



MINUTES

The May meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jamison called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL (including consideration of remote participation)

Ms. Cristina Finch, Secretary to the TTC, called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Maribel Fowler	County of Bedford
David Givens	County of Botetourt
Jonathan McCoy	County of Botetourt
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Will Crawford	County of Roanoke
Wayne Leftwich	City of Roanoke
Mark Jamison, <i>Chair</i>	City of Roanoke
Crystal Williams	City of Salem
Anita McMillan (<i>via Zoom</i>)	Town of Vinton
Cody Sexton, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Town of Vinton
William Long	Greater Roanoke Transit Company
Frank Maguire	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transportation - Salem District
Daniel Wagner (<i>via Zoom</i>)	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Brugh	County of Montgomery
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System (RADAR)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Jones	Federal Highway Administration
-------------	--------------------------------

RVARC Staff Present: Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Andrea Garland, Alison Stinnette, Jonathan Stanton, 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

Others Present: Sarah Windmiller (via Zoom), Cambridge Systematics.

Chair Jamison reported that Ms. Anita McMillan, representing the Town of Vinton, and Mr. Daniel Wagner, representing the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, have requested to participate remotely in today's meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Technical Committee under the "RVTPO Written Policy for Electronic Meeting Participation", allowing for remote participation under special circumstances with a physical quorum present. Ms. McMillan's request is a personal matter—she will be out of town for her daughter's graduation. Mr. Wagner's remote participation request is for a period ending July 1, 2023 and is as of a result of his principal residence being 60 miles or more from the primary meeting location.

Unanimous Consent Request: by Chair Jamison to approve the remote participation requests by Ms. McMillan and Mr. Wagner.

Action by the Chair: without objection, the requests were approved.

3. **ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. May 12, 2022 TTC Meeting Agenda
- B. April 14, 2022 TTC Minutes

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

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

4. **CHAIR REMARKS**

- Chair Jamison announced that he will be retiring at the end of June 2022. Typically, Chair's term will conclude at the end of the July meeting but Chair Jamison will not be able to attend the meeting. Vice Chair Sexton will not be in attendance as well.

Motion: by Mark Jamison to suspend the rules in Article VI, Section 2 such that the election of officers be held at the June 9th regular meeting rather than July 14; seconded by Anita McMillan.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Jamison appointed Wayne Leftwich and Mariel Fowler to serve on the 2022 Nominating Committee.

5. **CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Sarah Windmiller presented a summary update on the priority needs process and plan objectives and performance measures (the PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes). Ms. Windmiller reported that the RVTP team has developed an on-line, map-based

tool--NEST (Needs Evaluation and Solution Tool) --and demonstrated how it works. Cristina Finch discussed the individual member meetings that have started and will be held in May to confirm priority gap needs for the region to focus on over the next several years.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT AMENDMENT #2 TO THE FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Bryan Hill reported that following release of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) Draft FY23-28 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) on April 20th, staff received a request from DRPT to amend the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment request is to include Roanoke County's new request for FTA 5310 capital assistance funding to operate its CORTRAN service for seniors and people with disabilities next year. This project is recommended for inclusion in the DRPT FY23-28 SYIP.

Mr. Hill explained that although not originally planned for FY23 in the RVTPO's TIP, Roanoke County applied for \$613,338 in 5310 capital and operating funds for its CORTRAN service.

Applicant	Project	Funded Amount (Proposed)	Match
Roanoke County (CORTRAN)	CORTRAN service	\$288,000 (Large Urban)	\$230,400 (80% Federal) \$46,080 (16% State) \$11,520 (4% Local)
Roanoke County (CORTRAN)	Operating service for one year	\$250,000 (Rural)	\$200,000 (80% Federal) \$40,000 (16% State) \$10,000 (4% Local)

Mr. Hill noted that for this amendment, \$288,000 in Large Urban 5310 funding for CORTRAN transit vehicles is only being considered as it is a new project not originally in the TIP.

Ms. Megan Cronise commented that the way the project is described (a capital transit vehicle program) is a bit confusing since Roanoke County will operate a turnkey program through its transit provider Via. The program, among other operating activities, includes the leasing of transit vehicles (not purchase). Ms. Cronise believed the dollar amount to be correct, but the project description odd. Mr. Hill replied that the funding category listed on the DRPT portal, which included capital and operating, was confusing and made the assumption it was for vehicles. Mr. Hill added that he will be seeking clarification from DRPT.

