



MINUTES

The August meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Marief Fowler	County of Bedford
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Wayne Leftwich	City of Roanoke
Mark Jamison, <i>Vice Chair</i>	City of Roanoke
Ben Tripp, <i>Chair</i>	City of Salem
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
Cody Sexton	Town of Vinton
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transportation - Salem District

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

David Givens	County of Botetourt
Dan Brugh	County of Montgomery
Will Crawford	County of Roanoke
Dorian Allen	Greater Roanoke Trans. Company (Valley Metro)
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System (RADAR)
Daniel Sonenklar	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Jones	Federal Highway Administration
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RVARC Staff Present: Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Eddie Wells, William Long and Virginia Mullen.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Tripp called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked Cristina Finch, Secretary to the TTC, to call the roll. Ms. Finch stated that a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. August 12, 2021 RVTPO Meeting Agenda
- B. July 8, 2021 TTC Minutes

Vice Chair Jamison proposed the following change: Page 3 of the agenda packet, last sentence under item #2 Chairman Remarks should read as follows: *“Liz Belcher announced*

there will be Bridging the Gap ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 20²⁰, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Barnhardt Creek Bridge on the Roanoke River Greenway."

Motion: by Mark Jamison to approve items (A) and (B) under the consent agenda, as amended; seconded by Anita McMillan.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

3. **CHAIR REMARKS**

Chair Tripp commented he was happy to see everyone in person today and thanked staff for ensuring the virtual meetings went smoothly during the pandemic.

4. **REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Ms. Finch noted a draft amendment to the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan (RVTP) and a marketing brochure showcasing the region's top 10 unfunded project priorities had been distributed with the agenda packet. Ms. Finch asked members for feedback on the presented information. Ms. Finch noted the draft plan will be shared with the Policy Board at their August meeting where the board will be asked to approve its release for public comment and a public hearing at the September meeting. TTC members will review the final draft at their September TTC meeting and will be asked for a recommendation to the Board at that time.

Mr. Sexton asked if there is an anticipated date of the adoption of the full (updated) plan. Ms. Finch replied that the last plan was adopted September 2017, thus it is anticipated that the new plan will be adopted by September 2022.

Vice Chair Jamison noted that on page 19 of the Vision 2040 Roanoke Valley Transportation Draft plan, the project "Route 460/W. Ruritan Road Intersection Improvements" location is listed as City of Roanoke and it should be Roanoke County.

Ms. McMillan asked about the deadline for providing feedback on the plan. Ms. Finch replied Tuesday, August 24th. Ms. Cronise commented that she will be submitting small edits as well.

5. **DISCUSSION ON CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UPDATE TO THE ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND A PERFORMANCE-BASED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING PROCESS**

Cristina Finch explained that as part of the OIPI GAP grant received by the RVTPPO, staff was working with consultants to develop the RVTPPO's Performance-Based Planning Process. As part of this effort, staff has reviewed the current planning process to identify areas for improvement that can be worked on as the region looks to transition to performance-based planning.

Rachel Ruhlen and Bryan Hill presented information on performance based planning and programming. Issues noted by staff:

- Federally mandated performance measures do not include equity, economy, or environment
- Finding time to transition to performance-based planning
- RVTPO has little direct control over programming

(The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes.)

Mr. Wayne Leftwich agreed that performance measurements are missing a few key elements- it is one sided and not looking at environment, equity, and economy.

Mr. Cody Sexton commented that the implementation of the annual updates to the Long Range Plan was a huge first step and has helped localities to align their goals with regional goals. Mr. Sexton also added that, in his opinion, the appropriate time to have a programming discussion is during funding decision phases versus planning phases.

Ms. Finch commented that the state has tried to coordinate what has been applied for through SMART SCALE with the region's Long Range Plan and that is why the question is being asked on the application, but some projects still fall through the cracks.

Chair Tripp suggested that maybe it would help to narrow the goals for regional planning.

