



MINUTES

Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) Policy Board on April 23, 2020 and the 2020 Virginia General Assembly legislation H29 enacted April 24, 2020, and in lieu of the December meeting, the RVTPO Policy Board held a virtual Joint Work Session with the Transportation Technical Committee via Zoom on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Under the current State of Emergency, and until further notice, it has been deemed unsafe to assemble a quorum of a public body in one place.

TPO VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Mickey Johnson	Bedford County
Billy Martin, <i>Chair</i>	Botetourt County
Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Bill Bestpitch	City of Roanoke
Joe Cobb	City of Roanoke
Renee Turk	City of Salem
Mike Stovall	Town of Vinton
Daniel Sonenklar	Va. Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation
Ken King	Virginia Dept. of Transportation – Salem District

TPO VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Steve Fijalkowski	Montgomery County
Bill Jones	City of Salem
Keith Liles	Town of Vinton
Kevin Price	Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro)
Richard Osborne	Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport

TPO NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Caywood	Roanoke County
Lee Osborne	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Reg. Commission

TTC VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Maribel Fowler	Bedford County
Cody Sexton	Botetourt County
Megan Cronise	Roanoke County
Will Crawford	Roanoke County
Mark Jamison, <i>Vice Chair</i>	City of Roanoke
Chris Chittum	City of Roanoke
Ben Tripp, <i>Chair</i>	City of Salem
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton

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

Nathan McClung
Dorian Allen
Liz Belcher
Nathan Sanford
Daniel Sonenklar
Michael Gray

Town of Vinton
Greater Roanoke Transit Co (Valley Metro)
Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Unified Human Serv. Transp. System
Virginia Dept of Rail & Public Transportation
Virginia Dept. of Transportation-Salem District

TTC VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Peter Volosin
Dan Brugh
Melinda Payne
Richard Osborne

Botetourt County
Montgomery County
City of Salem
Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport

Others Present: Dr. Raymond Smoot, Virginia Transportation Board; Terry Durkin, Roanoke Chamber of Commerce; David Jackson, Cambridge Systematics; Richard "Pete" Peters, Town of Vinton; Rich Denbow, Cambridge Systematics; Isaac Henry, Roanoke County; Wayne Leftwich, City of Roanoke.

Staff Present: Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Rachel Ruhlen, Jeremy Holmes, Eddie Wells, Matt Miller, Wayne Strickland, and Virginia Mullen.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS

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

Chair Martin read the following opening statement..."Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the RVTPO Policy Board on April 23, 2020 and 2020 Virginia General Assembly legislation H29 enacted April 24, 2020, and in lieu of the December meeting, the RVTPO Policy Board will hold a virtual Joint Work Session with the Transportation Technical Committee via Zoom on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Under the current State of Emergency, and until further notice, it has been deemed unsafe to assemble a quorum of a public body in one place. Any members of the public may view and participate in the meeting through electronic means. Meeting details are listed on the second page of the agenda. All materials made available to the members will be made available to the public at the same time by posting on the RVARC website."

Chair Tripp called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Chair Martin reminded the TPO Board that Mr. Bill Bestpitch was appointed by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission to represent our region on the I-81 Committee. The last Committee meeting was held on October 23, 2020 and Mr. Bestpitch had provided a summary of the meeting which was distributed with the agenda. Mr. Bestpitch drew attention to the following bullet points from his notes:

- Procurement of design-build contract in process for Exit 137-141 project
- Currently ahead of schedule on all the projects
- Expected to stay ahead subject to funding availability

- There is a lot of emphasis on improving passenger rail (passenger rail=vital lifeline for Virginia Tech and Radford University)
- Dedicated to I-81 Fund only in localities through which I-81 passes and cities wholly encompassed by such counties
- Debt may be serviced only by fuels tax revenues, not other fees/taxes

3. PERSPECTIVES ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

Dr. Raymond Smoot thanked staff for the invitation to present at the December 10, 2020 Joint TPO/TTC Work session.

Dr. Smoot stated that the Commonwealth's proposal to Norfolk Southern includes extending intercity passenger rail service from Roanoke to the Blacksburg-Christiansburg area, and increasing the frequency of passenger rail service along the I-81/Route 29 Corridor from Washington, DC.

Dr. Smoot reported that at the December 9, 2020 Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting, there was a lengthy discussion on how to keep the current projects moving despite the COVID-19 impact. The leadership of the Commonwealth Board presented the idea of "borrowing" from money that has been set aside for future projects and using them to keep the current and approved projects moving forward, with the notion that the money will be paid back to the projects that they were borrowed from. Dr. Smoot added that there are several projects in our region that are moving along: I-81 Project, east of Montvale on 460; 419/581 Intersection Project (currently in early planning stage); consideration of how traffic along 460 eastbound coming out of Roanoke might be improved; work on 220 Corridor between Roanoke and Martinsville. Dr. Smoot noted that it is important to continue to improve the entire 220 Corridor (North Carolina to Clifton Forge).