Motion: by Frank Maguire to amend the report according to DRPT clarification and recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board approval of Amendment #2 to the FY 2021-2024 TIP- Roanoke County CORTRAN Service; seconded by Jonathan McCoy.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FY2023-2024 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE FUNDS

As outlined in the accompanying staff report, Mr. Bryan Hill briefed the Committee on the two locality requests received for the additional \$163,105 in FY23 and FY24 Transportation

Alternatives Set-Aside Block Grant funding. Those requests were: 1) Town of Vinton, Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B - \$162,000; and 2) Roanoke County, Roanoke River Greenway, Parkway Crossing - \$87,642. Mr. Hill explained the rationale for each request and the additional cost estimate increases from those originally approved in the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan.

Locality	Project	RVTP Project Cost Estimate	Updated Cost Estimate	Previous TPO TA Allocations	% Cost Increase	Additional Funding Request
Vinton	Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B	\$476,000	\$784,659	\$380,800	65%	\$162,000
Roanoke County	Roanoke River Greenway, Parkway Crossing	\$708,258	\$795,900	\$200,000	12%	\$87,642
TOTAL REQUESTED						\$249,642

Additionally, Mr. Hill provided the Committee with a recommended funding scenario for its consideration:

Locality	Project	Staff Recommended Funding Scenario
Vinton	Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B	\$75,463
Roanoke County	Roanoke River Greenway, Parkway Crossing	\$87,642
	TOTAL	\$163,105

This scenario fully funds the Roanoke River Greenway project's cost overrun, instead of splitting the additional funds in half (\$81,552.50). Given the current progress of both requests, staff believes that the Roanoke River Greenway, Parkway Crossing project is closer to advertisement, hence the recommendation to fully fund the cost estimate overrun.

The revised estimated costs for both projects constitute a major change in the project cost, which therefore triggers an amendment to the RVTPO's Transportation Plan. The table below shows the current estimated project costs of the two subject projects and the left column refers to its history of past amendments in the Plan.

#	UPC	Jurisdiction	Project Title	Project Limits	Project Description	Est. Cost in Year of Expenditure
59 and A2-37	109611	Town of Vinton	Glade Creek Greenway, Phase 2B	Gearhart Park to Walnut Avenue	Paved 10' wide greenway from Gearhart Park to Walnut Avenue.	\$476,000
A1-7 and A2-23 and A4-10	113356	Roanoke County	Roanoke River Greenway – Blue Ridge Parkway Crossing along Highland Road	Blue Ridge Parkway and Highland Road	Construction of 0.30 miles of Roanoke River Greenway underneath the Blue Ridge Parkway, connecting bicyclists and pedestrians safely to other funded sections of the Roanoke River Greenway.	\$708,258

The proposed amendment to the current transportation plan would confirm the Board's agreement with pursuit of these projects given the increase in estimated costs.

Cody Sexton commented that he noticed using the term "cost overrun" is perceived negatively and suggested using terms such as "budget amendment", "cost adjustment" or similar.

Mr. Hill indicated that Vinton's request of \$162,000 was reflective of the 80% required federal match, and that the town would provide the required local match of \$32,400.

Ms. Cronise noted that \$87,642 is what Roanoke County needs, and she is not sure if this amount needs to be adjusted to \$70,113 to include the 20% match. Mr. Gray replied that he was not certain how it should be listed in this case as some documents show the full amount, and others show the breakdown with the federal match. He will doublecheck.

Motion: by Frank Maguire to accept staff's recommendation in the staff report, pending clarifying the funding total amount because of the 20% match. Staff recommendation was as follows:

1. Recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board amending the RVTPO's Transportation Plan to reflect the updated project cost estimate for the projects noted above.
2. Recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board the additional allocation of Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Block Grant Program funding.

The motion was seconded by Megan Cronise.

TTC Action: Roll call vote - Ayes 14 (Fowler, Givens, McCoy, Cronise, Crawford, Leftwich, Jamison, Williams, McMillan, Sexton, Long, Maguire, Wagner, Gray); Nays 0; and Abstentions 0. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cody Sexton inquired if the math related to the federal and local matches would be reconciled before the RVTPO acts on this matter. Mr. Hill indicated affirmatively.

