



MINUTES

The November meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Marief Fowler	County of Bedford
David Givens	County of Botetourt
Jonathan McCoy	County of Botetourt
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Will Crawford	County of Roanoke
Wayne Leftwich	City of Roanoke
Mark Jamison, <i>Vice Chair</i>	City of Roanoke
Crystal Williams	City of Salem
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
Cody Sexton	Town of Vinton
Frank Maguire	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transportation - Salem District
Daniel Sonenklar (<i>via zoom</i>)	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Brugh	County of Montgomery
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System (RADAR)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Jones	Federal Highway Administration
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Others Present: David Jackson, Cambridge Systematics (*via zoom*); Carol Moneymaker, Virginia Department of Transportation.

RVARC Staff Present: Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Rachel Ruhlen, Jeremy Holmes (*via zoom*), Tim Pohlad-Thomas (*via zoom*), Andrea Garland and Virginia Mullen.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Jamison called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.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. November 15, 2021 RVTPO Meeting Agenda
- B. October 14, 2021 TTC Minutes

Motion: by Crystal Williams to approve items (A) and (B) under the consent agenda, as presented; seconded by Cody Sexton.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

3. **CHAIR REMARKS**

- Chair Jamison noted today's agenda is full and he would really like for the group to take action, if possible, on item #7 Development of the Update to the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan: Recommendation on Needs Prioritization, Objectives, Performance Measures.
- Chair Jamison reported that last week the TPO took action approving \$2,544,860.00 STBG funds toward Route 460 and Alternate Route 220 Intersection Improvement Project. The action was prompted by the additional funding provided from the State Grant Program.
- Chair Jamison commented that in the last several months there have been instances where members would "reply all" to emails. He reminded that the TTC Committee is a public body and members should be sensitive to any perceptions that members might be conducting business outside of the normal business meeting and advised to be mindful.

4. **ACTION NEEDED: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

At the October 14, 2021 TTC meeting, Vice Chair Mark Jamison was elected to be Chair to fulfill the vacated position formerly held by Ben Tripp. Chair Jamison appointed a Nominating Committee (Megan Cronise, Roanoke County and Michael Gray, VDOT) tasked with preparing a slate of nominees for the TTC office of Vice Chair to fulfill the remainder of his two-year term which will end after the conclusion of the July 14, 2022 TTC meeting.

The Nominating Committee recommended TTC member Cody Sexton to be elected as the new Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) Vice Chair.

The floor was opened for additional nominations for Vice Chair. None were voiced.

Motion: by Jonathan McCoy to elect Cody Sexton as Vice Chair of the TTC for a term ending at the conclusion of the July 14, 2022 TTC meeting; seconded by Anita McMillan.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

5. **VIRGINIA TRANSIT EQUITY AND MODERNIZATION STUDY**

Mr. Dan Sonenklar with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study (the presentation is included with the minutes).

6. **ACTION NEEDED: RECOMMENDATION ON 2022 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS**

Bryan Hill highlighted the annual process of adopting Safety Performance Measure Targets. Additionally, Mr. Hill discussed the RVTPO's Performance-Based Planning and Programming

process, and the GAP grant received from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment to improve it. One such item being developed through application of this grant in the update of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan is a draft regional transportation safety objective which is to: reduce fatalities and injuries on the multimodal transportation system.

Mr. Hill presented the three targets and the Future Target Annual Percentage Reductions used in determining the 2022 VDOT Targets:

Target Description	*Statewide Annual Goal Percent Change
Number of Fatalities	+1.37%
Number of Serious Injuries	-2.36%
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	-2.37%

Mr. Hill pointed out that the positive values for Number of Fatalities, represented an increase. The chart below shows the 202 actual data, the 2021 target values, and the proposed 2022 values.

