



MINUTES

The January meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Marief Fowler	County of Bedford
Jonathan McCoy	County of Botetourt
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Isaac Henry (<i>alternate</i>)	County of Roanoke
Wayne Leftwich	City of Roanoke
Mark Jamison, <i>Vice Chair</i>	City of Roanoke
Crystal Williams	City of Salem
Cody Sexton	Town of Vinton
Nathan McClung (<i>alternate</i>)	Town of Vinton
Frank Maguire	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Michael Gray (<i>via zoom</i>)	Virginia Dept. of Transportation - Salem District
Daniel Sonenklar (<i>via zoom</i>)	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

David Givens	County of Botetourt
Dan Brugh	County of Montgomery
Will Crawford	County of Roanoke
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System (RADAR)
William Long	Greater Roanoke Transit Company

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Jones	Federal Highway Administration
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RVARC Staff Present: Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Rachel Ruhlen (*via zoom*), Jeremy Holmes (*via zoom*), Emma Howard-Woods and Virginia Mullen.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Jamison called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked Cristina Finch, Secretary to the TTC, to call the roll. Ms. Finch stated that a quorum was present.

Chair Jamison reported that Mr. Michael Gray, representing Virginia Department of Transportation, requested to participate remotely from home in today's TTC meeting under the "RVTPO Policy for Electronic Meeting Participation," allowing for remote participation for temporary or permanent disability or other medical reason, and a physical quorum is present. Chair Jamison asked if there were any objections. None were voiced. The request was approved via unanimous consent.

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. January 13, 2022 RVTPO Meeting Agenda
- B. December 9, 2021 TTC Minutes
- C. January 5, 2022 Special Called TTC Minutes

Motion: by Cody Sexton to approve items (A), (B) and (C) under the consent agenda, as presented; seconded by Wayne Leftwich.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

3. CHAIR REMARKS

- Chair Jamison introduced Ms. Emma Howard-Woods. Ms. Howard-Woods joined the Regional Commission's staff last month. Ms. Howard-Woods will provide technical assistance at today's meeting.
- Chair Jamison noted that the Regional Commission is testing a new technology- the Meeting Owl, located in the middle of the room. The owl will serve as microphone, speaker and video broadcasting for people attending remotely.

4. UPDATE ON FY24 SMART SCALE RVTPO PROJECT REQUESTS

Mr. Bryan Hill provided a summary of the project requests as outlined in the staff report.

Mr. Jonathan McCoy noted that the first sentence after the table on page 1 of the staff report should read as follows: "*Since the last TTC meeting, staff has updated information from Botetourt County on Request #5: ~~the Route 220 Superstreet Improvement Exit 150 Improvement Project.~~*"

Mr. Hill noted that Megan Cronise had also submitted additional information about the West Main Street Phase 3 Sidewalk project, noting that it was already underway with PE work, which increased the score of the project by five points for a total of 45.

Mr. Hill asked TTC members to consider recommending to the Policy Board to apply for the first four projects, in order, from the staff report as follows:

No.	Agency	Project Name
1	Roanoke Co.	Pedestrian Improvements on Williamson Road (UPC 113947)
2	Roanoke Co.	Pedestrian Crossing Improvements on Route 419 and at Plantation/ Hershberger Intersections (UPC 117212)
3	Botetourt Co.	Rte. 220 Superstreet Improvement (UPC T24740)

4	Roanoke Co.	West Main Street Phase 3 Sidewalk
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Additional information on regional priorities is needed to determine if the RVTPO should initiate a fifth tentative application. More information is anticipated to become available in February.

Megan Cronise noted that, just this morning, VDOT had informed her that an estimate and final sketch for “U.S. Route 11/460 at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements” project will be available soon, meaning that this project’s score will increase.

Ms. Cronise asked when the final deadline was. Mr. Hill replied that TTC members should be ready to make their recommendation to the Policy Board at their February 10th meeting. Mr. Hill offered that should any changes occur following the TTC meeting and before the TPO meeting on February 24th, staff will adjust the original recommendation according to the scores of the project requests at that time.

Ms. Cronise commented that currently one project request has been received for the four available RVARC slots and inquired if some of these projects could fill those spots. Mr. Hill replied that after the TPO’s list is developed, and all rural application requests have been identified, there may in fact be room for other project requests from the urbanized area.

Mr. Cody Sexton asked if there would be a way to have a reasonable assurance from staff that there will be no unused slots. Mr. Hill replied that given the number of requests exceeds slots available, he does not anticipate that there will be anything unused.

Chair Jamison asked if all these projects are eligible to compete for one of the three RVARC slots. Mr. Hill replied yes.

Mr. Michael Gray commented that VDOT will look and make sure that all these projects are eligible to be submitted by a regional agency and there are no restrictions.

Mr. Hill explained that the Policy Board will receive the same update on the FY24 SMART SCALE RVTPO Project requests (updated with the feedback received from today) at their January meeting to serve as their first reading. Members were concerned that since the scores are not final, distributing this information to the RVTPO may create confusion. TTC members recommended sharing only the list of projects that localities have asked the RVTPO and/or the RVARC to apply for.

Ms. Finch replied that she will forward this request to Mr. Jeremy Holmes, Secretary to the TPO, for consideration in the development of the January TPO meeting. Mr. Sexton asked that it is noted and known to the TPO what the TTC has decided.

5. **ACTION NEEDED: RECOMMENDATION ON DRAFT FY23-28/29 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) FINANCIAL PLAN**

Ms. Finch presented the staff report and the supplemental information that was distributed to the TTC members prior to the meeting. Ms. Finch asked the TTC to recommend a draft financial plan to the Policy Board, so the Board could review and release it for public comment.

Megan Cronise commented that Roanoke County will support the inclusion of the Town of Vinton's Glade Creek Phase 3 PE (even though it is way down the list) because that would help with the County's Transportation Alternatives application which is to be deemed ineligible unless they can show a connection to something for which the Glade Creek greenway project would address. Mr. Cody Sexton agreed with Ms. Cronise.

Mr. Gray asked if they could approve and send only the prioritization list without the funding information since that is still being developed and address the financial part at the February or March meeting. Ms. Finch replied that this is similar to the six-year improvement program, where the procedures outline that it is the financial plan that is released for public comment, therefore the numbers by fiscal year have to be listed.

Ms. Cronise noted that in the past there has been collaboration on optimization of the funding based on project schedules, updates, etc. and asked if a similar process will take place in the near future. Ms. Finch replied that she had already met with Mr. Guy with VDOT and went over the current project funding schedules, and it looks like the money is where it needs to be. Ms. Finch noted that they will look at the numbers again before the March TTC meeting.

Motion: by Cody Sexton to recommend to the RVTPO the FY23-2028/29 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Financial Plan, as presented but noting that because of the newly available funds and new project requests, some of the dollar amounts associated with fiscal years and projects could continue to move around; seconded by Megan Cronise.

TTC Action: Roll Call Vote: Ayes - 11(Fowler, McCoy, Cronise, Henry, Leftwich, Jamison, Williams, Sexton, McClung, Maguire, Gray), No - 0; Abstained - 0. Motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Update on Work Program Process

Cristina Finch reported that the Regional Commission will be reviewing its overall work program process this year. There have been challenges with not having enough resources to manage the projects submitted in the past. The Commission is working on developing a new more strategic and flexible process and will focus on engaging with the planning departments at each of its member organizations throughout the year to help identify needs and develop projects and studies to address that. Ms. Finch encouraged the TTC members to speak with herself or Jeremy Holmes about any suggestions they may have. It is anticipated that a draft Work Program will be shared with the TTC in March and the final draft in April.

B. Update on FTA 5310 Funding and the RVTPO's Program Projects

Mr. Bryan Hill reported that annually, regional transit providers focused on meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities apply for Section 5310 Program funds from the Federal Transit Administration. There are four applications that are being submitted.

Applicant	Project Type	Project	Requested Amount	Match
Roanoke County (CORTRAN)	Operating	Operating Service for one year	\$613,338	\$306,669 (50% Federal) \$245,335 (40% State) \$61,334 (10% Local)
enCircle	Capital	2 replacement minivans	\$130,000	\$104,000 (80% Federal) \$26,000 (20% Local)
LOA	Capital	1 9-passenger van w/lifts	\$70,000	\$56,000 (80% Federal) \$14,000 (20% Local)
RADAR	Capital	2 15-passenger vans	\$134,000	\$107,200 (80% Federal) \$26,800 (20% Local)

It is anticipated that approximately 30% more in additional funds will be provided for this round through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). More information will be shared as it becomes available.

7. COMMENTS BY MEMBERS AND / OR CITIZENS

No other comments were made.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



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