



**MINUTES**

The February meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mariel 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
Cody Sexton, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Town of Vinton
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
William Long	Greater Roanoke Transit Company
Frank Maguire	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transportation - Salem District
Daniel Sonenklar ( <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
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**RVARC Staff Present:** Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Rachel Ruhlen, Jeremy, Andrea Garland and Virginia Mullen.

**Others Present:** David Jackson, Cambridge Systematics; Anthony Ford, Virginia Department of Transportation; Grace Stankus, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

**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)**

**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

Cristina Finch, Secretary to the TTC, called the roll and stated a quorum was present.

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

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. February 10, 2022 RVTPO Meeting Agenda
- B. January 13, 2022 TTC Minutes

**Motion:** by Cody Sexton to approve items (A) and (B), under the consent agenda, as presented; seconded by Frank Maguire.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**4. CHAIR REMARKS**

- Chair Jamison reported that the TPO Board heard and granted a request from the Town of Vinton to provide an exception to the STBG policy regarding submission of cost overrun requests by the Fall deadline.
- Chair Jamison reported that at the request of the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County, the TPO also included in the draft FY23-28 financial plan the Glade Creek Greenway Phase 3 PE which had ranked lower in the STBG scoring and had not been included in the draft plan the TTC had recommended last month.
- Chair Jamison noted that there is currently a public comment opportunity available on an adjustment to the FY22-27 financial plan and the new FY23-28 financial plan. He encouraged members to direct their citizens to participate in the survey, available on [www.rvarc.org](http://www.rvarc.org).
- Chair Jamison reported there was a discussion at the January TPO meeting on the Transportation plan update, particularly on some of the objectives. David Jackson with Cambridge Systematics will present information on the next part of the development process.
- Chair Jamison asked members to provide any reflections on construction costs in the Valley, and experiences post-bid on what folks have encountered and how they manage the issues with the rising prices.

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

Cristina Finch reported that David Jackson will be joining in virtually to present an update on the development of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan. Ms. Finch added that the draft solution process is included in today's agenda packet. Ms. Finch noted that the RVTP consultant team and the OIPI GAP consultants' team would continue to work together with RVTPO staff to implement the approach to developing the solutions. The goal is to have recommended preferred solutions for the agreed set of priority gap needs for the TTC review and recommendation by the April TTC meeting.

David Jackson presented via zoom a presentation on the next steps of the update of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan. (The Presentation is included in the Minutes).

Vice Chair Cody Sexton asked if the solutions are the tools to be used to solve needs. Ms. Finch replied with yes.

Mr. Gray asked how the projects are being prioritized. Ms. Finch replied that Mr. Gray's comment is referring to a future step (#8) in the process. Currently, steps #1 through #3 of the solutions phases are the ones being reviewed. Metaphorically speaking this process is making sure that all the common needed tools are included in the toolbox, later it will be decided what specific tool may be used to solve specific needs. Ms. Cronise asked what if a tool that is needed at a later point is not already included in the toolbox, what would the process of adding it be. Ms. Finch replied that this would refer to "unique" which would be discussed at a later phase.

Chair Jamison noted that members are encouraged to review the information and if there are any comments or questions, they should contact Ms. Finch.

**6. ACTION REQUESTED: RECOMMENDATION ON FY23-24 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE SET-ASIDE PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS**

Mr. Bryan Hill, in summarizing his staff report, stated that the RVTPO Policy Board will have a preliminary amount of \$715,036 in FY23 and FY24 to allocate to TA projects. The current TA project requests total \$981,000. Mr. Hill also informed the Committee that staff had coordinated with Salem District VDOT staff and Commonwealth Transportation Board Member Dr. Raymond Smoot on recommended TA allocations. As a result of those conversations, staff recommended the following scenario for consideration by the Committee:

Locality	Project	Total Project Cost	TA Amount Requested	CTB Member Recommended Allocations	TPO Allocations
City of Roanoke	Williamson Road Pedestrian Improvements	\$575,000	\$460,000	\$0	\$460,000
Roanoke County	Glade Creek Greenway Vinyard Park West	\$651,375	\$521,000	\$266,064	\$255,036
<b>TOTALS</b>		\$1,226,375	\$981,000	\$266,064	\$715,036

Mr. Hill reminded the Committee of comments made by Roanoke County staff at the January TTC meeting, whereby the Glade Creek Greenway Vinyard Park West project may not be eligible for TA funds as if built on its own does not connect to anything. The proposed funding scenario assumes that the RVTPO will fund the Town of Vinton's Glade Creek Greenway Phase 3 PE project (from Washington Avenue/Pollard Street via North Pollard Street to Vinyard Park) via the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding program which VDOT has said would indicate a connection and make Roanoke County's TA request eligible to receive the funding.

After significant discussion, Mr. Hill confirmed that the recommended scenario is contingent upon the RVTPO subsequently funding the Glade Creek Greenway Phase 3 PE project with \$370,000.

**Motion:** by Frank Maguire to approve the TA Funding scenario, as presented; seconded by Megan Cronise.

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

7. **ACTION REQUESTED: RECOMMENDATION ON FY24 SMART SCALE RVTPO CANDIDATE PROJECT REQUESTS**

Mr. Bryan Hill reminded the Committee at the January TTC meeting of the initial project scores based on 10 candidate project request forms submitted from RVTPO localities. As discussed last month, RVARC and Roanoke County staff anticipated that two projects might be fully funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Mr. Hill updated the Committee that in fact, they have not received funding.

Based on discussions at and following last month's meeting, Botetourt County informed staff that it wishes to withdraw its request for the Rte. 220 Superstreet project.

