

MINUTES

A Special Called Meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA. The purpose of the special called meeting was to discuss an out-of-cycle STBG funding request from the Virginia Department of Transportation.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, <i>Chair</i>	Botetourt County
Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke County
Robert Jeffrey	City of Roanoke
Stephanie Moon Reynolds	City of Roanoke
Renee Turk	City of Salem
Ken King (<i>remotely</i>)	Virginia Dept. of Transportation – Salem District
Daniel Sonenklar (<i>remotely, joined later</i>)	Va. Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Mickey Johnson	Bedford County
Steve Fijalkowski	Montgomery County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Bill Jones	City of Salem
Keith Liles	Town of Vinton
Mike Stovall	Town of Vinton
Kevin Price	Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro)

TPO NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Caywood	Roanoke County
Cody Sexton	Town of Vinton
Jon Lanford	Botetourt County
Lee Osborne	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
Mark Jamison	City of Roanoke

Others Present: Megan Cronise, Roanoke County, Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation

Staff Present: Bryan Hill, Jeremy Holmes, Cristina Finch and William Long.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 3:00 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

Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Chair Martin reported that Mr. Ken King, representing the Virginia Department of Transportation, requested to participate remotely in today's meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization under the TPO's Policy for Electronic Meeting Participation, allowing for remote participation for emergency or personal matters, and a physical quorum is present. Mr. King requested to participate remotely from Richmond while attending the statewide VDOT Coordination meeting. No objection was voiced. Chair Martin approved Mr. King's request via unanimous consent.

Chair Martin reminded that the next meeting of the RVTPO will be a combined November-December meeting to be held on December 16, 2021 at the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission's office.

Motion: by Phil North to amend the agenda by adding the following item "Request for Letter of Support from the TPO to federal elective representatives in support of House Resolution 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIA). The motion was seconded by Ms. Turk.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

2. **APPROVAL OF ADJUSTMENT #2 TO THE FY22-27 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) FINANCIAL PLAN**

Cristina Finch reported that additional funding following SMART SCALE Round 4 is being provided via the District Grant program. Dr. Ray Smoot, the Commonwealth Transportation Board member for the Salem District would like to use some of the funding on the Route 460 and Alternate Route 220 Intersection Improvements project but is not able to fully fund the project. As such, the Virginia Department of Transportation has made an out-of-cycle request that the RVTPO Policy Board reconsider its previous action to commit \$2,544,860 STBG funds towards the project if it is able to secure the remaining funding. It is possible that the full amount may not be needed, and it is suggested that the state reduce the STBG amount applied to this project if the full amount is not needed.

The project was re-submitted by Roanoke County in September for RVTPO consideration of funding in STBG Round 5 and is intended to be re-submitted in SMART SCALE Round 5. The project aims to address safety and operational deficiencies including rear end crashes due to congestion and stop/go conditions. The existing signalized intersection would be reconfigured into a "Displaced Left Turn" intersection. A sketch of the proposed improvements was shown on the screen. Ms. Finch added that the project is included in the region's prioritized list of projects. It was also clarified that current STBG projects are not losing funding because of allocating these funds.

Motion: by Phil North to approve the Resolution, approving adjustment #2 to the FY22-27 STBG Financial Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moon Reynolds.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Roll Call Vote: Ayes - 8 (Clinton, Martin, North, Jeffrey, Moon Reynolds, Turk, Sonenklar, King); Nays - 0; Abstained - 0. Motion carried unanimously.

3. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE RVTPO IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 3684, THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA)

Mr. North explained that the National Association of Counties sent out an email alert to its members about House Bill #3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) indicating that the vote on the bill was once again delayed, causing the U.S. House of Representatives to miss its second self-imposed deadline of passage by October 31st. The IIJA contains a five-year surface transportation reauthorization. The 30-day extension of the current surface transportation law, the FAST Act (P.L.114-94) expired on October 31. Lawmakers averted the law's expiration with the passage of a third short-term FAST Act extension through December 3rd when federal appropriations will also run out and the debt ceiling is projected to be reached. NACo urged its members to continue reminding their federal elected representatives about the absolute necessity of this package to county infrastructure. Mr. North asked staff to prepare a letter of support emphasizing the importance of the H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

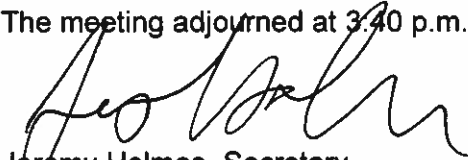
Motion: by Phil North directing staff to provide a letter of support emphasizing the importance of the H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeffrey.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Richard Caywood introduced Mike Stewart, the new executive director of the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport. Mr. Ken King thanked Chair Martin for accommodating the request to participate in today's meeting remotely. Mr. North asked Mr. King to thank Dr. Smoot for thinking of our area and advocating for transportation projects.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.



Jeremy Holmes, Secretary
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization