

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes August 20, 2024

The video of the meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N04bIOItUac>

VOTING MEMBERS		STAFF	
Tom Egeland, Louisa County	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Jim Frydl, Greene County *	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Todd Fortune, Fluvanna County		Sarah Simba, TJPDC	x
Dylan Bishop, Nelson County	x	Gorjan Gjorgjevski, TJPDC	x
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT, Culpeper	x		
Carson Eckhardt, VDOT, Lynchburg *	x		
Vacant, Jaunt			
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle County			
ALTERNATES		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Rick Youngblood, VDOT, Lynchburg *	x		
Vacant, Fluvanna County			
Stephanie Golon, Greene County			
Cindy King, Louisa County			
Carrie Shepherd, VDOT			
Jason Overstreet, Fluvanna County *	x		
Emily Hjulstrom, Nelson County			
Vacant, Albemarle County			
Chuck Proctor, VDOT, Culpeper *	x		
Vacant, Jaunt			

* **attended online via Zoom.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Rural Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Tom Egeland, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Sara Pennington called roll.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 0:23):

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

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (MINUTE 0:28)

Tom Egeland volunteered to continue as chair.

Motion: Dylan Bishop nominated Tom Egeland to continue as Chair.



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to allow Jim Frydl to participate remotely. Jim Frydl stated that he had conflicting meetings and was unable to be at the RTAC meeting in person. Dylan Bishop seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Action: Jim Frydl seconded the motion to elect Tom Egeland as Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to nominate Dylan Bishop as Vice Chair. Sandy Shackelford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM MAY 21, 2024 (MINUTE 2:28)

Sara Pennington said that David Cook should be listed as from the Central District and not the Lynchburg District.

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with one correction. Dylan Bishop seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF RTAC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES (MINUTE 3:05)

Mr. Egeland reported that he would continue as the voting member for Louisa, but that Renee Mawyer will now be the alternate, replacing Josh Gillespie.

Dylan Bishop said Emily Hjulstrom is the alternate for Nelson.

Jim Frydl reported that Stephanie Golon is the alternate for Greene.

Chuck Proctor said he would be the alternate for VDOT and Sandy Shackelford will be the main voting member.

Tom Egeland suggested putting this item on the agenda for next meeting for those who did not give alternate names this meeting.

6. SMART SCALE APPLICATIONS UPDATE (MINUTE 5:35)

Sandy Shackelford reviewed the changes from Smart Scale Round 5. She continued by presenting the Albemarle County applications, including the US29/Plank Road intersection improvement. She briefly presented the US250 and WAHS (Western Albemarle High School) intersection improvement project. She continued with the Rio Road-Hillsdale/Old Brook Road intersection improvements. Lastly, she reviewed the Barracks Road corridor improvements/Georgetown Road to the US 9/250 interchange.

Ms. Shackelford moved on to Greene County projects. She started by describing the US29 corridor improvement in Ruckersville. Jim Frydl continued by reviewing the US33 corridor improvement. He noted their primary concern is safety with that project.

Ms. Shackelford continued with projects in Louisa County. She noted that all projects across the state have seen cost increases. At Ms. Shackelford's invitation, Tom Egeland described the US250/US15 intersection improvement project, the US250/SR208 intersection improvement (this is a re-submission from previous rounds of Smart Scale), and the US15/SR22 intersection improvement (also previously submitted). Ms. Shackelford gave estimates for each project.

Carson Eckhart presented the Nelson County projects and noted that the Rockfish School Lane/Route 151 turn lane project has been eliminated because it does not meet some of Smart Scale requirements. He continued describing the Route 151/Tanbark Drive roundabout. He said the estimate for this project is \$22.5 million.

Ms. Shackelford continued by reviewing the Smart Scale schedule. She noted that staff recommended scenarios will be presented at January's CTB meeting.

7. NEW REMOTE PARTICIPATION POLICY (MINUTE 32:10)

Christine Jacobs explained the new regulations adopted by the General Assembly for remote participation and virtual meetings.

She explained the policy allows for two, or up to 50% of the meetings be virtual, but two virtual meetings may not be held back-to-back. If the meeting is all virtual, there is no requirement for an in-person quorum like there currently needs to be for an in-person meeting. All meetings must be posted publicly whether they are in person or all virtual. When the all-virtual meeting is in session, the members must have his/her camera and sound on to consider the member as "present." If a member leaves the camera or turns it off, they will be considered "absent" during that time, which may affect quorum, and that person will not be allowed to vote.

