

MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes, October 15, 2024

A recording of this morning can be found here:

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

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	x	Gorjan Gjorgjievski, TJPDC	x
Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Luis Carrazana, Albemarle PC	x	Ruth Emerick, TJPDC	x
Charles Proctor, VDOT *	x	NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC		Tony Cho FTA	
Jason Espie, Jaunt	x	Donna Chen, CTAC Liaison *	x
Bill Palmer, UVA Ofc of Architect	x		
Wood Hudson, DRPT		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x	Peter Krebs, PEC	x
Steven Minor, FHWA		Sean Tubbs *	x
Tommy Safranek, Charlottesville	x	Mitch Huber, DRPT *	x
Garland Williams, CAT			
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT	x		
Kellie Brown, Charlottesville			
Daniel Wagner, DRPT			

* attended online via Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Ben Chambers called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Gorjan Gjorgjievski called roll. Those online stated their reason for participating online.

Chuck Proctor stated that he is outside of the 60 miles radius from the meeting and is joining virtually.

Mitch Huber stated that he is outside of the 60 miles radius from the meeting and is joining virtually.

2. **MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 2:58)**

- a. **Comments by the Public:** Bill Emory, citizen from the Wollen Mills neighborhood, said he has been in correspondence with Ben Chambers and Sarah Simba re: the FFC and traffic calming in the neighborhoods. He said in 1988, the folks in Woolen Mills have been in correspondence with Charlottesville City councilors re: traffic calming in the neighborhood. He said they were



somewhat caught unaware about reclassifying Market Street and Chesapeake Street and minor collectors. He was hoping to get additional information about the reclassification. He said he would like to get a map of the city street with an overlay of planning districts by color code and a copy of the forum that Mr. Chambers submitted to the MPO. He said he is alarmed and concerned because he said the Streets that Work program has been totally absent and he is surprised and wants to be reassured that they are being informed of the potential consequences about streets being reclassified.

Peter Krebs said there has been good progress on bike/ped projects of City and County interest for a long time and then about three years ago, that progress seems to have stopped. He said there are four that are high priority, and he hopes will continue, and they include the Rivanna River Ped Bridge, Rt 20 shared use path, potential tunnel on John Warner Parkway, and a fairly new project of Moore's Creek Parkway at 5th Street at Old Lynchburg Road. When Smart Scale made it hard to do bike/ped projects, the emphasis on those projects waned. He said to please not lose track of the bike/ped projects especially at the City/County lines. He said some of the projects he mentioned cost much less than the current Barracks Road project. He asked the committee to not lose track of ways to work together and the benefits of those projects and work together to solve those problems.

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

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 9:05)

Agenda

Motion/Action: Luis made a motion to accept the agenda. Tommy Sefranik seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of August 20, 2024 Minutes

Motion/Action: Luis Carazana made a motion to approve the minutes, Tommy Safranik seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with Jessica Hersh-Ballering abstaining.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Federal Functional Classification (FFC) Recommendation (Minute 9:52)

Gorjan Gjorgjievski gave a background of the decision of the MPO Policy Board re: making recommendations for FFC. The Policy Board moved to postpone the approval of the resolution of support until after suggested additional revisions to the original proposed draft map. VDOT and TMPD reviewed the suggested revisions and incorporated most of them. The resolution of support was presented to the committee for recommendation of approval to the Policy Board.

Rory Stolzenberg suggested that there be discussion about the reclassifications. Mr. Gjorgjievski gave a background on what the new classifications may mean for the City and County.

It was noted that the City and County have some changes from what the government has proposed. There was a discussion about some of the changes.

Motion/Action: Alberic Karina-Plun made a motion to recommend that the Policy Board approve the resolution of support. Tommy Safranek seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VDOT Project Updates (Minute 19:20)

Charles Proctor presented the committee with updates from VDOT's pipeline and Smart Scale projects. He started with detailing 5th Street cost estimates of \$79 million for the proposed diverging diamond interchange (DDI) at interstate 64, Exit 120 & 5th Street.

