

RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee AGENDA 11/10/20; ITEM 8.

RRTPO Boundary Adjustment

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: Recommendation for RRTPO approval to endorse and begin the process of updating its boundary to match the boundary of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA) and the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA).

BACKGROUND: With the advent of the Central Virginia Transportation Authority in 2020, Mr. David Williams, Board of Supervisors (Powhatan), requested that RRTPO staff consider the opportunity to expand the RRTPO boundary to match both the PlanRVA boundary and CVTA boundary – Planning District 15. Chet Parsons held subsequent conversations with Dan Lysy, former Director of Transportation at PlanRVA, and Richard Duran, liaison with FHWA, to gather feedback on the prospect.

In these conversations, there seems to be an opportunity to assess the implications of a boundary change and determine if the positives outweigh the negatives for such a change at this time.

The information shared below was shared with the RRTPO Policy Board at their meeting in October and initiated the request for TAC to consider the action and make a recommendation at the December RRTPO Policy Board meeting. Staff presented the following factors for consideration to the Policy Board:

1. The Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary can be expanded from time to time to adapt to the growth of the region.
2. The MPA is required to be evaluated following every decennial Census. The next time period for evaluation of the Richmond MPA is roughly 2022.
3. Expansion of the MPA to include all of Charles City, Goochland, New Kent, and Powhatan Counties would present the following considerations:
 - a) The TPO boundary would match the boundary of PlanRVA and the CVTA and could increase public awareness and understanding of the TPO as well as general uniformity region-wide.
 - b) RSTP/CMAQ funding may be available for projects in wider geographic areas of the four current partially-included jurisdictions.
 - c) With a change to the MPA, rural transportation planning assistance from VDOT may become unavailable to assist in planning studies for the four rural jurisdictions (roughly \$58,000 annually). This loss would be realized by PlanRVA and would diminish staff budget for assistance to member jurisdictions.

Since the October TAC meeting, staff held individual discussions with each of the four jurisdictions that hold both rural and urban area in the current MPO Study Area. This consideration does NOT include southern Chesterfield County, which shares geographic area between the Richmond and Petersburg urbanized areas. **Each of the jurisdictions of Powhatan, Goochland, New Kent, and Charles City Counties supports the expansion of the MPO Study area to include the full geographic area of the counties.**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee support the expansion of the RRTPO Metropolitan Planning Area to include the entirety of Powhatan, Goochland, New Kent, and Charles City Counties.

ACTION REQUESTED: The following resolution is presented for RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee review and recommendation to the RRTPO Policy Board for approval:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) approves the update of the Metropolitan Planning Area boundary to include the entirety of Powhatan, Goochland, New Kent, and Charles City Counties;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RRTPO supports the initiation of necessary procedures with the Virginia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the Governor of Virginia to officially recognize this boundary adjustment.