



MINUTES

The April meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held virtually on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Marief Fowler	County of Bedford
Dan Brugh	County of Montgomery
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Will Crawford	County of Roanoke
Chris Chittum	City of Roanoke
Mark Jamison, <i>Vice Chair</i>	City of Roanoke
Ben Tripp, <i>Chair</i>	City of Salem
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
Nathan McClung	Town of Vinton
Dorian Allen	Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro)
Liz Belcher	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Daniel Sonenklar	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transportation - Salem District

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Peter Volosin	County of Botetourt
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System (RADAR)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Jones	Federal Highway Administration
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Others Present Remotely: Isaac Henry, Roanoke County; Wayne Leftwich, City of Roanoke; Renee Powers, Roanoke City; Carol Moneymaker, Virginia Department of Transportation-Salem District; Samuel Hayes, Moffatt & Nickol; Will Cockrell, Cambridge Systematics; Vlad Gavrilovic, Cambridge Systematics;

RVARC Staff Present: Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Rachel Ruhlen, Jeremy Holmes, Eddie Wells and Virginia Mullen.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Tripp called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Chair Tripp read the following opening statement..." Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the RVTPO Policy Board on April 23, 2020 and 2021 Virginia General Assembly legislation SB1271 passed February 27, 2020, the April meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) will be held virtually on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 1:30 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."

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- (A) April 8, 2021 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Agenda.
- (B) March 11, 2021 Transportation Technical Committee Minutes.
- (C) Action on FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program.
- (D) Endorsement of Roanoke Valley Transportation Needs Assessment.

Liz Belcher commented that she would like to request several changes to (D) Endorsement of Roanoke Valley Transportation Needs Assessment and would like to discuss this item further.

Motion: by Chris Chittum to approve items A, B & C under the Consent Agenda, as distributed; seconded by Megan Cronise.

TTC Action: Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 14 (Fowler, Sexton, Brugh, Cronise, Crawford, Chittum, Jamison, Tripp, McMillan, McClung, Allen, Belcher, Sonenklar, Gray); Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

Liz Belcher proposed the following changes to the distributed (D) Endorsement of Roanoke Valley Transportation Needs Assessment:

- #176 Tinker Creek Greenway- check boxes in Botetourt County and Roanoke City (currently there are checked boxes only in Roanoke County).
- #164 Roanoke River Greenway- check box for access (currently there is only a box checked for safety).
- The map should show the pieces (of the greenway) that are not built.

Cristina Finch noted the map is currently showing the identified needs (i.e. problems) only; infrastructure project requests will be considered and displayed at a later phase in this process. Ms. Belcher replied that the projects have been already identified in Appendix D in the Greenway Plan and are in the needs assessment. Ms. Finch apologized for the error and commented that #176 and #164 are projects (solutions to address needs) and they would be removed from the needs assessment document since they are not needs.

Ms. Belcher noted that her comment about #164 is that access is needed from Roanoke City to Salem, specifically from Bridge Street to Salem. Ms. Finch requested clarity stating the existing infrastructure is not sufficient to accommodate people walking or biking between Bridge Street in Roanoke City to Salem, thus some other access is needed that doesn't currently exist to which Ms. Belcher agreed. Ms. Ruhlen added that point #118 expresses that particular need for Bridge Street and point #112 expresses the need for Salem as well,

but they don't reference each other. Ms. Ruhlen suggested she can add a cross references between points #118 and #112.

Motion: by Mark Jamison to approve item (C) under the Consent Agenda Items, as amended by removing points #176 and #164 and adding a cross reference between points #118 and #112; seconded by Mariel Fowler.

TTC Action: Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 13 (Fowler, Sexton, Brugh, Cronise, Crawford, Chittum, Jamison, Tripp, McMillan, McClung, Allen, Sonenklar, Gray); Nays – 1 (Belcher); Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

No remarks were made.

4. **CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN-FUTURE FACTORS, VISION AND GOALS**

Ms. Finch commented that at the March TTC meeting Mr. David Jackson with Cambridge Systematics presented a PowerPoint presentation on the future factors and next steps in the continued development of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan. Continuing the conversation, Mr. Vlad Gavrilovic with EPR PC presented a PowerPoint presentation on the future factors survey results, draft regional goals, and next steps (the presentation is attached to the Minutes).

5. **RECOMMENDATION ON SCENARIO FOR FY 2022-2027/28 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) FINANCIAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

At the March RVTPO Policy Board meeting, the Board requested the TTC to further review it's recommendation on the FY22-27/28 Financial Plan and recommend a preferred funding scenario considering the project's construction schedule timelines. Ms. Finch presented the staff report (previously distributed with the agenda packet) with the latest information on the STBG financial plan's development and possible scenarios. Ms. Finch noted that she received new information from VDOT this morning and the information doesn't change the guidance that is needed from the TTC to prioritize the projects. Ms. Finch reminded that the STBG funds are regional funds and are given to the project, not the project's sponsor. The current funding requests can be met if the funding is consumed through FY28.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Jamison commented that some funds should be reserved to account for SMART SCALE round 5 applications. The update of the TED study hasn't been completed yet and it is unknown if funds may be needed perhaps for regional projects of high importance as a result of the completion of the study. In addition there is a new round of STBG applications coming up next year. Mr. Jamison concluded that it is risky to commit funds beyond the six year program (FY27). He also noted that given the fact that new information was received by staff today, the TTC needs more information and time before they make the final recommendation to the Policy Board.

Mr. Gray commented that it would be a good idea to look at existing projects and see if money can be shifted around to accommodate the additional funding requests of the projects that are needing the money in this or next fiscal year.

Ms. Liz Belcher suggested receiving additional information from localities contracting and purchasing departments whether the needed money can be committed or not. She suggested a follow up meeting with each project sponsor and Michal Gray (VDOT) to look at the spreadsheet and see how things can be moved around. Mr. Jamison agreed.

Chair Tripp requested the creation of a subcommittee consisting of RVARC staff, VDOT and project managers to look over the spreadsheet and recommend a scenario to the TTC.

6. **CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON TTC SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

Eddie Wells presented a spreadsheet on identified needs and corresponding ongoing and suggested solutions (the spreadsheet is attached to the minutes). Mr. Wells asked the TTC members to provide their input on the Solutions in Progress or the TTC Suggested Solutions on the spreadsheet - anything members want to add. Ms. Belcher asked that the TTC members receive a copy of the spreadsheet. Mr. Wells added that once members have more time to review the spreadsheet, there may be additional feedback.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

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

Mr. Cody Sexton announced his last day with Botetourt County would be April 15, 2021. Chairman Tripp and Ms. Finch thanked Mr. Sexton for serving on the TTC and wished him all the best.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.



