

MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes, August 20, 2024

A recording of this morning can be found here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Z-eRCN1fNc&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-eRCN1fNc&t=3s)

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Rory Stolzenberg, Cville PC	x	Sarah Simba, TJPDC	x
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Alb Co		Gorjan Gjorgjievski, TJPDC	x
Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle		Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Luis Carrazana, Albemarle PC	x		
Charles Proctor, VDOT *	x	NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x	Tony Cho FTA	
Jason Espie, Jaunt		Donna Chen, CTAC Liaison *	x
Bill Palmer, UVA Ofc of Architect*	x		
Wood Hudson, DRPT *	x	GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x	Peter Krebs, PEC	x
Steven Minor, FHWA *	x	Sean Tubbs *	x
Tommy Safranek, Charlottesville	x		
Garland Williams, CAT			
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT	x		
James Freas, Charlottesville			
Daniel Wagner, DRPT			

* attended online via Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Rory Stolzenberg called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Christine Jacobs called roll. Those online stated their reason for participating online.

Staffing Update – Christine Jacobs introduced Gorjan Gjorgjievski, lead staff member for MPO Tech, and Sarah Simba, lead staff member for both Policy Board and for CTAC, to the committee.

2. **MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 2:50)**

- a. **Comments by the Public:** Peter Krebs presented the committee with the joint mobility social to celebrate Waynesboro's new trail park with the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition and Piedmont Mobility alliance on Thursday, August 29 from 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. There will be a tour of Sunset Park from Waynesboro's Director of Planning. The Director will also be discussing



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

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assembling a large, landscaped park network in Waynesboro as well as shared-use path connecting Waynesboro to the Blue Ridge Tunnel and increasing access to the national park.

He also reported that the Mobility Alliance's next meeting is on September 30 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Water Street Center.

He continued by saying the Mobility Alliance is also going to be sponsoring "Easy Routes" which is a program that will help present a more simplified way to move across Charlottesville and Albemarle on foot or bicycle.

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

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Approval of June 18, 2024 Minutes (Minute 5:35)

Motion/Action: Ben Chambers made a motion to approve the minutes, Tommy Safranik seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers (Minute 6:00)

Ben Chambers accepted the nomination for the Chair and Alberic Karina-Plun agreed to the position of Vice Chair.

Motion/Action: Rory Stolzenberg made a motion to elect the two into their respective offices, Tommy Safranik seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ben Chambers took over the meeting as Chair.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Remote Electronic Participation and All-Virtual Meeting Policy (Minute 6:57)

Christine Jacobs explained the new regulations adopted by the General Assembly for remote participation and virtual meetings. She noted that once the MPO Policy Board adopts the policy next week, and as an advisory committee to the Policy Board, the MPO Tech committee will abide by that policy. There is no motion or action needed by MPO Tech at this time.

She explained the policy allows for 50% of the meetings to be virtual, but two virtual meetings may not be held back-to-back. If the meeting is all virtual, there is no requirement for an in-person quorum. All meetings must be posted publicly whether it is in person or all virtual. When the all-virtual meeting is in session, the members must have his/her camera and sound on to consider the member as "present." If a member leaves the camera or turns it off, they will be considered "absent" during that time, which may affect quorum, and that person will not be allowed to vote.

She also noted that the policy must be adopted every year.

There was a brief discussion about the pros and cons of virtual meetings. Ms. Jacobs said she would work directly with the Chair to determine a schedule for all-virtual meetings.

Rory Stolzenberg noted that the members online were not yet allowed to join virtually. Wood Hudson said he was joining from Richmond, Virginia, which is 60 miles from the meeting location. Chuck Proctor said he was in his office in Culpeper which is 60 miles from the meeting location, but noted that Sandy Shackelford is there in person as the VDOT representative. Bill Palmer noted that he is sick and didn't want to expose the group.

Motion/Action: Christine Jacobs made a motion that they be allowed to participate in the meeting. Ben Chambers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

TIP Adjustment (Minute 13:06)

Lucinda Shannon explained the TIP adjustments for FY25. There were adjustments for CAT transit changing the numbers from budgetary to actual amounts for both operating and capital expenditures. There was also an adjustment adding FTA funding to DRPT's FY24 budget for the Mobility Management program. She noted that these are administrative adjustments and no action is necessary.

Federal Functional Classification Recommendation (Minute 14:28)

Ms. Jacobs reviewed the statewide update that VDOT has underway for the federal functional classifications for roadways which occurs after the census. These new recommendations were shared to the MPO in May and stakeholders had until June to make comments. The MPO committees, TJPDC staff and staff from local jurisdictions shared their thoughts and sent them to VDOT who consolidated them and sent them to FHWA. She reported that the final recommendations will be ready in September 2024.

She continued saying that there is a recommended resolution in the packet with a suggested revision attached for the committee to consider. She said that because there are changes being suggested to the resolution, she didn't want to have a resolution approved without the changes being considered by FHWA. She noted that other MPOs want to wait for a final map from FHWA before they vote to approve the classification recommendations.

Sandy Shackelford said she is looking to central office for clarification on how they are going to handle reviewing the revisions and feedback received, and the deadline for MPOs.

