

MINUTES

The May meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL (including consideration of remote participation)

Jeremy Holmes, Secretary to the RVTPO, called the roll and stated a quorum is present.

TPO VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Mickey Johnson	Bedford County
Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, <i>Chair</i>	Botetourt County
Steve Fijalkowski	Montgomery County
Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke County
Joseph Cobb	City of Roanoke
Stephanie Moon Reynolds	City of Roanoke
Renee Turk (<i>via phone</i>)	City of Salem
Ken King	Virginia Dept. of Transportation – Salem District
Mike Stewart	Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport
Daniel Wagner (<i>via zoom</i>)	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

TPO VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

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

TPO NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Caywood	Roanoke County
Lee Osborne	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
Mark Jamison	Transportation Technical Committee
Cody Sexton	Town of Vinton

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

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

Staff Present: Bryan Hill (via zoom), Jeremy Holmes, Cristina Finch, Jonathan Stanton, Alison Stinnette, and Emma Howard-Woods.

Chair Martin reported that Mayor Renee Turk, representing the City of Salem, has requested to participate remotely in today's meeting of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization under the RVTPO's Policy for Electronic Meeting Participation, allowing for remote participation for personal reasons, and a physical quorum is present.

Unanimous Consent Request: by Chair Martin to approve the remote participation request by Mayor Turk.

Action by the Chair: without objection, the request was approved.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. May 26, 2022 RVTPO Meeting Agenda
- B. April 28, 2022 RVTPO Minutes

Vice Chair North proposed the following correction on page 3 of the agenda:

"Others Present: Megan Cronise, Roanoke County; Will Crawford, Roanoke County; Anthony Ford, Virginia Department of Transportation; Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation; Marshal Marshall Stanley, Leadership Roanoke Valley; and Rachel Spencer, Leadership Roanoke Valley."

Motion: by Mickey Johnson for approval of the consent agenda items (A) and (B), as amended. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Moon Reynolds.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

4. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

- Chair Martin reported that the *Safe Streets and Roads for All* discretionary grant program is now open for applications due by September 15, 2022. \$1 Billion is available for FY22 funding. The primary goal of the grants is to improve roadway safety that will reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries involving pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, motorists, and others. The RVTPO is an eligible applicant as are localities. For more information or to discuss possible applications from the RVTPO members should contact the staff.
- Chair Martin welcomed Mr. Joe Cobb of Roanoke City Council back to the TPO. Mr. Cobb was recently appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Jeffrey.
- Chair Martin reminded that during its 2018 session, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that designates the Thursday before Memorial Day each year as

Celebrate Transportation Day in Virginia. Chair Martin wished everyone a happy Celebrate Transportation Day and shared a few thoughts on the role the TPO plays in celebrating the importance of transportation all year round.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – ROANOKE COUNTY CORTRAN SERVICE

A. Presentation on amendment to the FY 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program – Roanoke County CORTRAN Service

Mr. Bryan Hill reminded members that at the April TPO meeting, staff informed the Policy Board of a request, received from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to amend the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The request was 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. The project is recommended for inclusion in the DRPT FY23-28 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP).

Mr. Hill explained that although not originally planned for FY23 in the 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)	Purchased transportation (capital funding for vehicle leasing, drivers, maintenance insurance, etc.) from an external provider for one year.	\$288,000 (Large Urban)	\$230,400 (80% Federal) \$46,080 (16% State) \$11,520 (4% Local)
Roanoke County (CORTRAN)	Operating service in the rural portions of Roanoke County for one year.	\$250,000 (Rural)	\$200,000 (80% Federal) \$40,000 ((16% State) \$10,000 (4% Local)

 Denotes new projects/services in the FY23-28 SYIP and the FY21-24 TIP

Mr. Hill noted that for this amendment, \$288,000 in *Large Urban* Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 capital funding for purchased transportation relative to CORTRAN is only being considered as it is a new project not originally in the TIP. Mr. Hill further explained the tables in the staff report, previously distributed with the agenda packet.