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

Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Update

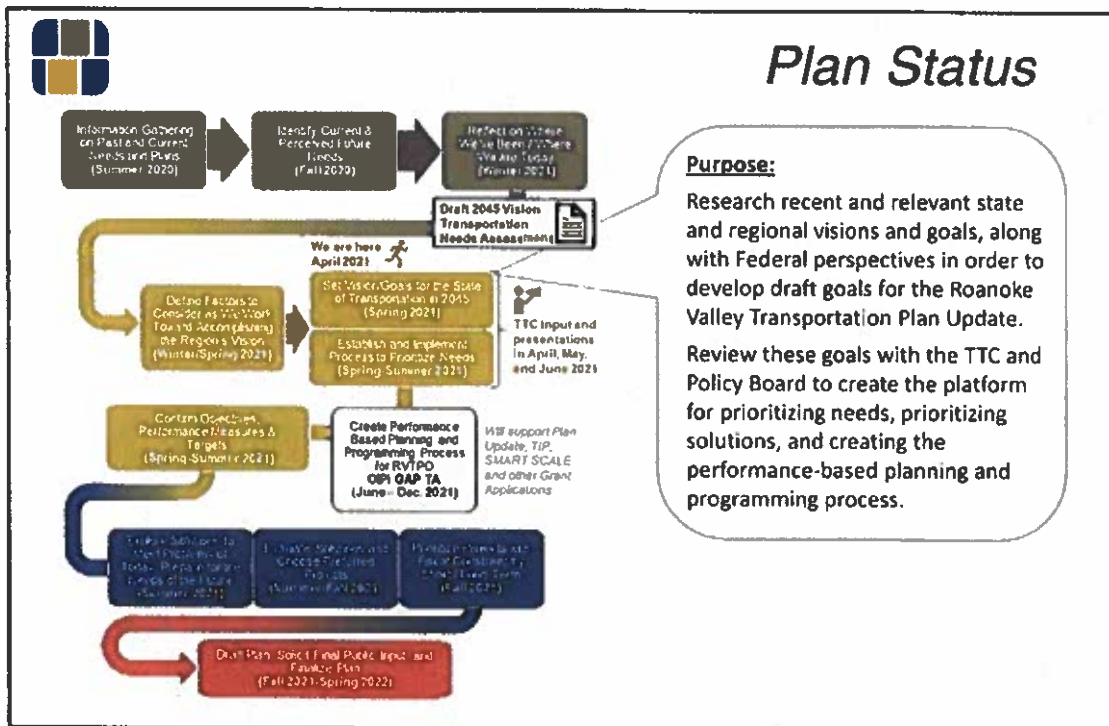
Follow up on Future Factors and Draft Regional Goals

presented to
Transportation Technical Committee

presented by
Cambridge Systematics, Inc.








1



2



Emerging Trends and Futures

-  **Technology** Connected and automated vehicles, drone deliveries, freight automation, broadband, on-demand transit
-  **Society** Demographic transition, equity considerations, shift to remote work and services, long-term impacts on travel behavior due to Covid pandemic
-  **Economy** Population growth and impact on labor force, job types and skills, retail shifts, tourism and entertainment
-  **Sustainability** Electrification, climate change mitigation, natural resources, alternative energy sources
-  **Funding & Finance** Project costs, impact of technology changes on transportation revenue, potential for new revenue

3



Future Factors Survey Findings & Next Steps

Level of Importance of Each Factor to Region's Future



Average rating on scale from 1 to 10

- **Future factors research and survey insights**
 - Informs reviewing the plan vision and goals
 - Supports considering resilience to futures within need and solution prioritization
 - Helps anticipate future needs and how today's needs will change
- **Next steps**
 - Document research and survey results in a summary report for TTC review (late April)

4



Principles to Establish Goals

- **Reflect the region's context**
Build from recent and relevant plans and insight from the needs assessment
- **Consideration of the Virginia perspective**
View VTrans and other statewide, and SMART SCALE as a reference, focus on goals that support these initiatives
- **Acknowledge Federal planning factors and goals**
Incorporate these, but not necessary to directly align
- **Forward looking**
What does the region want to be and what guides us?
- **SMART "Framework"**
"Specific – Measurable – Achievable – Relevant – Time-Specific"
Following this standard ensures that goals can be translated later into objectives (how we attain the goals) and into measures (how we assess progress)

5



Context

Current GOALS

1. Economic Competitiveness and Prosperity
2. Accessible and Connected Places
3. Safety and Security
4. Proactive and Efficient System Management
5. Healthy Environment
6. Resiliency and Reliability

Current VISION

"The Roanoke Valley enjoys a **seamless** regional **multimodal** transportation system that is **safe**, cost-effective, **environmentally conscious**, **maintainable**, **inclusive of all users**, and conducive to the economic vitality of the community."

