

## Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes February 3, 2026

The video of the meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Y2qgb3zz8I>

| VOTING MEMBERS                        |   | STAFF                      |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Tom Egeland, Louisa County            | x | Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC     | x |
| Jim Frydl, Greene County              | x | Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC      | x |
| Todd Fortune, Fluvanna County         | x | Sarah Simba, TJPDC         | x |
| Dylan Bishop, Nelson County           | x | Gorjan Gjorgjievski, TJPDC | x |
| Sandy Shackelford, VDOT, Culpeper     | x | Christine Jacobs, TJPDC    | x |
| Carson Eckhardt, VDOT, Lynchburg      | x |                            |   |
| Jason Espie, Jaunt                    | x |                            |   |
| Sara Pennington, Rideshare            | x |                            |   |
| Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle County | x |                            |   |
| ALTERNATES                            |   | GUESTS/PUBLIC              |   |
| Vacant, VDOT, Lynchburg               |   |                            |   |
| Stephanie Golon, Greene County        |   |                            |   |
| Cindy King, Louisa County             |   |                            |   |
| Carrie Shepherd, VDOT                 |   |                            |   |
| Alex Porter, Fluvanna County          |   |                            |   |
| Cody Barker, Nelson County            | x |                            |   |
| Vacant, Albemarle County              |   |                            |   |
| Chuck Proctor, VDOT, Culpeper         |   |                            |   |
| Mike Murphy, Jaunt                    |   |                            |   |
|                                       |   |                            |   |

### 1. CALL TO ORDER (MINUTE 2:50)

The Rural Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Tom Egeland, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Sara Pennington read the electronic meeting notice and then called roll. Members of the meeting introduced themselves. Sara Pennington reminded the voting members to keep their video on for the meeting.

### 2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 8:09)

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

### 3. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES (MINUTE 8:14)

November 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

**Motion/Action:** Tom Egeland made a motion to approve the November 18, 2025, minutes, Alberic Karina-Plun seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### 4. FY27 RURAL TRANSPORTATION WORK PLAN (MINUTE 8:47)



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

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@tjpc.org](mailto:info@tjpc.org) ▪ web: [www.tjpc.org](http://www.tjpc.org)

Sara Pennington gave a quick overview of the rural work program plan including the sources of funding and the requirements from the state. The annual budget is \$72,500.

Ms. Pennington highlighted the FY26 rural work program accomplishments so far, including the comprehensive safety action plan, SMART SCALE application support, and the rural transportation planning needs assessment.

Ms. Pennington reviewed some of the FY27 rural work program tasks including the rural long-range plan, the comprehensive safety action plan, regional transit, Travel Demand Management program, bike/ped activities, SMART SCALE application support, provide assistance to local and state partners, and transportation infrastructure grant assistance.

She continued by covering the fund allocation for the program.

Tom Egeland recommended that members email any comments to Sara Pennington to her by the end of the month.

**Motion/Action:** Dylan Bishop made a motion to recommend approval of the FY27 Rural Transportation Work Plan to the PDC. Todd Fortune seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**5. VDOT PROJECT UPDATES/SMART SCALE (MINUTE 20:02)**

Carson Eckhardt said Nelson has 2-3 applications. He said there has been internal discussion about separating one of the applications into two, so they have a better chance of getting funded. There is also the 151 and Rockfish School Lane turn lane improvement project which is an application from last round but is scored low in the safety portion of the scoring, so it got kicked out. They are reapplying because there has since been an accident with three injuries at that intersection which now makes it a custom safety need applicable intersection.

Sandy Shackelford said they have reduced the number of applications for SMART SCALE. There are a total of two for Greene (33 and 29 are resubmissions from previously rounds), and four for Albemarle County. She said there is a Smart Scale webinar on February 24. She said pre-applications need to be submitted by April 1.

She said VDOT is focusing on VTRANS Priority 1 and 2 needs to determine what projects will have the highest scoring potential for the applications.

**6. TJPDC UPDATES (MINUTE 24:36)**

Smart Scale Area Type Change

Sara Pennington said the CTB had the Smart Scale Area Type Change on their December agenda, and it has been approved.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Gorjan Gjorgjievski gave an update on SS4A. He said he has reached out to the jurisdictions to see the interest in applying for grants for the projects outlined in the SS4A plan. He said he has received positive feedback, but there are some conversations that need to be held between the PDC, the Counties and VDOT. He said overall, the PDC is looking to submit a regional application for as many jurisdictions as are interested. It will be a bundled application. Taylor Jenkins said the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will drop at the end of March and applications will be due at the end of June.

