

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes August 4, 2026

The video of the meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw4B08spv18>

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

* online participant

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Rural Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Tom Egeland, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Dylan Bishop said she is joining remotely due to a conflicting appointment.

Motion/Action: Jim Frydl made a motion to allow those attending online to participate fully. Tom Egeland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion/Action: Alberic Karina-Plun made a motion to elect Tom Egeland as Chair. Tom Egeland seconded and the motion carried.

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to elect Dylan Bishop as Vice Chair. Jim Frydl seconded and the motion carried.

The committee members and attendees introduced themselves.



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@tjpd.org ▪ web: www.tjpd.org

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 4:15)

Approval of May 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to approve the May 5, 2026, minutes, Alberic Karina-Plun seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. REVIEW OF RTAC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES (MINUTE 4:30)

Sara Pennington noted that the roster is in the agenda packet and she asked the members to review the list and make any additions or changes. Dylan Bishop and Alberic Karina-Plun said they would discuss alternatives and get back with Ms. Pennington.

5. REMOTE ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION AND ALL-VIRTUAL MEETING POLICY (MINUTE 5:28)

Sara Pennington noted there were no changes since last year and highlighted key factors.

6. FY27 RURAL LONG RANGE PLAN (RLRP) (MINUTE 6:45)

Tom Egeland said he presented the Louisa RLRP, and their decision was to defer the goals and objectives until their November meeting because they just got information in mid-July. It was the general consensus that the information be taken back to the elected bodies so they can make an informed decision.

Taylor Lowery presented the RLRP overview. She noted the last adoption of an RLRP was in 2018. She presented the RLRP schedule and phases.

Ms. Lowery gave an overview of the region including the population and projections. She also presented on transportation and housing and how they are interconnected.

It was noted that Virginia's second highest expense is transportation. She gave overviews of total population, median age, median household income and households with no vehicle available stats for the City of Charlottesville, and Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson counties.

Ms. Lowery continued with regional commuter patterns and information on commuting between jurisdictions.

She continued by sharing each jurisdiction's commuting characteristics.

She presented the draft 2050 RLRP goals. There was an extended discussion about the six goals presented.

She continued by presenting how to link goals with project prioritization.

Tom Egeland suggested that each member provide feedback to Taylor Lowery by October 1 so the information can be integrated into the goals that will be presented in November.

There was an extended discussion about how to link goals with project prioritization.

Lastly, she presented next steps and noted that there will be this same presentation to the TJPDC commission meeting in September, and at the November 10 RTAC meeting, the hope at that meeting is to finalize goals and objectives, project prioritization framework, create an assessment of the regional transportation program, and discuss the public engagement approach.

7. VDOT UPDATES (MINUTE 58:55)

Culpeper District

Sandy Shackelford noted that the Culpeper District submitted 22 SMART SCALE Round 7 applications and nine were from the MPO area. She said the Culpeper District will be pursuing two pipeline studies. She also said OIPI is not expecting to expand their Grown and Accessibility Program grants.

Lynchburg District

Kelli Rowan, Lynchburg VDOT, said they had 21 SMART SCALE applications and one from Nelson County. She said there is one pipeline request in Nelson County.

8. TJPDC UPDATES (MINUTE 1:04:15)

Rescheduling February RTAC Meeting

Sara Pennington said after reviewing their plan for public engagement, they discovered that they would be asking the public to answer survey questions during the holidays. She suggested pushing back the February meeting date to March 2 or March 16. Tom Egeland said he could not do the 16th, so the majority said March 2 is the better date.

Motion/Action: Jim Frydl made a motion to move the February meeting to March 2, 2027. Alberic Karina-Plun seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

9. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE TOPICS (MINUTE 1:07:10)

VDOT

Sandy Shackelford did not have anything else to report.

Louisa County

Tom Egeland did not have anything transportation related to report, but shared general information about their planning commission discussions.

Jaunt

Mike Murphy suggested that the committee look at the Prioritization Study that CARTA is currently undertaking. He said this is particularly important for those who are not in Charlottesville or Albemarle. He said they are piloting on-demand service in Greene County. He said Jaunt is also updating their software system. They have demo grant dollars from the state and noted that one of those grants is to create a clean fixed-route commuter service for Greene County, and the other is to find a way to get mid-day service for Louisa and Greene County residents.

Albemarle

Alberic Karina-Plun said Albemarle staff will be suggesting roads to the board that they think could be on a “no pave” list for the next two years. He also said they are starting their multi-modal plan including rural areas. He noted that they are working with the City on how best to coordinate with them on future projects.

He said he would be able to present on their “paved/unpaved” road program at the next meeting.

Greene County

Jim Frydl said Greene County is working through a SMART SCALE project that has met some major milestones. The project was redesigned as a continuous green T that required additional funding that was approved by the CTB.

He also said Greene is looking at offering an incentive to create an unmanned vehicle testing site. They have come up with some potential conditions and a site. They would restrict testing and fly zones to their property only.

TJPDC

Taylor Lowery said TJPDC submitted for a BUILD grant for the Rivanna Bike and Pedestrian Bridge and it was not awarded. She reported that there is a new CTB member, Jim Moye.

Rideshare

Sara Pennington said Rideshare launched their August carpool contest.

Nelson

Dylan Bishop said Nelson submitted one SMART SCALE application. She said there are other projects that align with the Safe Streets for All that they will be considering. Nelson had land acquisition procured recently and they will be deciding how to develop the land. She said there is a SMART SCALE project under construction on the 29 Bypass near Northridge Road (near the Lock'n property). She said Nelson's zoning and subdivision update has a public open house scheduled for this month and after hearings, scheduling, transition and adoption. She will have a presentation about that at a later meeting (potentially in March). She also noted that the Rural Planning Caucus is in October.

8. Additional Matters from the Public

None.

Adjourn

Tom Egeland adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m. The next meeting is in person on November 10, 2026, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA