

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes April 15, 2025

The video of the meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yDk7A70JPg&t=9s>

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	x	Gorjan Gjorgievski, TJPDC	x
Dylan Bishop, Nelson County	x	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT, Culpeper	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Carson Eckhardt, VDOT, Lynchburg		Sarah Richardson, TJPDC/PATH	x
Jason Espie, Jaunt	x	Igor Kalina, TJPDC/PATH	x
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle County	x		
ALTERNATES		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Rick Youngblood, VDOT, Lynchburg *	x		
Stephanie Golon, Greene County			
Cindy King, Louisa County			
Carrie Shepherd, VDOT			
Trey Walton, Fluvanna County			
Emily Hjulstrom, Nelson County			
Vacant, Albemarle County			
Chuck Proctor, VDOT, Culpeper	x		
Vacant, Jaunt			
Alex Porter, Fluvanna County	x		

*** online attendance**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Rural Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Tom Egeland, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

3. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES (0:30)

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to approve the February 18 meeting minutes. Alberic Karina-Plun seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with Dylan Bishop abstaining.



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

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4. TJPDC SMART SCALE AREA TYPE COMPARISON (MINUTE 0:49)

Sandy Shackelford gave a brief Smart Scale program overview. She continued with an overview of the project scoring process and the difference between the categories and the different “Types.”

She reviewed the scoring change outcomes for Rounds 4, 5 and 6. She also noted that the scores for Type D all increased.

She said changing from Area Type C to Type D will improve project scores overall. No indication that area Type C vs D impacted actual project selection outcomes in Rounds 4 through 6, and the Area Type for the MPO would remain Category B.

Chuck Proctor said a lot of the other PDCs have changed from Type C to Type D.

Sara Pennington noted that no decision has to be made at this meeting, but a decision will need to be made at the next meeting. She encouraged committee members to bring it back to their jurisdictions and present the information.

Ms. Pennington will share the VDOT PowerPoint slides with members of the committee.

It was noted by Ms. Shackelford that if the SmartScale project focuses on safety, it usually scores higher.

Ms. Shackelford said there will most likely be minor changes to calculations for future scoring.

5. PATH MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (MINUTE 20:57)

Lucinda Shannon shared the background on the PATH program. She said PATH’s goals are to expand and improve the availability of services for seniors and people with disabilities, and build coordination among transportation providers and human service agencies.

She said they are currently building an information and referral service. They have completed and will continue to facilitate transportation solutions workshops. They also provide travel training and field trips. She said there is a transportation assistance fund for those who need help with paying for transportation. They provide a helpline for those who need rides in the area.

She provided data on the reasons for phone calls they have received since the beginning of the program and the top reasons people need transportation.

She shared the workshops that have already been conducted and those that are scheduled for the future.

She described what travel training is. Staff will meet the person at their home/work/school, help plan the route, walk to the bus stop with them, ride the bus to the destination, ride the bus home, and answer any questions they may have about taking transit.

She continued by describing field trips and the transportation assistance fund. She said PATH is working with volunteer driver programs, mainly Cville Village and Here to Stay.

She said through future grants, there may be additional funds available.

She reported on the numerous community benefits and listed the current active partners and supporters.

There was a discussion about marketing and how to get the word out about the program to the public.

6. VDOT UPDATES (MINUTE 41:10)

Sandy Shackelford said Nelson County got the Tanbark/151 roundabout project approved. She also said they are developing additional screening tools for future Smart Scale projects.

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE TOPICS (MINUTE 43:50)

The committee members introduced themselves to Alex Porter, the newest member of the RTAC committee.

Louisa County

Tom Egeland said he is working with the planning commission with the small focus areas for the 2040 plan. He said they are in round four of their code amendments.

Greene County

Jim Frydl thanked TJPDC for helping to incorporate a bike/ped plan into the Town of Stanardsville comp plan. They are also helping to update charts for the plan. The comp plan will be reviewed in the upcoming months. They are working on local administration of a Smart Scale project. He said staff is making tweaks to the project to meet the goals of the County. Lastly, he reported that the Board wants to meet with VDOT to review some safety and congestion concerns in the County.

Jaunt

Jason Espie reported that Jaunt is going through their TDP and updating it. They will be implementing a rider satisfaction survey. He also reported that Jaunt applied for a grant to upgrade their software and they are waiting to hear about the award in the near future.

TJPDC

Gorjan Gjorgjievski reported that he received the Safety Action Plan from the consultants. He will be presenting to the respective boards/councils. He said he presented to Nelson on April 8 and that there will be additional presentations to boards in the coming months and he will be asking them to adopt the plan if they feel it aligns with their expectations.

If adopted in the jurisdictions, they will be eligible for SS4A funding in the future. Ms. Pennington said she hoped that Mr. Gjorgjievski and Sarah Simba will giving a final presentation at the next meeting.

Nelson

Dylan Bishop reported that Nelson adopted their six-year improvement program. She also stated that they are overhauling their subdivision ordinance with new districts being drafted in the near future. She said they are also concurrently and separately reviewing their short-term rental ordinance with a stakeholder group. She also noted the Nelson has about half a new planning commission and she is training the new members. She also reported that there is a planning position open in Nelson. Lastly, she reported that the Rural Planning Conference is from October 15 – 17, 2025.

Tom Egeland asked for a presentation on Route 151 in the future.

Fluvanna County

Todd Fortune said Fluvanna is in the early stages of updating their comp plan with numerous meeting planned including public outreach. He said there are some meetings set up about safety issues on their roads and

intersections in their county. He also said Fluvanna is reviewing their ordinances, but there are many to review, and it may take a long while. Lastly, he noted that the Fork Union Street project is in limbo because of cost.

Albemarle County

Alberic Karina-Plun said they just released their transportation chapter for their comp plan and they will be going to the planning commission and the board soon.

TJPDC

CARTA

Taylor Jenkins reported that CARTA has met twice and have developed their bylaws and will be creating subcommittees – Finance and Technical committees. She noted that TJPDC applied for a Transit Prioritization Study on behalf of CARTA, and as soon as it is approved by the CTB, staff will begin working on it.

Lucinda Shannon noted that the CARTA meetings can be watched on their website (<https://campo.org/carta/>)

Rideshare

Sara Pennington said she is preparing for Bike Month. They are doing a Bike Month Business Challenge as well.

VDOT

Sandy Shackelford said the six-year improvement program public hearing is scheduled for May 7 at 4 p.m. She noted that this is when all of the funding requests are out there for all to review and show your support. She noted that written comments will be received through May 20 if you cannot be there in person.

Future Meeting Topics

Mr. Egeland said the topics for the future can include Smart Scale and SS4A, but asked for other suggestions.

He said he would like to hear from anyone about larger gas stations with a popular name what the meetings have been like, what the challenges have been, the public hearing process was like and what kind of feedback they might have for such a large-traffic generator user.

Mr. Espie said there may be some take-aways from Jaunt's recently comprised survey data.

8. Additional Matters from the Public (Minute 1:10:14)

None.

Adjourn

Tom Egeland adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

The next meeting is in person June 17, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.