Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

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MEMORANDUM

To: Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) Technical Committee
From: Taylor Lowery, Director of Transportation
Date: December 1, 2026
Subject: CA-MPO Agenda Overview and Staff Updates

Purpose: To review current agenda items under consideration and inform Technical Committee members of CA-MPO programs and activities.

1. **Call to Order**
   a. Call to Order, Roll Call – *Chair, Ben Chambers & Eamon Lauster*
   b. *Remote participation of voting members – *Chair, Ben Chambers*

2. **Matters from the Public** – *Chair, Ben Chambers*
   a. Comments by the public are limited to three minutes per speaker.

3. ***General Administration** – *Chair, Ben Chambers*
   a. *Review and Acceptance of the Agenda
   b. *Approval of the Draft August 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes

4. **New Business**
   a. Federal Performance Targets – *Taylor Lowery*
   CA-MPO staff will provide an overview of federal performance targets and present options for consideration.

   b. CA-MPO FFY26 Annual Obligation Report – *Taylor Lowery*
   CA-MPO staff will provide the FFY26 Annual Obligation Report (AOR). The AOR includes all projects and strategies listed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for which federal funds were obligated during the immediately preceding program year. It is a federal reporting requirement, but does not require committee action or approval.

5. **Staff Updates**
   a. Staff Updates – *Taylor Lowery*

- **Project Pipeline and STARS Studies**
  CA-MPO/TJPDC staff are serving on stakeholder working groups for Project Pipeline and STARS planning studies being conducted throughout the region. Kickoff meetings have been held for the following study locations:
    - Peston and Ridge McIntire (Charlottesville)
    - E. High St from Locust Ave to US 250 Bypass (Charlottesville)
    - US 29 from Frays Mill Rd to Matthew Mill Rd (Greene/Albemarle)
    - US 29 at Airport Rd (Albemarle)
    - US 33 and Shannon Hill Rd (Louisa County)
    - US 29 and VA 6 (Nelson County)

  The kickoff meeting for the I-64 Exit 118 study location will be held in early December.

401 East Water Street ▪ Post Office Box 1505 ▪ Charlottesville, Virginia 22902-1505
Telephone (434) 979-7310 ▪ **Fax** (434) 979 1597 ▪ **Virginia Relay Users:** 711 (TDD) ▪ **email:** info@tjpdc.org ▪ **web:** www.tjpdc.org

- **Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)**
  At the November 12, 2026, meeting, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) received an overview of the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA). Materials from the meeting can be accessed at https://ca-mpo.org/carta/.

- **Commonwealth Transportation Board**
  The CTB conducted a public meeting in the VDOT Culpeper District on November 10th to provide citizens the opportunity to provide comments on multimodal initiatives, projects, and programs across the Commonwealth. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), VDOT, and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) were in attendance. No CTB Workshop or Action meeting were held in November.

- **CA-MPO Benchmarking Activity**
  As part of the approved FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), CA-MPO staff are conducting a benchmarking effort to identify how other metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) organize and carry out transportation planning activities. Staff have completed the first technical report, which covers federal and state regional planning context and an overview of Virginia MPOs. Staff are developing materials to begin outreach to MPO partners for the next portion of the project.

- **Rural Transportation**
  TJPDC staff are completing an update to the Rural Long Range Plan, which is the long range vision for transportation improvements in the region's rural jurisdictions over a 20-year planning horizon. Staff have completed draft chapters for "Existing Conditions: Demographics and Commuting" and "Assessment of the Regional Transportation System". At the November 4, 2026, Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) meeting, plan goals were recommended for approval. The TJPD Commission will take action to approve plan goals at the December 3, 2026, meeting. Materials can be found at https://tjpdc.org/our-work/rural-transportation-program/advisory-committee/.

- **Freight Generator Site Mapping**
  Planning District Commissions were asked to help update VDOT's statewide freight generator database. TJPDC staff conducted an initial review of freight generator sites using locations pre-identified in the database and satellite imagery and completed local staff outreach for validation. This data will inform scoring for the current round of SMART SCALE under the Economic Development factor.

- **TJPDC Regional Planner Recruitment**
  The TJPDC is recruiting a Regional Planner III to support its transportation programs, with significant involvement in the work of the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO. Committee members are encouraged to share the opportunity with their professional networks; it is open until filled. The full description and application instructions are available on the TJPDC website at https://tjpdc.org/apply-regional-planner-iii/.

- **DRPT November Agency Update**

6. **Other Business** – *Chair, Ben Chambers*
   a. Policy Board Members Roundtable Updates

7. **Additional Matters From the Public** – *Chair, Ben Chambers*
   a. Comments by the public are limited to three minutes per speaker.

