

MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes, June 17, 2025

A recording of this morning can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9IqbTeM79o>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Rory Stolzenberg, Cville PC	x	Sarah Simba, TJPDC	x
Tonya Swartzendruber, Albemarle	x	Gorjan Gjorgjievski, TJPDC	x
Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Lonnie Murray, Albemarle PC	x	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
Charles Proctor, VDOT *	x	NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC		Daniel Keoning, FTA	
Jason Espie, Jaunt	x	Donna Chen, CTAC Liaison	
Bill Palmer, UVA Ofc of Architect	x		
Mitch Huber, DRPT *	x	GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x	Sean Tubbs *	x
Steven Minor, FHWA		Danielle McCray *	x
Tommy Safranek, Charlottesville	x		
Garland Williams, CAT	x		
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT	x		
Kellie Brown, Charlottesville			
Wood Hudson, DRPT			

* attended online via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Ben Chambers called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Gorjan Gjorgjievski called roll.

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 1:37)

- a. **Comments by the Public:** None
- b. **Comments provided via email, online, web site, etc.:** None

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 1:42)

Agenda

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



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

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Approval of April 15, 2025 Minutes

Motion/Action: Tommy Safranek made a motion to approve the minutes, Alberic Karina-Plun seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. FY26 CA-MPO TECH OFFICERS (MINUTE 2:13)

Mr. Gjorgjievski read the bylaws regarding the election of officers. He asked if any new members would like to volunteer to take on the role of Chair or Vice Chair.

Alberic Karina-Plun volunteered to keep his position as Vice Chair and Ben Chambers volunteered to keep his position as Chair. There were no other volunteers.

5. TIP AMENDMENT/ADJUSTMENT (MINUTE 4:00)

Gorjan Gjorgjievski explained the adjustments to the TIP, which needs no action. He noted that Item 12, the amendment, needs action from the committee. That item regards additional funding from DRPT that will support the PATH program.

Motion/Action: Jason Espie made a motion to recommend the amendment to the Policy Board. Tommy Safranek seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS (MINUTE 7:21)

FY26 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study

Taylor Jenkins gave a background on the TDM and provided similar study examples for the scope the TJPDC staff is crafting.

She reviewed the tasks involved with crafting the scope of work including reviewing similar studies, Origin-Destination Analysis, mode shift potential & strategies, and public engagement.

Lonnie Murray said it will be important to get info from running, cycling, and walking groups about safety concerns along the roads. Using exercise data helps to reduce trips because of the reduced number of trips to doctors and pharmacies.

Ben Chambers said it would be good to get Strava data for bike/ped info and will be important to talk with local corporations and organizations about where their employees are commuting from.

Sandy Shackelford said there is a resource called the Accessibility Observatory at the University of Minnesota to measure the bike/ped network to see if it is aligning with the level of travel stress. It provides nationwide access data by mode of transportation.

Mitch Huber said there is something called "Vision Eval," through John Miller in the VDOT office, is quickly able to develop scenarios. He noted that Strava data may also be an option to supplement StreetLight data for walkability data. He said that David Cook, VDOT, has mentioned that folks can lease out VDOT's pedestrian counters if looking to do model development. He also said that getting a land-use overly or getting a walkability propensity score based on mixes of uses. It measures levels of interest as well as levels of stress.

Jason Espie shared information on the difference between "level of stress" and "level of service."

Sandy Shackelford said the VTRANS website has a lot of valuable metric and data available.

There was a discussion about shoulders, margins, and curviness of the roads as safety risks.

Bill Palmer said UVA may have useful information through the programs they have already created.

Mr. Huber said looking at operational delay data from CAT may be useful information to help identify potential transit corridors or transit priority projects. He also said the Virginia Walkability Action Institute (VWAI), through the Department of Health, has good community capacity building resources and examples of low-cost, high-impact projects they helped fund across the state.

Tommy Safranik suggested StreetLight's Mobility Program to get raw data instead of data that has been "analyzed."

Tonya Schwartzendruber suggested getting data from micro-transit service.

There was an extended conversation about how to gather additional data and how to get data that is already collected and analyzed.

Charlottesville Area Transit FTA Low/No Emission Project (Minute 39:25)

Garland Williams said the No/Low program has been around since 2016 and funding has been increasing. This is the last year of five-year funding approved in 2021, but it is unsure whether it will be funded with the new administration. He said it is important to take advantage while there is still funding.

He reviewed the capital spending projects they are considering. There is consideration for infrastructure on their current property. He said they are looking to upgrade their maintenance facility and shared the conceptual site plan for those battery/electric buses (BEB) and for the hydrogen vehicles.

He reported that the Phase I (Maintenance facility) will cost approximately \$37 million., but there are additional costs factored in considering it will not be done for about two years. He gave a list of assumptions and a projected cost summary.

He said that CAT would like to be zero emissions by 2050.

He continued by reviewing the schedule and the costs for the three different phases, according to Kimley-Horn.

He said when the group went to Champaign-Urbana they are transitioning their fleet from hybrid to 100% hydrogen model. The trip helped teach what facilities would be needed to do this type of transition. He said there will be a pilot starting in the City in FY28.

He said CAT is in the middle of writing a grant for funding for these capital improvements.