He gave a detailed background of the application development process for this project. He said they identified needing a new bridge in June/July and that pushed the cost estimate well above what was expected. There were other modifications that were made to its final version because there were some portions of the project that were forgotten initially.

He made the comparison of the same project between Smart Scale Round 5 and Round 6. He noted that the average cost of all projects has gone up due mostly to inflation.

He said the next steps will be to wait on the Smart Scale award announcements and if it is not funded, VDOT can reevaluate other alternatives to make it more competitive or to consider it as a pipeline study in the future.

It was noted that the bridge is rated a 6/10 and once it goes under a "6", then it would be considered for a rebuild. He discussed the details of the bridge and what might need to be replaced. There was continued conversation about alternatives for the project. Mr. Proctor noted that if the bridge did not have to be replaced and there was a bike/ped bridge installed instead, that may help with the costs in the future.

There was continued discussion about the project and Ms. Hersh-Ballering summarized by saying Cheaper to separate the shared use path with an additional structure and make minor changes to the median on the current bridge.

Mr. Proctor noted that the \$20 million mark was the optimal level for what projects got funded in the last round.

He said they are already considering the project for their pipeline study.

He continued by giving an update on the Ivy Corridor by sharing the preferred scenario and continued with longer-term scenarios for the western, middle, and eastern sections for the City and County to consider in the future. He said VDOT is reviewing the analysis for the Eastern underpass scenario to ensure it will not overly impact travel on Business Rt 250 to validate the preferred solution. They will then develop a planning level cost estimate for the preferred scenarios and then compile the final report.

(1:10:54) Mr. Proctor presented the STARS and Pipeline studies regarding location and the process for both. STARS stands for Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions. He said the pipeline is

identifying locations right now. He showed a comparison of both programs (STARS vs. Pipeline) and how they differ. Mr. Proctor noted that the pipeline process came out of the STARS process. The pipeline deals with the highest priority needs of VTRANS and Mr. Proctor noted that there are several different phases. With STARS, there is a scope phase that turns into the study phase. Pipeline does preliminary “stuff” with public feedback, Phase II is when you are doing your alternative feedback and create preferred alternative scenario, and Phase III is finalizing the preferred scenario and developing cost estimates. There is a little more flexibility with what you can do with STARS vs Pipeline.

He continued by presenting the STARS study locations including Emmet St/US 29 between Barracks Rd and Hydraulic Rd, including the 250 interchange; US 29 between Hydraulic Rd and Woodbrook Dr; and W. Main/Ridge McIntire/W Water St/South Street intersection. There was discussion about the locations chosen for the STARS Study.

He continued with project pipeline proposed locations including 5th Street with further analysis on 5th St/I-64 DDI including a re-examination of the 5th St/5th Street Station intersection, and US29 at the I-64 Exit 118 interchange.

There was a discussion about these locations and the purpose for continuing in that direction and how to best coordinate funding.

5. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:44:45)

SS4A Update

Gorjan Gjorgjievski reported that during September, he said there were six site visits for Move Safely Blue Ridge. The next step is public engagement for round two to get feedback for potential solutions. That will start in November. There is a working group member meeting on Thursday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. via zoom. It was also noted that there will also be a charette in November or December.

December Meeting Date/Time

Mr. Gjorgjievski noted that the December meeting will be held on December 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Water Street Center. The date changed from its regularly scheduled day because the December date would fall on Christmas day.

7. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:47:25)

Charlottesville

Ben Chambers said the City Council’s commitment is to eliminate deaths on the streets by 2045. There was a pedestrian fatality within the last couple of weeks. Something needs to be done quickly to increase safety and add traffic calming. They need to have conversations with their departments with large vehicles. He said the City’s design speeds need to be re-evaluated and lowered in many places. He said Tommy Safranik is trying to design sidewalks and putting in protective bike lanes on West Main Street. They are also working on 5th Street with VDOT, including the intersection of 5th Street Station and Harris Road. They are also working on Safe Routes to School. They put down a new sidewalk on Azalea Drive and a bus stop. He said they are working on rolling out e-bike subsidies next month with a lottery system. It will be a voucher system and not a rebate system. He said they are

working on improving transit in the region, including working on helping to set up a Regional Transit Authority.

Tommy said they got 300 people to bike and walk during Loop de Ville. They had their monthly walk through in the Venable neighborhood. There will be another walk next month in the BRSC and Lewis Mountain neighborhoods around UVA.

Albemarle

Alberic Karina-Plun said there was a webinar for CAA as a follow-up to the walk audit they had in June. He said there will be a panel discussion on October 30 on ways to improve infrastructure.

Jessica Hersh-Ballering said the webinars are open to anyone. She will be sure to send the info to staff to share with others. She said there will be a year-long Free Bridge Lane pilot program kick off for the share use path soon. She said information will go out by the end of this week regarding the kick-off date.

She said they are close to announcing their consultant for the Three Notch'd Trail project.

Rideshare

Sara Pennington said they will be getting a draft of the CAP Strategic Plan sometime in October and will be reviewing that soon. It will be shared once it has been reviewed. She said Rideshare is also participating in Connecting VA in October in which new commuters in the program get entered in a special drawing. This program is a bigger part of the Connecting Communities campaigns.

VDOT

Ms. Shackelford had no other updates.

DRPT

Mitch Huber sent his updates to Mr. Gjorgjievski. They are attached.

FHWA

There was no report.

FTA

There was no report.

CAT

Ben Chambers said CAT is going to be updating their schedules in the beginning of November. They will be wrapping up their zero-emissions transition plan sometime around February.

Jaunt

Jason Espie said Jaunt's three studies are starting to be rolled out. The Rural Transit Needs Assessment will be briefed at the Rural Tech Committee this afternoon. The micro-transit study will be rolled out on December 12. There is a bus electrification fleet study that is in its final phases and will be wrapped up in the early part of 2025.

UVA

Bill Palmer said there is ongoing construction along the Ivy Corridor and Fontaine. There is a new access drive on the Leonard Sandridge Drive to help alleviate traffic on Old Ivy Road.

8. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 2:04:46)

Bill Emory said in the past Free Bridge Lane would have been federally functionally classified as a minor arterial road. Everyone from Rt 20 going south would use Free Bridge Lane to access 250. He said the County ultimately took care of that with blockades, but that is what he would call an inappropriate use of a local road being used as a minor arterial. He said he has trouble with the quantification of roads instead of planning and considering the quality of the road and the community in which it is placed.

He noted in 1989, the Commonwealth Transportation Board defined residential cut-through traffic as passing through a residential area and stopping with at least one trip ending in that area. Traffic would be better served in a local street system intended for through-traffic which for various reasons is used for residential street traffic.

He said when trains pass over Carlton Avenue, he said it affects the streets in the neighborhood with overflow traffic. He said he knows the committee was told in May about the reclassifications and stakeholders were alerted in June and indicated that he had hoped that neighborhoods would be considered stakeholders in the future. He asked the committee to please educate the public better about these types of things that affect them directly.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Chambers adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

DRPT AGENCY UPDATE – OCTOBER 2024

DRPT Connects Communities Campaign

The “DRPT Connects Communities” initiative aims to enhance and promote the benefits of local transit agencies across VA. The campaign is focused on increasing awareness and usage of public transportation options, highlighting their role in creating connected and thriving communities!

Key messages

- Enhancing connectivity
- Economic benefits
- Accessibility
- Sustainability

Partner Toolkit: Customizable ads available for partners - password for marketing toolkit is CC24.

Upcoming TSDAC Meeting on 10/8/24

DRPT will host an upcoming meeting of the Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC).

Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Time: 10:00am

Location: Virtual Only

You may register your attendance [here](#). DRPT will place all meeting materials on its [website](#) prior to the meeting date.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact [Jayla Parker](#).

FY26 Grant Application Workshop

DRPT will host our annual grant application workshop on November 13th at 11am. Additional details and registration will be released closer to the event.

TDP/TSP Agency Feedback Survey

DRPT is engaging all our transit agencies on their most recent TDP/TSP development process. From the collaboration to the usefulness of individual chapters, DRPT is seeking to enhance our planning requirements for our agencies. To take the survey you can follow the link here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TDP-TSPfeedback>

