



MINUTES

The July Policy Board meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization was held on Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

| | |
|--|---|
| Mickey Johnson | Bedford County |
| Steve Clinton (<i>arrived @ 1:40pm.</i>) | 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 |
| Stephanie Moon Reynolds | City of Roanoke |
| Renee Turk | City of Salem |
| Ken King | Virginia Dept. of Transportation – Salem District |

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Robert Jeffrey | City of Roanoke |
| Bill Jones | City of Salem |
| Keith Liles | Town of Vinton |
| Mike Stovall | Town of Vinton |
| Kevin Price | Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro) |
| Daniel Sonenklar | Va. Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation |

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Richard Caywood | Roanoke County |
| Ben Tripp | TTC Chair |
| Cody Sexton | Town of Vinton |
| Lee Osborne | Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Reg. Commission |

Others Present: Megan Cronise, Roanoke County; Anthony Ford, Virginia Department of Transportation - Salem District; Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation- Salem District; and Anita McMillan, Town of Vinton.

Staff Present: Bryan Hill, Jeremy Holmes, William Long, Eddie Wells, Rachel Ruhlen and Virginia Mullen.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. July 22, 2021 RVTPO Meeting Agenda
- B. Ratification of RVTPO Virtual Minutes: April 23, 2020 - June 24, 2021

Motion: by Renee Turk for approval of Consent Agenda Item A & B, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Radford.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

3. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

- Chair Martin noted that the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization was recognized at the ribbon cutting for the new Roanoke River Greenway bridge over Barnhardt Creek for its role in funding the project. The project cost \$897,770 from STBG funds approved by the Policy Board in 2018.
- Chair Martin recognized Ms. Liz Belcher for her retirement as the Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator. Liz Belcher began her career in 1996 when she was employed for the Fifth Planning Commission (currently Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission). The Greenway Commission, of which she is the only employee, started in 1997 with the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, Salem and Vinton. Botetourt joined the Commission in 2017. Ms. Belcher has overseen the growth of the regional greenway network to include over four hundred miles of off-road greenways and trails.
- Chair Martin noted that as discussed previously the Office of Management and Budget was considering a rules change to the definition of a Metropolitan Statistical Area that would have increased the minimum population from 50,000 to 100,000. This change would have affected several nearby communities, though none in the Roanoke Valley. Chair Martin was pleased to announce the OMB just recently decided not to implement that change, recognizing the negative effect it would have on MSAs across the country.

4. ACTION ON ADJUSTMENTS TO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Mr. Bryan Hill stated the staff report in the agenda packet outlines the recommended adjustments to the RVTPO's STBG Project Development and Selection Procedures. The adjustments were recommended to ease the annual adjustment process and improve the timeliness and accuracy of presenting financial information. Mr. Hill noted the following changes:

- Clarify in Policy #7 when additional funding requests are due.
- Clarify in Policy #11 that only urgent unforeseen new project requests will be considered by the Policy Board; adjustments will be considered following the annual schedule.
- Include, in Table 4.1-1 and Table 5.3-1, a deadline for submitting the annual project update form including requests for additional funding.

- Clarify statement clarification following Table 5.3-1.
- Remove the Benefit/Cost Consideration due to the ineffectiveness of comparing the noted scores for different types of project requests (e.g. study vs. construction vs. equipment).

Mr. Cody Sexton asked who defines “urgent and unforeseen”. Mr. Hill replied with “Ultimately, the Policy Board”.

Motion: by Stephanie Moon Reynolds to approve the resolution, approving the adjustments to the STBG Project Development and Selection Procedures, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fijalkowski.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

5. **ACTION ON ALLOCATION OF FY22 HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AND HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM SRRSAA FUNDING**

Mr. Bryan Hill noted that this item was brought back to the Policy Board after staff was instructed at the May 27 meeting to have the TTC consider it. Staff presented funding recommendations at the TTC’s July 8 meeting. The staff report outlines the TTC and staff recommendations forwarded to the Board as follows:

| Locality | Project | HIP >200K | HIP-CRRSAA >200K | Total Recommended Allocation for Projects | Additional Actions Needed |
|-----------------|---|-----------|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| City of Roanoke | Aviation Drive/Valley View Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements | \$297,071 | \$821,597 | \$1,118,668 | Adjustment of STBG Financial Plan. |
| City of Roanoke | Greenway Connection – Riverland Road | \$ - | \$222,842 | \$222,842 | Adjustment of STBG Financial Plan. |
| City of Roanoke | Roanoke River Greenway - East | \$ - | \$125,000 | \$125,000 | Adjustment of STBG Financial Plan. |
| Town of Vinton | Hardy Road/Dillon Woods Crosswalk | \$ - | \$16,518 | \$16,518 | TIP Amendment |
| Town of Vinton | Walnut Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations – W. Lee Avenue to 1 st Street | \$ - | \$463,750 | \$463,750 | Adjustment of STBG Financial Plan. |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------|-------------|--|
| | Total HIP Funds Available for Allocation | \$297,071 | \$1,649,707 | |
|--|--|-----------|-------------|--|

Mr. Hill noted that allocating the HIP funding towards the above projects would free up \$1,930,260 in STBG funds for the upcoming round of applications. As such, Mr. Hill added, the current FY22-27 STBG Six-Year Financial Plan will need to be adjusted. The proposed resolution includes an adjustment to the same.

Mr. Hill stated staff recommends that the Board:

1. Allocate FY22 HIP funding based on the Staff Funding Recommendation presented; and
2. Adjust the FY 2022-2027 STBG Six-Year Financial Plan to reflect the replacement of STBG funds with FY22 Highway Infrastructure Program and Highway Infrastructure CRRSAA funding for four projects.

Mr. Osborne asked since the HIP funds are immediately available and the allocation of the funds are for later years, is there a concern that the funds will not be used in later years. Mr. Hill noted that the HIP > \$200k funds remain available for obligation through September 30, 2024. Any amounts not obligated on or before that date will lapse. Mr. Hill added that HIP-CRRSAA funds remain available for obligation through September 30, 2024. Any such amounts not obligated on or before September 30, 2024 lapse. Funds must be fully expensed, billed to, and reimbursed by FHWA by September 2029. Mr. Sexton added that the projects that were chosen were chosen because they can move quicker than the STBG timeline.

Motion: by Phil North to approve the resolution, approving the allocation of FY22 HIP funding and adjustment to the FY22-27 STBG Financial Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

6. REVIEW OF DRAFT UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL STUDY ON TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Mr. Wells presented the draft Regional Study on Transportation Project Prioritization on Economic Development and Growth. (The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes.)

Activities undertaken during the study update included:

- Soliciting input from businesses on current transportation problems that affect their business
- Conducting interviews with local economic development staff and business representatives to better understand transportation needs for economic development
- Utilizing an economic development focused needs prioritization committee made up of business / economic development representatives to prioritize needs

- Engaging the full Transportation Technical Committee to select up to 10 projects that best address the priority needs identified by the economic development committee

The purpose of the projects identified in this study is to address the transportation related economic development needs of the Roanoke Valley and contribute to the overall regional priorities identified through the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan development process. The economic development related needs, solutions, and projects in this study will be combined with those from other RVTPO studies/plans to form an overall list of projects for inclusion and prioritization in the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan.

Mr. Wells explained the role of the Economic Development Stakeholders Committee and its list of priority needs and suggested solutions. The next step in the process was to have the TTC develop a list of 5 to 10 recommended projects to address the identified needs. The Recommend Projects listing was presented.

Mr. Caywood commented that he was pleased that many of the priority projects were similar to those from the previous study even though this update took a different approach with more involvement from local businesses and economic development staff. He suggested that the recommended priority projects list be moved to the front of the document so that readers would see the results of the study first when reading the document.

Mr. North asked that a brochure version of the study be developed. A more concise version would be easier to share with staff and elected officials at the Federal and State level as well as the general public.

Motion: by Phil North to recommend that the CEDS, RVARC and TPO develop a brochure version of the study, distribute the brochure accordingly, and consider mailing the brochure to local, state, and federal legislators. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. King noted that there are currently several studies underway that could supplement the brochure at a future point.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

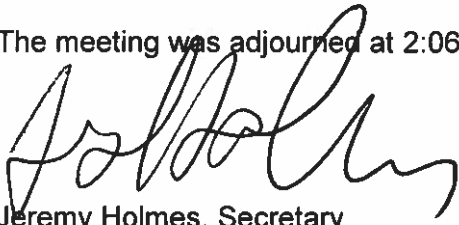
No other business was discussed.

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

Ms. Moon Reynolds announced the City of Roanoke had launched a "No need to Speed" campaign. The campaign is a product of multi-year effort, supported by the DMV to improve pedestrian safety in the City of Roanoke and will run for eight weeks. A "No need to Speed" brochure was distributed among the TTC members.

Mr. Lee Osborne commented that the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Barnhardt Creek Bridge was held on Tuesday, July 20th. The event was very well attended. A donor plaza, just a short walk from the bridge, honors all those who made the project possible. The plaza will be named after Liz Belcher. The Greenway Commission is in the process of hiring Ms. Belcher's replacement.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Holmes', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Holmes, Secretary
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization



Draft Regional Study on
Transportation Project Prioritization for
Economic Development and Growth
(TED Study)

Roanoke Valley TPO Policy Board Meeting
July 22, 2021

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1

TED Study Update

- Regional Study on Transportation Project Prioritization on Economic Development and Growth (i.e. TED Study)
- 2018 Study Successful – Many projects funded which led to a need to review and/or update the priorities list.

