment is #14 from VDOT, preventative maintenance for bridges grouping to reflect the most recent changes of \$335K from SDBG funds from FY24 to FY25. This reflects the actual expenditure during the same period.

He continued stating the Amendment (12) adds a new TIP block for operating assistance which will aid in funding to the PATH program.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to approve amendment #12. Natalie Oschrein seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

FY26 UPWP Updated Allocations

Taylor Jenkins said the UPWP has been adopted with the anticipated updated allocations. Those allocations have been added to the UPWP and are available in your packet.

FY26 Calendar of Meetings/Proposed Meeting Dates

Taylor Jenkins said the MPO Tech committee will be changing their meetings to every other month on the first Tuesday from 10:am to 12:00pm. She proposed that the MPO Policy Board stay on the same schedule but change the time from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30. If changes need to be made to the time due to Council budgeting meetings, they will handle that when necessary.

7. VDOT UPDATES ON PROJECTS (MINUTE 1:36:40)

Sandy Shackelford said Smart Scale Round 7 is starting and there will be a substantive review of the project's performance submitted at the July CTB meeting. She said VDOT has completed the public feedback meeting on the Main/Ridge/South St intersection and there will be a second feedback meeting on the alternatives. A public meeting will take place in early August and will be followed by another survey to collect data on the proposed alternatives.

She said regarding the combined US29 study between Barracks Road and Woodbrook, the public survey had over 2000 responses, and she noted there has been a kick-off meeting for the transit component of that study. She said the existing conditions report will be completed in early August.

She continued by stating that VDOT wrapped up the two surveys for the pipeline projects (5th Street Diverging Diamond at the I-64 Interchange and US29 at I-64 Exit 118 interchange) with 700+ responses on the DDI and 450 responses on the Exit 118 survey. She said VDOT will be working on evaluating the data received in the coming month.

An evaluation of the pipeline projects alternative will be starting next month, September 2025. There was a brief discussion about any changes to the Smart Scale scoring.

8. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:44:30)

Jason Espie reported that Jaunt is currently developing its communications and marketing plan. He said CTB approved Jaunt's applications for facilities and parking lot upgrades, and microtransit, and ADA Greene County pilot, as well as a full-scheduling dispatch software transition. He said they also engaged in a community survey starting on June 2 and will conclude on July 2. He thanked everyone for spreading the word and to please

continue to do so. He said Jaunt will share the results of the survey with their Board first and then will make presentations to other public bodies.

Mitch Huber said the Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) has been adopted and is available on the DRPT website. He said DRPT has been hosting NTI courses online. The Public Involvement in Transportation Decision Making available from July 8-10, available at Roanoke Community College. There is also the State and Metropolitan Transportation on September 15-16 at Plan RVA. He stated that any planners interested in these can reach out to them for registration information. He shared that the information is also on their website.

Julia Monteith did not have any updates and noted that UVA is on their summer schedule.

Garland Williams said CAT will be giving an update to the City Council on July 21. CAT will be laying out their scenarios on the system optimization program and other programs during the 4:00 session of the meeting. He said they have some capital money to spend down on amenity projects, including bus stop at Midway Manor. He noted that there are three other capital projects in the City and five in the County. He said these projects have been much more expensive than they anticipated, so they had to ask for additional funding to make them possible. There was a discussion on providing bus shelters, and the necessity of ensuring compliance first.

Sarah Medley said there was a member of the public who came to the last meeting who expressed concern about pedestrian safety in the region.

Sean Nelson said there have been several public engagement meetings recently, including the Route 29 project and the Fontaine project. The Citizen Information week took place. He gave several construction project updates and start dates.

Ben Chambers said May was Bike month and was very successful. They worked with the County to promote the Better Business Challenge. www.BikeCville.com is now up and running online. The Quick Build program is being utilized throughout the City at 34 locations. He said there are an additional 33 locations they have identified for the future.

Tonya Swartzendruber said the County has kicked off the Three Notch'd Trail initiative. They are in the process of looking at alternatives for the future of that project. She said the County's bike/ped count looks very successful on the Free Bridge Lane closure. She also reported that the County is in the middle of their comprehensive plan and that the Transportation chapter was brought to the Board in May and they got good feedback.

Natalie Oschrein said if anyone wants to join the Bike/Ped Advisory Committee, they are going to a "bike and walk" to some of the quick build locations starting at 5:00 p.m. on July 3 outside of City Hall. She also shared that www.meetings.cvilledata.org is a website created to easily navigate if you want to watch public meetings for the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Greene County and the City of Harrisonburg.

9. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 2:04:52)

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

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