



## MINUTES

The February meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, 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)

Secretary Tori Williams called the roll and stated a quorum was present.

#### VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Erik Smedley	County of Bedford
Jonathan McCoy	County of Botetourt
Nick Baker	County of Botetourt
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
Anita McMillan	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 ( <i>via zoom</i> )	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transp.

#### VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System
Brea Hopkins	County of Montgomery
Kyle Kotchou	Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport

#### NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephanie Mathena	Franklin County
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**RVARC Staff Present:** Bryan Hill, Andrea Garland, Alison Stinnette, Jonathan Stanton, Tori Williams, Elizabeth Elmore, and Virginia Mullen.

**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

**Others Present:** Luke Pugh, City of Roanoke; Chris Dorsey, City of Salem.

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

The following consent agenda items were distributed:

- A. February 8, 2024 TTC Meeting Agenda
- B. January 11, 2024 TTC Minutes

Chair Sexton noted that staff requested to postpone presentation of item #5 on the posted agenda until after consideration of Items #6 and #7. The request was made to accommodate remarks by Mr. Luke Pugh on the City of Roanoke's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside project request. Mr. Sexton summarized the new order of agenda items prior to approval of the consent agenda.

**Motion:** by Anita McMillan to approve consent agenda items (A) and (B); seconded by Michael Gray.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

4. **CHAIR REMARKS**

There were no remarks.

5. **RECOMMENDATION ON FY25-26 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS**

Mr. Bryan Hill reminded the committee that the following two projects were endorsed in October 2023: Westside/Salem Turnpike CGS (City of Salem) and Glade Creek Greenway Vinyard Park East (Roanoke County). The Glade Creek Greenway application was screened out from consideration. Therefore, the Westside/Salem Turnpike CGS application from the City of Roanoke was the only project from the Urbanized Area that was scored. At the time of submission, the City of Roanoke's request for TA funding was premised on their understanding that the RVTPO's two-year allocation was insufficient to fully fund its request; The city requested \$500,000 and indicated they would use other funding sources for the remaining balance of the total project cost. As there are no other projects requesting funds, RVARC staff determined that there will be enough to fully fund the city's project. The city subsequently modified their request to match 20% of the total project cost, which makes the new TA request \$909,224. The RVTPO Policy Board will have \$1,113,493 in FY25 and FY26 to allocate to TA projects. Luke Pugh, with the City of Roanoke, presented further information on the project.

**Motion:** Anita McMillan moved that the TTC recommend to the TPO Policy Board an allocation of \$909,224 in TA funding for the Westside/Salem Turnpike CGS project; seconded by Frank Maguire.

**TTC Action:** Roll Call vote: Ayes 13 (Smedley, Baker, McCoy, Cronise, Grim, Leftwich, D'Ardenne, Williams, Pratt, McMillan, Sexton, Long, Maguire, Gray); Nays 0 and Abstentions 0. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **RECOMMENDATION ON FY26 SMART SCALE RVTPO CANDIDATE PROJECT REQUESTS**

Mr. Bryan Hill reported that in late January 2024 staff solicited project requests from localities and agencies for the FY26 round of SMART SCALE. The following three projects were received, all from Roanoke County:

- Peters Creek Road/Williamson Road Multimodal and Safety Improvements
- Peters Creek Road at Valleypointe Parkway Intersection Improvements
- Route 11/460/West Main Street at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Safety Improvements

Staff determined that there was no need to prioritize projects in Round 5, since there were fewer requests than available applications spots (four). Staff recommends that the TTC support the Policy Board pursuing the three projects' requests submitted by Roanoke County. Hill also pointed out that one SMART SCALE application request was made to the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission.

**Motion:** Cody Sexton moved that the TTC recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board approval of the FY26 SMART SCALE RVTPO candidate project requests, as presented; seconded by Frank Maguire.

**TTC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

7. **DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT FY25 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

Mr. Tori Williams presented on the FY25 work program process (the PowerPoint presentation is included in the Minutes).