Consider as an option for a new goal

6



Consideration of Federal/State/Regional Goals

Federal										State				Regional															
MPO Planning Factors					National Goals (US Code)					Vtrans Goals				EIS		E-Value Focus													
Economic Vitality	Safety	Security	Accessibility and Mobility	Environment	Connectivity	System Management	Preservation of System	Resiliency	Tourism	Safety	Infrastructure Condition	Congestion Reduction	System Reliability	Freight and economic vitality	Environmental sustainability	Reduced project delivery delays	Econ. Competitiveness & Prosperity	Accessible & Connected Places	Safety for All Users	Proactive System Management	Healthy & Sustainable	Connectivity	Competitiveness	Maintenance	Sustainability	Workforce Development	Economic Development	Healthy Resilient Valley	Natural Assets

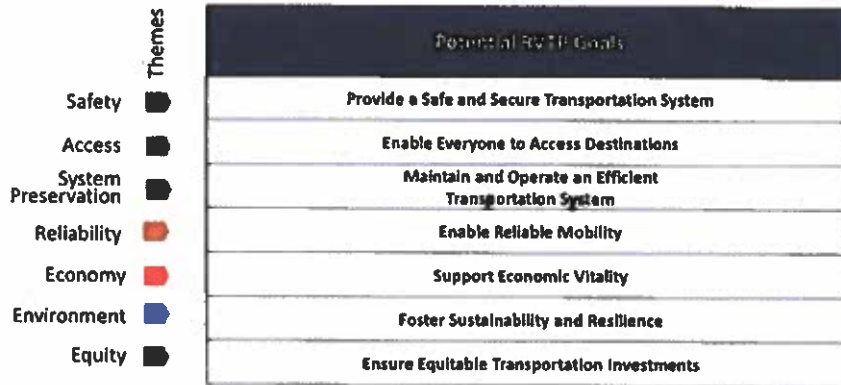
Current Goals



7



Potential Goals Framework



Refinements to current Goals:

- Actionable statements
- Added a new explicit goal regarding equity and affordability (more clearly supports idea of "inclusive for all users" within the vision)

Attributes:

- Reflects citizen survey perspectives
- Consistent with other regional, state, and federal goals

8



Next Steps

- **TTC to complete brief survey this month**
Enables review of potential goals and sharing insight on priorities
- **Compile results and share updates with TTC in May**
- **Finalize Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan goals**
- **Consider results within needs prioritization**
Goals will be part of process to prioritize current and anticipated future needs

Regional Study on Transportation Project Prioritization for Economic Development and Growth - Solutions and Project Development - April 8, 2021