Dr. Smoot noted that some legislators want Virginia to become a signatory to the Northeastern states' Carbon Pact. He stated that reducing carbon is certainly an important goal for the Commonwealth but signing on the Pact would lead to an increase in the gas tax by about \$0.34 per gallon. The Carbon Pact calls for directing much of the increased gasoline tax towards mass transit projects rather than building and maintaining existing highways. This will not benefit the less urbanized areas of the state. Dr. Smoot stated that Mr. Tripp Pollard, with the Southern Environmental Law Center, urged the Commonwealth Transportation Board at their November meeting to reorient its transportation planning to mass transit for the most part and not to invest in highway improvements or additions except for the high-density developed parts of the state.

Dr. Smoot commented that we should all recognize VDOT's highway workers who have been working hard to complete road projects despite the pandemic.

4. UPDATE ON VISION 2045: ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Cristina Finch and Rachel Ruhlen provided an update on the development of the Vision 2045: Roanoke Valley Transportation plan including information about what constitutes a transportation need, categories of transportation needs (safety, congestion/reliability, access, and system management), an overview of the four sources being used to identify transportation needs, and the results of the long-range plan's citizen survey. Ms. Finch

reported that Cambridge Systematics (CS) had been hired to assist with the effort and Rich Denbow, a project manager with CS, shared next steps. The presentation is included in the Minutes.

5. **UPDATE ON REGIONAL STUDY ON TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH**

Eddie Wells reported that a Committee of economic development stakeholders was formed to work on the update of the TED study. The Committee consists of local economic development staff, Chamber of Commerce representatives, and local business representatives. The Committee has held two meetings thus far. There are several one-on-one zoom meetings planned with local economic development staff and business representatives over the next week. Later in the process the TTC will have the chance to identify projects with final approval by the Board.

Mr. Wells stated that a brief update about the TED Study was provided to the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. About 50% of the current projects in the CEDS document are transportation related.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

7. **COMMENT PERIOD BY RVTPO POLICY BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR PUBLIC**

Mr. North commented that the increase in the gas tax by \$0.34 per gallon if Virginia becomes a signatory to the Carbon Pact is very concerning and perhaps the RVTPO would want to take a position on this issue through a resolution. Mr. Strickland commented that staff can prepare a resolution for consideration if there is a specific legislative movement in that direction.

Chairman Martin wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.


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

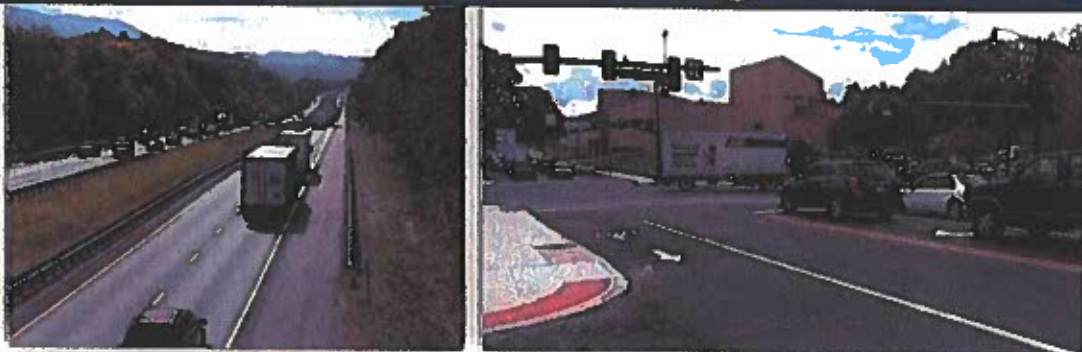


Vision 2045: Roanoke Valley Transportation Update

***RVTPO Policy Board & Transportation Technical Committee Work Session
December 10, 2020***

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Transportation Progress



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Dec. 10, 2020 TPO/TTC Work Session Mtes

Planning for 2045

- **Vision 2045: Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan**
 - Metropolitan Transportation Plan
 - Long-Range Plan
 - Constrained Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan
 - Regional Transportation Master Plan