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Tori Williams briefed the Committee that the following items will be discussed at the next (March) TTC meeting:

- STBG/SRP Financial Plan Recommendation
- Review of UPWP Draft
- General Assembly Review

The upcoming schedule for the subcommittees is as follows:

- Public Participation Plan – this committee will meet immediately after the adjournment of the March TTC meeting.
- SMART SCALE Leverage – this committee will be meeting on 2/20 at 2:00pm. via zoom.

Mr. Tori Williams brought the following bills to the attention of the TTC members:

- House Bill 74 – a bill to amend and reenact section of § 33.2-359 of the Code of Virginia, relating to unpaved secondary highway funds. (a copy of the bill was distributed at the meeting, and is included with the Minutes)
- Senate Bill 282 – a bill directing the Governor to include in his proposed budget an appropriation of 10 percent of surplus for the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program for the purpose of funding projects consistent with the objectives of the Program.
- House Bill 1254- a bill authorizing expanded utilization of state of good repair funds for improvements to bridges meeting certain condition requirements.

Chair Sexton inquired about HB854 which proposed to lower the rate of tax on gasoline and diesel fuel. Williams pointed out that the legislation was not docketed during the 2024 session.

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

Mr. William Long commented that Valley Metro is conducting their community survey during the month of February 2024. Mr. Long also provided an update on the recently launched Metro Flex program.

Ms. Megan Cronise commented that Roanoke County has four community meetings within the next five weeks. Ms. Cronise will email a flyer to staff to be distributed to the TTC members.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.



Tori Williams

Secretary, Transportation Technical Committee



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## Transportation Technical Committee

February 8, 2024

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## Recommendation on FY25-26 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Allocations

Bryan Hill

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## Timeline

- Two project applications endorsed in October 2023
  - City of Roanoke: Westside/Salem Turnpike CGS
  - Roanoke County: Glade Creek Greenway Vinyard Park East
- Glade Creek Greenway application was screened out
- When making application, the City of Roanoke was willing to match more funds, thinking that RVTPO allocation could not cover their full request.
- Staff informed City staff that they had the only eligible project, and sufficient funding to request only 80% of the total project cost (\$909,224 vs. \$500,000).
- City of Roanoke staff revised their request to \$909,224.
- The RVTPO has \$1,113,493 in new FY25 and 26 TA funds to allocate to new projects.

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends funding the City of Roanoke's Westside/Salem Turnpike CGS project in the amount of \$909,224.

**TTC Action:** Consideration of RVTPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Block Grant Program funding.

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## Recommendation on FY26 SMART SCALE RVTPO Candidate Project Requests

Bryan Hill

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### Background

- In late January 2024, RVARC staff solicited project requests from localities and agencies for the FY26 round of SMART SCALE.
- On February 5<sup>th</sup> staff received three project request forms, all from Roanoke County.
  - Peters Creek Road/Williamson Road Multimodal and Safety Improvements
  - Peters Creek Road at Valleypointe Parkway Intersection Improvements
  - Route 11/460/West Main Street at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Safety Improvements
- Staff determined that there was no need to prioritize project requests as in Round 5, as there were fewer requests than available application spots (four).

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the TTC support the Policy Board pursuing the three project requests submitted by Roanoke County.

**TTC Action:** Recommendation to the RVTPO Policy Board of FY26 SMART SCALE RVTPO candidate project requests.

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## FY25 Work Program Process

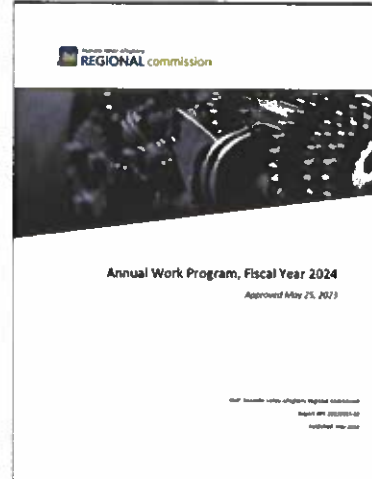
Tori Williams

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## Annual Work Program

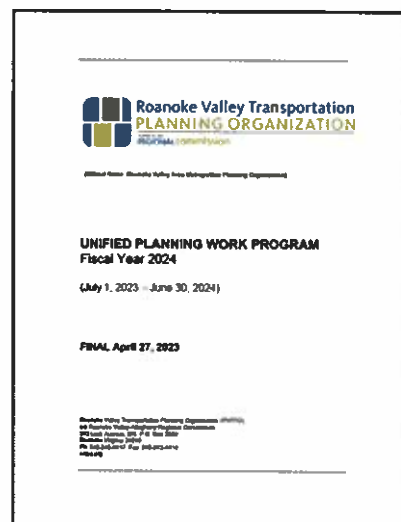
- Work program is a non-proscriptive schedule of Commission projects across all its funding streams in the next fiscal year.
  - July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
- Comprises work from our ARC, EDA, urban and rural transportation, and other funding streams.
- Commission is now accepting project requests from member localities.
- Deadline is February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Final work program approval at the May Commission meeting.



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## Unified Planning Work Program

- Transportation planning and programming work performed by the TPO.
  - Requires approval by TTC/TPO
  - Submitted to VDOT
- Required by all Metropolitan Planning Organizations as a condition of receiving federal funds. (23 CFR §450.308)
  - FHWA & FTA Funds
- Primarily projects that fall within the TPO's urbanized boundary.
- Can include other geographic scope if paired with appropriate funds.
- TTC reviews UPWP work program and makes recommendation to TPO in April.



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## Types of Projects

- Project requests must align with staff capacity and any limitations imposed by our various funding sources.
- To support the Commission's mission of addressing issues of more than local significance, projects that support two or more localities are generally preferred.
- Projects that require third-party support through a consultant can be considered.
- Projects can pool resources from several funding sources when appropriate.



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## Types of Projects

- Analysis of safety, performance, impact of surface road network.
- Analysis of congestion management tools and strategies (TDM, park and ride capacity).
- Analysis of transportation technology (safety measures, EV and related infrastructure).
- Modal plans (bike, transit, pedestrian, other).
- Grant writing and technical assistance for VDOT or Federal funding (such as RAISE).
- Development and deployment of GIS tools to visualize transportation performance.



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## Questions?



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Questions?

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## Upcoming TTC Meetings

### March

- STBG/CRP Financial Plan Recommendation
- Review of UPWP Draft
- General Assembly Review

### Subcommittee Meetings

- Public Participation Plan – Conclusion of TTC Mtg.
- SMART SCALE Leverage – 2/20 2:00PM

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24104166D

**HOUSE BILL NO. 74**

House Amendments in [ ] - February 6, 2024

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 33.2-359 of the Code of Virginia, relating to unpaved secondary highway funds.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Reid

Referred to Committee on Transportation

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 33.2-359 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 33.2-359. Unpaved secondary highway funds.**

A. Funds from the highway construction district grant programs established pursuant to § 33.2-371 shall be allocated for the improvement of nonsurface treated secondary highways that carry 50 or more vehicles per day. *Such improvement may consist of enhancements to such highway or highway segment other than paving, such as improved materials, drainage upgrades, or enhanced design of the highway profile. Other techniques shall be considered improvements if they increase safety, reduce maintenance costs, or enhance the historic qualities of the highway or highway segment.* Funds shall be deducted from the allocation made to each highway construction district pursuant to subsection D of § 33.2-371 and such deduction shall be based on the ratio of nonsurface treated secondary highways in each highway construction district that carry 50 or more vehicles per day to the total number of such nonsurface treated secondary highways in the Commonwealth.

Total funds of the Commonwealth allocated by the Board under this section shall not exceed \$25 million annually.

B. Such funds shall be distributed to counties in the secondary state highway system based on the ratio of nonsurface treated roads in each county carrying 50 vehicles or more per day to the total number of such nonsurface treated roads in the Commonwealth. *The local governing body of the county shall select the highways or highway segments to be improved pursuant to this section, after consulting with the Department. [ Improvements pursuant to this section shall qualify as capital projects and shall be designed and implemented by the county capital projects manager to project standards. ]*

ENGROSSED

HB74E

2/6/24 15:12