



## 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 2021 Virginia General Assembly legislation SB1271 passed February 27, 2021, the April meeting of the RVTPO Policy Board was held a virtually via Zoom on Thursday, April 22, 2021 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
Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, <i>Chair</i>	Botetourt County
Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Robert Jeffrey	City of Roanoke
Stephanie Moon Reynolds	City of Roanoke
Renee Turk	City of Salem
Mike Stovall	Town of Vinton
Kevin Price	Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro)
Daniel Sonenklar	Va. Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation
Ken King	Virginia Dept. of Transportation – Salem District

### TPO VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Bill Jones	City of Salem
Steve Fijalkowski	Montgomery County
Keith Liles	Town of Vinton

### TPO NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Lee Osborne	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
Richard Caywood	Roanoke County
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
Ben Tripp	Chair of the TPO Transp. Technical Committee

**Others Present:** Terry Durkin, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce; Megan Cronise, Roanoke County; Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation- Salem District; Liz Belcher, Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission; Richard "Pete" Peters, Town of Vinton; Anthony Ford, Virginia Department of Transportation- Salem District.

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

**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

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR**

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 2021 Virginia General Assembly legislation SB1271 passed February 27, 2021, the April meeting of the RVTPO Policy Board will be held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, April 22, 2021 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."*

**2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The following Consent Agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. April 22, 2021 RVTPO Meeting Agenda
- B. March 25, 2021 RVTPO Minutes
- C. Acceptance of the RVARC Title VI Implementation Plan and Adoption of Supporting Resolution

**Motion:** by Ms. Moon Reynolds to approve items (A), (B) and (C), as distributed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson.

**RVTPO Policy Board Action:** Roll call vote: Ayes- 12 (Johnson, Martin, Jeffrey, Moon Reynolds, Fijalkowski, North, Radford, Turk, Stovall, King, Price, Sonenklar); Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

- Chair Martin announced that Wayne Strickland will retire in June as Executive Director of the Regional Commission after 42 years, with 34 of those years serving as Executive Director. Mr. Strickland, working with the member governments and commission staff, had assisted the region in many ways. There have been only five executive directors of the Commission over the past 50 years. A Search Committee has been formed and is going through the process of hiring a new Executive Director.
- The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will be conducting a series of virtual public meetings giving the citizens an opportunity to provide comments on projects and programs to be included in the FY22-27 six year improvement program. Those that are interested can find more information at [Public Meetings and Hearings - Programs | Virginia Department of Transportation \(virginiadot.org\)](https://www.virginiadot.org/Programs/Pages/PublicMeetingsandHearings.aspx).

**4. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY22 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Cristina Finch reported that every year, the RVTPO Policy Board approves a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to identify the transportation planning activities the RVTPO will undertake in the next fiscal year. The FY22 UPWP was previously distributed with the agenda packet. Ms. Finch noted a minor change: total FY22 PL amount on pages 17-18 should read \$520,097.

**Motion:** by Mr. North to approve the resolution adopting the FY22 Unified Planning Work Program, as distributed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moon Reynolds.

**RVTPO Policy Board Action:** Roll call vote: Ayes- 12 (Johnson, Martin, Jeffrey, Moon Reynolds, Fijalkowski, North, Radford, Turk, Stovall, King, Price, Sonenklar); Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Cristina Finch gave a presentation reviewing the status of the development of the Roanoke Valley Transportation plan noting the work that had begun last summer/fall 2020 to identify transportation needs that covered many sources and involved meetings with TTC members. Ms. Finch noted the draft Needs Assessment had been shared with the Board at the March 2021 meeting and was a new element to the RVTPO's transportation planning process per the RVTPO's adopted Framework for Prioritization. Ms. Finch reviewed what is a transportation need (i.e. problems people or businesses experience getting too where they are going or moving what they are selling/receiving) and what is not a need (e.g. infrastructure as such things are possible solutions or projects to address transportation needs). She showed a map of the region's consolidated needs but noted that some needs weren't able to be mapped. Ms. Finch described the ongoing work with Cambridge Systematics and the TTC to consider future factors, draft the vision and goals, and then prioritize the needs. She noted staff was still awaiting official word from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment on if the RVTPO would be receiving GAP grant funding to assist with documenting a performance-based planning and programming process for the RVTPO. The PowerPoint Presentation is included with the Minutes.

**Motion:** by Ms. Moon Reynolds to approve the resolution endorsing the Roanoke Valley Transportation Needs Assessment, as distributed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson.

