



## MINUTES

The November meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, November 9, 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 ( <i>via zoom</i> )	County of Botetourt
Brea Hopkins ( <i>via zoom</i> )	County of Montgomery
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Nathan Grim	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
William Long	Greater Roanoke Transit Company
Frank Maguire, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transp. - Salem District
Mitch Huber	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transp.

#### VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Baker	County of Botetourt
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
Kyle Kotchou	Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System

**Others Present:** Luke Pugh, City of Roanoke.

**RVARC Staff Present:** Bryan Hill, Alison Stinnette, Jonathan Stanton, Tori Williams, Elizabeth Elmore, and Virginia Mullen.

Chair Sexton reported that Mr. Jonathan McCoy, representing Botetourt County and Ms. Brea Hopkins, representing Montgomery County, requested to participate remotely in today's

**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

meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee under the "RVTPO Written Policy for Electronic Meeting Participation," allowing for remote participation under certain circumstances and a physical quorum is present. Both requests are due to personal matters: Mr. McCoy is traveling, and Ms. Hopkins has to attend another meeting after the TTC meeting.

**Motion:** by Michael Gray to approve both requests for remote participation; seconded by Wayne Leftwich.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

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

The following consent agenda items were distributed:

- A. November 9, 2023 TTC Meeting Agenda
- B. Action on the October 12, 2023 TTC Minutes

**Motion:** by Crystal Williams to approve consent agenda items (A) and (B), as presented; seconded by Frank Maquire.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

4. **CHAIR REMARKS**

- Chair Sexton announced that the December TTC meeting will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office (Top Floor Conference Room), 313 Luck Avenue SW., Roanoke VA.
- Chair Sexton welcomed Mr. Mitch Huber, newest voting member, representing the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF A NEW TTC SECRETARY**

**Motion:** by Cody Sexton to appoint Mr. Tori Williams as Secretary of the Transportation Technical Committee; seconded by Frank Maguire.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

6. **REVIEW OF EXISTING PROJECTS FOR THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT AND CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM**

- A. Background
- B. Project Sponsor Presentation of Additional STBG Funding Requests
- C. Staff Recommendation of Preliminary Priority List of Investments for Existing Projects

Ms. Stinnette reported that in fall 2023 staff initiated the process for receiving candidate project updates, funding requests, and updates to existing projects funded through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). A spreadsheet of current funding availability for the STBG and CRP programs and project updates was distributed with the agenda packet (pages 8 through 10). Ms. Stinnette also gave a PowerPoint presentation (included with the Minutes).

Five existing project sponsors have requested additional funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP):

- Botetourt County – Route 220 Superstreet and Access Management
  - Requesting \$5,000,000 STBG funds for SMART SCALE leverage in Round 6.
- City of Roanoke – Roanoke River Greenway – Underhill
  - Requesting \$11,758,000 STBG funds for construction funding.
- City of Roanoke – Greenway Connection – Riverland Road
  - Requesting \$1,180,500 CRP funds for unforeseen utility relocations and increased construction prices.
- Roanoke County – Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park
  - Requesting \$500,000 STBG or CRP funds based on recent bids for other greenway projects and anticipating a potential deficit in available funding for the project.
- Roanoke County – Orange Market and Parking Lot Improvements
  - Requesting \$1,500,000 STBG or CRP funds to complete the multimodal improvements that were removed from an adjacent SMART SCALE project.

Mr. Jonathan McCoy, Botetourt County; Mr. Luke Pugh, City of Roanoke and Ms. Megan Cronise, Roanoke County presented further details and information on the projects requesting additional funding.

Ms. Stinnette asked TTC members to come to a consensus and develop a priority funding scenario for the existing projects requesting additional funding. Ms. Stinnette noted that there are approximately \$19 million dollars in adjustment requests and roughly \$17mil - \$18 mil in new project requests compared to \$18 million in available funding.

Ms. Megan Cronise noted that one strategy is to first fund projects that are closer to construction. Mr. Gray commented that other things to consider are commitment to existing projects, TPO board priorities, and the use of funds as leverage for SMART SCALE.

Ms. Cronise ranked Roanoke County's projects to help with the prioritization process in the following order: Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park; Route 419 Electric Road Safety and Streetscape Improvements, Grandin Road Extension to Keagy Road; Route 11/460/West Main Street at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Safety Improvements; Peters Creek Road at Williamson Road Intersection Improvements; Orange Market Parking Lot Improvements. Mr. Pratt noted the City of Salem has the Roanoke River Greenway – Apperson to Cook Connector Project. Mr. Pugh ranked the City of Roanoke's projects in the following order: Greenway Connection – Riverland Road; Roanoke River Greenway – Underhill.

Mr. Wayne Leftwich noted that folks may have a better idea after ranking the new projects. Mr. Williams asked for any suggestions on funding scenarios to be emailed to staff by the close business on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**7. RECOMMENDATION ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2045 ROANOKE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- A. Background
- B. Staff Recommendation of Draft Amendment

Mr. Hill presented the staff recommendation on an Amendment to the 2045 Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan (the PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes). The amendment is also described in detail in the previously distributed staff report (pages 11 through 12 of the agenda packet).

**Motion:** by Cody Sexton to recommend to the Policy Board the approval of the Amendment to the 2045 Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan, as presented; seconded by Megan Cronise.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

A 14-day public comment period began on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A public hearing on this amendment has been advertised and scheduled for the RVTPO Policy Board Meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

8. **RECOMMENDATION ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE FFY 2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

- A. Background
- B. Staff Recommendation of Draft Amendment

Mr. Hill presented the staff recommendation on an Amendment to the FFY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (the PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes).

Mr. Hill clarified that the amendment includes the addition of a new rail project from the Virginia Public Rail Authority to the Funded Project list and the removal of a Paratransit Vehicle Project from Radar.

**Motion:** by Dwayne D'Ardenne to recommend to the Policy Board the approval of the Amendment to the FFY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented; seconded by Megan Cronise.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Williams commented that in light of the proposed changes to SMART SCALE that may create a new limit on the submission of applications, staff has started to review the prioritization process for RVARC and RVTPO submitted applications.

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

Chair Sexton wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.



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Tori Williams  
Secretary, Transportation Technical Committee



# STBG and CRP Existing Project Updates and Requests

## TTC Meeting November 9, 2023

### Introduction

#### **STBG and CRP Program Background (FHWA, VDOT)**

#### TTC Process

- "During the bi-annual application process, a decision will be made regarding additional funding requests for existing projects before committing unallocated funds to new projects." Page 10
- "TTC Members will score all projects – including their own applications; staff will administer the process and not score projects. The TTC will review scoring results and recommend multi-year project allocations." Page 11

*Source: Project Development and Selection Procedures for Roanoke Valley Urbanized Area Suballocation Funding: STBG, CRP and TA Programs, Section 3.1 #7 and 4.1,*

## Timeline

### November TTC Meeting

- Review of Available Funding
- Project Updates
- Projects Requesting Additional Funding
- Preliminary List of Project Recommendations
- Preview of New Candidate Projects

### December TTC Meeting

- Review of New Candidate Projects
- Rankings of New Candidate Projects
- Recommendation of Existing and New Candidate Project Requests

### December TPO Meeting

- Review of Available Funding
- Existing Project Updates and Requests for Additional Funding
- Rankings of New Candidate Projects
- Recommendation of Existing and New Projects Requests

## Current Funding Availability

	Previous Allocation	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	Total
<b>STBG</b>	\$66,017	\$278,319	\$320,147	\$1,458,817	\$722,654	\$5,611,078	\$6,535,078	\$14,992,110
<b>CRP</b>	\$88,226	\$572,462	\$583,911	\$595,589	\$607,501	\$619,651		\$3,067,340
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$154,243</b>	<b>\$850,781</b>	<b>\$904,058</b>	<b>\$2,054,406</b>	<b>\$1,330,155</b>	<b>\$6,230,729</b>	<b>\$6,535,078</b>	<b>\$18,059,450</b>

## Existing Projects Requesting Additional Funding

Locality	Project	Request
Botetourt County	Route 220 Superstreet and Access Management	STBG; \$5,000,000 Leverage for Round 6 SMART SCALE
City of Roanoke	Roanoke River Greenway – Underhill	STBG; \$11,758,000
City of Roanoke	Greenway Connection – Riverland Road	CRP; \$1,180,500
Roanoke County	Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park	STBG or CRP; \$500,000
Roanoke County	Orange Market Parking Lot Improvements	STBG or CRP; \$1,500,000

