

### MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes, February 18, 2025

A recording of this meeting can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3kkPr7D9so>

| 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     |   |
| Lonnie Murray, Albemarle PC       | x | Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC      | x |
| Charles Proctor, VDOT *           | x | <b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS</b>  |   |
| Christine Jacobs, TJPDC           | x | Tony Cho FTA               |   |
| Jason Espie, Jaunt                | x | Donna Chen, CTAC Liaison   |   |
| Bill Palmer, UVA Ofc of Architect | x |                            |   |
| Mitch Huber, DRPT *               | x | <b>GUESTS/PUBLIC</b>       |   |
| Sara Pennington, Rideshare        | x | Sean Tubbs *               | x |
| Steven Minor, FHWA                |   | Dr. Michael Fontaine, VDOT | x |
| Tommy Safranek, Charlottesville*  | 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 10:10 a.m.

Gorjan Gjorgjievski introduced TJPDC's new Director of Transportation, Taylor Jenkins, to the committee, and she gave a brief background on her experience and time at TJPDC to date.

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. He noted Sandy Shackelford is representing VDOT in-person at this meeting.

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



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

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Tommy Safranek noted that he had a work conflict.

**Motion/Action:** Alberic Karina-Plun moved to allow remote participation of members to participate virtually. Rory Stolzenberg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 4:19)**

a. **Comments by the Public:** None

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

**3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 4:27)**

Agenda

**Motion/Action:** Alberic Karina-Plun made a motion to accept the agenda. Lonnie Murray seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of December, 2024 Minutes

**Motion/Action:** Alberic Karina-Plun made a motion to approve the minutes, Jason Espie seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with Lonnie Murray abstaining.

**4. NEW BUSINESS (MINUTE 5:14)**

FY26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Taylor Jenkins gave background on the UPWP and covered the FY26 work program funding. She gave a review of the administrative changes in the FY26 UPWP. There were some line-item subtasks removed to align with similar practices of other MPO's to reduce administrative burden and increase the percentage of the work program budget.

She also reported that there will be some name changes in the FY26 budget.

She covered several subtasks that will be changed in the FY26 UPWP, including (see video for Task 1 and 2), Short Range Transportation Planning and Local, State, and Federal Agency Assistance.

Ms. Jenkins continues with the next steps and approval timeline including the initial draft provided to the numerous MPO committees with the final draft presented sometime in May, 2025.

Sandy Shackelford requested a reminder a few days before the deadline for the comments requested.

Updated Title IV Plan

Sarah Simba gave a background on Title IV. TJPDC created a revised plan and has made the plan available to the public for comments until February 24, 2024. The MPO Policy Board will review the plan at their meeting next week for approval.

It was noted that all the appendices were added with no changes within the document itself.

**Motion/Action:** Jessica Hersh-Ballering made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board to adopt the Title IV implementation plan as presented, Lonnie Murray seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. INFORMATIONAL (MINUTE 27:26)**

### Innovation and Technology Transportation Fund (ITTF)

Dr. Michael Fontaine, Associate Director, Virginia Transportation Research Council, presented the committee with the Smart Intersection Project for Albemarle County. He defined what a smart intersection is: lidar, machine vision, and radar detection systems that can identify safety concerns in real time. There is a potential to identify safety concerns (near misses) before crashes happen, interact with signal controllers to improve safety and operations, and enable future connected vehicle applications.

He reported that the ITTF was established by the General Assembly to fund pilot projects. There were two phases with technology testing and then expansion to more intersections. He noted that Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) is the contractor for the project (PIs: Mike Mollenhauer, Reg Viray).

He continued by presenting results of smart intersections in Fairfax County. He said they compared against approximately 2 weeks of manually-counted data. He noted that lidar significantly undercounted traffic, especially during the rain; Video B system had more reliability issues, but tracked counts well; Video C system overcounted, but results were more consistent for vehicles, and bike/ped counts had larger errors for videos systems but noted that there were small sample sizes.

Dr. Fontaine said the two systems produced automated safety analyses with human verification of a subset of flagged events. Lidar system results showed significant discrepancies, and video-based system showed good performance, but engineering judgement still needed to interpret the results appropriately.

He continued with Phase Two. There will be four smart intersections in Montgomery County and four in Albemarle County intersections. The intersections in Albemarle include Alderman/McCormick, Hydraulic/Lambs, Ivy/Old Ivy (may change), and US29/Rio Overpass. He said the Albemarle sites will use video-based system that performed well in Phase One.

The difference with the Culpeper District intersections is that there will be an ability to interact with traffic signal controllers. He noted that there will also be cybersecurity on these systems.

Dr. Fontaine noted that they are currently working on procurement and installation through June 2025. The evaluation and assessment will be from July 2025 through January 2026. At the end of the assessment by VTTI, the transition/handover will be by June 2026.