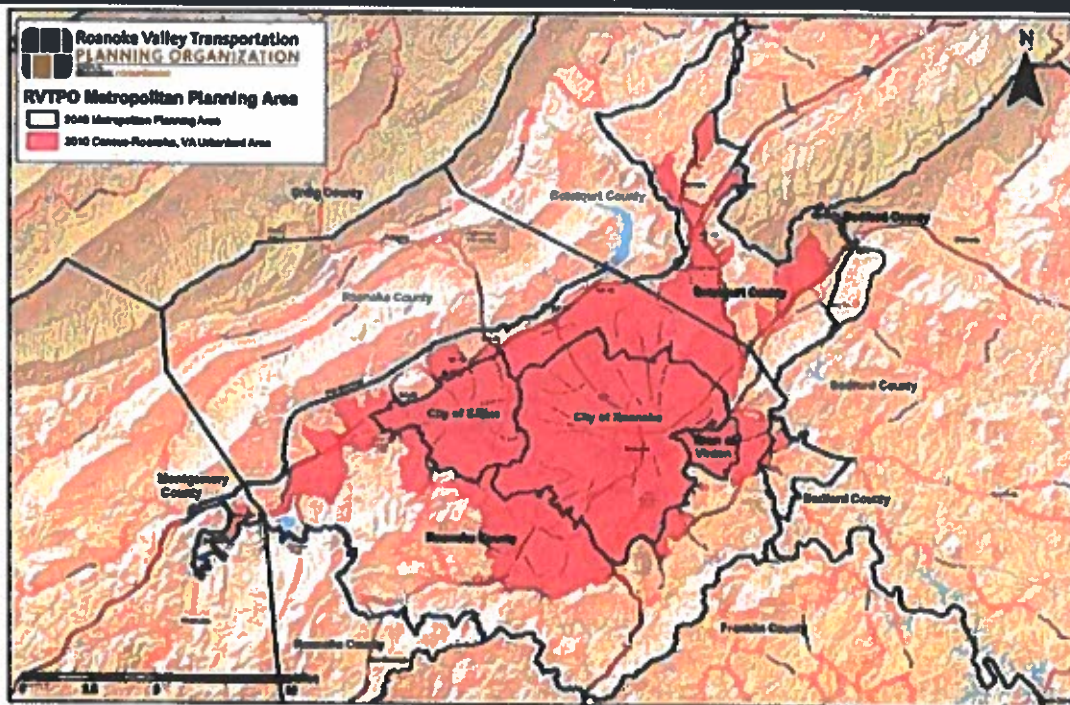
- **Transportation –**
Different modes, working as a system for the safe, efficient movement of people and goods.



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2045 Study Area

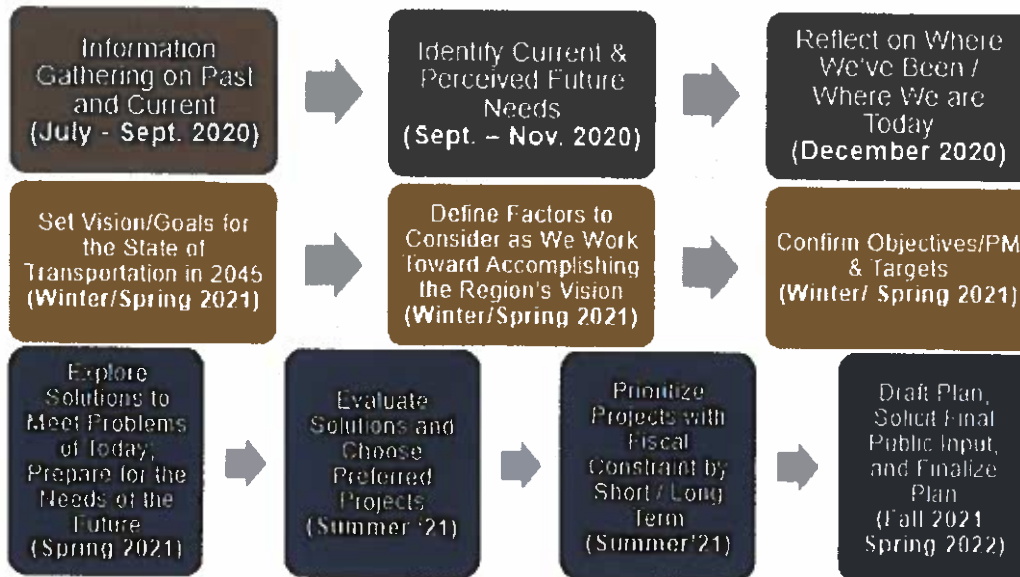


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Dec. 10, 2020 TPO/TTC Work Session Mtes

Vision 2045 Schedule



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Purpose and Need - AASHTO

DEFINING THE PURPOSE AND NEED AND DETERMINING THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

– American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), PRACTITIONER'S HANDBOOK, August 2016

- Determining and Documenting the Need for the Project
“describe the problems that the proposed action is intended to address and, to the extent possible, explain the underlying causes of those problems”
 Provides factual foundation for the project’s purpose...
- Purpose (of a project) - a clear and succinct statement describing the fundamental reasons why the project is being proposed, expressed as a desired transportation outcome.

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Purpose and Need - FTA

- Should be a statement of a transportation problem, not a specific solution.
- Should be specific enough to generate alternatives that may potentially yield real solutions to the problem at-hand.
- Only one alternative solution may indicate a purpose and need that is too narrowly defined.
- Focus on the primary transportation challenges.
- Serves as a cornerstone for the development and evaluation of alternatives.

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What is a Need?

