

**RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
PlanRVA James River Boardroom,
424 Hull Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23224 and via Zoom
December 12, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**

MEMBERS and ALTERNATES (A) PRESENT:

Town of Ashland		Charles City County		Chesterfield County	
Nora D. Amos	X	Gary Mitchell, Vice Chair		Barbara K. Smith	X
Goochland County		Rhonda Russell (A) (virtual)	X	Chessa Walker (A)(virtual)	
Austin Goyne		Hanover County		Henrico County	
Thomas Coleman (A)		Joseph E. Vidunas, Chair	X	Sharon Smidler (virtual)	X
New Kent County		Randy Hardman (A)		Todd Eure (A)	
Amy Inman	X	Powhatan County		City of Richmond	
Kelli Le Duc (A)		Mike Ciriello	X	Dironna Moore Clarke (virtual)	X
Capital Region Airport Commission (CRAC)		Bret Schardein (A)		GRTC	
John B. Rutledge (virtual)	X	DRPT		Patricia Robinson	X
PlanRVA		Tiffany T. Dubinsky		Corey Robinson (A)	
Myles Busching	X	Daniel Wagner (A)	X	VDOT	
Sulabh Aryal (A)	X	RMTA		Sarah Rhodes (virtual)	X
RideFinders		Theresa Simmons		Nicole Mueller (A)	
Von S. Tisdale					
John O'Keefe (A)	X				

The technology used for the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee 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 [Plan RVA YouTube Channel](#).

Virtual participation in this meeting by members of the committee is authorized under the City of Richmond Res. No. 2020-R025, - declaration of a local emergency due to the potential spread of COVID-19, adopted March 16, 2020. The resolution is available [here](#).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Vidunas opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed attendees.

2. Roll Call & Certification of a Quorum

Janice Scott, PlanRVA, took attendance by roll call and certified that a quorum was present.

3. Consideration of Amendments to the Meeting Agenda

There were no requested changes to the agenda.

4. Approval of November 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes

On motion by John O’Keefe, seconded by Barbara Smith, the members of the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes as presented (voice vote).

5. Open Public Comment Period

There were no requests to address the committee.

6. TAC Chairman’s Report

Chair Vidunas did not have a formal report.

7. SMART SCALE Round 6 – Call for Candidate Regional Projects and Strategy - Review

Myles Busching, PlanRVA, provided an overview of the Commonwealth Transportation Board’s recent actions on Smart Scale. He reported the new category “other improvements” allows for a broader list of projects that resulted from studies. He reviewed the project applications that have been received so far.

Sarah Rhodes, VDOT, reported that the CTB discussion on application limits focused on the desire for stronger readiness requirements. Applications that are determined to be incomplete will not advance to scoring. Edits during the validation period will not be allowed. Readiness includes having all the required documents with the application.

The list with any additional projects will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Ms. Rhodes reported that the technical guide will be released this month and will provide guidance on application strategy.

She also recommended moving forward with taking the applications that have already been submitted to the pre-scoping module. There was consensus from the group for VDOT to do that.

8. 2024 Safety Performance Targets

Mr. Busching reported that this is for the annual road safety targets that must be submitted. Today will be a review of the status of the targets and a discussion of target setting guidelines.

For roadway safety, the RRTPO is required to [track and set targets for five performance measures](#):

- Fatalities
- Fatality Rate (per 100M vehicle miles traveled)
- Serious Injuries
- Serious Injury Rate (per 100M vehicle miles traveled)
- Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

VDOT, in coordination with DMV, sets statewide targets annually for each of these measures. State performance is assessed against these targets by FHWA, and the Commonwealth is required to meet or make significant progress toward meeting these targets. The statewide performance targets are developed using an analytical model which factors in vehicle miles

traveled, demographics and employment, weather, liquor sales, VDOT maintenance and operations programs spending, DMV.

The baseline provided by the state was reviewed.

MPOs are required to adopt targets no later than 180 days after the state each year. The RRTPO has the option to follow the statewide target or set a separate target for any or all of the performance measures. In general, FHWA has identified three approaches used by states in setting performance targets.

Data-Driven Targets

This approach projects expected outcomes based on recent trends, model projections, programmed projects, and other safety efforts. This approach can be considered realistic, but depending on recent trends, can result in targets for *increased* fatalities or serious injuries. Other than the VDOT modeling, other examples of data-driven targets include forecasts based on the short-term trendline (last five years) or long-term trendline (last 10 or 15 years). This is the approach the Commonwealth and MPO have historically taken.

Goal-Driven Targets

This approach focuses on the common goal of reducing fatalities and serious injuries by setting declining targets, generally ignoring the baseline trend. Such efforts are aligned with the vision of Towards Zero Deaths and Serious Injuries as expressed in Arrive Alive, the Virginia Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Particularly in the face of increasing trends, this approach can be seen as aspirational. Missed targets provide an opportunity to reconsider safety investments and focus on safety in funding decisions. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has set an aspirational target of 2% annual reduction in fatalities and serious injuries.

Hybrid Targets

This final approach is a synthesis of the two prior approaches. This approach focuses on the long-term goal of reducing fatal and serious injury crashes while considering the baseline trend to provide more grounding in current trends. This is the approach used by the CTB in adopting level targets for 2024.

There was a discussion about the difference between incidents caused by design and those caused by human behavior/errors. It was noted that the highway safety plan has data that can be useful in setting the safety targets.

Mr. Busching reported that 2021 is the last year for fatality statistics and 2022 is the last year for injury statistics.

There was consensus to move forward with the hybrid approach. Those targets will be on the next agenda for TAC action.

9. Transportation Agency Updates

a. DRPT

Daniel Wagner provided an update on recent and upcoming DRPT activities, including the following:

- Jennifer DeBruhl will be retiring effective June 2024.
- Tiffany Dubinsky has been named Director of Transit Planning.

b. GRTC

Patricia Robinson provided an update on recent and upcoming GRTC activities, including:

- Round Two of public engagement is underway for the
- GRTC is fully staffed (as of November) to the pre-pandemic level.
- Working with localities for Spring launch of additional link
- Frank Adarkwa, GRTC’s new Director for Planning and Scheduling was introduced.

Nora Amos reported that GRTC is planning to launch micro-transit service in the Ashland area in late March or early April.

Adrienne Torres reported on the status of the micro-transit service in the Mechanicsville area.

c. RideFinders

John O’Keefe provided an update on recent and upcoming RideFinders activities, including the following:

- Started two new seven passenger vanpools to Ft. Belvoir from Henrico and New Kent.
- Working with groups on starting 3 new vanpools from the Hampton Roads area to the Defense Supply Center Richmond in Chesterfield.
- Participated in ongoing biweekly meetings with Foursquare ITP as related to the CAPSP.
- Simplified Greener (Holi)Days pledge to promote “greener” transportation choices during the holiday season.
- Created a Hallmark inspired holiday movie – Mistletoe Commuter – to generate interest in carpooling during the holidays and continuing to build carpool storytelling in a creative way.
- Working on the launch of the Kickstart your carpool pilot program that will run from January 1st through April 15th.
- RideFinders Executive Director Von Tisdale retired on November 29th after 26 years of service.

d. VDOT

Sarah Rhodes provided an update on VDOT’s recent and upcoming activities. The update is posted with the [meeting documents](#).

12. Future Meeting Topics

The future meeting topics were included in the agenda packet.

13. TAC Member Comments

There were no member comments.

14. Next Meeting

Chair Vidunas noted the next meeting will be held on January 9, 2024.

15. Adjournment

Chair Vidunas adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.