Target Description	2020 Actual Values*	Previous 2021 Target Value	Proposed 2022 Target Value
Number of Fatalities	--	19	20
Fatality Rate (per 100 million VMT)	--	0.92	0.945
Number of Serious Injuries	209	202	184
Serious Injury Rate (per 100 million VMT)	10.003	10.020	8.878
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	--	18	18

Wayne Leftwich asked what the direction was in adjusting the targets prior to the year of 2020 (odd year because of the COVID pandemic). Mr. Hill replied that the targets are based on five-year trends and if they were spread over 20 years or so they will gradually decrease.

Mr. Hill noted that simply because the RVTPO adopts the VDOT targets, which may indicate a projected increase in fatalities, does not negate the fact it supports a reduction. It simply means that by adopting the VDOT targets, it is understood they may increase—and it is not realistic to expect trends to constantly decrease. It would be counterintuitive to adopt lower targets, only to fail to achieve them (by even more) due to data and projections to the contrary.

Motion: by Cody Sexton to recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board the adoption of the VDOT 2022 Safety Performance Measure Targets, as presented; seconded by Jonathan McCoy.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

7. **CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UPDATE TO THE ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN: ACTION NEEDED: RECOMMENDATION ON NEEDS PRIORITIZATION, OBJECTIVES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Ms. Finch reported that two main topics are being presented to the TTC to review and take action on at today's meeting: 1) Priority Needs and 2) Objectives/Performance Measures. Ms. Finch welcomed Mr. David Jackson with Cambridge Systematics, who presented the updated information on the development of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan (the PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes).

Mr. Gray commented that his hope was to see some things change based on the provided comments. Mr. Gray recalled a discussion about the VTRANS state needs (guiding the funding process for OIPI) and the regional priority needs (guiding the Long-Range Plan decisions) and commented that it is still not clear where the transition will take place between the regional and state planning efforts. Mr. Gray also commented that at the last meeting he expressed concern about the Environmental Justice (EJ) weighting being 20% and is applied to every need type while in the OIPI VTrans needs prioritization EJ was only considered on two or three types and maxed out at 6.5%. Mr. Gray commented that the other concern he has is about the 40% equity and how it will be measured.

Mr. Cody Sexton echoed Mr. Gray's comments and expressed his disappointment that some recommendations were justified away. Mr. Sexton is still not completely convinced that this process is going to lead to results that complement VTRANS or any other projects that OIPI is doing, or any of the Long-Range Plans/Comp Plans that the localities are doing. Mr. Sexton commented that he saw the justification of the land use being incorporated in the environmental justice factor and causing the increase, however he would like to see the data behind it. Mr. Sexton stated that these features work really well in identifying prioritizations in the truly urban areas and is concerned if this is capturing the population's needs in the less urbanized or suburbanized areas.

Mr. Wayne Leftwich commented that the City's Comp Plans talks about equity throughout the whole plans, and he thinks that equity and environmental justice are important for meeting

Long-Range goals. Mr. Sexton replied that Roanoke City is very well suited to align in how this plan and prioritization have been laid out thus far, his concern would be Roanoke County, Botetourt County, Town of Vinton, portions of Bedford and Montgomery County. Mr. Gray clarified that his concern is that the environmental justice percentage is way higher than the VTRANS one.

Ms. Finch commented that VTRANS guides SMART SCALE investments and the prioritization within that process is done completely differently - by weighting the value of each need category against the others to add up to 100% rather than prioritizing similar needs within each need category given regionally developed criteria. VTRANS is really focused on identifying project eligibility for SMART SCALE rather than comprehensively assessing and prioritizing the region's needs.

Ms. Cronise agreed with Mr. Sexton and Mr. Gray's comments. She asked if there is a way to take a pilot year and see how things play out before committing to implementing it. Ms. Finch replied that it is a working process, and everything will be evaluated again in five years when the transportation plan is being updated given that it takes a few rounds of grant cycles to see how the plan is working. Mr. Leftwich commented that he mentioned last time using "eliminate fatalities and reduce injuries" instead of "reduce injuries and fatalities" and would like to see that language in the first objective (1A).