A problem or deficiency impacting the safe, efficient movement of people or goods.

Problems people or businesses experience getting to where they are going or moving what they selling/receiving.

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Needs Assessment

- Current Transportation Needs
- Four sources
 1. VTrans
 2. Previous Plans/Studies
 3. Previous Public Input Surveys
 4. Citizen Survey for 2045 Plan

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1) VTrans Needs

- Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS) and Regional Networks (RN)
 - Congestion, Reliability, Capacity Preservation
- Safety Improvements
 - Vehicle and pedestrian safety

All other VTrans Needs are Aspirational

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2) Previous Plans/Studies

- **33 Plans/Studies**
 - Corridor/Area
 - Comprehensive
 - Mode specific
 - Issue
- **General Needs or Possible Solutions**

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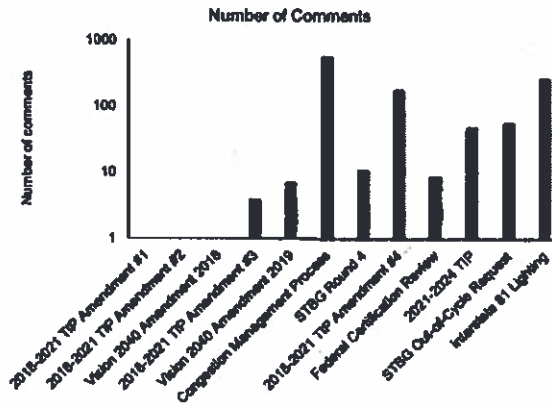
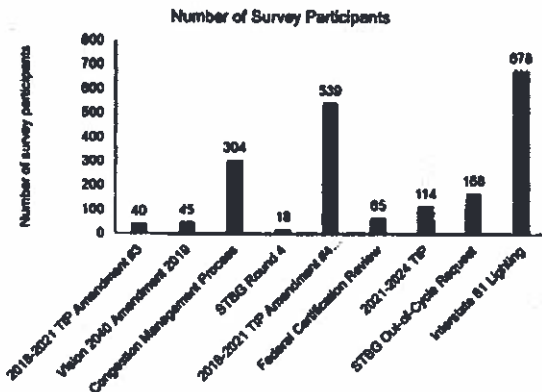
Public Input

- **Nine surveys since Vision 2040 (Sept. 2017)**
 - Vision 2040 Amendments in 2018, 2019 and 2020
 - 2018-2021 TIP Amendments #1, 2, 3, 4
 - 2021-2024 TIP
 - Congestion Management Process
 - Federal Certification Review
 - STBG Round 4
 - STBG Out-of-Cycle Request
 - Interstate 81 Lighting
- **Citizen survey for 2045 Plan conducted October 5 – November 16, 2020**

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3) Surveys since Vision 2040

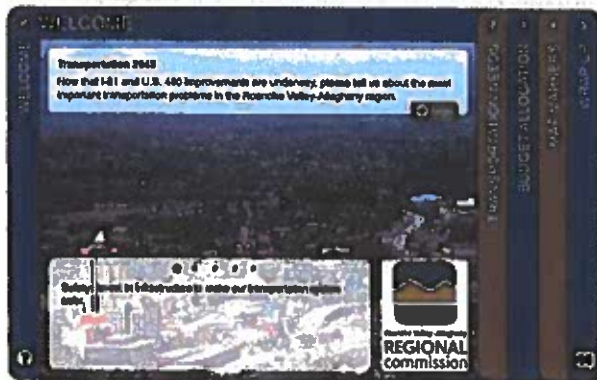


- 596 comments
- 284 projects suggested
- 111 transportation needs identified

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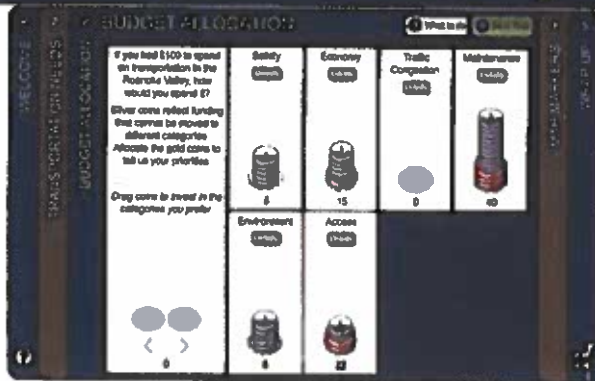
4) Citizen Survey for 2045 Plan



