

September 22, 2022

The Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) Policy Board, rescheduled for September 29, 2022 will be held as follows:

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Thursday, September 29, 2022</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office (Top Floor Conference Room), 313 Luck Ave., SW, Roanoke, VA</b>

### **Special Meeting Agenda**

1. Welcome, Call to Order ..... *Vice Chair North*
2. Roll Call (including consideration of remote participation)..... *Vice Chair North*
3. **Action Requested:** Approval of Consent Agenda Items ..... *Vice Chair North*
  - A. Approval of Agenda
  - B. Action on the August 25, 2022 RVTPO Minutes, pp. 3 – 19
4. Remarks by the Vice Chair ..... *Vice Chair North*
5. Presentation from Virginia Passenger Rail Authority.....*Colin Burch*  
*Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*
6. First Review of Draft Roanoke Valley Transportation.....*Cristina Finch & David Jackson*  
 Plan, pp. 20 *Cambridge Systematics*
7. **Action Requested:** Consideration of Major Scope Change for.....*Cristina Finch*  
 Elizabeth Greenway Project, pp. 21 – 22
8. Other Business
9. Comment Period by RVTPO Policy Board Members and/or Public
10. 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 RVTPO 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](mailto:bhill@rvarc.org) no later than 48 hours in advance of the posted meeting.

## MINUTES

The August meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

### 1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### 2. ROLL CALL (including consideration of remote participation)

Jeremy Holmes, Secretary to the RVTPO, called the roll and stated a quorum is present.

#### TPO VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, <i>Chair</i>	Botetourt County
Steve Fijalkowski	Montgomery County
Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Joseph Cobb	City of Roanoke
Stephanie Moon Reynolds	City of Roanoke
Renee Turk	City of Salem
Mike Stewart	Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport
Daniel Wagner ( <i>via zoom</i> )	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation
Anthony Ford ( <i>alt. for Ken King</i> )	Virginia Dept. of Transportation – Salem District

#### TPO VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Mickey Johnson	Bedford County
Bill Jones	City of Salem
Keith Liles	Town of Vinton
Mike Stovall	Town of Vinton
Kevin Price	Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro)
Ken King	Virginia Dept. of Transportation – Salem District

#### TPO NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Lee Osborne	Roanoke County
Cody Sexton	TTC Chair

**Others Present:** Megan Cronise, Roanoke County; Dwayne D'Ardenne, City of Roanoke; Frank Maguire, Greenway Commission; Richard Caywood, Roanoke County; Michael Gray, VDOT.

**Staff Present:** Bryan Hill, Jeremy Holmes, Cristina Finch, Alison Stinnette, Virginia Mullen, and Elizabeth Elmore.

**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

**Staff Present:** Bryan Hill, Jeremy Holmes, Cristina Finch, Jonathan Stanton, Alison Stinnette, and Elizabeth Elmore.

**3. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. August 25, 2022 RVTPO Meeting Agenda
- B. June 23, 2022 RVTPO Minutes

Vice Chair North proposed an amendment to the August 25, 2022 RVTPO agenda by adding an item after item #6 and before #7, called "Update on I-81 Corridor Improvement Program".

**Motion:** by Phil North for approval of the August 25, 2022 RVTPO Meeting Agenda, as amended, and the June 23, 2022 RVTPO Minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mike Stewart.

**RVTPO Policy Board Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**4. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

- Chair Martin announced that the RVTPO had the honor of being one of five MPOs in the country selected to present at a Federal Highway Administration safety workshop for all the 20+ Florida MPOs this summer. The workshop highlighted best practices for integrating safety considerations for motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit in the RVTPO's planning and programming decision-making process. Mr. Martin congratulated staff for the recognition and thanked them for sharing the good work taking place in the Roanoke Valley.
- Chair Martin reported that the RVTPO staff continue to monitor and share new funding opportunities developing from the recent passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. On September 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, FHWA is offering two webinars on the new Carbon Reduction Program, a grant program focused on reducing carbon emissions from on-road highway sources. The webinar will be an opportunity for local staff to learn more about the infrastructure and program funding opportunities through this new grant. Members could contact RVTPO staff for registration information for the webinars.
- Chair Martin thanked all the locality and regional staff who worked hard on the various SMART SCALE applications that were submitted recently. These applications represent a range of needed mobility and safety infrastructure improvements in the region.

**5. ACTION REQUESTED: AMENDMENT #6 TO THE VISION 2040: ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- A. Presentation on Amendment #6 to the Vision 2040: Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan

Mr. Bryan Hill, Ms. Alison Stinnette and Ms. Elizabeth Elmore delivered a presentation on the Draft Amendment #6 to the Vision 2040: Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan (RVTP, pages 8 through 24). Ms. Stinnette outlined the need to amend existing projects on the Constrained List with budget increases of 10% or more. Mr. Hill discussed a list of newly adopted projects in the FY23-28 Six-Year Improvement Program which required addition to the Constrained List, as well as two new SMART SCALE applications to the Vision List of Projects. Finally, Ms. Elmore discussed the public engagement efforts and analysis of a public survey.

Regarding the public survey analysis, Mayor Turk commented that no survey responses from zip code 24018 (Roanoke County) were included in the report and inquired as to why. Ms. Elmore indicated that no responses were received from that zip code.

Mayor Turk asked if it is known how many people in the email distribution list, for the survey, are in the 24018/24019 zip area. Ms. Elmore replied that she does not have that information. She added that there are 380 people on the email list.

Mayor Turk asked if the survey comments can be separated according to the two or three open-ended questions asked. Ms. Elmore replied that this can be done.

Mr. Anthony Ford commented that projects may have temporary UPC (Universal Project Code) numbers for several years (if the funding is not coming in until then) or get the temporary number replaced. It just depends on the projected funding.

Mr. Anthony Ford commented that table 1 from the staff report (page 8 of the agenda packet) still shows some projects that are either state funded with revenue sharing funds or are not eligible for federal funding. Mr. Hill replied that table 1 represents the existing projects on the Constrained List, however staff will take another look at it.

#### B. Public Hearing

Chair Martin opened the public hearing at 1:28 p.m. No public input was received. Chair Martin closed the public hearing at 1:29 p.m.

#### C. Consideration of Resolution Approving Amendment #6 to the Vision 2040: Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan

**Motion:** by Mayor Turk to approve the presented resolution, approving amendment #6 to the Vision 2040: Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Moon Reynolds.

**RVTPO Policy Board Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

### 6. **PRESENTATION ON STATUS OF ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

Ms. Cristina Finch presented a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Update (the presentation is included with the minutes). In the presentation, Ms. Finch reviewed the process for developing the plan including key elements dating back to 2017. These elements include basing the plan on a common understanding of transportation needs in the Roanoke Valley, a system for prioritizing which needs to address before others, the connection between goals-objectives-performance measures, how needs

may be addressed by multiple solutions with a preferred solution being identified, followed by development of a project that may address multiple needs with one investment. Ms. Finch gave a couple examples of the process practically moves from need to project identification, shared the products being developed to communicate the plan as well as next steps including a draft plan to be shared with the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Caywood commented that different funding sources (SMART SCALE, Revenue Sharing, TA, etc.) have their own set criteria for funding. Mr. Caywood explained that the thought process should be how to fit the needs into projects that can get funded. Working on a need or a want that will not get funded is a waste of time, no matter how desirable it is. The scorekeeper is whoever is awarding the funding. To be successful you have to mold your project to the system that is allocating the funds. The goal is to maximize what can be funded as a region, hopefully putting it towards the highest priorities that were identified.

**6A. UPDATE ON I-81 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Vice Chair North, RVARC representative to the I-81 Advisory Committee, presented an update on the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program that was discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting on July 7th (PowerPoint slides are included with the Minutes).

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**8. COMMENT PERIOD BY RVTPD POLICY BOARD MEMBER AND/OR PUBLIC**

No other comments were made.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Jeremy Holmes, Secretary  
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization



# Status of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan (RVTP) Update

Cristina Finch  
*Director of Transportation*

1

## Overview

- Since 2017 - RVTP Planning History
- August 2022 - Where we are now in the update process
- January 2023 - RVTPO approval

2

## 2017 RVTPO Framework for Prioritization



3

## 2020 Federal Review of RVTPO

- Integrate PBPP into selection criteria/goals
- Clearer understanding on how projects are prioritized and selected for funding
- Ensure fiscal constraint is clear
- Look at holistic transit goals for the region
- Tie the process for selecting projects directly to goals; projects tied directly to perf. meas.
- Expand PBPP to provide an opportunity for clear and open discussion about the public's desired outcomes

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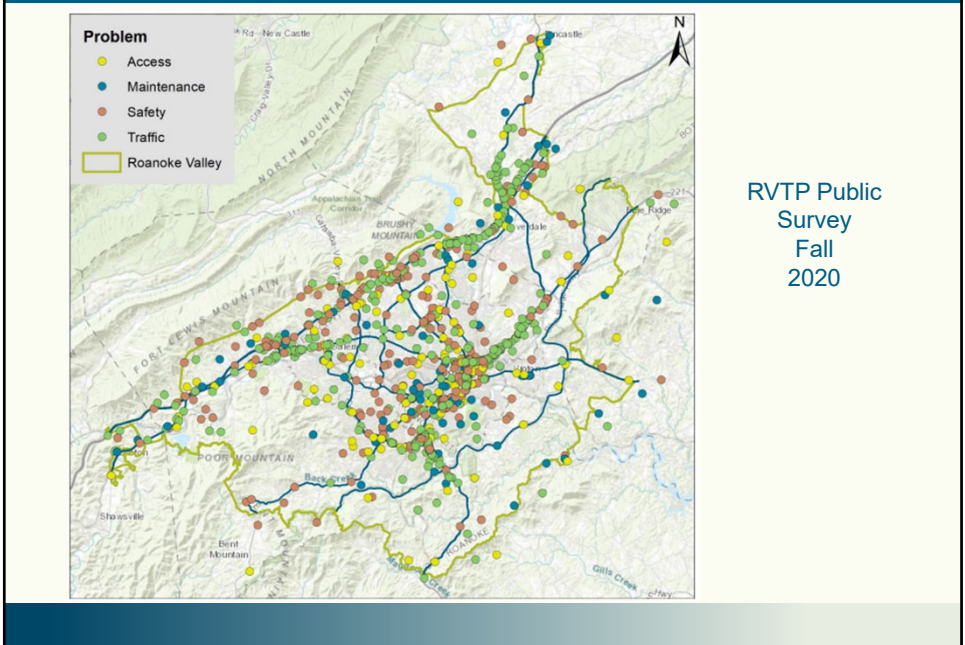


# 2022 RVTPO Framework for Prioritization



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# Needs Assessment



RVTP Public Survey  
Fall  
2020

6

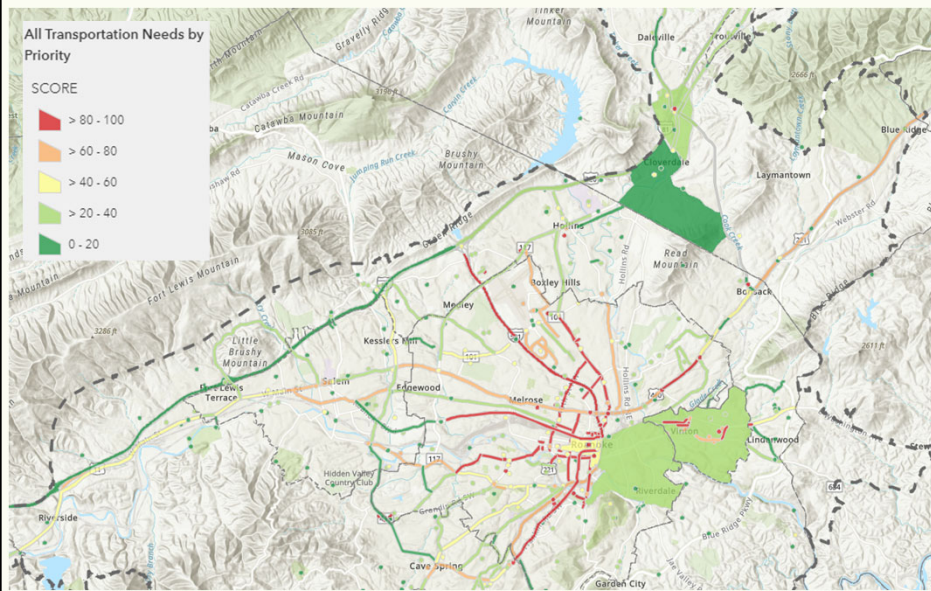
# Needs Prioritization

Alignment with Plan Goals	3, 6		3, 6		2, 3, 5, 6		1, 5, 7		4, 7		3, 6, 7	
Need Type	Multimodal		Activity Density		Throughput		Safety		Environmental Justice		Economics	
	Centers	District	2019	2045	Priority Corridor	VMT Change	VTrans Needs (PSI)	PSAP	Equity Emphasis Areas	Development Priority Locations	Urban Development Areas	
Automobile Safety			5	5		22	53		5	5	5	
Pedestrian Safety	6	6		13				51	10	7	7	
Bicycle Safety	6	6		13				51	10	7	7	
Transit Safety	6	6		13				51	10	7	7	
Congestion			17.5	17.5		17.5			12.5	17.5	17.5	
System Management (Non-Transit)			15	15	15	15.5			12.5	13.5	13.5	
System Management (Transit)	11	11		21.5		20			12.5	12	12	
Access Criteria	Population Affected				Severity				Environmental Justice			
Transit and Non-transit	5				5				2			

- Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Goals:**
1. Provide a safe and secure transportation system
  2. Enable reliable mobility
  3. Ensure convenient and affordable access to destinations
  4. Foster environmental sustainability
  5. Maintain and operate an efficient and resilient transportation system
  6. Support economic vitality
  7. Promote equitable transportation investments

7

# Needs Prioritization



8

# Goals-Objectives-Performance Measures

Recommended Objective	Performance Measures (Federal Measure as noted) Note: <b>Candidate measure to consider post Plan adoption</b>
<b>Goal 1: Provide a safe and secure transportation system</b>	
a. Eliminate fatalities and reduce injuries on the multimodal transportation system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and rate of motorized fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) (FHWA)</li> <li>• Number and rate of motorized serious injuries per 100 million VMT (FHWA)</li> <li>• Number of nonmotorized fatalities and serious injuries (FHWA)</li> <li>• Number of reportable fatalities and rate per total vehicle revenue miles by transit agency per year (FTA)</li> <li>• Number of reportable injuries and rate per total vehicle revenue miles by transit agency per year (FTA)</li> <li>• Number of safety events and rate per total vehicle revenue miles by transit agency per year (FTA)</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 2: Enable reliable mobility</b>	
a. Maintain vehicle travel time reliability on priority corridors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of person miles traveled on the Interstate system and on the non-interstate National Highway System (NHS) that are reliable (FHWA)</li> </ul>
b. Maintain transit and passenger rail on-time performance (OTP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amtrak on time performance (FRA, DRPT)</a><sup>1</sup></li> <li>• <a href="#">Valley Metro on time performance</a></li> <li>• Distance between transit system major mechanical failures (FTA)</li> </ul>

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# Needs to Solutions to Projects



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# Programming - Investments

## Projects/Services/Studies

Preferred solutions for priority gap needs

### Capital (Infrastructure):

Defined project scopes and cost estimates (primarily roadway or active transportation based) for prioritization within the RVTP.

### Services:

Defined investments to maintain and strategically expand transportation services like public transit, intercity bus service, passenger rail, and other mobility services.

### Studies:

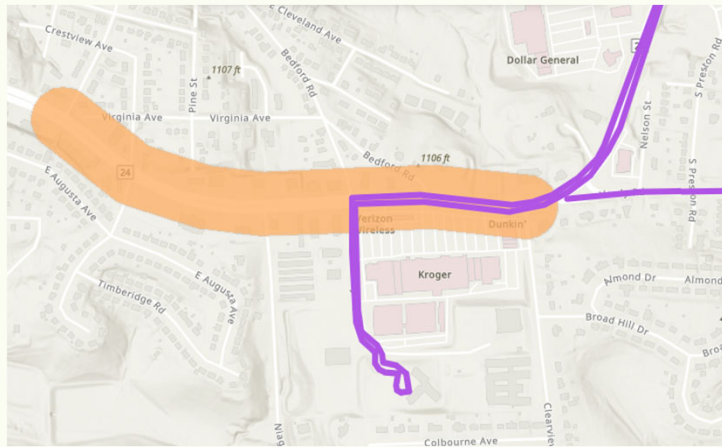
Where obvious solutions and/or projects are not ready for inclusion on the RVTP, the team will identify the need for future studies.

Focus for identifying projects for inclusion in the RVTP (both fiscally constrained list and vision list)

Included in RVTP vision list representing future priorities for regional studies

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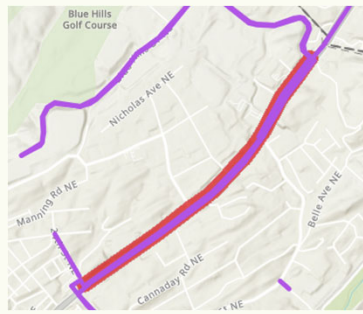
## Example – Hardy Rd.



NID_1	Need Type	Simple Location	Detailed Location	Need	Source	SCORE	Investment	Need Status	Rationale	Priority Gap Need	Possible Common Transportation Solutions	Possible Unique or Non-Transportation Solutions	Relevant Recent or Ongoing Studies and/or Recommendations	Preferred Solutions or options	Project/Service/Study
N_15_T	Congestion	Bypass Road	Hardy Road	High Traffic/ slow flow; speed; signal timings; ped safety	Winton Area Corridors Plan	72	Fixed-Route Transit Service, Routes 35 & 36	Partially addressed	Investment partially addresses the need.	Yes	Access Management; Signal Coordination/Re-timing; Intersection Reconfiguration (install new signal or innovative intersection)		Winton applying for a SMART SCALE Round 5 grant to address this congestion need with a roundabout.	Alternative intersection-roundabout	SS Round 5 application for a two-lane roundabout with sidewalk in the immediate area of the roundabout. Cost is \$4,097,039.

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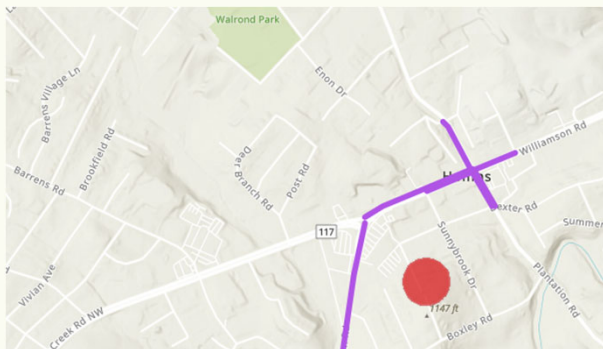
## Examples – Orange Ave.



NID_1	Need Type	Simple Location	Detailed Location	Need	Source	SCORE	Investment	Need Status	Rationale	Priority Gap Need	Possible Common Transportation Solutions	Possible Unique or Non-Transportation Solutions	Relevant Recent or Ongoing Studies and/or Recommendations	Preferred Solutions or options	Project/Service/Study
N_63_P_5	Safety (ped)	U.S. 460 - Orange	24th St. NE to Blue Hills Drive NE		Pedestrian Vision Plan	91	Route 41 & 42, 31 & 32 fixed-route transit, #SMART2 - ROUTE 460 (ORANGE AVENUE) IMPROVEMENTS AT KING STREET & NEAR BLUE HILLS DRIVE, SMART2 - ORANGE AVE (US 460) IMPROVEMENTS (includes new sidewalk and ped crossing improvement)	Partially	Funded sidewalk and pedestrian crossings do not span the whole length of this need.	Yes	New Sidewalk; New Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossing; Streetscape Improvements (lights, benches, landscaping, bike parking, etc.); New Shared-Use Path/ADA Accessible Greenway Trail		Pedestrian Vision Plan	Add a shared-use path on both sides of Orange Ave. from Gus Nicks to Blue Hills Drive, with crossings at Gus Nicks, King St. and Blue Hills to support access to bus stops and connections from nearby neighborhoods and businesses.	Study: Shared-Use Paths along Orange Avenue to improve pedestrian and bike safety.

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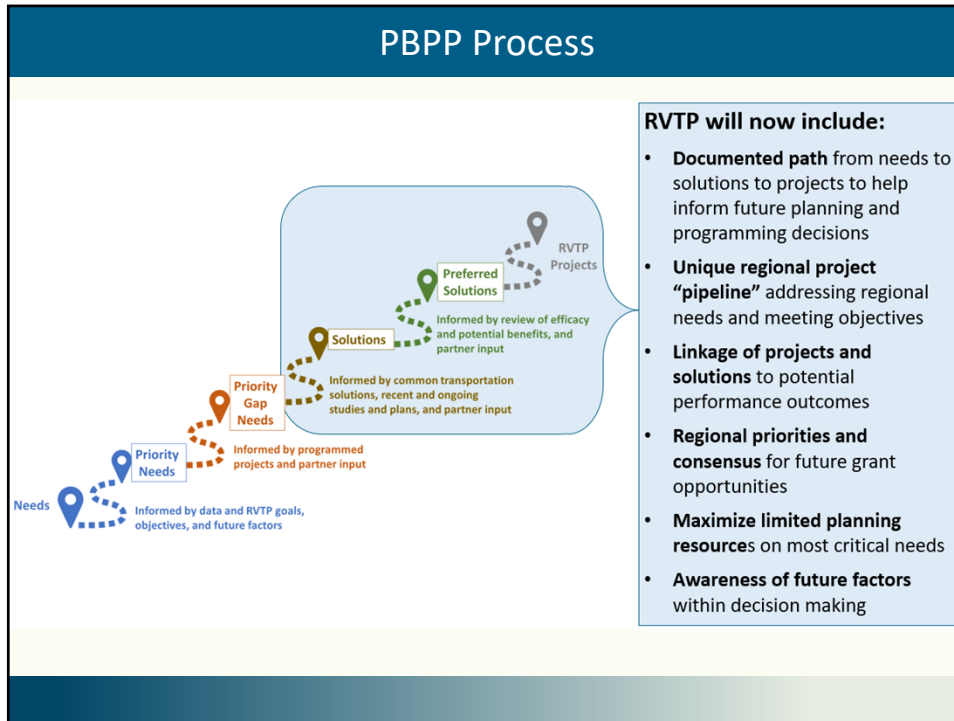
## Example – U.S. 11/Peters Creek Rd.



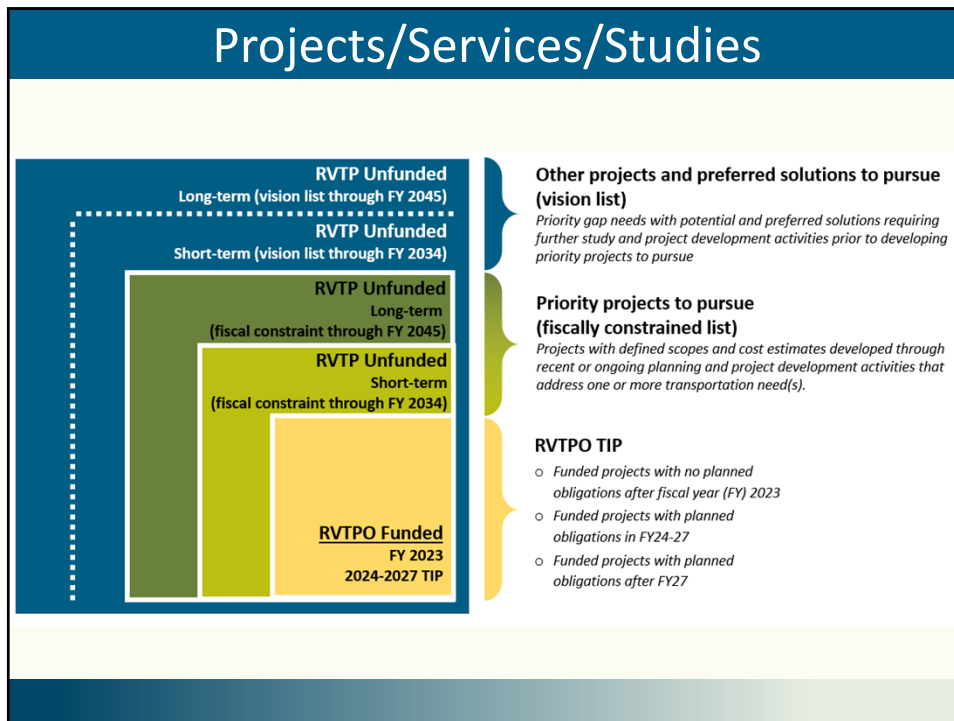
NID_1	Need Type	Simple Location	Detailed Location	Need	Source	SCORE	Investment	Need Status	Rationale	Priority Gap Need	Possible Common Transportation Solutions	Possible Unique or Non-Transportation Solutions	Relevant Recent or Ongoing Studies and/or Recommendations	Preferred Solutions or options	Project/Service/Study
N_2071_I_A	Access (Transit)	U.S. 11 - Williamson	Peters Creek Road		Long range plan survey	100	Williamson Road Pedestrian Improvements Peters Creek Road to Plantation Road, ROUTE 11 & 117 ROANOKE CO. - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS; CORTTRAN and Botetourt County Van Service	Gap	Only accessible to older or disabled County/Vinton residents via CORTTRAN and Botetourt County Van Service.	Yes	New Transit Route (local, commuter, intercity); New Transit Service (e.g., Elderly/disabled on-demand transportation, flexible on-demand transit service, taxi vouchers, destination specific shuttle services, etc.); Get a ride from a friend/family/taxi/ride-hailing	Alternative/new mode infrastructure (drones docking, e-bike or scooter docking, etc.); Utilize similar destinations in more transit accessible places.	Included in Transit Vision Plan.	Get a ride from a friend/family/taxi/ride hailing. Utilize similar destinations in more transit accessible places.	None.

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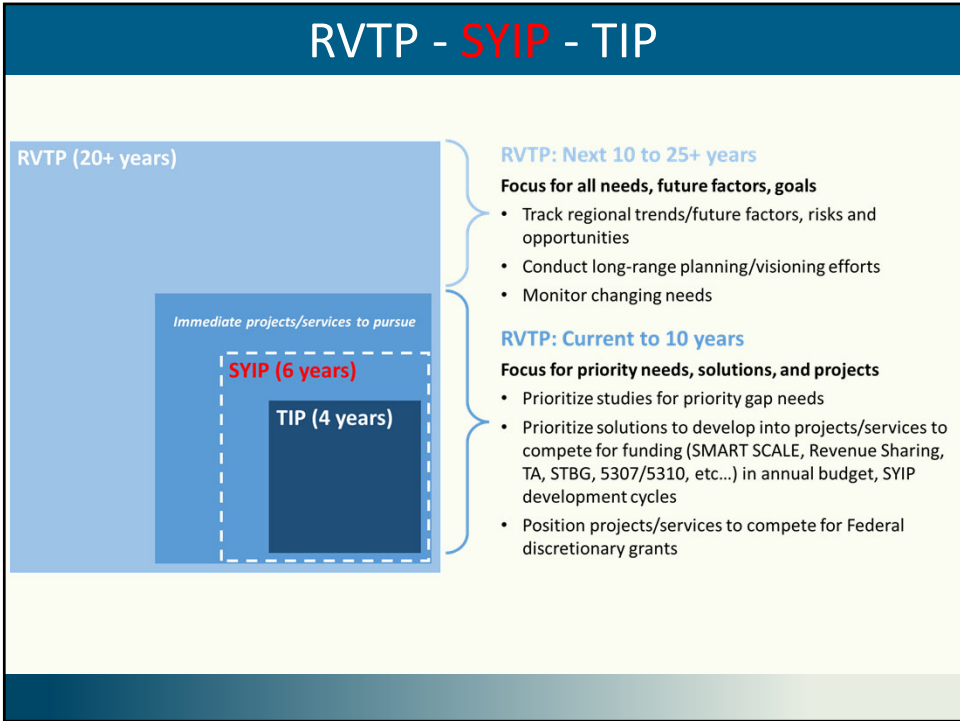




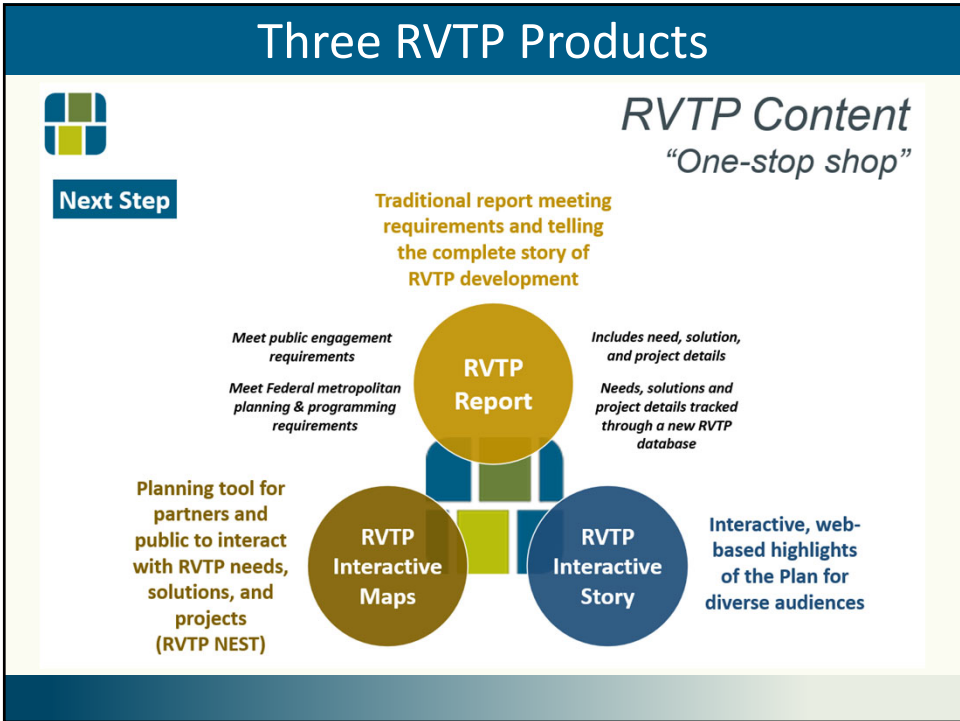
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## Next Steps

- September – First draft for Board review
- October/November – Public comment
- December – Second draft & Public hearing
- January – Final for Board consideration
  
- September-January – Continuous TTC involvement

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## QuestionsB



**Cristina Finch**  
*Director of Transportation*

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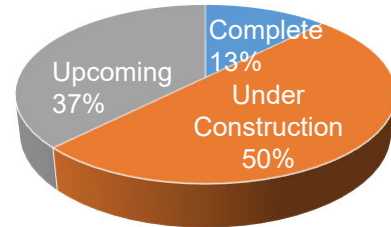
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## Salem District Project Status (Capital Projects)

### Completed Projects:

- Exit 89 NB Acceleration Lane Extension (Pulaski)



### Projects Under Construction:

- Exit 137 to Exit 141 Widening NB and SB (Design Build, 2 projects bundled) - Salem
- Troutville Rest Area SB Entrance and Exit Extension (2 projects) - Troutville

### Upcoming Projects:

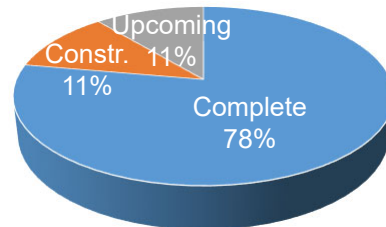
- MM 116 to Exit 128 Widening NB Only – Construction 2027 (Christiansburg to Ironto)
- Exit 128 to Exit 137 Widening NB Only – Construction 2027 (Ironto to Salem)
- Exit 143 to Exit 150 Widening NB & SB – Construction 2026 (Roanoke to Troutville)

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## Operational Project Status (Corridor-wide)

### Completed Projects:

- Curve Improvements (Static And Flashing Chevron Signs)
- Safety Service Patrol Enhancements
- Lift and Tow Devices on SSP Vehicles
- Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP)
- Traffic Camera Installations (51)
- Digital Message Sign Installations (30)
- Arterial Intersection Improvements (3)



### Projects Under Construction:

- Arterial Improvements (VDOT signal system upgrades)

### Upcoming Projects:

- Arterial Improvements (Locality signal system upgrades)

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## Capital Project Advancement (Funding & Delivery)

- **Bristol District Funding Advancement:**
  - Exit 81 SB Deceleration Lane Extension (\$15.5M)
  - Auxiliary Lane Exit 73 to Exit 72 SB (\$21.2M)
  - Exit 72 NB Deceleration Lane Extension (\$37.5M)
  - Auxiliary Lane from I-77 SB to I-81 SB (Exit 40 on I-77 to Exit 72 on I-81) – (\$34.2M)
  - Exit 45 NB Extend Deceleration Lane (\$24.7M)
- **Salem District Funding Advancement:**
  - Exit 128 to Exit 137 NB Widening – Funding advanced by 18 months (\$265.3M)
- **Staunton District Delivery Advancement:**
  - Staunton Area Widening advanced with decision to deliver as design-build project (delivery), accelerated by 12 to 18 months.
- **Total Funding Advancement To Date: \$398.4M**

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## Additional Projects

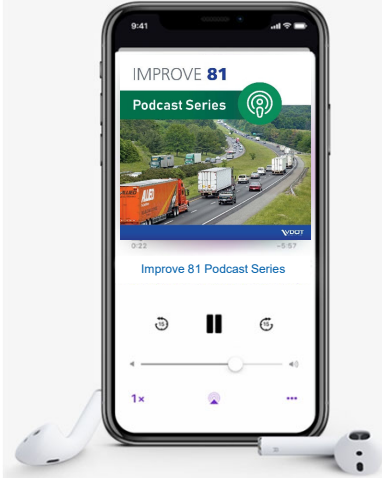
VDOT has begun concept refinement for the next five major capital improvement projects that were identified in the I-81 CIP, but not included in the funding program that address delay, crashes and accessibility to jobs

District	Location	VDOT Preliminary Cost Estimates	
		Low Range*	High Range*
Salem	Southbound widening between Exits 137 and 128	\$232.0	\$292.0
Staunton	Northbound widening MM 190 – Exit 195	\$105.0	\$133.0
Staunton	Northbound widening between Exits 298 and 300	\$51.0	\$62.0
Salem	Northbound/southbound realignment of S-curves in Botetourt (MM 167- Exit 168)	\$180.0	\$220.0
Staunton	Southbound widening Exit 195 – MM 190	\$98.0	\$123.0
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>\$666.0</b>	<b>\$830.0</b>

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# Program Specific Website – Learn More!

Improve81.org



IMPROVE **81** | I-81 Corridor Improvement Program



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# Roanoke Valley Transportation PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A Program of the

**REGIONAL**commission

313 Luck Avenue, SW | Roanoke, Virginia 24016 P: (540)343.4417 | F: (540)343.4416

## STAFF REPORT

### September 29, 2022 TPO Policy Board Meeting

SUBJ: First Review of the Draft Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan

The RVTP plan development team continues to implement the new performance-based planning and programming (PBPP) process to identify potential solutions for priority gap needs, highlight preferred solutions or areas of additional study, and establish projects/services for potential inclusion in the RVTP. This process is continuing during September in parallel to RVTP materials development, including the RVTP report and appendices, interactive maps and databases, and interactive on-line plan.

The Draft RVTP report and supporting materials are available for Policy Board and TTC review during September and October. The TTC was briefed on the Draft RVTP report at its September 9, 2022 meeting, and comments received at and subsequent to that meeting have been addressed in the current Draft available for review.

The Draft RVTP represents the culmination of implementing the PBPP process and includes the content to satisfy the requirements for both the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This unified RVTP includes funded projects over the next four years within the Transportation Improvement Program, unfunded fiscally constrained projects to pursue, and illustrative concepts and studies that RVTPO and partners will evaluate in coming years through implementation of the PBPP process.

The RVTP team will continue to revise the RVTP report and supporting materials throughout October as details are finalized and we receive input through the RVTPO Policy Board review. The TTC will have another opportunity to review and receiving a briefing in October on status and final structure prior to the public comment period initiating in late October. Following the public comment period, the RVTP team will refine the RVTP and prepare for final for RVTPO Policy Board review in December when a public hearing will be held and adoption in January 2023.

While some elements are still under development, the key pieces of the draft Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan as well as information that has been integral to the planning process may be viewed online via this [link](#).

**TPO Action:** None.



# Roanoke Valley Transportation PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A Program of the

**REGIONAL**commission

313 Luck Avenue, SW | Roanoke, Virginia 24016 P: (540)343.4417 | F: (540)343.4416

## STAFF REPORT

### September 29, 2022 RVTPO Policy Board Meeting

SUBJ: Consideration of Major Scope Change – Elizabeth Greenway

On March 22, 2018, the RVTPO Policy Board approved \$1,104,400 in STBG funds for design and construction of the Elizabeth Greenway in the City of Salem. The project is currently under design, and due to increased materials and labor costs as well as further investigation that identified excessive construction challenges or costs, the project is being downsized and rescoped. Given the major scope change, RVTPO Policy Board approval is being sought prior to advancing with design work.

**Downsizing elements:** As shown on the attached map, sections of the originally proposed greenway will not be constructed as part of this project. The proposed greenway within the Elizabeth Campus between the YMCA and Idaho Street will be removed. On Idaho Street, an alternative way to walk/bike into the Elizabeth Campus exists, so a greenway is not needed south of Kime Lane. On Lynchburg Turnpike, a greenway was determined infeasible to construct east of Kime Lane.

**Rescoping elements:** The previously proposed greenway on Corporate Boulevard would instead be constructed as a sidewalk behind the existing curb and bike lanes striped within the existing pavement. Instead of a greenway on Texas Street, a 5' sidewalk would be constructed with sharrows in the travel lane. Ideally a bike lane would be added at a future time. The newly proposed sidewalk along Texas Street from Corporate Boulevard to Lynchburg Turnpike would connect with the Mason Creek Greenway Phase 3 project, which will also be built on Texas Street as a 5' sidewalk.

While the understanding of what is a greenway may vary, the investment was originally presented as a multiuse trail that would provide a safer accommodation for students, employees, and visitors to walk or bike to the Taliaferro Complex, surrounding businesses and the Elizabeth Campus within the immediate area but also from longer distances via a system of greenways.

The Board has the responsibility to review/approve major scope changes. While major scope change hasn't exactly been defined, at VDOT's suggestion, City of Salem staff requested the review, and RVTPO staff determined it was substantially different than the original proposal and merited Board approval before the project advanced in design. Given the timing of the project development, this item is being brought to the attention of the Board prior to the annual review of projects to take place this winter.



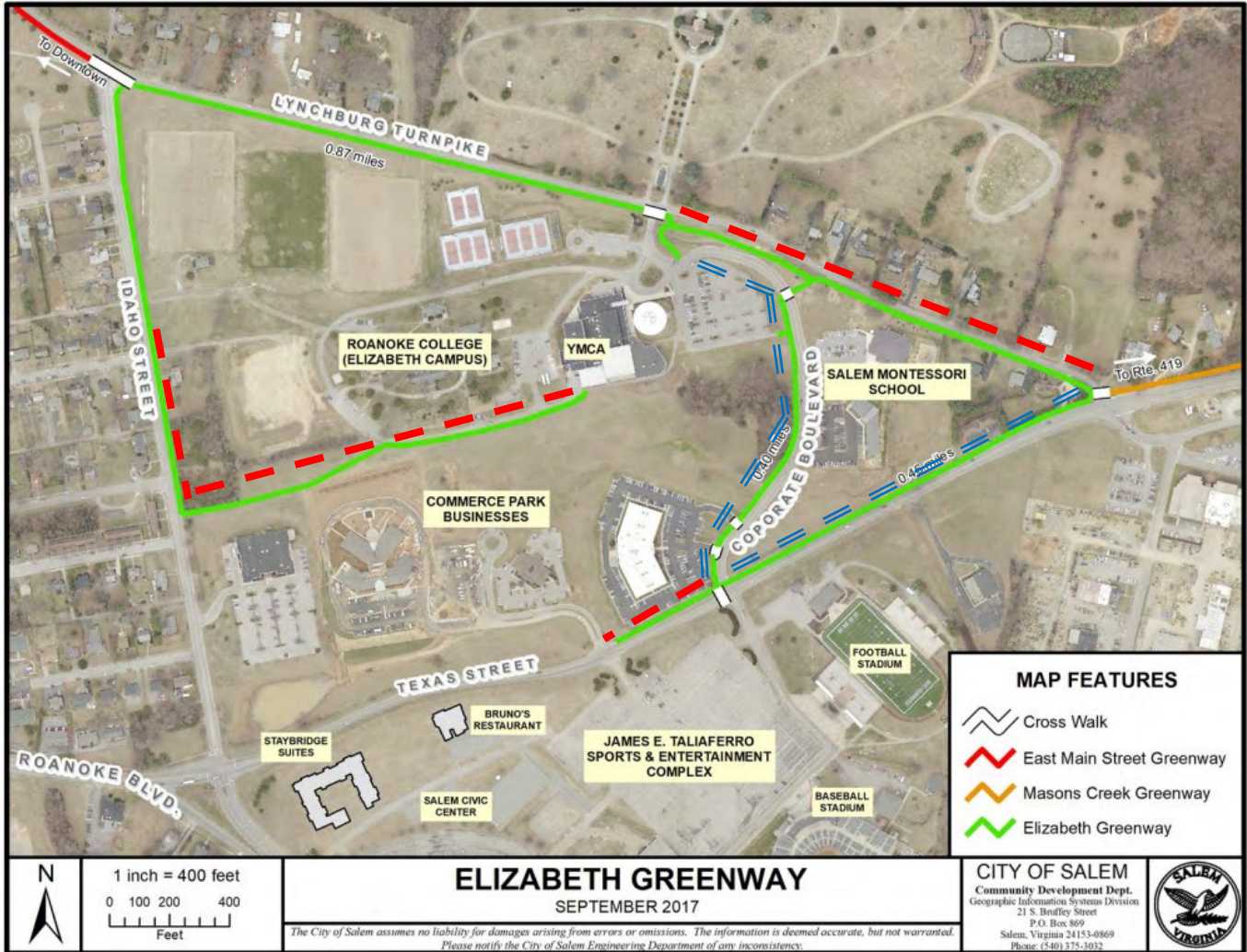


# Roanoke Valley Transportation PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A Program of the  
**REGIONAL commission**

313 Luck Avenue, SW | Roanoke, Virginia 24016 P: (540)343.4417 | F: (540)343.4416

Rough sketch of proposed scope changes:



- Originally planned greenways to be constructed with STBG funds.
- - - Greenways to be removed from the project scope.
- - - Greenways to be built as sidewalks and on-street bike accommodations (bike lane or sharrow).

**Recommended Action:** Approval of the scope changes as presented.

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