#### Rural Transportation Planning Needs Assessment Update

Ms. Pennington said there was a survey sent out in November re: needs for planning in the rural areas. Ms. Pennington said there have been some meetings scheduled with members of the committee to cover the feedback from the survey. She will be planning additional meetings with those whom she has not yet met.

Carson Eckhardt left the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

#### Topics for Future Meetings (Minute 28:45)

Alberic Karina-Plun said he recently received a list of bills from the General Assembly that would be of interest re: planning for rural jurisdictions, so he said it would be interesting to get a “wrap up” on how everything worked out. Sara Pennington said she would talk with David Blount and ask him to give a legislative update in the future.

Jim Frydl said he would like a conversation regarding improvements to gravel roads and how to deal with the maintenance of those roads. Alberic Karina-Plun said Albemarle is also dealing with this issue and they have \$6 million to use on unpaved roads. He said he will share information when he can.

Christine Jacobs said Stacy Londry, VDOT, gave a presentation to the MPO on transportation funding from the state perspective and RTAC might be interested in learning more about that in the future. Mr. Frydl said it might be useful to wait until the amended budget gets approved in the General Assembly.

Dylan Bishop said she would have interest in learning more about access management or combined access strategies in rural areas. She said she would also like to learn how VDOT and other localities prepare for extreme weather events.

### **7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE TOPICS (MINUTE 40:15)**

#### **Louisa County**

Tom Egeland said the TJPDC is assisting with the comprehensive plan meetings that they are having around the county. He noted that there is also a survey online for public feedback. He will have additional information at the next meeting.

#### **Nelson**

Dylan Bishop reported said they are dealing ordinance updates. She said they also have a new board member. Nelson is also in budget season. Their new social services building is going up currently.

#### **Albemarle County**

Alberic Karina-Plun said Albemarle also has new board members. He said there will be some updates on how to do the unpaved road improvement program. He said he will keep RTAC members updated.

#### **Greene County**

Jim Frydl said Greene County is looking at unique ways to use the rural rustic funds, including road improvements, ditches, culverts, etc. They are redoing their comp plan and will look at access management plans that will include additional restrictions or improvements that are different from the VDOT requirements. He said they are just beginning their comp plan process which will probably take two years to complete. He said there is a lot of home building going on and also have a locally administered transportation project.

### **Fluvanna County**

Todd Fortune said Fluvanna is working on their comp plan and hopes by April they will be presenting sections of it to their Board for their review. Their hope is to have their comp plan completed by December. He said Tenasca has submitted a Special Use Permit (SUP) application for a power plant. Along those lines, Fluvanna has submitted a traffic study focusing on seven intersections in the County. There are recommendations for intersection improvements on their website. He said they are looking at a roundabout or a signalized intersection. He said they are looking to make a change to their subdivision ordinance to deal with how private roads are addressed in the county. Mr. Fortune said he would get back to Gorjan on SS4A grant funding.

### **Jaunt**

Jason Espie said Jaunt is fully staffed with a new Chief of Operations. He said Jaunt is starting a mobility on demand pilot program (aka micro-transit) in Greene County and paratransit in the Charlottesville ADA zone. He said users can download an app to book rides with for the micro-transit program. He said they have applied for a demo grant with DRPT for FY27 that would expand mid-day service with Fluvanna and Louisa and urbanized Charlottesville/Albemarle. He said they have applied for another demo grant for a second commuter route to Greene County. He said there are local matches required for both grants.

### **VDOT**

Sandy Shackelford said she did not have any more updates to share.

Tom Egeland shared that Louisa County has hired two planners who will be starting in February and March.

### **TJPDC**

Christine Jacobs reported that the TJPDC's FY26 amended budget will be before the commission soon. The contractors are busy replacing floors and painting and getting a new kitchen. She said there are things that have been found that are pushing back the end date. If there are any meetings that happen in early March, they will need to be in person. If the meeting space is not available, TJPDC will have to find a temporary meeting space due to the guidelines that do not allow for two virtual meetings in a row.

## **8. Additional Matters from the Public**

None.

### **Adjourn**

Tom Egeland adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

The next meeting is in person on May 5, 2026, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.