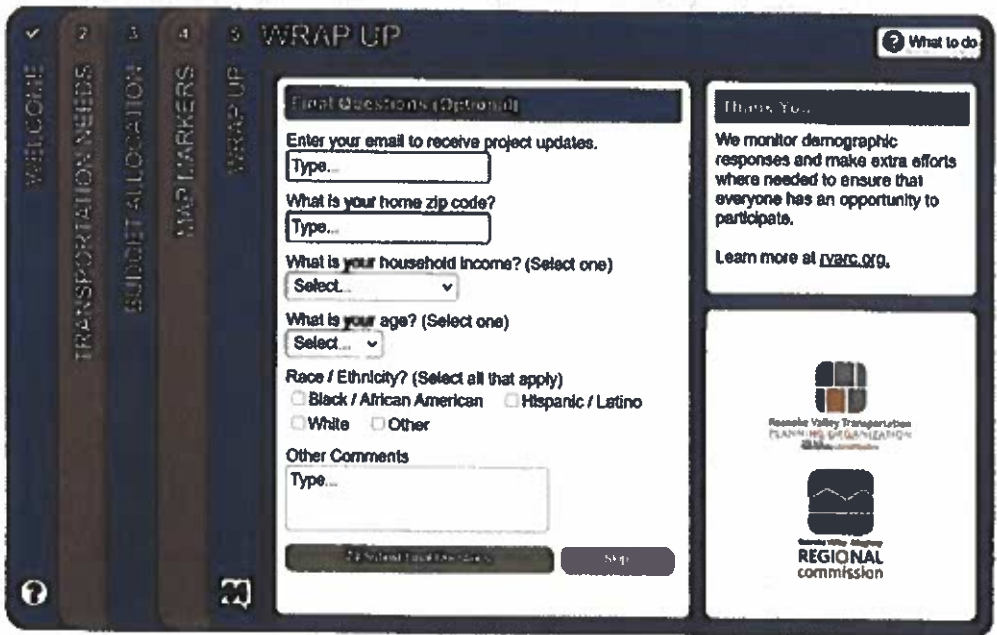
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Citizen Survey – Budget & Map



Citizen Survey – Last Screen



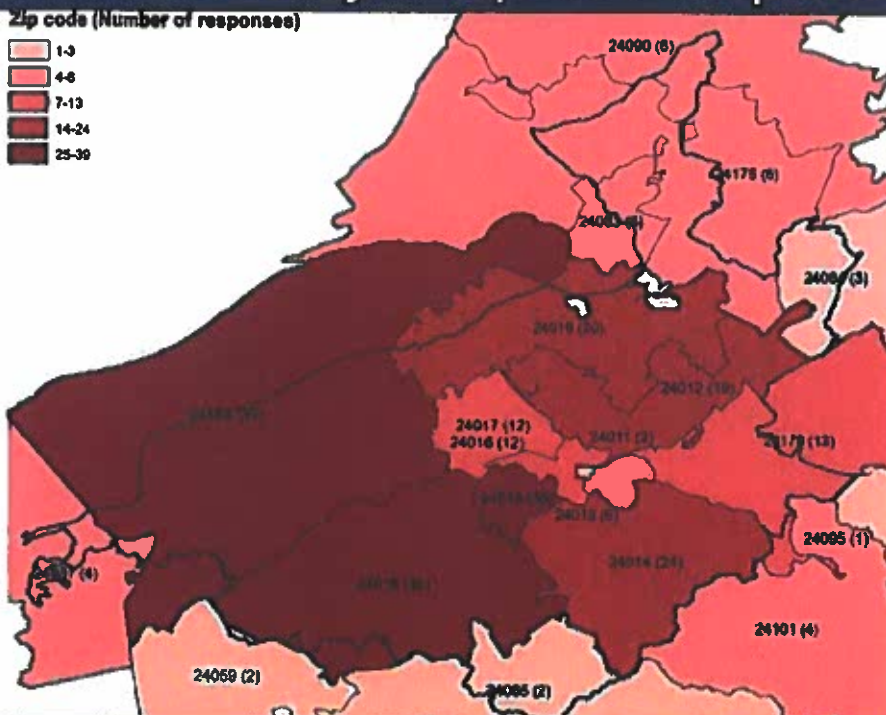
Citizen Survey Summary

- 486 participants
- 1,176 markers dropped on the map
- Promoted through:
 - Social media
 - RVARC website
 - Postcard with link + brochure “Guide to Getting Around Roanoke Valley”
 - Melrose Fall Festival (COVID edition)

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Citizen Survey Map of Responses



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Citizen Survey Responses

Table 1. Zip code responses compared to population

Zip code	% population	% response	Difference
24012	11%	7%	4% under
24013	3%	2%	1% under
24014	7%	9%	2% over
24015	6%	13%	7% over
24016	3%	4%	1% under
24017	9%	4%	5% under
24018	14%	13%	1% under
24019	10%	7%	3% under
24153	14%	14%	0% under
24175	3%	2%	1% under
24179	7%	5%	2% under

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Citizen Survey Demographics

Table 1. Annual household income of survey participants

Annual household income	% response
Less than \$20,000	5%
\$20,000 to \$44,999	16%
\$45,000 to \$139,999	60%
\$140,000 or more	19%

