



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
REGIONAL
commission

rvarc.org

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MINUTES

Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) Board on April 23, 2020 and the 2020 Virginia General Assembly legislation H29 enacted April 24, 2020, the February meeting of the RVARC was held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 3:00 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.

VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jon Lanford	Alleghany County
Joan Vannorsdall	Alleghany County
Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, Sr.	Botetourt County
Chris Whitlow	Franklin County
Lorie Smith	Franklin County
Dan O'Donnell	Roanoke County
Dean Martin	Roanoke County
Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Lee Osborne	Roanoke County
Allan Tucker	City of Covington
Bill Bestpitch	City of Roanoke
Stephanie Moon Reynolds	City of Roanoke
Dr. Elda Stanco Downey	City of Roanoke
Frederick Gusler	City of Roanoke
Robert Jeffrey	City of Roanoke
Peter Volosin	City of Roanoke
James W. Wallace III	City of Salem
Denise King	City of Salem
Pam Marshall	Town of Clifton Forge
James Ervin	Town of Rocky Mount
Mark Newbill	Town of Rocky Mount
Mayor Bradley Grose, <i>Chair</i>	Town of Vinton
Richard "Pete" Peters	Town of Vinton

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Shannon Cox	Alleghany County
Erin Henderson	Botetourt County
Gary Larrowe	Botetourt County
Dan Collins	Craig County
Jesse Spence	Craig County
Ronald Mitchell	Franklin County

Member Governments: Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke, Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont'd)

Mike Carter	Franklin County
Roy Enslow	Franklin County
Kevin Hutchins	Roanoke County
Krystal Onaitis	City of Covington
John Saunders	City of Salem

NON-VOTING LIAISON MEMBERS ATTENDING

Teresa Hammond	Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
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Others: Chuck Unroe, Town of Clifton Forge.

Staff: Sherry Dean, Jeremy Holmes, Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Matt Miller, Virginia Mullen, Eddie Wells, Gabriel Irigaray and Wayne Strickland.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, OPENING STATEMENT

Chair Grose called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Vice Chair North read the following opening statement... *"Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the RVARC on April 23, 2020 and 2020 Virginia General Assembly legislation H29 enacted April 24, 2020, the February meeting of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is being held virtually on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. 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. This meeting is being recorded as always. Due to the virtual nature, video and audio will be recorded and provided on the website in place of written minutes. When the state of emergency ends, draft minutes from all meetings held during this time will be ratified at the next in-person meeting. As a way of ensuring that our meeting goes smoothly, Bryan Hill will serve as the Host for this meeting. All participants are asked to mute themselves to improve audio quality. If any voting Commission member wishes to make a motion, second it, or comment on a motion, please unmute yourself and ask to be recognized by the Chair."*

Chair Grose asked Wayne Strickland to call the roll. Mr. Strickland stated that a quorum was in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Consent Agenda items were as follows:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. January 25, 2021 Minutes
- C. Financial Reports Ending January 31, 2021

MOTION: by Lee Osborne to approve items A, B and C under the Consent Agenda, as distributed. The motion was seconded by Bill Bestpitch.

Regional Commission Action: Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 22 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Clinton, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Jeffrey, Gusler, Volosin, Wallace, King, Marshall, Ervin, Grose, Peters); Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chair Grose noted that the FY22 Work Program Committee meeting will be held immediately after the adjournment of the Commission meeting. Chair Grose thanked the committee members for their service.

Chair Grose recognized the efforts of Roanoke County in implementing the 419 Plan. The County has been working with developers to expand services in the Tanglewood area and attracting nationally known restaurants.

Chair Grose noted that he was ill and could not participate in the January meeting. He thanked Vice Chair North for chairing that meeting .

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Strickland commented that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is proposing to redefine what a metropolitan area is. The action would affect six or seven metropolitan areas in Virginia. The OMB is also proposing to redefine what an urban area is, which could have an impact on the RVTPO since the urbanized area defines the boundary for the RVTPO service area.

Mr. Strickland commented the interest in affordable housing has been growing in Virginia. He noted that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission is examining issues related to affordable housing in the Commonwealth. Additionally, Housing Virginia will be pursuing a housing initiative - more information will be shared as it becomes available.

Mr. Strickland was pleased to announce that after working with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Regional Commission has been offered the opportunity to participate in EDA's Planning Partnership program. This program will allow the Regional Commission to apply for a 3-year planning grant instead of having to apply annually. The planning grant will be used to support the Commission's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and assist in economic development support for member governments. .

5. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Lee Osborne, Chair of the Restructuring Committee, presented the Report of the Restructuring Committee, which was previously distributed with the agenda packet.

The report outlined the recommendations of the Restructuring Committee regarding the changes to the Board Membership (reducing the board size from 38 to 30 members with a cap of 4 members per jurisdiction) and the draft language for the required changes to the Commission's Charter. Mr. Osborne noted that the amended Charter will need to be submitted to each local government of the Regional Commission to be approved by its governing body. Changes to the Charter must be approved by all member jurisdictions. Members were asked to check with their governing bodies and make sure they understood the proposed changes. Feedback was received. The Town of Rocky Mount requested to clarify how the term "population" is defined. A definition was added in the Charter Agreement under Article I, section 2.

Mr. Osborne also noted that the transition provisions were not addressed in the proposal, distributed with the agenda packet. The Committee looked at several options. The Committee is recommending that the board changes take effect on July 1, 2022 which will allow local governing bodies to determine how they will handle the reduction in board members.

MOTION: by Lee Osborne (1) to adopt the recommended membership changes outlined in the report, as distributed with the membership changes to take effect as of July 1, 2022; and (2) to recommend the approval of the revised Charter to the local member governing bodies, as presented. The motion was seconded by James Ervin.

Regional Commission Action: Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 23 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Martin, Clinton, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Gusler, Wallace, King, Marshall, Ervin, Grose, Peters); Nays – 1 (Volosin); Abstentions – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. O'Donnell requested staff to send a standard resolution of the approval of the changes to the Charter to all eleven members and local governments. Mr. Whitlow asked that the resolution is accompanied by a report explaining the changes.

6. APPROVAL OF 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PRIORITIES

Eddie Wells stated that each year the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) asks the Regional Commission to assist with setting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) priorities for the region. CDBG non-entitlement localities were surveyed about potential CDBG applications in 2021. DHCD will award CDBG Community Improvement Grant proposals points on their application score sheet based on the priority group in which the Regional Commission places them.

Mr. Wells discussed localities that may be applying for CDBG funding next year. He reported that the recommended 2021 CDBG priorities are listed on page 33 of the agenda packet. He asked Mr. Unroe to clarify Clifton Forge's projects. Based on the information received, Mr. Wells asked that "Economic Development – Business District Revitalization" be moved to Priority Two and "Housing – Housing Rehabilitation" be moved to Priority One.

MOTION: by Stephanie Moon Reynolds to approve the 2021 Community Development Block Grant Priorities, as amended by Mr. Wells. The motion was seconded by Billy Martin.

Regional Commission Action: Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 22 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Clinton, B. Martin, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Gusler, Volosin, Wallace, King, Marshall, Grose, Peters); Nays – 0; Abstentions – 3 (Whitlow, Smith, Ervin). Motion carried.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Update on SMART SCALE

Bryan Hill made a presentation on the FY22 SMART SCALE (Round 4) preliminary recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The presentation consisted of:

- FY22 application statewide statistics;
- District Grant Program and High Priority Projects Program funding by VDOT Construction District;
- funded projects in the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Region; and
- initial observations for the FY22 SMART SCALE round. (The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes.)

Mr. North commented that there is a newly created authority in Central Virginia, called Central Virginia Transportation Authority, that provides new funding opportunities for priority transportation investments across that region. The Authority administers transportation funding, generated through the imposition of an additional regional sales, and use tax and a wholesale gas tax.

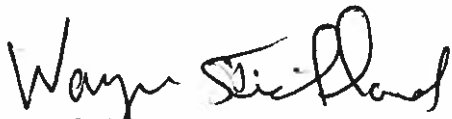
Mr. North commented that our region is one of the last larger regions that does not have a taxing authority. Mr. North noted that the demand for increased infrastructure to handle highway improvements and other transportation projects will be greater in the future. At some point in time there may be a consideration of creating a taxing authority that will allow our region to leverage more funds for future improvements. Mr. Billy Martin commented that he understands Mr. North's concerns about funding transportation improvements but said that he is opposed to raising taxes.

8. **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND/OR THE PUBLIC**

Mr. North commented that there have been some concerns that the populations data from the 2020 Census will not be available by September 30, 2021. If the data are not available by September 2021, the House of Delegates and local governments may not have time to re-district this year.

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Adjournment at 4:09 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "W".

Wayne Strickland, Secretary
Secretary to the Regional Commission

FY22 (Round 4) SMART SCALE Update



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**SMART
SCALE**

*Funding the Right
Transportation Projects
in Virginia*



Office of
INTERMODAL
Planning and Investment



RVARC Meeting, Thursday, February 25, 2021

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Round 4 Statistics: Applications

406 applications submitted

• **7 applications screened out**

- \$199 million SMART SCALE request
- \$205 million total cost

• **2 applications withdrawn**

- \$14.6 million SMART SCALE request
- \$14.6 million total cost

• **397 applications scored**

- \$6.3 billion SMART SCALE request
- \$7.8 billion total cost

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Round 4 Statistics: Funding Breakdown

VDOT District	District Grant Program (DGP)	Supplemental DGP (FY21-24)	TOTALS
Bristol	\$28.3 million	\$44.6 million	\$72.9 million
Culpeper	\$26.9 million	\$87.4 million	\$114.3 million
Fredericksburg	\$36.7 million	\$33.0 million	\$69.7 million
Hampton Roads	\$106.8 million	\$13.3 million	\$120.1 million
Lynchburg	\$30.4 million	\$83.2 million	\$113.5 million
Northern Virginia	\$111.1 million	\$0	\$111.1 million
Richmond	\$75.8 million	\$46.2 million	\$122.0 million
Salem	\$41.6 million	\$63.8 million	\$105.4 million
Staunton	\$33.4 million	\$21.3 million	\$54.7 million
District Grant Programs	\$490.9 million	\$392.8 million	\$883.7 million
High Priority Program	-	-	\$490.7 million
TOTALS	\$490.9 million	\$392.8 million	\$1.374 billion