At the February 10 TTC meeting, Roanoke County informed staff and the Committee of a change in the Pedestrian Improvements on Williamson Road project request. Previously, this request was a VDOT HSIP project (Highway Safety Improvement Program - UPC 113947) under design with a funding deficit. The original project location was on Williamson Road (Rte. 11) from the North Roanoke Assisted Living to Clubhouse Drive. County staff learned from VDOT that the project could be fully funded from North Roanoke Assisted Living to Plymouth Drive. Roanoke County is interested in continuing the project from Plymouth Drive to Dent Road/Clubhouse Drive. As a result, this segment is now an orphaned project that is no longer attached to UPC 113947. This reduced the score by 10 points because the project was no longer underway (5 points) and did not have leverage (5 points).

The RVTPO has a maximum of four applications it can submit in August 2022 but may initiate five pre-applications in March. Staff developed a simple and straightforward prioritization and scoring process for the requests, in order to recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board up to five project applications to initiate in March with four ultimately being submitted in August 2022.

Staff recommended the TTC to consider recommending to the Policy Board to pursue the first four ranked projects from the below table.

Rank	Score	Agency	Project Name
1	50	Roanoke County	Pedestrian Improvements on Williamson Road
2	45	Roanoke County	West Main Street Phase 3 Sidewalk
3	45	Roanoke County	Pedestrian Crossing Improvements on Route 419 and at Plantation/ Hershberger Intersections (UPC 117212)
4	35	City of Roanoke	Orange Ave and Williamson Rd. Intersection Improvements
5	35	City of Roanoke	I-581/Orange Ave Interchange Improvements
6	35	City of Roanoke	Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute Interchange Project
7	30	Roanoke County	U.S. Route 11/460 at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements
8	30	Roanoke County	Route 419 Intersections/Projects (one or more) between Bower Road and Apperson Drive
9	15	Botetourt County	Exit 150 Improvement Project

Mr. Hill added that staff recommends project #8 *Route 419 Intersections/Project (one or more) between Bower Road and Apperson Drive* as the fifth RVTPO pre-application. Ms. Megan Cronise confirmed that Roanoke County is agreeable to project #8 being the fifth project pre-application. Mr. Hill indicated that projects #5, #6, #7 & #9 would most likely be recommended by staff for submission by the RVARC. Chair Jamison confirmed that the Roanoke City would be agreeable with project #6 being the fifth pre-application submission for the RVARC. Mr. Hill acknowledged that request and agreed to include it in the upcoming staff recommendation to the RVARC for their February 24 meeting.

Mr. Cody Sexton asked if any analysis had been done if these projects could do better or worse if a regional body versus a locality applies for them. Mr. Michael Gray answered that it is very difficult to know for certain.

**Motion:** by Cody Sexton to:

- 1) Recommend to the RVTPO the following five (5) projects for submission:
  - #1 - West Main Street Phase 3 Sidewalk
  - #2 - Pedestrian Crossing Imp. On Rte. 419 and at Plantation/Hershberger Intersections (UPC 117212)
  - #3 - Pedestrian Improvements on Williamson Road (UPC 113947)
  - #4 - Orange Ave and Williamson Rd. Intersection Improvements
  - #8 - Route 419 Intersections/Projects (one or more) between Bower Road and Apperson Drive (fifth pre-application)
  
- 2) Request that staff ask the RVARC to support the following projects:
  - #5 - City of Roanoke I-581/Orange Ave Interchange Improvements
  - #7 - Roanoke Co. U.S. Route 11/460 at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements
  - #9 - Botetourt Co. Exit 150 Improvement Project
  - #6 - City of Roanoke Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute Interchange Project (fifth pre-application)

The Motion was seconded by Megan Cronise.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

8. **ACTION REQUESTED: RECOMMENDATION ON ADJUSTMENT OF FY22-27 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) FINANCIAL PLAN**

Cristina Finch reported that the RVTPO Policy Board annually reviews currently funded STBG projects and accepts requests for additional funding in the Fall. Two projects were submitted at that time. Also, it was mentioned earlier last month the Town of Vinton made a request to the Policy Board for an exception to the policy (Policy #7) which the Board granted and approved the public input be sought on the \$370,000 request. Since then, Vinton's request has increased to \$384,112. Ms. Finch noted that the three projects that have requested additional funding are summarized in the staff report (pages 69 through 74 of the agenda packet) and went over the projects.

Ms. Finch asked the TTC members to make a recommendation to the Policy Board on an adjustment to the FY22-27 STBG Financial Plan regarding the three requests for cost overrun funding.

Ms. Megan Cronise commented that Roanoke County has not started the PE on the Orange Market Park and Ride/Parking Lot Improvements project, therefore projects that are further along in the process should have greater priority than this project. Ms. Cronise removed the Orange Market project from consideration for request for additional funding at this time.

Vice Chair Sexton commented that if the bid for the Town of Vinton is higher than expected then could the Town ask the RVTPO for more money? He added that he thinks all the localities will be faced with this question relatively soon. Ms. Finch replied that the same question came up at the January RVTPO meeting and the Board had asked staff to revisit the policy and procedures on how to handle cost overruns and staff will be looking into that.

**Motion:** by Cody Sexton to recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board to grant the additional funding request for the two projects- Tinker Creek Trail Extension and Walnut Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (5th Street to City/Town limits); seconded by Jonathan McCoy.

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

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

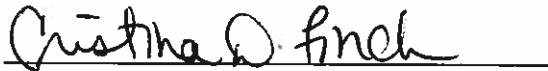
No other business was discussed.

10. **COMMENTS BY MEMBERS AND / OR CITIZENS**

Mr. Gray asked if the Regional Commission staff is involved in the pedestrian safety study currently undergoing in the area. Ms. Finch answered with a no. Chair Jamison commented that Texas A&M and Virginia Tech Transportation Institute are performing a curb management research project.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



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