

May 19, 2016

The May meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Policy Board will be held as follows:

DATE: Thursday, May 26, 2016

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office
 (Top Floor Conference Room), 313 Luck Ave., SW, Roanoke, VA

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions *Chair Johnson*
2. Approval of the April 28, 2016 Minutes, pp. 3-7 *Chair Johnson*
3. Report by the Chair *Chair Johnson*
4. Update on RSTP - New Funds *Michael Gray, VDOT-Salem District*
David Holladay, Chairman, Transportation Technical Committee
5. Six-Year Improvement Program/HB2 Prioritization Process Update *Bryan Hill*
6. Presentation of Draft Roanoke Valley Transit Vision Plan *Cristina Finch*
David Miller, Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning
Draft Transit Plan available for review at www.rvarc.org/transit
7. Other Business
8. Comment Period
9. Adjournment

TPO POLICY BOARD: Cities of Roanoke and Salem; Counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Montgomery and Roanoke; Town of Vinton; Greater Roanoke Transit Company (*Valley Metro*); Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport; Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation; Virginia Department of Transportation

Public Input Policy

“At the end of each Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board meeting, the TPO Policy Board will allow for an open public forum/comment period. This comment period shall not exceed one-half hour in length and each speaker will be asked to sign up and be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak.”

ADA Compliance

The Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization intends to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and confirms that the office located at 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA is ADA compliant. If you have a disability and wish to request assistance or a special accommodation, please inform Bryan Hill at 540-343-4417 or bhill@rvarc.org no later than 48 hours in advance of the posted meeting.

MINUTES

The April meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) Policy Board was held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Assaid	Roanoke County
Todd Dodson	Botetourt County
Ray Ferris, <i>Vice Chair</i>	City of Roanoke
Jane Johnson, <i>Chair</i>	City of Salem
Ken King	Virginia Dept. of Transportation-Salem District
Billy Martin, Sr.	Botetourt County
Lee Osborne	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
Annette Perkins	Montgomery County
Janet Scheid	Town of Vinton
Bill Thomasson	Bedford County

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

The following guests were in attendance: David Holladay, Roanoke County member, and Chairman, Transportation Technical Committee; Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation-Salem District member, Transportation Technical Committee; and Charles Kolakowski, Town of Bedford; and David Phelps, Citizen.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2016 MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 24, 2016 meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board were distributed earlier.

Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board Action:

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Dodson and carried, the Minutes of the March 24, 2016 meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board were approved, as distributed.

TPO POLICY BOARD: Cities of Roanoke and Salem; Counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Montgomery and Roanoke; Town of Vinton; Greater Roanoke Transit Company (*Valley Metro*); Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport; Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation; Virginia Department of Transportation

3. PRESENTATION ON THE BEDFORD RAIL STUDY

For informational purposes, Bob Camicia, representing the Bedford-Franklin Regional Rail Initiative (BFRR), presented a PowerPoint on the “Town of Bedford Passenger Rail Station Feasibility Study and Conceptual Plan”. Mr. Camicia noted that BFRR was formed in early 2015 to demonstrate the need for an Amtrak stop in Bedford. BFRR includes the Counties of Bedford and Franklin, the Town of Bedford, as well as regional groups and businesses. The group has met with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for direction on the study and to also make sure their findings complement the Roanoke efforts and not interfere with the 2017 date for service. Highlights of the Study included:

- History: 2008 Virginia State Rail Plan showed a rail stop in Bedford; One outgrowth, Amtrak Route 46, in 2014 did not show a Bedford stop; BFRR formed in 2015.
- Ridership Study showed over 45,000 people within 20 to 30-minute drive of a Bedford Station.
- Funding was obtained for a Patronage Study and Economic Benefits Analysis.
- Executive Summary from Patronage Study showed:
 - Opening of Roanoke – 50% increase in traffic for Amtrak Route 46, Lynchburg 66k and Roanoke 42k.
 - Opening of Bedford – further 24% increase of traffic, Lynchburg 58k, Roanoke 44k and Bedford 32k.
 - Projected patronage at Virginia Amtrak Stations, total 22 – Lynchburg - #7, Roanoke - #11, and Bedford - #13.
 - Highlights from Table #4 (Annual Rail Boardings/Alightings for Roanoke Extension Without Bedford Station) and Table #5 (Annual Rail Boardings/Alightings for Roanoke Extension With Bedford Station).
 - Economic Impact: \$3.4 million/year in spending; 9 jobs; benefits for riders - \$4.5 million; and estimated initial investment \$2.0 million.
- Next Steps –
 - Review study with interested parties in Roanoke and Lynchburg.
 - Establish a direct communication path with Roanoke planners.
 - Meet with DRPT to begin discussions with Amtrak and Norfolk Southern.
 - Move forward to implement passenger rail service throughout the region, beginning with Roanoke.

4. ADOPTION OF SUPPORTING RESOLUTION TO AWARD ADDITIONAL STP BLOCK GRANT SET-ASIDE (FORMERLY TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM) FY’17 PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION OF \$35,001

(NOTE: As a result of Congress passing the FAST ACT, and effective in FY’17, the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program will now be incorporated into the Surface Transportation Program (STP) Block Grant Set-Aside.)

At the March 24, 2016 meeting, the TPO Policy Board moved to award the TPO's FY'17 Transportation Alternatives (TA) allocation of \$247,602 to the City of Roanoke's Colonial Avenue Boulevard Improvement project (sole recipient). After that action was taken, TPO and VDOT staffs were informed of a revised allocation to the TPO's FY'17 TA funds in the amount of an additional \$35,001.

