Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

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Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes, July 11, 2023

The video of the meeting can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9VbypUgKpk

VOTING MEMBERS		STAFF	
Tom Egeland, Louisa County	x	Sandy Shackelford, TJPDC	x
Jim Frydl, Greene County *	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	
Douglas Miles, Fluvanna County		Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	
Dylan Bishop, Nelson County	x	Ruth Emerick, TJPDC	
Michael Barnes, VDOT, Culpeper		Ryan Mickles, TJPDC	x
David Cook, VDOT, Lynchburg		Curtis Scarpignato, TJPDC	x
Zady Lacy, Jaunt	x		
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
ALTERNATES		**GUESTS/PUBLIC**	
Rick Youngblood, VDOT		Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle County	x
JM Whalen, Fluvanna County	x	Ben Chambers, City of Charlottesville	
David Benish, Albemarle County		Rick Youngblood, VDOT	
Stephanie Golon, Greene County		Josh Gillespie, Louisa County	
Cindy King, Louisa County		Will Cockrell, EPR PC	x
Carrie Shepherd, VDOT			

**** attended online via Zoom.***

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Rural Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Tom Egeland, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (2:33):

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

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (2:36):

Tom Egeland volunteered to be Chair and Dylan Bishop volunteered to be Vice Chair of the committee. **Motion/Action:** Tom Egeland made a motion to elect Dyland Bishop as Vice Chair. JM Whalen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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Motion/Action: Dylan Bishop made a motion to elect Tom Egeland as Chair. Sara Pennington seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM MAY 16, 2023 (MINUTE 4:57):

JM Whalen noted that his name is misspelled in the listing of attendees.
Motion/Action: Dylan Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes with the adjustment mentioned. Tom Egeland seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF RTAC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES (MINUTE 5:40):

Sandy Shackelford and Curtis Scarpignato asked the committee to review the list of voting members and their alternates (document included in the packet) and asked the members to let them know if there were any changes that needed to be made.

6. BEST PRACTICES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (MINUTE 6:35)

Will Cockrell with EPR PC, gave a background on his experience and continued by presenting the committee with best practices for public engagement.

Mr. Cockrell stated that it is important to have a clear idea of what the goal is before you start the engagement process and to have measures of success to see if you accomplished that goal.

There was a roundtable discussion on the types of public engagement the members have used in the past.

Mr. Cockrell continued by reviewing the best practices for developing engagement plans and how best to measure success.

Regarding goals, Mr. Cockrell noted that they should be to educate and inform the public, identify needs and understand the community's concerns and issues, be transparent and inclusive, and review and affirm to provide stakeholders and public with the idea that the participants' opinions will be respected., documented, and will form the basis for plan recommendations.

Mr. Cockrell reviewed guiding principles to include that they be meaningful, representative, accessible, and clear.

He discussed numerous considerations for public engagement and detail vs. depth of the data collected.

He continued by talking about different engagement strategies and how best to get the public talking.

Lastly, he shared numerous lessons learned about public engagement.

7. SMART SCALE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:26:24)

Sandy Shackelford gave a background on Smart Scale and the summary discussions of the May and June Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) meetings. She noted that they are discussing procedural concerns and project funding outcomes.

Ms. Shackelford went on to explain the CTB's ongoing discussions about application quality and process bias analysis with a small project preference. It was noted that small projects were funded just over two times more often than larger projects and account for 78% in project count and 33% of the total funded amount. It was also

noted that Bike & Ped projects have steadily increased in terms of the number of projects and funding amounts both submitted and recommended.

She noted that these discoveries will impact how the CTB will evaluate what kinds of projects will be eligible for the High Priority Program fund. They will be adding criteria to what types of projects MPOs and PDCs and regional entities would be able to submit.

She shared the impact that decisions will make on the future of Smart Scale projects and their funding.

8. SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL UPDATE (MINUTE 1:53:25)

Curtis Scarpignato noted that the selection of consultants for the project has begun. The consultant should be chosen by August 4 and they will begin working on the project in September.

9. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE TOPICS (MINUTE 1:54:07)

Louisa County

Tom Egeland noted that the planning commission meets this week and they have been asked to look at short-term rental units. He also noted that he will be speaking at the annual APA conference.

Nelson County

Dylan Bishop reported that Nelson has a draft of their comprehensive plan and it is on their website for the public to review. There is also an open house scheduled for August 29 for the same.

Fluvanna County

JM Whalen reported that as a result of their TAP grant, they have received more engagement from their local stakeholders.

Albemarle County

Alberic Karina-Plun gave an update on the Three Notch'd RFP including other project updates.

Jaunt

Zadie Lacy gave an update on Jaunt, but the audio was not clear/audible.

Greene County

There was no report from Greene County

10. Additional Matters from the Public

None.

Adjourn

Tom Egeland adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.