Table 1. Age of survey participants

Age	% population	% response	Difference from population
18 to 24 years	10%	6%	4% under
25 to 34 years	15%	15%	Same as population
35 to 44 years	14%	22%	8% over
45 to 54 years	16%	20%	4% over
55 to 64 years	17%	19%	1% over
65 years and over	28%	18%	10% under

Table 1. Race/ethnicity of participants

Race/ethnicity	% population	% response	Difference from population
White	78%	86.2%	8.2% over
Black or African American	14%	4.7%	9.3% under
Hispanic or Latino	4%	2.2%	1.8% under
Other	4%	6.9%	2.9% over

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Citizen Survey Needs Ranking

Need Area	Average Rank 1=most important
1. Safety	2.49
2. Traffic Congestion	2.98
3. Access	2.51
4. Environment	3.23
5. Maintain What We Have	3.26
6. Economy	3.49

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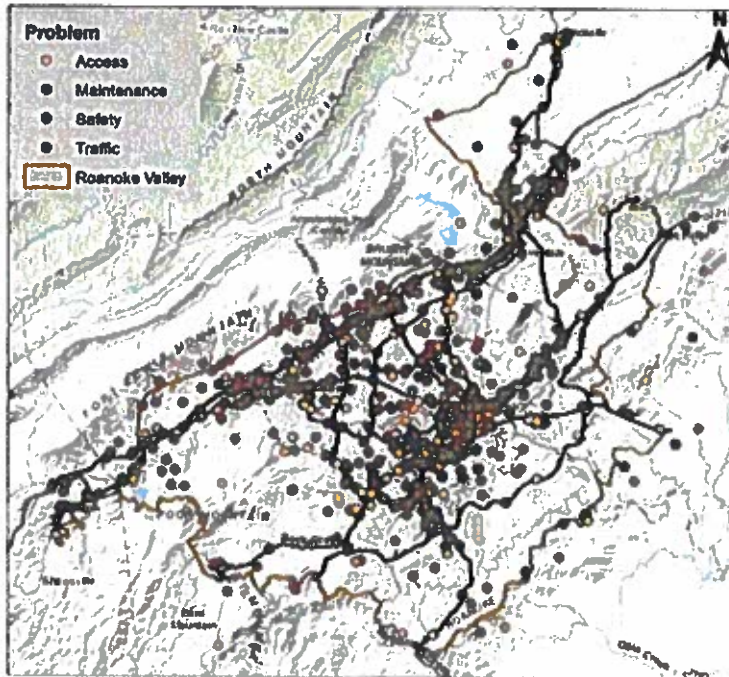
RVTPO Needs Categories

- Safety
- Congestion/Reliability
- Access
- System Preservation (Maintenance/Operations)

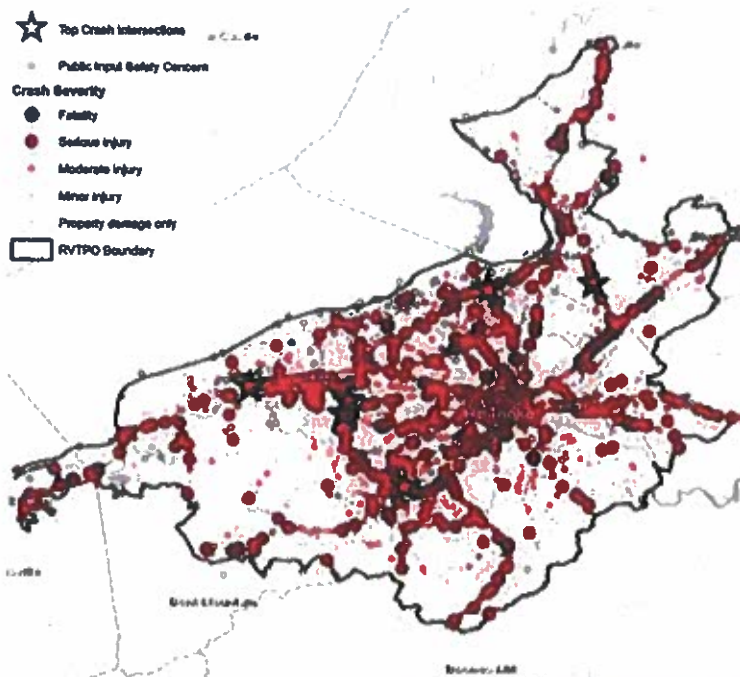
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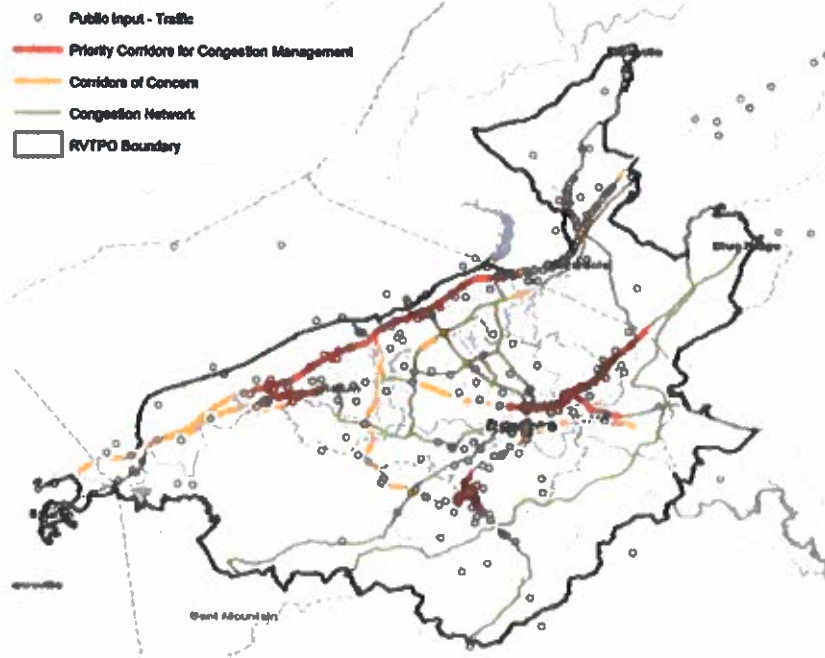
Citizen Survey Input