Editorial Note: *Following the May 12 meeting, staff confirmed with Roanoke County that the full amount requested for the Roanoke River Greenway, Parkway Crossing project should in fact be \$70,113 (representing the 80% federal match only). As a result, the Town of Vinton request for the Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B would be increased by \$17,528 to \$92,991. This revised scenario will constitute the TTC and staff recommendation to the RVTPO Policy Board at their May 26 meeting.*

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Jonathan McCoy announced that Botetourt County is seeking input from the community to update their comprehensive plan. The link for Botetourt Survey is active until June 3, 2022: <https://www.botetourtva.gov/comprehensiveplan>.

Michael Gray announced the Six-Year Improvement Plan Public Meeting is today at 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn (3315 Ordway Drive Northwest, Roanoke VA 24017).

Anita McMillan announced the Town of Vinton will solicit bids for the Walnut Avenue Phase 1 project soon.

Megan Cronise announced that Roanoke County is hosting a second community meeting for the Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study on May 18, 2022, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Bonsack Elementary School.

Daniel Wagner provided an update on DRPT (flyer with information is included in the Minutes).

Chair Jamison reminded members that next week is National Public Work Week.

9. COMMENTS BY MEMBERS AND / OR CITIZENS

No comments were made.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.



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

Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Update

Approach/Schedule/Solutions Update

presented to
Transportation Technical Committee

presented by
RVTPO, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS 



Needs to Solutions

Need – Transportation problem or issue identified in the community currently. As described in the Needs Assessment, a need “states a problem, not a specific solution, and could be solved by multiple possible solutions”.

Priority Needs
The most critical multimodal needs consistent with regional goals, existing data, and stakeholder input

Solution – An idea of how the region can achieve desired results. Solutions address specific needs and contribute to meeting a regional objective. Some transportation solutions may lead directly to a project or service whereas others may require further study.



Needs to Solutions

Addressed Need – For many needs, proposed solutions and projects/services exist

Need addressed through a programmed (funded) project/service (SYIP/TIP)

Monitor performance outcomes once project/service is implemented

Gap Need – Focus on priority needs where potential solutions or projects/services do not exist (or are not fully funded)

Funded project/service does not yet exist – but an unfunded, proposed project or concept and/or study might exist

Identify potential and preferred solutions to further develop into projects/services (or future studies)



Needs to Solutions

Now through June TTC

1. Compare Needs to Projects

NEST enables comparison of RVTP needs with projects/services in the six-year improvement program (SYIP) and RVTPO transportation improvement program (TIP).

2. Determine Overlaps

NEST enables comparison of transportation needs to the programmed projects/services to inform decisions on if needs are or are not addressed by these transportation investments.

3. Identify Priority Gap Needs

The RVTP team will collaborate with each member jurisdiction to review the comparison and determine the overlaps. This will lead to a priority gap needs list within each RVTPO jurisdiction, representing a subset of all needs from the needs assessment.

Compare needs to projects to determine gaps by organizing by need type and common transportation solution



1 Using NEST, compare needs and projects (based on location and similar need types and common transportation solutions)



2 A project may overlap a need geographically, but the project scope might partially address or not address the need



3 Work with jurisdictions to establish priority gap needs for solutions



Next Step: Identify Solutions



Needs to Solutions

June – July

Proceed to Identify Potential Solutions

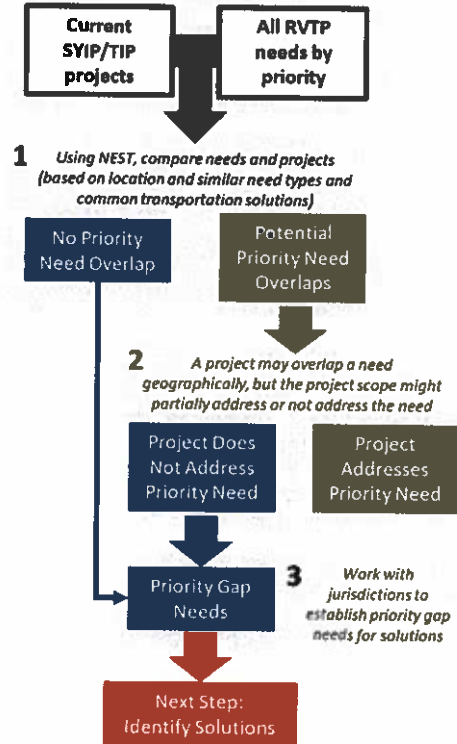
Solutions address specific transportation needs and contribute to meeting a regional objective. The solutions process will consider prior programmed or planned projects/services (from the existing RVTPO constrained and vision list projects, past plans/studies, and ongoing plans/studies such as STARS or Project Pipeline).