Dr. Fontaine said that VDOT does not currently keep the videos. There will be an opportunity to share the summary data with those who are interested.

There was an extended question and answer session after the presentation.

## **5. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:05:37)**

### **SS4A Update**

Gorjan Gjorgjievski gave a background on the Move Safely Blue Ridge study and the actions taken to date. He noted that there will be a Charlottesville safety demonstration on February 25 at the Burnley Moran Elementary School. There will be three implementation projects for folks to choose from at that demonstration. He said they are starting on the comprehensive safety action plan and will be meeting with each of the jurisdiction to make certain the plans meet the jurisdictions' needs.

### **Next CA-MPO Tech Meeting**

Mr. Gjorgjievski noted that the next meeting will be on April 15 from 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

### **First CARTA Meeting**

Mr. Gjorgjievski noted that the first meeting for the Charlottesville Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) will be on February 20, 2025 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 1 of the TJPDC offices located at 401 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.

## **6. VDOT PROJECT UPDATES (MINUTE 1:07:43)**

Chuck Proctor presented the committee with a Smart Scale recommendation review. He said there was a reduction in funding of \$1.6 million from construction and it was moved to maintenance. He presented a comparison of Culpeper District funding amounts among Smart Scale rounds 1 – 6 noting the differences and potential reasons for the variations.

He continued with the OIPI staff recommendation for the Culpeper District. He reported that the Culpeper District got a total of \$68 million. He noted that there is a list of seven projects in the District that needed to get extra funding (\$6.6 million) to meet their revised budgets that was taken from the \$68 million.

He said all the other projects on the list were not recommended, mainly due to cost (too much cost for the benefit of the project). He presented the initial scoring outcome observations. He noted that four out of 24 projects were recommended in the Culpeper District. He said changes in land use scoring contributed to lower scores for projects, as well as changes in economic development scoring methodology. He noted that changes to the HPP funding step process did not have an impact on the outcomes for Culpeper. He said changes to HPP eligibility reduced the number of eligible applications by 55% and increased the average project cost by 53%.

He presented the full district ranking list. He said Culpeper District scored better overall, however noting the Rio project scored lowest of all projects submitted.

He continued by providing next steps and answered several questions from the committee.

## STARS and Pipeline Studies – Update

### STARS

Mr. Proctor said there are two studies they are planning to undertake: the interchange at 250 Bypass and Emmet Street, and the other is US29 North of Hydraulic to Woodbrook in Albemarle County. He said VDOT is going to try to look at both studies together and see it as a whole corridor. He said once the funding is approved, they will be starting the study.

### Pipeline

He said the other two projects include the interchange project at Exit 118 and the growing issues with the southbound left-turn movement, and 5<sup>th</sup> Street interchange (from Harris Road south through the 5<sup>th</sup> St and I-64 interchange). He said those projects will be proved at the CTB March meeting.

## **7. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:21:40)**

### Charlottesville

Ben Chambers said last month he rolled out the strategy for the City for safer streets by presenting the information to the City Council. One of the projects he is working on is Move Safely Blue Ridge, meeting on February 20. They also are working with VDOT to do a two-directional bikeway on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

He said Tommy Safranek is handing out bike vouchers for \$1,000 to purchase an e-bike. He is also gearing up for Bike month in May.

Rory Stolzenberg said there is a Parks and Rec master plan presentation in March for a paved shared use path.

### Albemarle

Jessica said they are finally kicking off the Three Notch'd Trail master plan and there is a technical meeting upcoming. There will be a broader public engagement meeting in the future. This pilot program will last for about two years.

Alberic Karina-Plun said there will be a chapter of the comp plan that will be presented to the Council at their next meeting.

Lonnie Murray did not have anything more to report.

### Rideshare

Sara Pennington said she submitted the DRPT operating grant. She said they will wait on the six-year plan to see if there are any changes. She said she is waiting for the final draft of the CAP strategic plan. She said staff have been working on projects for Bike Month in May.

### VDOT

Ms. Shackelford said they are having an internal Smart Scale meeting next week. If there are potential changes for Round 7, it will come out in that meeting, and she will share them in the future as they become more definite.

### DRPT

Mitch Huber gave 5303 updates. He said FY26 funding opportunities are open until May 1. Virginia Breeze service set a record with a 9.2% increase in ridership. Mr. Huber said the grant application

cycle is closed, and updates will be forthcoming after their review. He noted that there is a dashboard on their website to show stats on the Virginia Breeze's lines and stops.

FHWA

There was no report.

FTA

There was no report.

CAT

Ben said they are in the process of hiring a transit planner.

Jaunt

Jason Espie said there was a Board retreat in January to identify priorities with another planned for March. He said software updates are at the top of the list. He also said they submitted grants to DRPT. They will be doing a ridership survey in the coming months.

UVA

Bill Palmer had nothing to report.

**8. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:42:28)**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Chambers adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.