Identified Need	Solutions in Progress	ED Stakeholder Suggested Solutions	TTC Suggested Solutions
Airport has limited destinations on air travel and high prices.	Airport in discussions with air carriers about destinations.		
Airport is not able to accommodate larger aircraft due to insufficient runway length.	Airport investigating the possibility of extending the runway across I-581		
Travel times too long on air travel.	Airport in discussions with air carriers about destinations.		Not sure this belongs in this study.
Businesses have a hard time getting employees.	Multiple access management/ intersection improvements proposed for funding in Round 4 SMART SCALE Projects for 11th Street to Gus Nicks and the intersection at Alternate 220 need funding.		Fund/construct 11th Street to Gus Nicks and the intersection improvements proposed for Alternate 220. STARS Study complete with a subsequent study being initiated at the \$611-660 interchange. Need to reserve \$TBG funding to provide flexibility to leverage for local match in Smart Scale.
Congestion on Route 460 East of I-581, too many lights on 460.	Multiple access management/ intersection improvements proposed for funding in Round 4 SMART SCALE Projects for 11th Street to Gus Nicks and the intersection at Alternate 220 need funding.		Fund/construct 11th Street to Gus Nicks and the intersection improvements proposed for Alternate 220. STARS Study complete. Work remains to be done on projects that did not receive Smart Scale funding. Need to reserve \$TBG funding to provide flexibility to leverage for local match in Smart Scale.
Safety on Route 460 East of I-581	VDOT Alternative Intersection Projects	Build I-73	I-73 is no longer a project and funds have been reallocated to Alternative Intersection Projects. Suggest no mention of I-73.
Only one road (U.S. 220) to get from Roanoke to Franklin County.	VDOT Alternative Intersection Projects	Build I-73	I-73 is no longer a project and funds have been reallocated to Alternative Intersection Projects. Suggest no mention of I-73.
Travel times too long - Roanoke to south - North Carolina, Florida.	VDOT Alternative Intersection Projects	Build I-73 to avoid left-turns of current 220 facility.	I-73 is no longer a project and funds have been reallocated to Alternative Intersection Projects. Suggest no mention of I-73.
U.S. 220 South safety concerns	VDOT Alternative Intersection Projects	Build I-73 to avoid left-turns of current 220 facility.	I-73 is no longer a project and funds have been reallocated to Alternative Intersection Projects. Suggest no mention of I-73.
Congestion on U.S. 220 South of Route 419; can't go fast.	Access management/signal coordination project funded with construction in 2022. Access management/signal coordination. VDOT Alternative Intersection Projects	Build I-73 to avoid left-turns of current 220 facility.	I-73 is no longer a project and funds have been reallocated to Alternative Intersection Projects. Suggest no mention of I-73.
Left turn lane on Peters Creek Road eastbound to Valleypoint Parkway is too short for stacking vehicles.	I-581 at Exit 2 (Peters Creek Road) Interchange Improvement Project proposes a double left turn lane and additional stacking room. Project needs funding.	Build I-73 to avoid left-turns of current 220 facility.	Fund/construct I-581 at Exit 2 (Peters Creek Road) Interchange Improvement Project.
Valleypoint Parkway does not align well with Woodhaven Road to allow for development of adjacent lands.	Draft funding via SMART SCALE Round 4 has been received to correct this misalignment.		(Solution funded) Consideration should be given to addressing challenges with the Peters Creek Road interchange. That seems to present the greatest challenge.
Woodhaven Industrial Park is a new business development opportunity. Concerns over large vehicles being able to easily get to the site.			Consideration should be given to addressing challenges with the Peters Creek Road interchange. That seems to present the greatest challenge.
Congestion on Exit 150 Park and Ride Lot - too small for use by commuters and AT users.			Consideration should be given to addressing challenges with the Peters Creek Road interchange. That seems to present the greatest challenge.
Congestion on Route 419 - limited number of entrances, cross access/secondary access to parcels.	Route 419 Streetscape improvements from Starkey Road to Ogden Road received in draft SMART SCALE Round 4 funding scenario. Route 419 from Ogden Road to Route 220 is currently under construction, adding a third lane. DDJ project funded at Route 419 and Route 220 will also reduce congestion.	Consolidate entrances; address crossover issues making cross development more compatible.	Continue to analyze and propose potential improvements for Route 419 to reduce congestion and improve safety.
I-581/Orange Avenue interchange - merging onto the interstate is terrible.	VDOT STARS Study initiated		STARS Study complete. Work remains to be done on projects that did not receive Smart Scale funding. Need to reserve \$TBG funding to provide flexibility to leverage for local match in Smart Scale.
Long-term parking near Antrak is not attractive, not well-signed, unreliable.			
Major entrances to Botetourt County, City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, Salem, Town of Vinton could be more attractive and provide directional aid to visitors going to destinations.	VBR Wayfinding Plan being implemented by localities. Regional Wayfinding Sign effort underway in each of these localities.		Find funding sources to assist localities in implementing the VBR Wayfinding Plan. Implement regional wayfinding sign program.

Roanoke County edits and additions submitted by Megan Cronse
City of Roanoke edits and additions submitted by Mark Jamison