8. **Adjourn** – *Chair, Ben Chambers*
   a. **Next Regular Meeting** – February 2, 2027, at 10am (In-Person)

DRPT Agency Update – November 2026

Employee Updates

New Hires

- Dubary Brea – Senior Director of Financial Strategy and Oversight (NoVA Office)
- Melinda Anderson – Senior Business Analyst (RVA Office)
- Grace Elebute - Senior Business Analyst (RVA Office)
- Ari Rickman – TOD Planner (NoVA Office), starting November 10

Opportunities

- Chief Financial Officer (SCO) – Open now until November 16th
- Communications Specialist - Open now until November 2nd
- IT Manager/Deputy ISO – Coming Soon

5303 Updates

FTA/FHWA has approved our 5303 TrAMS application.

There will be no updates to the Master Agreements this year; new contracts have been distributed in WebGrants. Please sign and return as soon as possible.

FY2028 Grant Application Cycle

DRPT will begin accepting applications for rail, transit, and commuter assistance grants for the Fiscal Year 2028 at 12:01 A.M. on **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**. The annual grant application period runs through **Monday, February 1, 2027**. Funds for rail, transit, human services transportation, and commuter assistance are available from multiple state and federal sources to support public transit services, human service transportation, planning, transportation demand management, and rail programs in Virginia. Current Application Guidance for transit grants, including eligible project categories, is available in the latest version of **DRPT's Blue Book** and the **5310 Guidebook for Human Services Transportation**.

DRPT's public transportation staff will host Fiscal Year 2028 grant application workshops for their partners. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with DRPT's public transportation programming and planning experts regarding the latest information on the FY28 application cycle, including technical assistance and application guidance for all public transportation programs administered by DRPT. All applicants are strongly encouraged to attend these webinars.

Workshop Schedule:

1. **November 16th at 10 AM: 5310/Human Services Transportation New Applicant Grant Workshop** Register Here!
2. **November 17th at 10 AM: Transit Program Grant Workshop** Register Here!
3. **November 18th at 10 AM: Commuter Assistance Program Grant Workshop** Register Here!
4. **November 19th at 10 AM: 5310/Human Services Transportation Returning Applicant Grant Workshop** Register Here!

Prospective rail partners should contact DRPT's rail program managers for further assistance.

Once the application period closes, DRPT will evaluate all submissions and submit recommended project funding to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for the Draft FY28 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). A series of statewide public hearings will then be held before the CTB considers the final adoption of the FY28 SYIP next June.

Statewide Rail Plan

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) invites you to take the second phase of the 2026 Statewide Rail Plan Survey and share your priorities for passenger and freight rail.

Whether you ride the train, rely on rail to move goods, or want better connections for your community, we want to hear from you. The survey takes 5-10 minutes and asks which strategies Virginia should prioritize to improve passenger and freight rail service.

Link to the Survey

As a thank-you for participating, you can choose to enter a drawing for two roundtrip Amtrak Northeast Regional tickets.

The survey is open through early November. Your feedback will build on what we heard during the first survey in March and subsequent public and stakeholder meetings, helping guide rail priorities and investment decisions across the Commonwealth.

DRPT updates the Statewide Rail Plan every four years. The final 2026 plan is expected in early 2027.

Learn more about the Statewide Rail Plan **here**.

Group TAM Plan

The draft TAM plan was released **July 1st** and accepted comments until **July 31st**. The final plan was released in mid-August with communication from DRPT to relevant MPOs for incorporation into TIPs/CLRPs. DRPT hosted a webinar on August 25th, and you can watch the recording **here.**

The TAM plan was adopted on September 30th and MPOs have an 180-day deadline for MPO performance target language on **March 29th, 2027.**

Comments, Questions, and concerns can be directed to your DRPT planner or Grace Stankus – **Grace.Stankus@drpt.virginia.gov**

Statewide TOD Study

The General Assembly has directed DRPT and DHCD to conduct a statewide review to plan, promote, and identify barriers and opportunities for transit-oriented development

around existing and proposed transit and rail stations. The review will also investigate barriers to housing production and the potential for economic development.

The study will be submitted to General Assembly by Dec. 15, 2026, with Phase 2 scheduled to begin in the 2027 calendar year.

Director's Update to CTB – October

This month's DRPT Report to the CTB featured Jaunt turning 50, FXBGO! Turning 30, Commuter Choice is turning 10! Read for yourself in the most recent DRPT Report to the CTB **today**.