At the April 12th meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC), the TTC moved to forward a recommendation to the Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board, for consideration at their April 28, 2016 meeting, to allocate the TPO's additional \$35,001 in FY'17 TA funds to the City of Roanoke's Colonial Avenue Boulevard Improvements project. A supporting resolution was presented for review and consideration.

Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board Action:

The Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board unanimously moved adoption of the resolution to endorse and award the TPO's additional FY'17 TA funds, in the amount of \$35,001, to the City of Roanoke's Colonial Avenue Boulevard Improvement project, and that this action further be forwarded to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

5. ACTION ON THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (RSTP) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTION PROCEDURES GUIDE

The final draft of the updated Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Development and Selection Procedures Guide was presented for consideration. Mark McCaskill reported that the process to update the guide began in January of this year and that several previous drafts have been presented and discussed at past meetings. Both the TPO Policy Board and the Transportation Technical Committee were heavily involved in providing feedback/input during the process.

Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board Action:

Mr. Ferris moved adoption of the final draft of the updated Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Development and Selection Procedures Guide, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodson and carried.

6. ADOPTION OF SUPPORTING RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY'17 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

The UPWP identifies all project planning activities to be undertaken in the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization Study Area for Fiscal Year 2017. The UPWP provides a mechanism for the coordination of transportation planning activities in the region, and is required as a basis and condition for all federal funding assistance for transportation planning by the joint metropolitan planning regulations of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Mark McCaskill presented the final draft of the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program and stated that suggestions/recommendations received to-date have been incorporated into the UPWP. A supporting resolution was presented for consideration.

Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board Action:

Mr. Ferris moved adoption of the resolution approving the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodson and carried.

7. ADOPTION OF SUPPORTING RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT “ROLL ON/ROLL OFF” ACCOMMODATIONS FOR BICYCLES ON PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE TO ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

Mark McCaskill reported that the TPO staff was recently approached by Barbara Duerk, representing ConnectNow, asking both the TPO’s Transportation Technical Committee and Policy Board to adopt resolutions concerning “Roll On/Roll Off” accommodations for bicycles on passenger rail service to Roanoke, Virginia. Mark McCaskill noted that Ms. Duerk’s request originated at the public meeting held by the federal team for the TPO’s recent federal certification review. This request illustrated how potential concepts and ideas can “fall through the cracks” because it is not clear which agency should respond to such requests. The federal team felt that it is within the purview of Metropolitan/Transportation Planning Organizations, in general, to be the forum for such ideas to be discussed initially, even if the ultimate decision-making authority lies outside of the RVTPO’s scope.

Ms. Scheid asked if there were any costs associated with the request for roll on/roll off accommodations. Mark McCaskill said costs may be incurred by the State or VDRPT if a car has to be added. Chair Johnson asked Ms. Duerk if she had any information regarding the associated/potential costs. Ms. Duerk said it would depend on what DRPT chooses to do, noting that adding a baggage car on the Northeast Regional routes might be something easy.

Ms. Duerk stated that she had asked that the word “ensure” be used in the proposed resolution to highlight the importance of the resolution to DRPT. Mr. Ferris asked if there was any specific reason why the TTC didn’t use “ensure” in place of “support” in the resolution recommended to the TPO Policy Board, noting the paragraph... “Now therefore, be it resolved that the Policy Board of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization recommends that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation **support** “Roll On/Roll Off” accommodation for bicycles on passenger rail service to Roanoke, Virginia; and”.

Mark McCaskill said his recollection at the April TTC meeting was that there were several versions of the resolution presented and discussed, along with comments received from both Ms. Duerk and David Foster, with Rail Solutions. Mr. McCaskill stated that the staff had the word “support” in their notes, and that there was no specific discussion or rejection of the word “ensure” at the TTC meeting. He further stated that there is no reason why the TPO Policy Board couldn’t change “support” to “ensure”.

Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board Actions:

Mr. Ferris moved that the word “ensure” be inserted in the resolution in place of the word “support”. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and carried.

Mr. Ferris moved adoption of the resolution, as amended (see below). The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodson and carried.

“Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Policy Board of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization recommends that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation ensure “Roll On/Roll Off” accommodations for bicycles on passenger rail service to Roanoke, Virginia; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Policy Board of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization requests that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation work with AMTRAK to facilitate implementation of such on-train capacity with the resumption of passenger rail service to Roanoke, Virginia.”

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- Wayne Strickland noted that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) recently met in Lynchburg. He asked Ken King, District Engineer at Salem VDOT, to report on some of the changes to the HB2 funding recommendations discussed at that meeting. Mr. King said the changes that occurred, from the original recommended list of projects (Salem District), were two projects added and two projects removed in the new draft for CTB consideration. Projects removed included a Phase II project of N. Franklin Street in Christiansburg, that was approximately a \$9 million project. The CTB also elected to make smaller scale safety improvements to the “S” curves on I-81 near the Arcadia Exit. Added projects: improvements to U.S. 460 “S” curves in Montvale area, and widening of I-81 to provide an auxiliary lane that would continue the access lane for Route 419 onto I-81 going northbound it would tie that merging on-lane to the off ramp at I-581 (making that stretch of I-81 three lanes instead of two).
- Wayne Strickland stated that local governments need to begin conversations at this time concerning projects for the next round of HB2 funding, as well as the projects to be submitted by the Regional Commission and the Transportation Planning Organization.
- Mr. King noted that he serves on VDOT’s Executive Training and Development Program. This program allows Central Office executives to gain experience at the District levels and District Administrators to gain experience at the Central Office of VDOT. Mr. King noted he would be away May through July and during that time Michael Gray would be available at TPO meetings. Additionally, Kendall Wallace (State Bridge Engineer) will be serving in Mr. King’s interim role at the Salem District.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Wayne Strickland, Secretary,
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization