



MINUTES

The August meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL (including consideration of remote participation)

Interim Secretary Bryan Hill called the roll and stated a quorum was present.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Mariel Fowler	County of Bedford
Jonathan McCoy	County of Botetourt
Justin Sanders (<i>Alt. for Brea Hopkins</i>)	County of Montgomery
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Isaac Henry	County of Roanoke
Wayne Leftwich	City of Roanoke
Dwayne D'Ardenne	City of Roanoke
Crystal Williams	City of Salem
Josh Pratt	City of Salem
Cody Sexton, <i>Chair</i>	Town of Vinton
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
William Long	Greater Roanoke Transit Company
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transp. - Salem District
Mitch Huber (<i>Alt. for Daniel Wagner</i>)	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transp.

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Baker	County of Botetourt
Kyle Kotchou	Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport
Frank Maguire, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Jones	Federal Highway Administration
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Others Present: Stephanie Mathena, Franklin County; Paula Benke, Roanoke County; Laura Spidey, VDOT's intern.

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

RVARC Staff Present: Bryan Hill, Alison Stinnette, Jonathan Stanton, Andrea Garland (via zoom), Jeremy Holmes and Virginia Mullen.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. August 10, 2023 TTC Meeting Agenda
- B. Action on the June 8, 2023 TTC Minutes

Chair Sexton noted that the tentative item #5 (Presentation on Federal Carbon Reduction Program Project Eligibility) from the agenda will need to be removed. Mr. Hill added that he is in the process of setting up an informational session with FHWA and the TTC members in the next week or two. He will distribute more information as it becomes available.

Motion: by Michael Gray to approve consent agenda items (A), as amended; and (B), as presented; seconded by Megan Cronise.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

4. CHAIR REMARKS

- Chair Sexton noted that the last stretch of the STBG application process is quickly approaching. Members should reach out to staff should they have any questions.
- Chair Sexton congratulated Mr. Jonathan McCoy, Botetourt County Transportation Planner, for the Foxhound Award for Distinguished New Professionals presented to him at the 2023 APA Virginia Conference in July.

5. (TENTATIVE) PRESENTATION ON FEDERAL CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

This item was removed from the agenda.

6. REQUEST FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP STATUS ON THE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Hill reminded the Committee at the May 11th TTC meeting that staff, in coordination with Franklin County staff, discussed the County's desire to be designated as a non-voting member on the RVTPO Policy Board. Staff informed the Committee that the next logical step was to make a formal request to the Policy Board, then bring a similar request to the TTC, if applicable.

Further, at the June 22nd RVTPO Policy Board meeting, the Board approved a request from Franklin County to become a non-voting member.

Article II, Section 6 of the TTC bylaws allows the Committee to "...invite non-voting, interested organizations to participate in TTC meetings." Term appointments for both bodies are for a period of three years, by the non-voting organization.

In summary, Franklin County desires to join the RVTPO as a non-voting member for the following reasons:

- The County's existing membership in the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.
- The adjacency of the county to the 2040 RVTPO Study Area boundary and direct connection through U.S. 220.
- Connection to the urbanized area from the east through two major commuter access routes (Rtes. 116 and 634).
- To be better informed of, and party to, regional transportation decision-making process(es), with specific interest in projects affecting Franklin County residents, commuters, and businesses.

Motion: by Cody Sexton to approve the request from Franklin County to grant non-voting membership status on the Transportation Technical Committee; seconded by Megan Cronise.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

7. FY24-29 SYIP UPDATE

Mr. Hill presented an informational presentation on the FY24-29 Six Year Improvement Program (the PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes).

8. FHWA ADJUSTED URBAN AREA AND TPO STUDY AREA UPDATES

Mr. Jonathan Stanton presented additional information on the 2020 census urbanized area (the handout is included with the Minutes).

Mr. Michael Gray asked if there were any recommendations submitted by localities on the smoothed urban boundaries. Mr. Stanton replied that comments were received regarding small changes from Botetourt, Roanoke, and Montgomery counties. Bedford County showed support for the smoothed area boundary changes proposed by VDOT along HWY24. There has been discussion with Botetourt County about extending the TPO boundary around Fincastle.

Mr. Gray asked if feedback recommending expanding the existing smoothed urban area has been received. Mr. Stanton replied that such a request was submitted by Roanoke County primarily about the Explore Park and Roanoke Center for Industry and Technology.

Mr. McCoy commented that Fincastle boundaries have expanded a small amount along US220. Fincastle annexed additional land north of the town and it's recommended to reflect this in the TPO boundary.

Chair Sexton asked what dictates where boundaries can be extended. Mr. Stanton replied that boundaries can be drawn with whatever geography is most convenient, provided it reflects reasonable or expected 20-year growth of the urban area.

Chair Sexton asked when does staff recommend making the change. Mr. Stanton replied that the staff is still looking into the timeline. The external deadline is 2026.

Megan Cronise asked how long would the change take to be recognized and show up on official maps if the TPO does changes the red line? Mr. Stanton replied that it may take some time because it will need to be approved by the governor and the FHWA.

Mr. Stanton asked for comments on the smoothed urban area to be submitted to him by August 15, 2023.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

10. COMMENTS BY MEMBERS AND / OR CITIZENS

Megan Cronise commented that Roanoke County has two surveys going live today: Peters Creek Road (Route 117) and Williamson Road (Route 11), and Route 11/Route 460 (West Main Street).

Megan Cronise announced that the Appalachian National Scenic Trail seeks public input on Virginia's Triple Crown Visitor Use Management Plan. Comments will be gathered August 1 – 31, 2023.

Chair Sexton said the process for hiring a new transportation director for the Regional Commission is still ongoing.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.



Bryan W. Hill, AICP, CZA

Interim Secretary, Transportation Technical Committee



SYIP FY24-29 Update

TTC Meeting, Thursday, August 10, 2023

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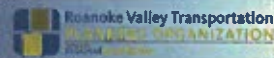


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SMART SCALE

UPC T27867	#SMART24 – 1-581/US 460/US 11 IMPROVEMENTS
UPC T27847	#SMART24 – RTE 419/ELECTRIC RD STONEYBROOK – GRANDIN RD EXT
UPC T27840	#SMART 24 – ROUTE 419/ELECTRIC ROAD PED SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS
UPC T27836	#SMART24 – STARS 460/ORANGE AVE – 11 TH TO 24 TH IMPROVEMENTS
UPC T27834	#SMART24 – STARS 460/ORANGE AVE – PLANTATION IMPROVEMENTS
UPC T27875	#SMART – ROUNDABOUT AT HARDY R & BYPASS RD (RTE 24)

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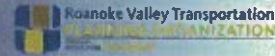


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NEW PROJECTS

UPC 122864	ORANGE AVE ACCESS MANAGEMENT SAFETY PROJECT
UPC 123284	#PIPELINE23 RTE 460 BUS (10)
UPC 123118	#SGR23LP – ROANOKE – PRIMARY EXTENSION – ADA
UPC 123280	#PIPELINE23 RTE 117 & 11 (06)
UPC 122898	WILEY DR / ROANOKE RIVER GREENWAY LOW WATER BRIDGE
UPC 122900	ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS – CITY OF ROANOKE
UPC 122901	INTERSECTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS – CITY OF ROANOKE
UPC 122903	INTERSECTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS – CITY OF SALEM

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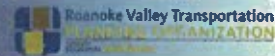
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EXISTING PROJECTS WITH UPDATES

UPC 119562	ROANOKE RIVER GREENWAY GOLDEN SPIKE
UPC 119562	ROANOKE RIVER GREENWAY EXTENSION
UPC 97171	#HB2.FY17 ROANOKE CO, RRG, GREENHILL PK TO RIVERSIDE PK
UPC 97171	#HB2 FY17 WRRG PHASE 1, KINGSMILL DRIVE TO NEW TRAILHEAD
UPC 119473	#SMART22 – MAIN ST / MARKET ST INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT
UPC 119473	DOWNTOWN STREETScape IMP WHITE OAK TO MARKET
UPC 110689	COLORADO ST BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
UPC 110689	COLORADO ST BRIDGE REHABILITATION
*UPC 123136	I-581 EXIT 2 (PETERS CREEK RD) INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS PH 1

*Existing project with permanent UPC

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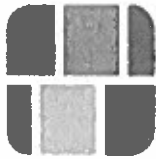
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CLOSED OUT & COMPLETE PROJECTS

UPC 113570	I-581 EXIT 2 INTERCHANGE STUDY
UPC 110624	RTE. 116 OVER BACK CREEK (STR. 14928) – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
UPC 94726	RTE. 221 OVER MARTINS' CREEK (STR. 14945) – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
UPC 109570	ORANGE AVENUE/ HOLLINS ROAD SIGNAL UPGRADE – CITY OF ROANOKE
UPC 111370	#SMART18 – HOLLINS RD & ORANGE AVE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

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STAFF BRIEFING

RVTPO TTC Meeting August 10, 2023

SUBJ: 2020 Census urbanized area and RVTPO study area boundary adjustment additional information

Since the June TTC meeting, additional information has been gathered about the 2020 census urbanized area and impacts to the TPO area and region. The following sections provide a high-level overview of the current understanding of boundary adjustment activities related to the 2020 census.

Please see the following link for a supporting ArcGIS webmap:

<https://rvarc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=7f63191f1acc4b46b70e294ccf3295e5>

MPO Study Area Boundary

Also known as: TPO study area, Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)

- Lead agency: MPO
- Timeline: adjustment deadline is December 29th, 2026.
- Boundary Adjustments: Boundaries can be drawn using whatever geography is most convenient – Traffic Analysis Zones, Planning documents, etc. Primary requirement to cover expected 20-year growth.
- Adjustment Impacts: TPO service area and funding (STBG, TA, etc.)

FHWA/VDOT Smoothed Urban Areas

Also known as: Adjusted urbanized area (for Roanoke)

- Lead agency: VDOT
- Timeline: Smoothed urbanized area comments due to VDOT central office by August 15th, 2023; final boundaries due to FHWA by June 1st, 2024.
- Boundary Adjustments: Smoothed urbanized areas meant to create consistent highway functional classification between urban and rural highways.
- Adjustment Impacts: Highway functional classification, Federal funding sources based on urban/rural highways, reporting of rural/urban highway statistics.

Relationship between 3 boundaries and implications

Census urbanized areas, Smoothed urbanized area, MPA boundary.

- Census urbanized area: The initial calculated urban area based on the 2020 census. New urban area calculation led to many discontinuous urbanized areas.
- Smoothed urbanized area: A smoothed boundary created by VDOT central office to provide a contiguous urbanized area which encompasses the entire census urbanized area, and major urban features not captured in the census area such as airports, major industrial centers, and transportation terminals.
- Metropolitan Planning Area: A boundary which includes the 2020 census urbanized area and any areas expected to become urbanized in the 20-year forecast period of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. While not explicit, it is **assumed that for consistency the MPA should include the entire smoothed urbanized area.**