Translate Solutions into Projects/Services/Studies

Solutions will evolve into projects/services for consideration by the RVTPO as priority investments to pursue.

- Projects/services may be considered ready to compete for grant funding and inclusion in the SYIP and TIP.
- Projects/services could represent priorities for further development as a project/service over the next several years in order to prepare it for a future grant cycle .

Compare needs to projects to determine gaps by organizing by need type and common transportation solution



Needs Evaluation and Solutions Tool

Toggles apply to both the map and table

Toggle location of needs

Toggle need type

Toggle project type and/or solution

RVTP Needs Evaluation and Solutions Tool (NEST)

LRP	Amendment	Amendment	Commission	Project Decision	Project Source	State_ID
119452	http://www.virginia.gov	A4-18	A418	VDOT SYIP Y22	119452	
126740	http://www.virginia.gov	A4-19	A419	VDOT SYIP Y22	126740	
110087	http://www.virginia.gov	A4-44	A444	VDOT SYIP Y22	110087	
113138	http://www.virginia.gov	A4-21	A421	VDOT SYIP Y22	113138	

Expand / collapse table



Needs Evaluation and Solutions Tool

RVTP Needs Evaluation and Solutions Tool (NEST)

Select Prioritized Needs by Location

- Roanoke needs
- Bathurst needs
- Montgomery needs
- Roanoke City needs
- Roanoke County needs
- Swain needs
- Winton needs

Select Prioritized Needs Type

- Prioritized Transportation Needs

Select Programmed Project Type

- SVTP and TP Projects

Project details are also available in the attribute table

Switch attribute table to different layer

UPC	LOC	Amendment	Amend#	Construction	Project Description	Project Source	State ID
1194112	Roanoke	4	A4-36	A436		VDOT SVTP Y22	1094112
1054399	Roanoke	4	A4-20	7A420		VDOT SVTP Y22	1054399
1153151	Roanoke	4	A4-43	12A24A43		VDOT SVTP Y22	1153151
111360	Roanoke	4	A4-Adj	13A25A4AS		VDOT SVTP Y22	111360

Click on a project in the map to view more project details via a pop-up window

Zoom map to selected project in table

Projects selected in map are highlighted in the attribute table. Additionally, projects selected in the table are highlighted on the map.



Next Steps (May-June)



Finalize RVTP NEST and meet with members

RVTP and TTC members to review and develop initial priority gap needs

Ongoing meetings (next two weeks) with member organizations to highlight priority gap needs



Use RVTP NEST to develop potential solutions for priority gap needs

Review priority gap needs and align with potential solutions

Share potential solutions with member organizations for review



TTC meeting (June)

RVTP team to brief TTC on potential solutions and prioritization approach



Develop preferred solutions for priority gap needs (by end of June)

RVTP and TTC members to develop preferred solutions and projects

Staff to coordinate with member organizations to reach conclusions on preferred solutions and projects

FY2023 Draft Six-Year Improvement Program

- DRPT released its Fiscal Year 2023 Draft Six-Year Improvement Program on April 20, 2022. A copy may be found on the DRPT Open Data Portal (<https://data.drpt.virginia.gov/>).
- DRPT and VDOT are currently hosting in-person district public hearings to receive comments about the Fiscal Year 2023 Six-Year Improvement Program. Information on the public hearings may be found here: <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2022/default.asp>

Transit Service and Delivery Advisory Committee

- The Transit Service and Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) has begun work on updates to the MERIT Capital and Operating programs and Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) guidelines.
- Next scheduled TSDAC meeting is May 13, 2022 at the DRPT Office at 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102 in Richmond. Registration for online viewing may be found at <https://www.drpt.virginia.gov/transit/tsdac/>.

HJ 542 Transit Equity and Modernization Study

- The Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study team held a virtual forum on Thursday, April 21, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Draft Action Plan is available for public comment through May 13, 2022. More information may be found on the study website: www.vatransitmodernization.com

DRPT Bike Month

- DRPT is encouraging all Virginians to participate in Bike Month this May, promoting biking as a commuting option.
- Bike to Work Day will be held on May 20, 2022.
- Social media, advertising, and events will be held throughout the month, raising awareness about the benefits of biking and availability of trails throughout the Commonwealth.
- Social media content and graphics are available to DRPT's partners at <https://bikeva.org/promotional-materials/>
- Partner agencies should contact DRPT about their Bike Month events to be included on the Bike VA events calendar.