Draft Safety Needs



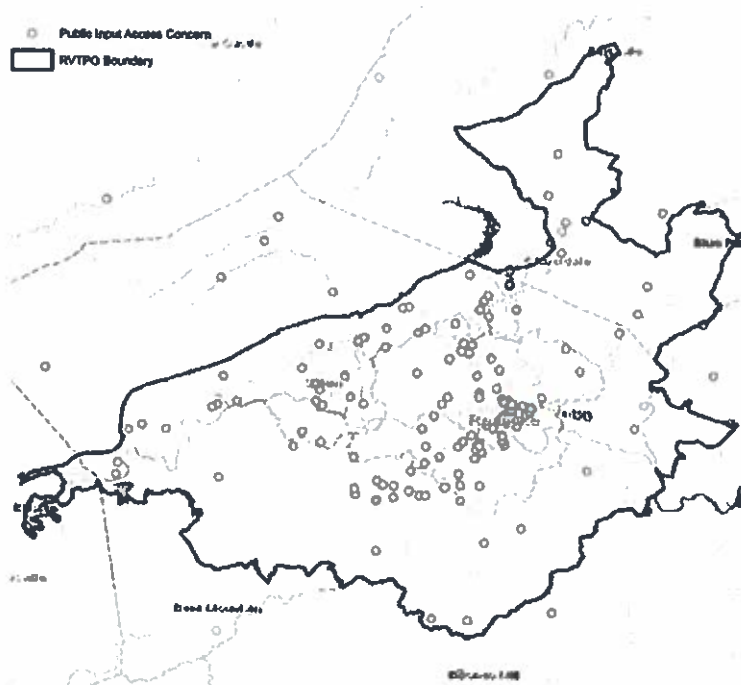
Draft Congestion/Reliability Needs



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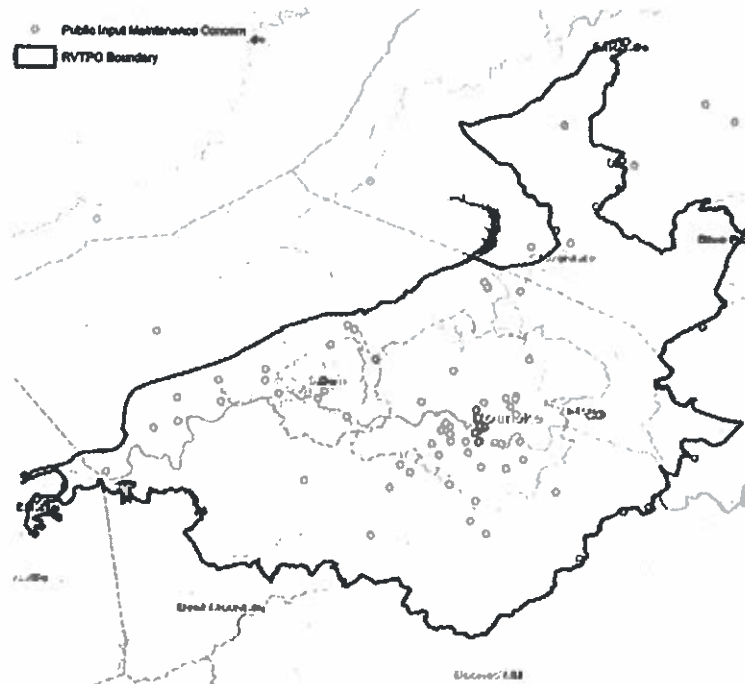
Draft Access Needs



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Draft System Preservation Needs