Policy Board requests:

- Consider the whole study, reconvene the steering committee
- Utilize TTC to select projects

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2

2020 Update Process

1. Identify Priority Economic Development Needs/Problems related to Transportation
 - Business Survey
 - Economic Development (ED) Stakeholder Committee
2. Identify Strategies/Solutions to Address those Needs/Problems
 - Businesses, ED Committee members, TTC members
3. Identify Priority Projects to best address Priority Economic Development Needs
 - Transportation Technical Committee

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3

RVTPO Framework for Prioritization



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 Roanoke Valley Transportation
PLANNING ORGANIZATION

4

Needs, Solutions, and Projects

Need

A transportation need is the problem people or businesses experience getting to where they are going or moving what they are selling/receiving. A transportation need states a problem, not a specific solution, and could be solved by multiple possible solutions.

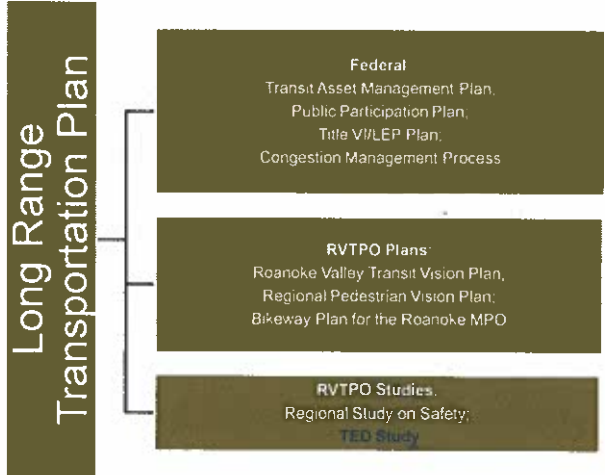
Solution

A solution is the transportation infrastructure/service/program to address the transportation need. It is likely that any given transportation need has multiple potential solutions to address the need.

Project

A transportation project is a clearly defined undertaking between start/end points for which a detailed cost can be determined. A project may be one part of a broader solution to address a transportation need.

Relationship to LRTP



Role of the ED Committee

- Provide advice on questions to ask businesses regarding transportation needs/problems
- Provide advice on disseminating the business survey
- Review the summary of input provided by businesses
- Share reflections on business input and opinions on other transportation needs/problems affecting ED
- Determine a method for prioritizing the region's ED needs/problems
- Offer any solutions to address identified needs/problems

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7

ED Committee Priority Needs

Identified Needs

1. Limited destinations on air travel and high price.
2. Airport is not able to accommodate larger aircraft due to insufficient runway length.
3. Travel times too long for air travel.
4. Businesses have a hard time getting employees
5. Congestion on Route 460 East of I-581; too many lights on 460.
6. Safety on Route 460 East of I-581.
7. Only one road (U.S. 220) to get from Roanoke to Franklin County
8. Travel times too long - Roanoke to south – North Carolina, Florida
9. U.S. 220 South safety concerns
10. Congestion on U.S. 220 South of Route 419; can't go fast.

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8

ED Committee Priority Needs

Identified Needs (continued)

11. Left turn lane on Peters Creek Road eastbound to Valleypointe Parkway is too short for stacking vehicles.
12. Valleypointe Parkway does not align well with Woodhaven Road to allow for development of adjacent lands.
13. Woodhaven Industrial Park is a new business development opportunity. Concerns over large vehicles being able to easily get to the site.
14. Congestion on Exit 150 Park and Ride Lot – too small for use by commuters and AT users.
15. Congestion on Route 419 – limited number of entrances, cross access/secondary access to parcels.
16. I-581/Orange Avenue interchange – merging on/off the interstate is terrible.
17. Long-term parking near Amtrak is not attractive, not well-signed, un-reliable.
18. 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.

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9

Review of Key Transportation Planning Documents

- ✓ 2018 Regional Study on Transportation Project Prioritization for Economic Development and Growth
- ✓ Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan's Fiscally Constrained and Vision Lists of Projects
- ✓ I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan

Consideration of Proposed and Ongoing STARS Studies

- I-581 / Orange Avenue Interchange
- Route 419 Corridor (Ogden to Rt 311)
- I-81 Exit 150 area (Rt 11 and 220 connections)
- City of Roanoke
- City of Salem

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10

TTC Recommended Projects

| Transportation Need to Address for Economic Development | Jurisdiction | Project Title | Project Limits | Project Description | Est. Cost in Year of Expenditure | Notes |
|---|-----------------|---|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Congestion on Route 460 East of I-581 | City of Roanoke | Orange Ave at I-581 interchange | Gainsboro Road to Williamson Road | Interchange reconfiguration = potential signalization of 581 both off ramps to eliminate weaving issues | Unknown | Short term and long term recommendations expected from upcoming STARS Study |
| Congestion on Route 460 East of I-581 | City of Roanoke | Orange Ave at Williamson Road | I-581 to east of Williamson | Intersection modifications to accommodate geometric and signal timing changes - dual EB left turn lanes, improvements on the north leg of Williamson Road | Unknown | Recommendations expected from STARS Study at I-581 Interchange |
| Congestion on Route 460 East of I-581 | City of Roanoke | Orange Ave & Kimball/Plantation | | Widening side street approaches on Kimball Ave. and Plantation Rd. and lengthen WB left turn lane on Orange Ave. at Kimball Ave. | Unknown | |
| Congestion on Route 460 East of I-581 | Roanoke County | Route 460 and Alternate Route 220 Intersection Improvements | Intersection of Route 460 at Alt. Rt. 220 | Reconstruct the intersection with a Displaced Left Turn configuration. | \$21,800,000 | With \$2,544,880 leverage, this project was unsuccessful in SMART SCALE Round 4. |

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11

TTC Recommended Projects

| Transportation Need to Address for Economic Development | Jurisdiction | Project Title | Project Limits | Project Description | Est. Cost in Year of Expenditure | Notes |
|--|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Left turn lane on Peters Creek Road eastbound to Valleypointe Parkway is too short for stacking vehicles | Roanoke County and City of Roanoke | I-581 & Peters Creek Rd Interchange Improvements (enhancing access to Valleypointe Dr.) | I-581 and Peters Creek Road | Operational and safety improvements at the I-581 Exit 2 Interchange including close two I-581 off-ramps with substandard weave movements, signalize remaining I-581 off-ramps, restrict left turns from SB Thirlane Rd to minimize conflict points near interchange ramps, add a downstream U-turn along Peters Creek Rd for re-directed left turns, add a second EB Peters Creek left turn lane onto Valleypointe Pkwy to increase capacity, and add pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along Peters Creek Rd. | \$28,200,000 | Applied for in SMART SCALE Round 4 but was unsuccessful |

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12

TTC Recommended Projects

| Transportation Need to Address for Economic Development | Jurisdiction | Project Title | Project Limits | Project Description | Est. Cost in Year of Expenditure | Notes |
|---|------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Congestion on Exit 150 Park and Ride Lot – too small for use by commuters and AT users. | Botetourt County | Exit 150 Park and Ride | In the vicinity of Exit 150 and U.S. 220 | Construct New Park and Ride facility near Exit 150 in Daleville. The facility will also include bus shelters, bicycle racks, sidewalk, and wayfinding signs. | \$11,000,000 | Applied for in SMART SCALE Round 2 but was unsuccessful, requested \$7.7M with no leverage. |
| Completion of Roanoke River Greenway | City of Salem | Roanoke River Greenway - Mill Lane to West Riverside Drive | Mill Lane to Riverside | Construct new paved greenway | \$450,000 | Previously funded with STBG, right-of-way issues caused it to not be constructed with the adjacent portions. |
| Completion of Roanoke River Greenway | City of Salem | Roanoke River Greenway - Apperson to Cook Drive | Apperson Drive to Cook Drive Trailhead | Construct new paved greenway | \$1,000,000 | |
| Completion of Roanoke River Greenway | City of Roanoke | Roanoke River Greenway - Underhill Section | Underhill Section | Construct new paved greenway | \$6,406,000 | PE and ROW funded at \$850,000 |
| Completion of Roanoke River Greenway | Roanoke County | East Roanoke River Greenway | WWVA Property to Niagara | Construct new paved greenway | \$6,605,000 | Previously funded with STBG, right-of-way issues led the County to return the STBG funding. |

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13

Next Steps

Advancing the identified regional economic development priorities as part of ongoing prioritization process for the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan.

- Continued work to secure funding for identified priority projects and studies, whether through SMART SCALE or other appropriate funding mechanisms.
- Strategic bundling of projects and project components to ensure that desired improvements can be implemented as incremental opportunities arise.
- Incorporation of available performance data and tools to further identify project opportunities under the solution areas.
- An ongoing commitment to ensuring projects represent the most effective use of limited funds to achieve specific performance outcomes.
- Subsequent strengthening of the region's prioritization processes through further incorporation of existing data and identification of any specific data gaps.
- Additional study and discussion of transportation related economic development needs that were identified during development of this study but were not able to be addressed with standard highway or surface transportation funds.
- Improved coordination between economic development interests and transportation planning efforts to continuously provide input to updates of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan.
- Identification of additional non-typical funding sources for transportation projects that affect economic development.

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14