## Existing Projects Requesting Additional Funding



## Existing Projects Requesting Additional Funding



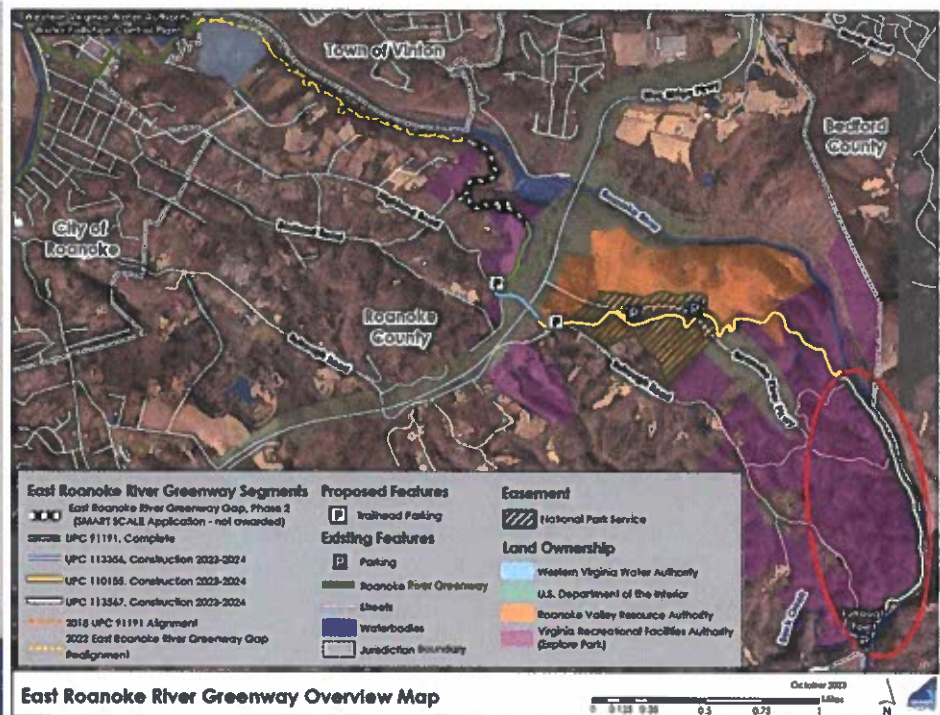
## Existing Projects Requesting Additional Funding





## East Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park (UPC 113567)

**Scope:** 1.4-mile-long greenway segment (10-foot-wide asphalt) through Explore Park to Rutrough Point.



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## East Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park

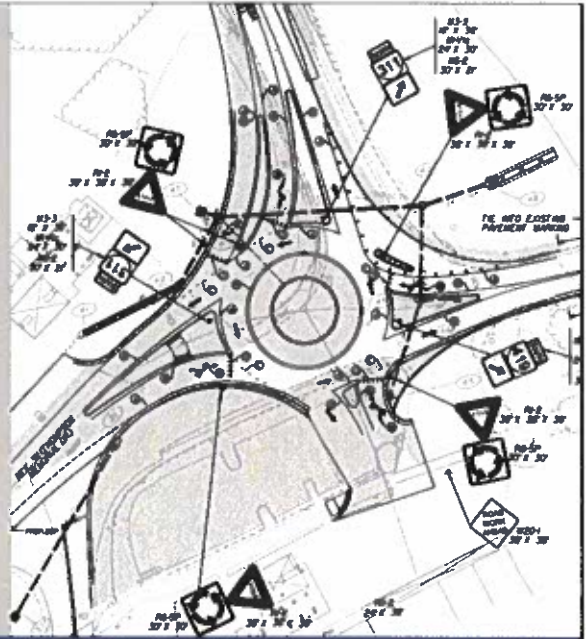
- **Project Status:** Roanoke County requested federal authorization to advertise the project for construction on October 19, 2023. It is anticipated that bids will be received in January 2024.
- **Funding Status:**
  - **March 2018:** RVTPO designated \$3,020,308 in STBG funding for the project.
  - **April 2023:** RVTPO designated an additional \$1,275,000 in CRP funding.
- **Current Request:** The Engineer's Estimate and available project funding are very close. Based upon recent construction bids obtained for neighboring greenway projects, Roanoke County would appreciate consideration of additional STBG or CRP funding to satisfy a potential project deficit to be able to award the project. If bids come in within the available project funds, the request will be withdrawn.