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Next Steps

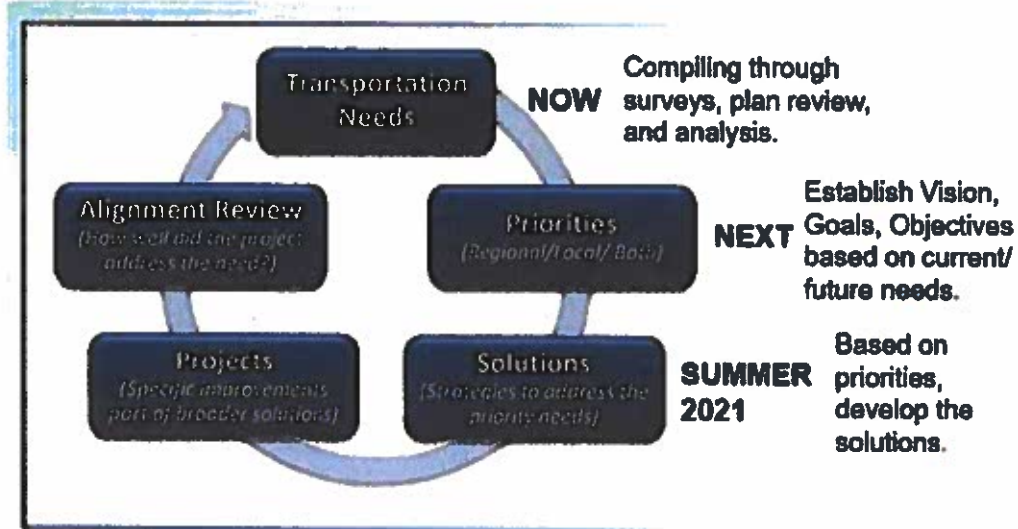
- ArcGIS Online maps
 - For each of the four need categories
 - With all public input received
- Technical Committee / Consultant review
 - Feedback due January 15, 2021
- Seeking an OIPI grant – technical assistance with establishing a performance-based process
- Consultant assistance –
 - Coordinate with Travel Demand Model developers
 - Evaluate Future Issues
 - Draft Vision / Goals
 - Prioritize of RVTPO Transportation Needs

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Prioritization Framework

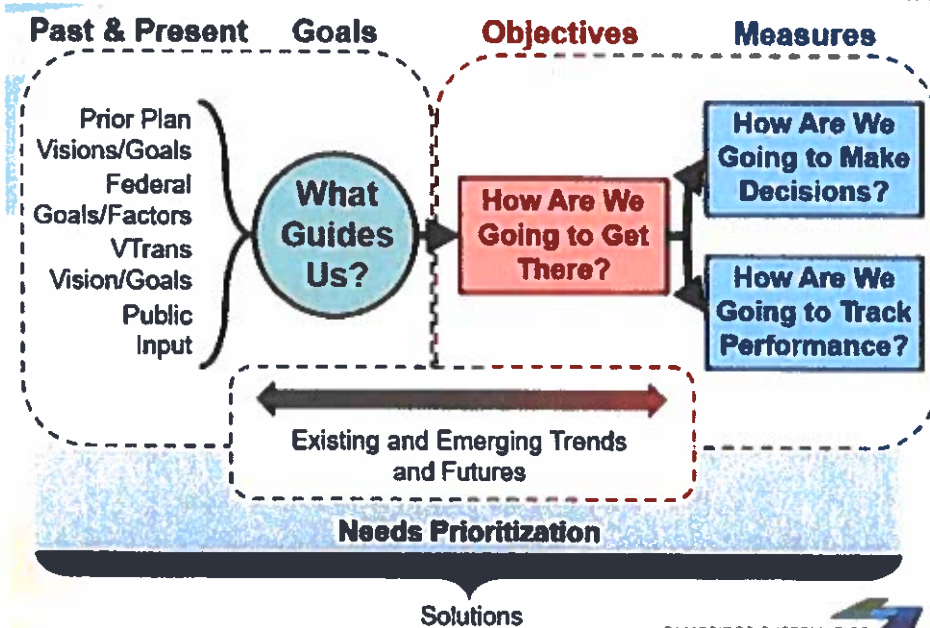


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Prioritizing Needs



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Performance Elements

Goals

Goal: a statement that describes a desired end state

Example:
"Provide a safe and secure transportation system for all travel modes."

Objectives

Objective: specific, measurable statements that support achievement of a goal

Example:
"Reduce the number and rate of motorized fatalities and serious injuries"

Measures

Performance measure: an expression based on a metric that is used to establish targets and to assess progress toward meeting the established targets

Example:
"Total and rate of fatal and serious motorized injuries"

Metric: a quantifiable indicator of performance or condition

Target: a quantifiable level of performance or condition, expressed as a value for the measure, to be achieved within a time period

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

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**Roanoke Valley Transportation
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
Roanoke, VA