Mr. Hill reported that the RVTPO apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY23) FTA 5310 funding is \$316,565. There is a current carryover amount of \$35,992 from FFY22. Approved projects under the draft SYIP total \$342,400 in federal dollars (state/local match amounts are separate), which leaves a future federal carryover amount of \$10,157.

A 14-day public comment period occurred prior to the public hearing scheduled for the May 26 RVTPO meeting. Staff developed and administered an online survey. The survey, results and demographic analysis of the respondents following the staff report, as well as a letter of support from Roanoke County.

B. Public Hearing

Chair Martin opened the public hearing at 1:29 p.m. No public input was received. Chair Martin closed the public hearing at 1:30 p.m.

C. Consideration of Resolution Approving Amendment to the FY 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program – Roanoke County CORTRAN Service

Motion: by Mike Stewart to approve the presented resolution, approving an amendment to the RVTPO FY2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program for the Roanoke County CORTRAN service. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Moon Reynolds.

RVTPO Policy Board Action: Motion carried unanimously.

6. DRAFT AMENDMENT #5 TO THE ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FY 2023 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION SET – ASIDE FUNDS

As outlined in the accompanying staff report, Mr. Bryan Hill briefed the Policy Board 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 (RVTP).

Locality	Project	RVTP Project Cost Estimate	Updated Cost Estimate	Previous TPO TA Allocations	% Cost Estimate Increase	Additional Funding Request
Vinton	Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B	\$476,000	\$784,659	\$380,800	65%	\$162,000 (total) \$129,600 (federal) \$32,400 (local match)
Roanoke County	Roanoke River Greenway, Parkway Crossing	\$708,258	\$795,900	\$200,000	12%	\$87,642 (total) \$70,114 (federal) \$17,528 (local match)
			TOTAL REQUESTED			\$232,114 (federal)

The TTC and staff, at its May 12th meeting, recommended the following funding scenario for consideration:

Locality	Project	Staff Recommended TA Funding Scenario
Vinton	Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B	\$116,239 (total) \$92,991 (federal) \$23,248 (local match)
Roanoke County	Roanoke River Greenway, Parkway Crossing	\$87,642 (total) \$70,114 (federal) \$17,528 (local match)
	TOTAL	\$163,105 (federal)

This scenario fully funds the Roanoke River Greenway project’s budget adjustment.

The revised estimated costs for both projects constituted a major change in the project cost, which triggered an amendment to the RVTPO’s Transportation Plan. Below is an excerpt from the Vision 2040: Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan showing the two subject projects and their originally approved cost estimates.

#	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

This is a first reading of the proposed amendment, with no requested action this month. The 14-day public comment period for Draft Transportation Plan Amendment #5 will begin June 2, 2022 and a public hearing will be held at their next meeting. The Board would consider programming the TA funding and Amendment #5 to the Plan at their June 23 meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lee Osborne commented that during the planning session of the Greenway Commission on 5/25 there was a productive discussion on member involvement, which would probably lead to the Greenway Commission providing a guidance to localities in the nature of job descriptions for citizen representatives, so when appointments are made localities would have those to reference.

Vice Chair North commented that the Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting at the Holiday Inn had the most people signed up to speak at a meeting (20 people). Mr. North applauded everyone that were in attendance and/or spoke at the Six-Year Improvement Plan Meeting and contributed to representing the region. Chair Martin added words of recognition to the Virginia Department of Public Transportation (VDOT) for their excellent work.

Mr. King announced that the I-81 Committee will have a meeting, scheduled tentatively for July 7th at the Holiday Inn at Tanglewood from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. North added that he will be replacing Mr. Bestpitch and will be the new RVTPO representative on the committee.

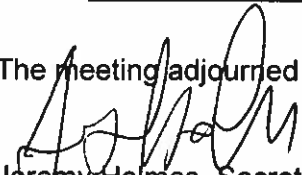
Vice Chair North reported that the VaCo Transportation Steering Committee will have a meeting at hotel Roanoke in August. As the chair of that committee, he asked members to let him know if anyone has any requests for consideration to be included in the next year's legislative agenda.

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

No other comments were made.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.



Jeremy Holmes, Secretary
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization