Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

*Regional Vision ▪ Collaborative Leadership ▪ Professional Service*

**Rural Transportation Advisory Committee**

DRAFT Minutes June 17, 2025

The video of the meeting can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YOa6MAN2xA&t=3s

| VOTING MEMBERS | | STAFF | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tom Egeland, Louisa County | x | Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC | x |
| Jim Frydl, Greene County * | x | Christine Jacobs, TJPDC | |
| 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 * | x | | |
| Jason Espie, Jaunt | x | | |
| Sara Pennington, Rideshare | x | | |
| Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle County | x | | |
| **ALTERNATES** | | **GUESTS/PUBLIC** | |
| Rick Youngblood, VDOT, Lynchburg | | | |
| Stephanie Golon, Greene County | | | |
| Cindy King, Louisa County | | | |
| Carrie Shepherd, VDOT | | | |
| Alex Porter, Fluvanna County | x | | |
| Emily Hjulstrom, Nelson County | | | |
| Vacant, Albemarle County | | | |
| Chuck Proctor, VDOT, Culpeper * | x | | |
| Vacant, Jaunt | | | |
| | | | |

**** online attendance***

**1. CALL TO ORDER (MINUTE 9:32)**

The Rural Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Tom Egeland, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:05 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 (MINUTE 10:00)**

**Motion/Action:** Todd Fortune noted that Alex Porter is the alternate for Fluvanna County. Tom Egeland noted that Louisa was working on their THIRD revision of code amendments. Tom Egeland made a motion to approve the April 15 meeting minutes with the proposed changes. Alberic Karina-Plun seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with Dylan Bishop abstaining.

**Motion/Action:** Tom Egeland made a motion to allow the voting members to participate in the meeting. Alberic Karina-Plun seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**4. TJPDC Smart Scale Area Type Comparison (Minute 11:52)**

Sandy Shackelford gave a brief review of the reasons for considering changes of the TJPDC non-MPO area type from C to D for the evaluation of Smart Scale applications (see information included in agenda packet). Tom Egeland said Louisa is in favor of the change. Todd Fortune said Fluvanna is in favor of the change. Alberic Karina-Plun also voiced his support from Albemarle. Jim Frydl said he appreciated the effort to make the change to improve the efforts of the rural portions of the counties. Dylan Bishop concurred with the appreciation. Both Mr. Frydl and Ms. Bishop said their jurisdictions are in favor of the change.

**Motion/Action:** Tom Egeland made a motion to make a recommendation to make the change from Type C to Type D. Alberic Karina-Plun seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**5. Move Safely Blue Ridge Plan and Next Steps (Minute 18:54)**

Sarah Simba presented the committee with the background for Move Safely Blue Ridge. She said the plan has been officially adopted. She noted that both Albemarle and the City have committed to the SS4A recommendations. She acknowledged the working group from TJPDC, member jurisdictions, and VDOT.

She reviewed the planning process and covered the methodology used in the study. Ms. Simba noted that public engagement was key for the study. There were three rounds of engagement. She said there were several proposed solutions including spot improvements by jurisdiction, systemic improvements, and policies and programs.

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

**6. FY26 RTAC Items (Minute 49:20)**

Meeting Schedule

Sara Pennington presented the committee with a quarterly schedule making the meeting dates August 19, 2025, November 4, 2025, February 3, 2026, and May 5, 2026. Todd Fortune raised concern about the effectiveness and the recommendations made to higher committees and commissions. Ms. Jenkins said there could be special meetings called, if necessary.

Dylan Bishop noted that November 4 is a state holiday. Sandy Shackelford the next week, November 11 is also a federal holiday. The third Tuesday of November might work better because the next week is Thanksgiving week.

Scope of Plans Review and Needs Assessment

Ms. Pennington reviewed the background on the scope of work for the rural transportation planning needs assessment. She covered the tasks involved, including previous plan identification and review, RTAC engagement, and work list development and prioritization. The project timeline from July 2025 through January 2026.

Election of Officers

Sara Pennington mentioned that the election of officers would occur at the first meeting of the fiscal year, August 19.

**7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE TOPICS (MINUTE 1:03:12)**

**Albemarle County**

Alberic Karina-Plun said the comp plan transportation chapter is being updated and reviewed and they are expecting feedback on it from the Board. He said staff did a revamp of their approval process for paving rural gravel roads.

**Fluvanna County**

Todd Fortune said Fluvanna is working on their comp plan is moving forward, although slowly. They decided to submit a transportation re-app that are "spot improvements." Fluvanna discussed putting a roundabout at route 15 and 6 but decided not to because of funding and because there was no appetite from the board to offer more money.

**Louisa County**

Tom Egeland said Louisa just finished their third round of their updates to the code.

**VDOT**

Sandy Shackelford said VODT will be reaching out to localities to start discussions for some Smart Scale projects they see on the horizon.

**Greene County**

Jim Frydl said Greene County is locally administering a Smart Scale project, so they are working through the detailed process. They are also working through a developer-proposed traffic improvement that VDOT and CTB support and the Greene Board does not.

**Nelson**

Dylan Bishop reported that Nelson adopted Move Safely Blue Ridge resolution. Hopefully, they will adopt their budget next week. She said the ordinance update process has put a pause on land-use requests. She said there is a new breakfast restaurant in Nellysford called Belties. She reported that Nelson had a TJPDC planning day and she appreciated the staff coming out the County. Lastly, she noted that Nelson needs a planner and a Permit Technician.

**Jaunt**

Jason Espie reported that Jaunt put in an application request to DRPT on a grant for a software upgrade, Microtransit demo, parking lot upgrade needs. He is hoping for an award. There is currently a survey out to riders and non-riders looking for feedback on Jaunt's services. He is hoping to have 1,000 responses by July 2. He will be presenting the results of the survey to their board first and then will be available to present to other committees after that.

**VDOT**

Carson Eckhardt said VDOT Lynchburg is compiling their Round 7 project list for Smart Scale. He said he would be getting in touch with Dylan Bishop about the Tanbark roundabout awarded in Round 6.

**8. Additional Matters from the Public (Minute 1:16:45)**

None.

**Adjourn**

Tom Egeland adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

The next meeting is *in person* August 19, 2025 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.