He continued by saying that CAT has a current infrastructure focus that includes their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for full ZEB implementation, and Battery Electric Bus Pilot charging infrastructure.

Regarding the NEPA focus, Mr. Williams said the target for CAT's submission to DRPT/FTA is by Thanksgiving 2025. He said their goal is to go through the NEPA process and get assigned "Categorical Exclusion (CE)".

He said CAT was awarded two BEBs from the state, but the infrastructure needs to be in place to charge them.

Motion/Action: Alberic Karina-Plun made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board the application for No/Lo funding for CAT. Lonnie Murray seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:12:25)

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) (Move Safely Blue Ridge)

Gorjan Gjorgjievski gave a background on SS4A. He noted that both Albemarle and the City have committed to the SS4A recommendations. He acknowledged the work and efforts of the working group from TJPDC, member jurisdictions, and VDOT.

He reviewed the planning process and noted that the Safety Action Plan is now complete and covered the methodology used in the study. He noted that public engagement was key for the study. There were three rounds of engagement. He said there were several proposed solutions including spot improvements by jurisdiction, systemic improvements, and policies and programs.

He noted that the next steps include funding opportunities and monitoring. Additional information can be found on the Move Safely Blue Ridge website.

FY26 UPWP Updated Allocations

Taylor Jenkins said the anticipated budget revisions are now in the updated UPWP, with a request for a small increase. It has already been approved by the Policy Board and there is no action or motion necessary.

6. MEETING SCHEDULE (MINUTE 1:21:36)

Taylor Jenkins presented the committee with a proposed schedule of meeting dates for the next fiscal year – included in the packet. She said the meetings will be the first Tuesday of every other month at the same time and place (10 a.m. at the Water Street Center in Charlottesville) instead of the third Tuesday of the month to avoid conflict with the CTB meetings. That means the next meeting would be on August 5. She continued with the other dates proposed.

The general consensus was to accept the change in the schedule and Ms. Jenkins said she would get calendar hold invitations out to the group.

7. VDOT PROJECT UPDATES (MINUTE

Chuck Proctor said VDOT is currently reviewing the public comments for the pipeline studies. They are developing Phase Two scopes and are hoping to have reports wrapped up for existing conditions.

For the STARS studies, he said VDOT had their field visits, and a public survey with over 2,000 responses. The responses are being compiled into a report in addition to the existing conditions report. He noted that the documents will be reviewed when ready. The City project is the one that is further along.

Mr. Proctor said VDOT is finalizing the alternatives so it can be brought back to the public for a second round of feedback. They are trying to get everything wrapped up November for the preferred alternatives. The second phase takes the longest and he is hoping to get those underway soon.

He reminded everyone that Smart Scale Round 7 will be rolling out late summer or into fall.

7. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:29:53)

Charlottesville

Ben Chambers said staff will be updating City Council soon on what they have been doing.

Mr. Safranek said Bike Month went well and said he would like to have a follow up meeting to debrief and gather ideas for next year. He said the eBike subsidy program is working well. He noted that there is a new video on the eBike program on the Cville Youtube channel noting that there will be more stories collected and posted later.

He continued saying that the neighborhood walks are going well and reported that next month's walk will be on Ridge Street. He said to meet at Ix Park to explore some of the quick builds project in the City.

Albemarle

Tonya Swartzendruber said they are moving forward on their comp plan. She said staff got favorable responses on the transportation chapter. She said they also applied for two grants in revenue sharing pre-app portal. The project's they are applying for are improvements on Hydraulic between Lambs Road and Georgetown Road, and also final funding for the Berkmar Shared Use path.

Rideshare

Sara Pennington said Rideshare did their second annual bike business challenge. She reported that 10 organizations participated and there was an increase in individual participation. She said Bike Month was successful.

Ms. Pennington said in FY26, Rideshare will be integrating Guaranteed Ride Home with their Agile Mile database. She said she is looking forward to putting the Business Challenge through Agile Mile in the future.

VDOT

Ms. Shackelford said the CTB meeting is on June 24. She also said there is now a pedestrian bridge over Route 29 at Zan Road near Stonefield.

DRPT

Mitch Huber said there is a revised Master Agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Funds which are due to them no later than June 20 from the MPOs. He said the upcoming CTB meeting is interactive on their website.

Mr. Huber said DRPT is hosting two more National Transit Institute (NTI) offerings. These are free for MPO and government registrants. He also said there a state and metropolitan transportation planning in September 15 - 16 – also free to MPO and government staff.

He noted that there is an RFP out for potential operators for the Virginia Breeze.

FHWA

There was no report.

FTA

There was no report.

CAT

Garland Williams said there is a new bus shelter now in place in Belmont. He said the next project is Midway Manor. He noted that CAT underestimated how much they would cost when they first began.

Jaunt

Jason Espie said Jaunt is looking forward to hearing about grant awards for software upgrade. They are in the middle of conducting a survey, through July 2. He can give presentations on the results at future meetings.

UVA

Bill Palmer said McCormick Road has some closures while they upgrade the triangle. Hereford Drive is closed for the summer as part of an upgrade to some piping.

He said there are some smaller electric buses that are in the fleet and UTS is figuring out how to include them in their operations. He said there are full-size buses coming in the near future.

He also reported that the pedestrian athletic promenade is complete.

8. ADDITIONAL MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:47:45)

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Chambers adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.