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## Orange Market Park and Ride/ Parking Lot Improvements

### Route 311/419 Roundabout:

- Awarded \$1,957,000 in HB2 funding in 2016
- Insufficiently estimated and could not include:
  - Park and Ride paving/stripping
  - Creekside parking lot paving/stripping
  - Pedestrian crosswalk across Thompson Memorial Drive

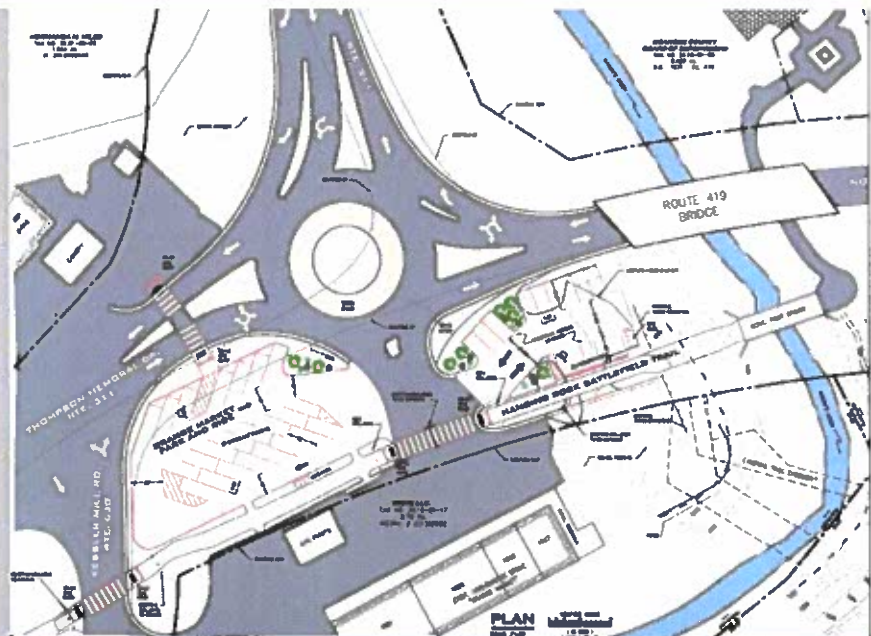


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## Orange Market Park and Ride/Parking Lot Improvements

### Orange Market Park and Ride/Parking Lot:

- Awarded \$344,000 in STBG funding in 2020
- Intended to add on to the existing roundabout project to complete missing improvements, but later learned funding sources could not be mixed
- Must be a stand-alone project, which increases costs



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## Orange Market Park and Ride/Parking Lot Improvements

### Roundabout Construction:

- Completed Fall 2022
- Park and Ride remains an unimproved gravel surface with undefined access on two sides
- Creekside parking lot remains gravel
- Pedestrian crosswalk across Thompson Memorial Drive is unfinished

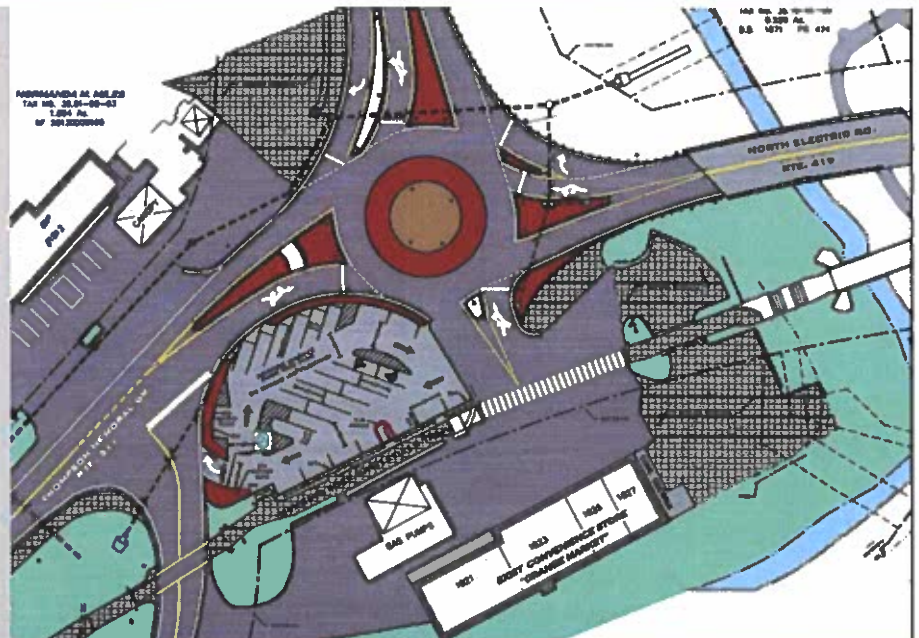


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## Orange Market Park and Ride/Parking Lot Improvements

### Shuttle Stop:

- Awarded DRPT funding in 2023 to expand the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle
- New stop at the Orange Market Park and Ride
- VDOT Salem Residency will add curbing to delineate a right-out only onto Kessler Mill Road to allow safe shuttle circulation through the lot



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## Orange Market Park and Ride/Parking Lot Improvements

**Request:** VDOT estimates that an additional **\$1.5 million** will be needed to complete the standalone project with Preliminary Engineering and Construction phases. All improvements are proposed within the existing VDOT right-of-way.

**History:** Roanoke County has requested additional STBG funding in four update rounds since the initial project funding was awarded in 2020.

## Discussion of Priorities

Staff is requesting the committee to come to a consensus and develop priority funding scenario for the existing projects requesting additional funding.

## Review of Candidate Project Requests

Locality	Project	Request
Roanoke County, City of Roanoke	Route 419/Electric Road Safety and Streetscape Improvements, Grandin Road Extension to Keagy Road	STBG or CRP; \$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000
Roanoke County	Peters Creek Road at Williamson Road Intersection Improvements	STBG or CRP; \$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000
Roanoke County	Route 11/460/West Main Street at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Safety Improvements	STBG or CRP; \$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000
City of Salem	Roanoke River Greenway – Apperson to Cook Connector	STBG or CRP; \$1,615,259
Town of Vinton	Vinyard Road Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project (PE Phase)	STBG; \$1,226,000

## Questions?



astinnette@rvarc.org | (540) 343-4417



# Recommendation on an Amendment to the 2045 Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan

November 9, 2023 TTC Meeting

## Background

- 23 CFR 450.324 requires all MPOs to create a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (RVTP).
- 23 CFR 450.104 defines an amendment to a MTP as a revision that involves a major change to a project, to include
  - **Addition or deletion of a project**
  - A major change in project cost
  - A major change in project/project phase initiation dates
  - A major change in design concept or design scope

## Additional Items for Inclusion in Draft RVTP Amendment

UPC	Project Name	Project Description
GRT0001	<b>Operating Assistance</b>	Operating assistance for all Valley Metro fixed route, SmartWay, Express, Connector, and trolley services.
GRT0002	Preventative Maintenance	Maintenance to keep vehicles/equipment running smoothly.
GRT0003	Replacement Bus	Fixed-route buses and paratransit service vehicles utilized by RADAR under contract to Valley Metro.
GRT0004	Support Vehicles	These are vehicles used by supervisors, dispatch, maintenance, admin, etc. that support the service but don't carry passengers.
GRT0005	Bus Stop Enhancements	Bus stop amenities may include trashcans, lights, benches, or shelters. The specific stops have not been identified.
GRT0006	Construction Maintenance Service Lot	A construction maintenance service lot designed for vehicles, equipment, and other maintenance related activities at Valley Metro.
GRT0007	ADP Hardware	Purchase of Automated Data Processing software of administrative purposes at Valley Metro.
GRT0008	Shop Equipment	Equipment used to maintain buses and non-bus support vehicles.
GRT0009	Electric Charging Infrastructure	Electric charging stations and equipment designed to accommodate future electric bus purchases.
ROA0001	Capital Assistance	Operating assistance for Via Transportation, Inc. under contract with Roanoke County to provide on-demand transit services for Roanoke County residents 70+ or of any age with a disability.

## Additional Item for Inclusion in Draft RVTP Amendment

### Removal of RADAR Paratransit Vehicles Project from Priority Projects to Pursue and Funded Projects Lists

UPC	Project Name	Project Description
RAD0001	Paratransit Vehicles	Capital assistance to support transportation for people with disabilities in the City of Roanoke, City of Salem, and the Town of Vinton beyond the 3/4-mile area around fixed routes to destinations within those localities.

# Questions?



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## Recommendation on an Amendment to the FFY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

November 9, 2023 TTC Meeting



## Background

- 23 CFR 450.324 requires all MPOs to create a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- 23 CFR 450.104 defines an amendment to a TIP as a revision that involves a major change to a project, to include
  - **Addition or deletion of a project**
  - A major change in project cost
  - A major change in project/project phase initiation dates
  - A major change in design concept or design scope

## Additional Item for Inclusion in Draft TIP Amendment

### Removal of Ungrouped Transit Project – RAD0001, Paratransit Vehicles

UPC	Project Name	Project Description
RAD0001	Paratransit Vehicles	Capital assistance to support transportation for people with disabilities in the City of Roanoke, City of Salem, and the Town of Vinton beyond the 3/4-mile area around fixed routes to destinations within those localities.

# Questions?



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