Motion: by Wayne Leftwich to recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board the endorsement of the needs prioritization and objectives and performance measures with the modification to the objectives 1A and 7C to reflect "eliminate fatalities and reduce injuries". Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion: by Cody Sexton to table this discussion until the next meeting for further discussion and members to provide recommendations on how to revise the document so it can be approved by the group. Motion was seconded by Megan Cronise.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Jamison noted that one of the concerns members have expressed during this meeting is the concern with the 40% equity and asked if there are any other concerns. Megan Cronise commented that another concern is the response to the comments that were provided in today's packet. Chair Jamison asked for specific recommendations to be submitted to staff.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. **Overview of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Round 5 Candidate Projects**

Mr. William Long provided a quick overview of the STBG Round 5 Candidate Projects (the PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes).

9. **COMMENTS BY MEMBERS AND / OR CITIZENS**


Ms. Cristina Finch announced Mr. William Long had accepted a new job with Valley Metro as their Director of Transit Planning.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cristina D. Finch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

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



Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study

RVTPPO - Transportation Technical Committee (TTC)
November 15, 2021

Dan Sonenklar, Statewide Transit Planning Manager

DRPT - Kinley Wilson

1

Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization

How Did We Get Here?

- HJ 542 (2021) bill passed
- The resolution requires exploring a variety of topics that will create recommendations to advance transit equity and modernization efforts
- Emphasis on engagement opportunities for underrepresented communities

Transit Accessibility	Adequacy of Infrastructure	Transit Electrification
Emerging Technologies	Transit Safety	System Engagement & Governance

DRPT - Kinley Wilson

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Study Goals

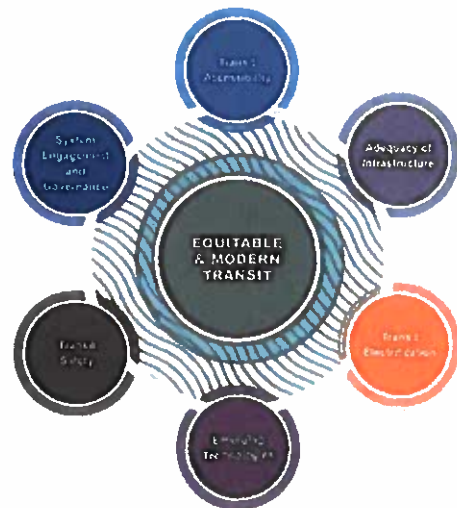
What will this study accomplish?

- ✓ Will identify transit agency, rider, and stakeholder needs
- ✓ Will develop an action plan to address those needs
- ✓ Define underrepresented and underserved communities