Ms. Megan Cronise commented that project prioritization changes very frequently, and a lot of it depends on funding; it is a hard issue to fix.

Ms. Finch noted that she understands that issues do come up, however the plan was last amended in January 2020 and there are over twenty projects on the amendment list which indicates some disconnect even though it is never going to be a 100% match between planning and programming.

Ms. Finch commented that another issue is getting better information about the new ideas or projects that are seeking funding so staff can better explain it to the public when public input is sought.

Ms. Cronise suggested the Regional Commission to look into creating a regional transportation map, similar to Roanoke County's transportation story map.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Review of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Application Process- applications due by 5:00 p.m. on September 24, 2021

Ms. Finch shared on the screen the www.rvarc.org website and explained how the STBG applications can be uploaded. Ms. Finch noted that the applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on September 24, 2021. Ms. Finch also noted that the file name should be limited to fifteen characters.

7. COMMENTS BY MEMBERS AND / OR CITIZENS

Mr. Sexton asked when the updated boundary of the TPO will take place. Ms. Finch replied that she will consult with Mr. Matt Miller. Ms. Finch added that there will be no change in the planning boundaries that are being used for this plan update.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.



Cristina D. Finch, AICP, LEED AP, Secretary,
Transportation Technical Committee



Performance Based Planning and Programming

TTC Meeting, Thursday, August 12, 2021

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1

Performance Measures

- Safety
- Congestion/Reliability
- Bridge and Pavement Condition
- System Performance
- Public Transit Agency Safety Plan
- Transit Asset Management

What's missing?

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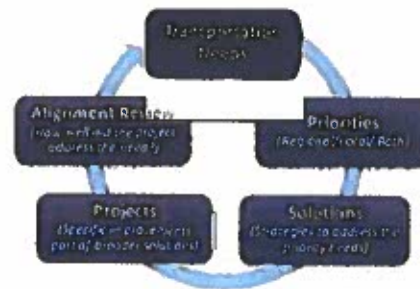


2

Planning & Programming

- **Planning**
 - Goals, needs, solutions
- **Programming**
 - Project development, prioritization, selection
 - Project study & implementation
 - Fiscal constraint

RVTPO Framework for Prioritization



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3

Planning

- How can planning be performance based?
- How are performance measures and outcomes used in planning?

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4

Planning

- Time
- Regional perspective
- Public input
- Performance based

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5

Planning - Time

No time for planning!

- Programming
- Preparing for next grant deadline
- Planning
- Transitioning to performance-based planning

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6

Planning - Regional Perspective

- Project recommendations from studies & plans are not often reviewed through the context of regional planning
- Projects receive funding first and are added to the long-range plan second

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7

Planning - Public Input

- Quantity
- Quality
- Diversity
- Meaningful

Quality - Few people know what the RVTPO or LRTP are. How can they give quality input?

Meaningful - What is the appropriate time to get public input on a project?

- Locality/state study or plan
- Long-range plan

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8

Planning - Performance Based

- How are performance measures and outcomes considered in project development, prioritization, and selection?
 - By citizens providing public input?
 - During local/state studies & plans?
 - When projects are added to the long-range plan?

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9

Programming

- How are performance measures used in programming?
- How can programming be performance based?

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10

Programming

- RVTPO role
- Project prioritization

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11

Programming - RVTPO Role

- TIP: Management tool for implementing plans
- Programming document: Long-range plan fiscally constrained list of projects
- RVTPO determines programming of STBG and TA (~\$5 million annual)
- State & localities determine the rest of the ~\$150 million TIP

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12

Programming - Project prioritization

- There is no project prioritization
- The Six Year Improvement Program and the TIP are not entirely consistent with the long-range plan

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13

Programming

- When are performance measures and outcomes considered during the programming of projects?
 - During the SYIP development process?
 - During the LRTP development process?
 - When projects are added to the long-range plan?
 - When projects are added to the TIP?

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14