**RVTPO Policy Board Action:** Roll call vote: Ayes- 11 (Johnson, Martin, Jeffrey, Moon Reynolds, Fijalkowski, North, Turk, Stovall, King, Price, Sonenklar); Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT FY22-27/28 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) FINANCIAL PLAN**

Cristina Finch reported that the TTC held a special meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 to review the information related to the development of the FY22-27/28 STBG Financial Plan. Their recommendation to the Policy Board was distributed with the addendum to the STBG staff report and described below:

TTC recommendation for **projects returning funds**:

1. Accept return of \$2,752,469 from Roanoke River Greenway – Water Pollution Control Plan to the Blue Ridge Parkway due to reduced project scope.

**New total funding recommended: \$1,505,371**

2. Accept return of \$147,145 from Exit 140 Park and Ride Reconstruction; these are unused funds following project completion.

**New total funding recommended: \$2,502,855**

TTC recommendation to **increase funding** on the following four projects and proceed with a public hearing on the funding increases at the May RVTPD Policy Board meeting.

1. Increase committed funding by \$3,083,069 towards the Roanoke River Greenway – Greenhill Park (Roanoke County) to Riverside Park (Salem) for a total commitment of \$7,673,829.

2. Increase committed funding by \$82,000 towards the Oak Grove Streetscape Improvements – Crosswalk for a total commitment of \$218,748.

3. Increase committed funding by \$234,262 towards the Gus Nicks Boulevard Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossing for a total commitment of \$403,912.

4. Increase committed funding by \$336,110 towards the Walnut Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations (W. Lee Avenue to 1<sup>st</sup> Street) for a total commitment of \$881,360.

TTC recommendation to **defer addressing the following four requests at this time** since the construction is still several years away and revisit the requests during next year's new application and adjustment cycle for the FY23-28/29 STBG Financial Plan. The TTC's recommendation is based on the desire to leave FY28 funding available for full consideration in next year's cycle and not commit or conditionally commit any of the funds at this time.

5. Increase committed funding by \$1,589,254 to the Tinker Creek Trail Extension project in FY28, for a total commitment of \$4,816,301 with the hope that in future adjustment years, the funding could move up to FY25/26.

6. Increase committed funding by \$892,526 to Orange Market Park and Ride/Parking Lot Improvements in FY28 for a total commitment of \$1,236,099 with the hope that in future adjustment years, the funding could move up to FY25/26.

7. Increase committed funding by \$750,000 towards the Roanoke River Greenway – East project to support unknown total construction cost for a total commitment of \$1,585,000. (To be programmed in FY28.)

8. Conditionally Commit \$2,003,701 to the Route 220 Superstreet and Access Management project to use as leverage in SMART SCALE Round 5. (To be programmed in FY28.)

**Motion:** by Mr. Stovall to direct staff to schedule a public hearing for May 27, 2021 to approve the project funding returns, total allocation increases and changes to the financial plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moon Reynolds.

**RVTPO Policy Board Action:** Roll call vote: Ayes- 12 (Johnson, Martin, Jeffrey, Moon Reynolds, Fijalkowski, North, Radford, Turk, Stovall, King, Price, Sonenklar); Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Strickland reported that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have introduced changes to the way the metropolitan area is being defined. In fact, out of the 384 metropolitan areas in the country 144 will be eliminated if the new definition is accepted. In a separate issue, the Census is also redefining the urbanized area. Mr. Miller explained that the Census is looking into changing the urbanized area definition by looking at housing density instead of population density, and by reducing the "hop" and "jump" distances to include outlying census blocks. This could shrink the size of our urbanized area. Mr. Strickland added that based on the proposed changes Montgomery County may drop out of the RVTPO service area, the RVTPO may no longer be a transportation management area and will lose the STBG grant funding. Mr. Strickland asked the RVTPO Policy Board to authorize staff to send a letter to OMB objecting to the changes.

The RVTPO members recommended a copy of the letter be sent to senators, congressmen, NADO, VAMPO, other PDCs or the VAPDC.

**Motion:** by Phil North to authorize staff to send a letter to The Office of Management and Budget, objecting the proposed changes to the urbanized area definition. The motion was seconded by Ms. Turk.

**RVTPO Policy Board Action:** Roll call vote: Ayes- 12 (Johnson, Martin, Jeffrey, Moon Reynolds, Fijalkowski, North, Radford, Turk, Stovall, King, Price, Sonenklar); Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. North thanked the TTC for their special called meeting on April 20, 2021 and work on the development of the FY22-27/28 STBG Financial Plan.

Mr. North commented that the TED Committee has been working on updating their projects and one of the top projects is the I-73 plan.

Mr. North noted that The American Jobs Plan is investing \$621 billion in transportation infrastructure and resilience. Mr. North highlighted the following four categories of the

spending breakdown: \$115 billion for modernizing roads, highways and bridges; \$85 billion for public transit, \$25 billion for airports and \$25 billion for shovel ready projects that have the potential to significantly impact the region or national economy but are too large or complex to be carried out by existing programs and funding streams.

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

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

Wayne Stuckland, Secretary  
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization



**Roanoke Valley Transportation  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
affiliated by the  
REGIONAL commission

## Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Needs Assessment

*RVTPO Policy Board*  
April 22, 2021

[www.rvarc.org](http://www.rvarc.org)

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## Needs Assessment Schedule

- Summer/Fall 2020 – Id transportation needs
- December 2020 – Presentation on Current Transportation Needs
  1. VTrans
  2. Previous Plans/Studies
  3. Previous Public Input Surveys
  4. Citizen Survey for 2045 Plan
  5. Travel Demand Model
- January/February – Meetings w/TTC members
- March 2021 – Draft Needs
- April 2021 – Endorsement of RVTPO Needs

[www.rvarc.org](http://www.rvarc.org)



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# Needs Assessment

RVTPO Framework for Prioritization



[www.rvarc.org](http://www.rvarc.org)



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# What is a Need?

**Needs are . . .**

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

***Safety, Congestion, Access, Maintenance/Operations***

[www.rvarc.org](http://www.rvarc.org)



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## What is a not a Need?

Needs are not . . .

Road widenings, turn lanes, new bus services, connections, bike accommodations, greenways, sidewalks, roundabouts, traffic signals, etc.

Or

Building I-73, another lane on 81 or 460, a sidewalk on Route 419, a greenway trail along a river or creek, a bus to a new destination, etc.

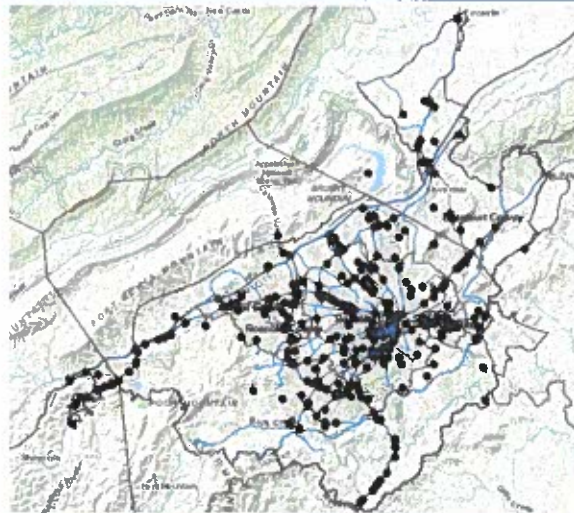
These things are *possible* solutions or projects to address transportation needs.

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## Map of RVTPO Transportation Needs



[www.rvarc.org](http://www.rvarc.org)



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## RVTPO Needs

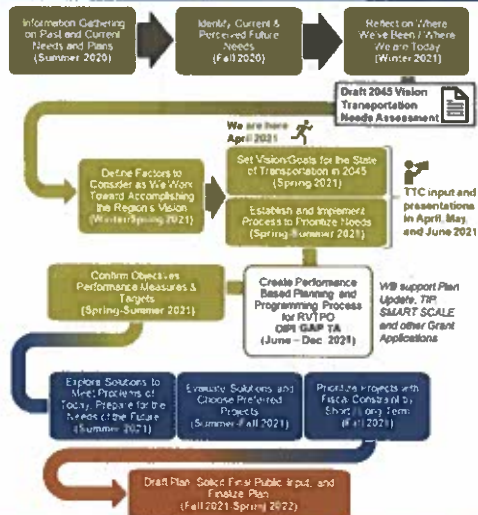
- Various locations
- Varying degrees to which they affect people
- Number of times a need or location was mentioned not necessarily significant
- After consolidation, still over 550 locations with mappable identified needs
- Some needs can't be mapped but are discussed in the document

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## Plan Development Schedule



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