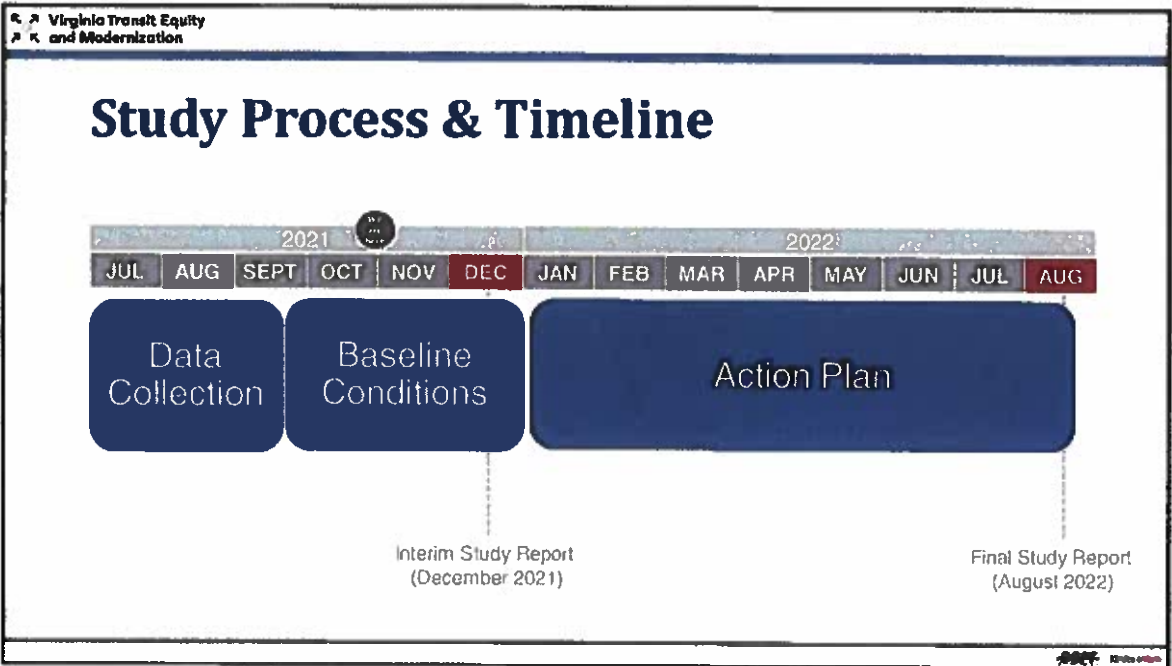
3

The study will address:

- Opportunities/Gap Assessment of transit service and accessibility
- Needs and barriers to improve transit infrastructure
- Opportunities to reduce carbon footprint through bus electrification
- Strategies to inform priorities of implementing emerging technologies
- Opportunities to enhance passenger and transit employee safety
- Framework for identifying and engaging disadvantaged populations and underserved communities



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Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization

Key Study Activities

	Completed	In Progress	Upcoming
Study Phase	✓ Data Collection	Baseline Conditions	Action Plan
Study Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review Plans, Policies, and Data ✓ Transit Agency Survey ✓ Rider Focus Groups ✓ Transit Agency Outreach Kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transit Equity Committee (TEC) Technical Working Groups (TWGs) Stakeholder Meetings Agency Briefings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Study Report Virtual Transit Equity Forum Final Study Report

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Baseline Conditions: Initial Themes

- Equity can be incorporated more in state guidance, requirements and funding programs for public transit
- Many bus stops are poorly placed and not well-connected to sidewalks
- Basic transit infrastructure (shelters, benches, lighting, etc.) is lacking
- Most transit agencies do not have rider advisory boards or committees
- There is a significant interest from Virginia's transit agencies to electrify fleets and adopt newer transit technologies, but additional resources are required (funding, skilled workforce, training, technical assistance, etc.)
- Many transit agencies are interested in piloting zero-fare service to overcome barriers to transit access

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Study Action Plan

- Findings from the Baseline Conditions Assessment and Interim Study Report will inform the development of a Study Action Plan
- The Study Action Plan will include recommendations and implementation strategies that address barriers by topic area and will describe specific actions, next steps, coordination required, timeline for implementation and responsible agencies.
- DRPT anticipate that the Study Action Plan will advise changes to DRPT funding programs and policies, and the development of future plans.

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Get Involved

Spread the word to sign up for our email list at:

www.vatransitequity.com

Questions?

Dan Sonenklar | Daniel.Sonenklar@drpt.virginia.gov
Grant Sparks (Project Manager) | Grant.Sparks@drpt.virginia.gov

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Thank You!

Questions?

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STBG ROUND 5 CANDIDATE PROJECTS



1

I-581/ORANGE AVE/ WILLIAMSON RD INTERCHANGE



- Addressing safety and congestion at two interchanges and surrounding intersections
- Request: \$5,000,000
- Match for SMART SCALE Round 5

2

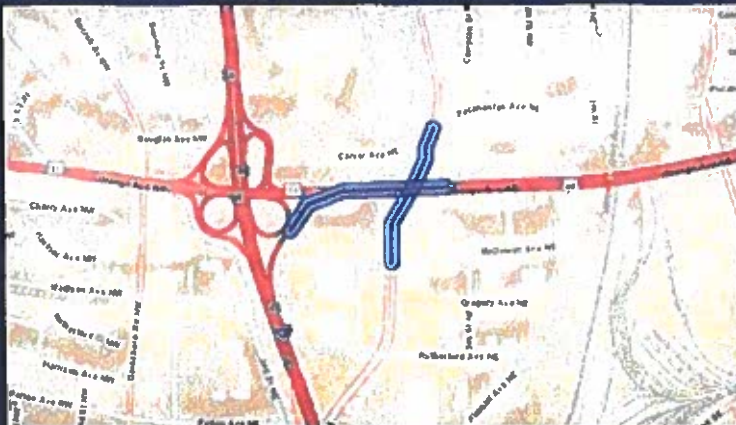
ORANGE AVE. – 11TH TO 24TH ST IMPROVEMENTS

- Modifying or eliminating intersections to limit conflicts
- Request: \$5,000,000
- Match for SMART SCALE Round 5



3

ORANGE AVE AND WILLIAMSON RD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT



- Adding turn lanes and installing signal on off-ramp to eliminate weave
- Request: \$5,000,000
- Match for SMART SCALE Round 5

4

ROANOKE RIVER GREENWAY – EAST

- Connect Greenway from Bennington Trail to Underhill Road
- Request: \$7,618,793



5

CHAPARRAL DRIVE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS




- Pedestrian facilities surrounding Cave Spring High School
- Request: \$3,733,939

6


I-581 AT EXIT 2 (PETERS CREEK ROAD) INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1

Option 1



- Signal at off ramp will eliminate weave.
- Add turn lanes and pedestrian/bike amenities (Option 3 only)
- Request: 17,058,036
- Match for SMART SCALE Round 5


Option 3



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RTE 419/ELECTRIC RD STUDY BETWEEN RTE 11/APPERSON & BOWER RD PROJECTS

- Study to address capacity, safety, access, transit, and TDM
- Request: 15,000,000
- Match for SMART SCALE Round 6



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ROUTE 460 AT ALTERNATE ROUTE 220 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS



- New intersection with crossover
- Request: \$5,000,000
- Match for SMART SCALE Round 5

- REMOVED FROM CONSIDERATION - PVTP already supporting this for 2021 STBG

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WALROND DRIVE MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Pedestrian accommodations connecting Walrond Park to Plantation Road
- Request: \$4,447,457



10

WEST MAIN STREET PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 3



- Complete sidewalk sections
- Request: \$3,016,662

11

WASHINGTON AVENUE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY

- Study to address safety, access, congestion, and multimodal deficiencies
- Request: \$150,000



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GLADE CREEK GREENWAY PHASE 3, PE



Preliminary engineering for greenway connection
between Glade Creek Park and Vinyard Park
Request: 1,075,000

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SUMMARY

- Solutions Phase:
 - Study underway of I-581/U.S. 460 Interchange – Projects TBD
 - Study underway of RI. 419 - Apperson Dr. to Bower Rd. – Projects TBD
 - Study of Washington Avenue Corridor
- Project Phase:
 - CN – Orange Ave. - 11th to 24th St.
 - CN – Orange Ave. and Williamson Rd.
 - CN – Roanoke River Greenway – East
 - CN – Chaparral Dr. Pedestrian Improvements
 - CN – I-581/Peters Creek Road Interchange, Ph. 1
 - CN – Walroad Drive Multimodal Improvements
 - CN – West Main Street Pedestrian Improvements, Ph. 3
 - PE – Glade Creek Greenway

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SCORING

- TTC members submit project scores to cfinch@rvarc.org and wlong@rvarc.org
- Due **Thursday, November 18**
- Rank projects by criteria: 1 best to 11 least
- Exception: Criteria A -- Regional Significance
Double the score -- 2 best through 22 least

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NEXT STEPS

- December TTC Meeting
 - Review updates on current projects and any additional funding requests.
 - Review average scores on candidate projects and recommend a priority funding list to the Board.
- January TTC Meeting
 - Draft FY23-28/29 STBG Financial Plan presented, members make recommendation to Policy Board to be released for public comment.
- February/March Policy Board Meeting
 - Final FY23-28/29 Plan approved

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