Motion/Action: Luis made a motion to recommend that the MPO Policy Board defer a decision on the resolution approving the proposed updates to the FFC until a thorough review by VDOT and FHWA occurs, and a final revised map is available for consideration and final approval. Jason Espie seconded. Motion passed with Sandy Shackelford abstaining.

VDOT Project Updates (Minute 20:36)

Charles Proctor presented the committee with updates from VDOT's pipeline and Smart Scale projects. He started with the Ivy Road Corridor Study and identified needs. He reviewed the Ivy Road Corridor preferred scenario. Ms. Jacobs said she would forward the shared slide with the committee after receiving it this morning.

M.s Proctor also resented the potential long-term western, middle and eastern corridor scenarios. He noted that those will be included for future consideration. Lastly, he reviewed the next steps for the Ivy Corridor improvements. There was a discussion to get clarity on these projects.

He continued by reviewing the CAMPO Smart Scale Round 6 project list, starting with 5th Street/I-64 intersection improvements and the two parts of the projects US250 at Pantops. It was noted that the cost for the Pantops improvements is estimated at \$36 million.

He continued with the Barracks Road corridor improvement. He noted that the project was estimated at just over \$129 million.

It was noted that cost estimates are given after the fact, and VDOT may try to work on that in the future. There was a concern voiced by Ben Chambers that having the estimate ahead of submitting the project(s) may change what projects are submitted in the future.

Ms. Jacobs noted that VDOT would probably not go through the project estimating if it is not a priority to submit. Mr. Proctor noted that the Barracks Road modeling and estimating cost nearly \$300k.

Mr. Proctor noted that at pre-application time, there is a rough estimate given so the localities can determine if they want to move forward, but final estimate would not available until after the project has been submitted as a priority project.

Mr. Proctor shared that the Barracks Road interchange improvements at Emmet Street are estimated to cost \$92.5 million.

There was a conversation about the cost of portioning out the pieces of the project.

He continued by reviewing the US250 at Old Trail/WAHS intersection improvement. The cost estimate is \$16.7 million.

He reviewed the Rio Road-Hillsdale/Old Brook Road intersection improvements. He noted that the estimate is under review.

Mr. Proctor continued with the Albemarle County improvements at Barracks Road. The cost estimate is \$37.6 million.

He noted that everyone who has submitted applications have seen an escalation in cost.

He went on to receive the US29/Plank Road intersection improvement. The cost estimate is still under review.

Tommy Safranek left the meeting.

There was additional discussion about some of the projects.

5. STAFF UPDATES

SS4A Update (Minute 1:14:00)

Gorjan Gjorgievski gave a brief background of the project. He noted that it is a regional project that covers the entirety of Region 10. He also presented the processes and action items of the project to date. Mr. Gjorgievski reported that the comprehensive safety action plan is the last step in the process. He said he would be happy to present the committee with a more formal presentation in the future.

December Meeting Date/Time (Minute 1:17:05)

Ms. Jacobs noted that the regular meeting time for this committee in December falls on Christmas day. She recommended that the meeting be moved to earlier in the month (December 10) and that it be a virtual meeting. It was noted that there may be a conflict with the date suggested. Ms. Jacobs said she will discuss the meeting date with the Policy Board and ask that the MPO Tech committee follow suit with what they decide.

7. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:20:31)

Charlottesville

Ben Chambers said the City is going after a SS4A demonstration grant for state and local roads. He said the City would put up an 80/20 match to determine traffic calming interventions.

He also noted that Loop de Cville is upcoming on September 28. There will be celebration after the walk. The rain date is September 29.

Albemarle

There was no report.

Rideshare

Sara Pennington said she is wrapping up the past fiscal year and starting the new one. She reported that she returned from the ACT conference and reported on the sessions she attended and knowledge she gained from that experience.

She said work on the Commuter Assistance Plan (CAP) Strategic Plan continues and reported that it will be finished in the next couple of months. She said due to some funding issues, their deadline has been extended through the end of the year to get that completed.

DRPT is kicking off a campaign for Connecting Communities starting on September 1. It will mostly focus on transit. She said it ties in nicely with the anniversary of the Afton Express.

VDOT

Ms. Shackelford and Mr. Proctor noted that there was nothing more to add. Chuck Proctor said this Fall they will begin a TAP and revenue share outreach to see if the jurisdictions need any assistance with it.

DRPT

Wood Hudson shared to grant opportunities. The first is a railroad crossing elimination program NOFO (notice of funding opportunity) grant. Applications for that are due September 23.

The second opportunity he mentioned is the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Planning grant. He said there is more than \$600 million available for capital construction and community planning grants. Applications due Sept 30 for this grant. He noted that USDOT is offering grant writing clinics and having office hours if you need help.

FHWA

There was no report.

FTA

There was no report.

CAT

Ben Chambers said there are no updates.

Jaunt

Jason Espie said Jaunt is wrapping up their three studies. He said he would like to present the Rural Transit Needs Assessment study to the RTP and perhaps at this committee. Ms. Pennington said the Rural Tech Advisory committee would be interested in hearing the presentation as well.

UVA

Bill Palmer said school is in session next week, so the bus schedule will be back to normal. He noted that there is now a scramble crossing at JPA and Brandon Avenue.

Ms. Palmer noted that there will be two new upper-class housing buildings opening on Brandon next week, so the population will be at approximately 1,000 students.

8. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:30:24)

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Chambers adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.