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Round 4 Statistics: District Grant vs. High Priority

VDOT District	Step 1 – DG Only		Step 2 – HP Only		Step 3 – Remaining HP	
	Count	Allocated	Count	Allocated	Count	Allocated
Bristol	15	\$59.8 million	1	\$16.8 million	0	\$0
Culpeper	12	\$108.8 million	6	\$43.8 million	1	\$7.5 million
Fredericksburg	8	\$69.4 million	3	\$30.4 million	1	\$9.8 million
Hampton Roads	15	\$75.0 million	2	\$1.2 million	2	\$49.7 million
Lynchburg	8	\$103.4 million	1	\$38.7 million	0	\$0
Northern Virginia	8	\$106.9 million	0	\$0	3	\$113.9 million
Richmond	15	\$115.0 million	3	\$45.6 million	1	\$17.2 million
Salem	23	\$104.4 million	6	\$38.3 million	0	\$0
Staunton	13	\$53.7 million	8	\$27.1 million	0	\$0
CTB Multi-District	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$50.0 million
TOTALS	117	\$796.4 million	30	\$241.9 million	9	\$248.1 million

Funded projects: 156 - Statewide; 29 – Salem District; 17 – RVAR Region

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Funded Projects: RVA Region

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION	SMART SCALE \$ Request	SMART SCALE Score
Botetourt County	US460/Laymantown Road Intersection Improvement	\$ 7,629,947	9.47
Botetourt County	Route 220 Superstreet Improvement	\$ 11,412,482	1.01
Covington City	Paper Trail Pedestrian Bridge	\$ 6,919,027	0.59
Covington City	East Madison Sidewalk Improvements	\$ 2,534,922	0.22
Franklin County	Intersection Improvements to Bonbrook Mill (Rte 635)/Rte 220	\$ 6,342,292	4.54
Franklin County	Intersection Improvements Lakemount Rd (Rte 1235) & Rte 122	\$ 9,178,830	0.70
Franklin County	Intersection Improvements Harmony School Rte 634 & Rte 122	\$ 13,544,144	0.31
Franklin County	Realign Rte 220 NB at Henry Rd (Rte 605)/Rte 220 Intersection	\$ 14,964,152	6.19
Roanoke City	Valley View Blvd / Aviation Drive Pedestrian Improvements	\$ 5,928,491	9.88
Roanoke City	Route 460 (Orange Ave) Improvements near Blue Hills Drive	\$ 4,903,493	9.32
Roanoke City	Route 460 (Orange Ave) Improvements at King Street	\$ 4,455,444	7.99
Roanoke City	Route 460 (Orange Ave) Improvements Seibel Dr/ Hickory Woods	\$ 436,731	6.33
Roanoke County	Starky Road/Buck Mountain Road Intersection Improvements	\$ 2,583,365	9.91
Roanoke County	Valleypointe Parkway Realignment	\$ 7,397,072	9.05
Roanoke County	Route 419 Streetscape Improvements, Phase 2	\$ 14,122,332	5.42
Roanoke County	Route 460 and Al. Route 220 Intersection Improvements	\$ 19,252,124	1.89
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization	Route 460 Intersections from Carson Rd to Huntridge Rd	\$ 2,339,028	11.12
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization	Route 460 at West Ruritan Road Intersection Improvements	\$ 6,751,948	5.59
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization	Orange Avenue Improvements	\$ 23,714,763	4.00
Roanoke Valley- Alleghany Regional Commission	I-581 at Exit 2 Interchange Improvements	\$ 28,225,261	1.31
Salem City	Downtown Salem - College Avenue Improvements	\$ 2,469,332	16.95
Salem City	DOWNTOWN SALEM - MARKET STREET INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 2,311,825	15.49
Salem City	APPERSON DRIVE (RT 11) AND ORCHARD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 2,387,558	12.21
Salem City	ROANOKE RIVER GREENWAY GOLDEN SPIKE	\$ 4,520,561	7.08
Vinton Town	Walnut Avenue Corridor Improvements Phase 3 Project	\$ 7,399,781	9.06
TOTAL OF FUNDED PROJECTS		\$ 87,776,988	

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Observations

- The supplemental DGP funding allowed for more projects to be funded, especially those only seeking DGP funds.
- 112 of 150 (75%) projects funded statewide have SMART SCALE costs of <\$10 million.
- The two highest cost projects statewide were \$50 million each, which is far less than the HRBT project in Round 3 (\$200+ million)

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Remainder of FY22 Timeline

- **February to April** – CTB to develop potential revisions to staff recommended funding scenario
- **April to May** – Public hearings on staff recommended scenario and any potential revisions
- **May** CTB meeting – Revised funding scenario developed
- **June** CTB meeting – Adoption of Six-Year Improvement Program

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