She also noted that the policy must be adopted annually.

She noted that because the TJPDC Board already adopted the policy, and as an advisory committee to the TJPDC Board, the RTAC committee will abide by that policy. There is no motion or action needed at this time.

It was noted that if there is an in-person meeting, voting members can participate 25% of the time remotely for the reasons stated in the policy. The person still has to state the reason(s) for participating remotely. Those provisions have not changed. The rules that have changed have to do with the all-virtual meetings.

There was a discussion about which meetings might be best held as virtual meetings.

8. SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) UPDATE (MINUTE 39:19)

Gorjan Gjorgjievski presented the committee with a background the Move Safely Blue Ridge regional program. He shared the activities staff have done to date. He said there has been extensive public engagement, including six in-person public meetings (one for each locality in the TJPDC region), one virtual meeting (for all localities), and 21 pop-up events. Staff are currently extracting and analyzing data received from the public surveys and feedback.

He said staff are scheduling meetings with each jurisdiction in the region to identify site visits to obtain information about opportunities for safety improvements. He noted there will be another public engagement round in October and will be reaching out to the jurisdictions, and he asked the committee to help spread the word.

Tom Egeland said Louisa has a public relations employee to whom he will pass the information.

Mr. Gjorgjievski said he would be happy to give a formal presentation to the committee in the future.

9. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE TOPICS (MINUTE 47:25)

Louisa County

Tom Egeland said he is Louisa County's newest Deputy Director of Community Development and the new Deputy Zoning Minister. He also said the Board of Supervisors capped all solar projects to not exceed 9,800 acres, or 3% of Louisa's total land mass. He is working with members of the planning commission on focus areas of the comprehensive plan that are considered growth areas. There will be more on this at the next meeting.

Nelson County

Dylan Bishop said next week they are having their joint kick-off session with the planning commission for their zoning and subdivision updates. They had their first utilities solar application come through for 500 acres of solar panels. The planning commission recommended denial, and the Board will hear that information in November.

She reported that the Livingston sewer project kicked off today, replacing 8,000 linear feet of clay pipe. She noted that would go along with the revitalization project.

She noted that they had a proposed subdivision in an existing development off the Blue Ridge Parkway. There is work underway to squash the efforts.

Lastly, she noted that the Rural Planning Caucus is October 15 – 18. It is open for registration now.

TJPDC

Ms. Jacobs reported that Sara Pennington will be the staff contact for Rural Tech committee. She also introduced Gorjan Gjorgjevski and Sarah Simba to the committee.

There were mentions of numerous job openings at both the TJPDC, Nelson County, VDOT, and Louisa County.

Sara Pennington said Rideshare is starting a new fiscal year while also wrapping up the previous one. They are getting close to finishing their CAP Strategic plan and is hoping to have it finished by October.

VDOT

Sandy Shackelford said they are looking for locations for new pipeline projects, so they may be reaching out to localities in the future.

Chuck Proctor said VDOT would be reaching out to all the localities to talk about revenue share and TAP grants for next year, and whether there is any need for assistance with those applications.

Greene County

Jim Frydl said they have a development that is adjacent to and in the surrounding area of the Town of Stanardsville and are looking for an exit to get out of the Town. The BOS voted down the resolution of support. The Town is appealing to the CTB. He said it would be a traffic safety issue not to have the exit.

He also said there is a development going in adjacent to the Preddy Creek Park area and there will be about 2 miles of hiking trails built in. He said there may be an opportunity for a multi-modal project between Greene and Albemarle. More to come on that.

He noted that the BOS approved local administration of a Round 2 Smart Scale project to try to achieve some different, innovative intersections that fit better with the County plan.

Tom Egeland gave Update on the Louisa Love’s Truck Stop at the Gum Springs exit. He noted the planning commission recommended 6-0 to recommend denial of the permit. The BOS would be voting on this in the near future.

Dylan Bishop said if a road is marked 25 mph, then locality can bring it down to 20 or 15 mph. Other than that, it is up to the state to determine speed limits.

Albemarle County

No report given.

Fluvanna County

No report given.

It was decided that the December 17 meeting date should remain as is.

Future topics: What have localities learned from having a truck stop come to their jurisdiction? Christine Jacobs said it would be interesting to learn about state rail plans. Tom Egeland said he would like to have a summary of the Rural Planning Caucus. It was also suggested that there be an update on the SS4A project.

11. Additional Matters from the Public (MINUTE 1:08:30)

None.

Adjourn

Tom Egeland adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is in person October 15, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.