



**MINUTES**

The July meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, July 8, 2021 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
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Will Crawford	County of Roanoke
Chris Chittum	City of Roanoke
Mark Jamison, <i>Vice Chair</i>	City of Roanoke
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
Cody Sexton	Town of Vinton
Dorian Allen	Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro)
Liz Belcher	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transportation - Salem District

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dan Brugh	County of Montgomery
Ben Tripp, <i>Chair</i>	City of Salem
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System (RADAR)
Daniel Sonenklar	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kevin Jones	Federal Highway Administration
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**RVARC Staff Present:** Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Eddie Wells, William Long and Virginia Mullen.

**1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Jamison reported that a request has been made to move agenda item #4 Recommendation on Allocation of FY22 Highway Infrastructure Program and Highway Infrastructure Program CRRSAA Funding after agenda item #7 Other Business.

**Motion:** by Mariel Fowler to approve the agenda, as amended; seconded by Anita McMillan.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Liz Belcher proposed the following change to the June 10, 2021 Minutes:

Page 5 of the agenda packet, second paragraph the following sentence should read as: *Ms. Belcher stated the following segments are not funded: Mill Lane to Riverside (Salem); **The***

*Apperson Section ~~Apperson to Lansing (Salem)~~; Underhill section (City); and Water Treatment Plant to Niagara (East Roanoke River, County).*

**Motion:** by Michael Gray to ratify the TTC virtual meeting minutes from May 14, 2020 through June 10, 2021, as amended; seconded by Anita McMillan.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

## 2. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

- Jeremy Holmes is the new Executive Director for the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission.
- The Regional Commission welcomed a new transportation planner on staff William Long.
- At their June meeting, the RVTPO approved the amendment to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program- Roanoke County Cortran Services.

Liz Belcher announced there will be Bridging the Gap ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Barnhardt Creek Bridge on the Roanoke River Greenway.

## 5. **RECOMMENDATION ON ADJUSTMENTS TO THE RVTPO'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Ms. Finch stated the staff report in the agenda packet outlines the recommended adjustments to the RVTPO's STBG Project Development and Selection Procedures. The adjustments were recommended to ease the annual adjustment process and improve the timeliness and accuracy of presenting financial information. Ms. Finch went over the proposed changes:

- Clarify in Policy #7 when additional funding requests are due.
- Clarify in Policy #11 that only urgent unforeseen new project requests will be considered by the Policy Board; adjustments will be considered following the annual schedule.
- Table 4.1-1 and Table 5.3-1 – Includes a deadline for submitting the annual project update form including requests for additional funding.

The following comments were made under this adjustment:

Vice Chair Jamison suggested to first address any adjustments or changes/cost overruns and after that appropriately adjust as needed the remaining funds to new projects. Mr. Sexton asked if in that case an existing project with an increased expense will be considered first? Ms. Finch replied that it will be considered first.

- Statement clarification following Table 5.3-1.
- Removes the Benefit/Cost Consideration due to the ineffectiveness of comparing the noted scores for different types of project requests (e.g. study vs. construction vs. equipment).

Ms. Anita McMillan requested that the RVTPO Policy Board and TTC member lists be updated.

**Motion:** by Michael Gray to recommend the adjustments, as presented, to the RVTPO Policy Board; seconded by Liz Belcher.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

6. **RECOMMENDATION ON PRIORITY PROJECT FOR THE REGIONAL STUDY ON PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH**

Mr. Eddie Wells presented the staff report, previously distributed with the agenda packet. Mr. Wells noted that the projects highlighted in yellow on the spreadsheet are selected as recommended priority. Mr. Wells asked members for a recommendation on a final 5 to 10 projects that address the region's transportation needs related to economic development to the Policy Board.

Ms. Cronise commented that the I-81 Congestion and Safety Improvements project (the I-81 widening to six lanes from Exit 128 to Exit 137) should receive honorable mention if not included in the top ten priorities in case there is funding availability in the future. Ms. Cronise also commented that the "Congestion on Route 419- limited number of entrances, cross access/secondary access to parcels" project is not in yellow on the excel sheet and in her opinion should be in yellow. Ms. Finch replied that the list includes only projects that are known right now, and these can be considered during the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan update process.

Ms. Belcher commented that she likes the gray headings in the spreadsheet and asked if there is a way to make them bigger. Mr. Wells replied that there will be a report that will go together with the spreadsheet which will make it easier to read. Ms. Cronise asked if the projects that are not in yellow will be included in the report. Mr. Wells answered yes.

Mr. Sexton asked if some of these projects will be included in the STBG Round 5. Mr. Wells replied with yes. Mr. Sexton also asked when the next TED study update will be. No definite answer was given.

**Motion:** by Liz Belcher to recommend the approval of the projects list, as presented, to the Policy Board; seconded by Cody Sexton.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Upcoming Items Regarding the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan**

Ms. Cristina Finch updated members that the Cambridge Systematics team is still working on the process for prioritizing needs to be shared in the future. She noted the RVTPO has received a Growth & Accessibility Planning grant to develop and document a performance-based planning and programming process.

Ms. Finch noted staff is preparing an amendment to the current Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan to be shared at the August meeting to include projects that have been recently approved for funding that are not in the plan and add any new projects that members may apply for in the upcoming grant cycles.

4. **RECOMMENDATION ON ALLOCATION OF FY22 HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AND HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM CRRSAA FUNDING**

Bryan Hill noted this item was carried over from the June 10 TTC meeting, where the Committee directed staff to explore various funding options with VDOT and locality staff. Mr. Hill presented the staff report that was previously distributed with the agenda. Mr. Hill reviewed the two funding recommendation scenarios staff developed and asked the members for a recommendation on the allocation of FY22 HIP funding to the Policy Board.

Mr. Gray commented that VDOT is waiting on updated information on Vinton's project (Hardy Road/Dillon Woods Crosswalk). Mr. Hill replied that because some information is unknown the staff recommendation is in three parts as follows:

1. Forwarding Staff Funding Recommendation #1 to the RVTPO Policy Board **if** the Hardy Road/Dillon Woods Crosswalk project is not funded with surplus HSIP funds;
2. Forwarding Staff Funding Recommendation #2 to the RVTPO Policy Board **if** the Hardy Road/Dillon Woods Crosswalk project is funded with surplus HSIP funds; and
3. Directing staff to forward the appropriate recommendation, #1 or #2, to the RVTPO Policy Board for their July 22 meeting in the event VDOT has not made a funding determination on the project by the July 8 TTC meeting.

**Motion:** by Chris Chittum to recommend the allocation of FY22 HIP funding to the RVTPO Policy Board as described above and on page 18 of the agenda packet; seconded by Anita McMillan.


**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Chris Chittum announced that Mr. Wayne Leftwich will become the TTC member representative for Roanoke City and Mr. Chittum will become his alternate. Vice Chair Jamison added that Mr. Chittum was selected for a two-year apprenticeship program with the City in Roanoke where Mr. Chittum will serve as the Assistant City Manager Apprentice. Ms. Jillian Moore will have increased responsibility in the Roanoke City Planning Department.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

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