

RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)

MINUTES OF MEETING Zoom Meeting January 20, 2022 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS and ALTERNATES (A) PRESENT: (all virtual)

Town of Ashland		Charles City County		Chesterfield County	
Upton S. Martin, Chair	Χ	Vacant		Susan Beals	
Don Root (A)	Χ			Herbert A. Richwine	
				Starrie Jordan (A)	
Goochland County		Hanover County		Henrico County	
Robert L. Basham Jr.		H. Charles Rasnick		Amber B. Lancaster	Χ
New Kent County		Powhatan County		City of Richmond	
Lisa M. Guthrie, Vice Chair	Χ	Robert W. Powers	Χ	Sera Erickson	
John P. Moyer (A)		Vacant (A)		Vacant	
				Hwan Hill (A)	
Chamber RVA		Natl. Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Richmond VA Branch		League of Women Voters (LWV)	
John Easter		James J. Minor III		Sarah Weisiger	
Sam Mayman (A)		Walter L. Johnson Jr. (A)	X	Karen Rosenblum (A)	X
RIC Area Bicycling Assoc. (RABA)		VA Assoc. of Railway Patrons (VARP)		VA Conservation Network (VCN)	
Champe M. Burnley	Χ	Michael Testerman	Χ	Wyatt Gordon	
				Frederick S. Fisher (A)	
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)					
John D. Leonard	Χ				

Others Present: (all virtual)

Dironna Moore Clarke, City of Richmond Janice Firestone, PlanRVA Barbara Jacocks, PlanRVA Sidd Kumar, PlanRVA Ken Lantz, PlanRVA Rashaunda Lanier-Jackson, PlanRVA

Jin Lee, PlanRVA
Dan Motta, PlanRVA
Chet Parsons, PlanRVA
Kelli Rowan, City of Richmond
Randy Selleck, DRPT
Katherine Youngbluth, VPRA

The technology used for this meeting was a web-hosted service created by Zoom and YouTube Live Streaming and was open and accessible for participation by members of the public. A recording of this meeting is available on our <u>Plan RVA YouTube Channel</u>.

CALL TO ORDER

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Community Transportation Advisory Committee Chair, Upton S. Martin, presided and called the January 20, 2022, RRTPO CTAC meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Upton welcomed committee members, staff and guests to the meeting.

ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Janice Firestone, Program Coordinator, called the roll and certified that a quorum was present.

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Consideration of Amendments to the Meeting Agenda

There were no requested changes to the meeting agenda. Seeing and hearing no objections, the January 20, 2022, agenda was approved by acclamation as presented.

2. Approval of the November 18, 2021, CTAC Meeting Minutes

On motion of Robert W. Powers, seconded by Walter L. Johnson, Jr., the Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) unanimously approved the minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting by acclamation as presented.

3. Open Public Comment

There were no requests to address the RRTPO Community Transportation Advisory Committee.

4. CTAC Chairman's Report

Chair Martin provided a recap of the most resent RRTPO meeting.

5. RRTPO Updates

a. RRTPO and TAC Meetings Report for November and December

Chet Parsons, PlanRVA, called the Committee's attention to the report of the RRTPO and TAC meetings and provided a recap of the recent activity for both the RRTPO and TAC. (This report can be found on page 7 of the agenda packet.)

b. Current Work Efforts

Mr. Parsons provided this report to the committee and noted the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan is currently the focus of a lot of staff time. (This report can be found on page 9 of the <u>agenda packet</u>.)

c. CVTA Update

Mr. Parsons gave the CVTA update to the committee and noted that PlanRVA is devoting a lot of time to staffing the CVTA and its various committees.

d. Efforts to Fill CTAC Vacancies - Update

Ken Lantz, PlanRVA, reported on the ongoing efforts to fill committee vacancies, including efforts to reach out to clerks of the member jurisdiction board/council clerks to possibly identify potential appointees.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. State Rail Plan

Randy Selleck, Director of Rail Planning and Environmental, DRPT, provided an overview of the Statewide Rail Planning Initiative. The last plan was adopted in 2018, and the Federal Railroad Administration requires each state to update its plans every four years. The plan serves as an implementation quide for rail projects addressing mid-term and long-term VTrans needs, and final adoption is scheduled for Summer of 2022. The plan will include the development and updating of policies related to climate change, coordination, corridor development, economic development, equipment policy, equity policy, multimodal access policy, passenger rail station policy, and passenger service policy. The policies will be applicable to freight, passenger and multimodal issues. Components of the plan include an interactive story map and passenger and freight rail dashboards. Next steps in the process include project list vetting, refinement and drafting of a service development plan, and a service gap analysis. Following the presentation, committee members had comments and questions. Mr. Selleck offered clarification on the following:

- Rail funding. It is often grant funding. The Commonwealth Rail Fund is dedicated funding.
- Bicycles (and their storage) at rail stations fall under a station's policies.
- Lease agreements with the freight railroads and right-of-way restrictions must be taken into consideration when considering adjacent to railways.

2. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Katherine Youngbluth, Director of Planning, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), provided this report to the committee. She reviewed the timeline of the state of Virginia's investments in rail passenger service from 2006 to 2026, travel constraints throughout the state, and the dates of key agreements between the state of Virginia and rail service providers. Ms. Youngbluth also reviewed the structure of the VPRA and key agreements and projects, which include the acquisition of half of the rail right-of way along the CSX line between Washington, D.C. and Petersburg, and the construction of an expanded crossing of the Potomac River and expansion of the number of tracks on both the south and north approaches of the bridge. Other improvements include increased frequency and expansion of service to southwest Virginia, including Roanoke and the New River Valley Following the presentation, Ms. Youngbluth offered clarification on the purchase of the former Virginian line.

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3. Update on City of Richmond's Pathway to Equity

Dironna Moore Clark, Public Works Administrator, and Kelli Rowan, Program Manager, City of Richmond, Office of Equitable Transit provided this report to the committee. Kelli Rowan provided an overview of Path to Equity, Richmond's strategic multimodal plan. The plan will serve as a policy guide for Richmond Connects, and has involved input from a public survey, as well as social media comments and community conversations. Concerning the surveys, six in-person and two online events resulted in over 1900 responses. Top injustices noted by the surveys include neighborhood dissection, redlining, suburbanization of poverty, urban renewal, and transportation planning practices. Reported barriers to access include missing sidewalks and bicycle lanes, infrequent and circuitous transit routes, lack of parking, and roadway congestion. A website to offer comments on the plan is available through the end of January and offered to answer any questions.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Ad-Hoc Membership Committee

Chair Martin announced that Vice Chair Guthrie has agreed to head up this ad hoc committee to improve representation of members of the elderly and disabled community on the CTAC. He requested volunteers to join the committee. Vice Chair Guthrie asked for suggestions for individuals and/or agencies to reach out to for participation. (Martin/10 minutes)

2. Future Meeting Topics

The future meeting topics were reviewed.

3. CTAC Member Comments

Mr. Parsons commented that efforts are ongoing to understand the impacts of the infrastructure act on the region. This may make the updates listed for the May meeting difficult to provide.

Vice Chair Guthrie commented that the Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study update may need to be pushed back to a later meeting than March.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2022, at 12:00 noon. The expectation is that the meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:48 p.m.