

# Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

## Technical Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

#### **Members and Alternates Present (X):**

<b>Town of Ashland</b>		<b>Charles City County</b>		<b>Chesterfield County</b>	
Nora D. Amos	X	Sheri Adams, Vice Chair	X	Barbara K. Smith	X
<b>Goochland County</b>		Gary Mitchell (A)		J.J. Banuelos (A)	X
Josh Gillespie	X	<b>Hanover County</b>		<b>Henrico County</b>	
<b>New Kent County</b>		Joseph E. Vidunas	X	Sharon Smidler	X
Amy Inman	X	Randy Hardman (A)		Ashley Austin	
<b>Capital Region Airport Commission (CRAC)</b>		<b>Powhatan County</b>		<b>City of Richmond</b>	
John B. Rutledge		Ligon Webb		Dironna Moore Clarke, Chair	X
<b>PlanRVA</b>		Bret Schardein (A)		<b>GRTC</b>	
Myles Busching	X	<b>DRPT</b>		Patricia Robinson	X
Sulabh Aryal (A)	X	Wood Hudson	X	Corey Robinson (A)	
<b>RideFinders</b>		Tiffany T. Dubinsky (A)		<b>VDOT</b>	
John O'Keefe (A)	X	<b>RMTA</b>		Larry Hagin	X
		Theresa Simmons		Todd Scheid (A)	

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](#).

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Clarke opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. and welcomed attendees.

#### **2. Roll Call & Certification of a Quorum**

Following member and attendee introductions, Janice Scott, PlanRVA, certified that a quorum was present.

#### **3. Consideration of Amendments to the Meeting Agenda**

There were no requested amendments to the agenda.

#### **4. Approval of March 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

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

## 5. Open Public Comment Period

Stephanie Power, RVA Rapid Transit, addressed the committee and spoke in favor of the increase in funding for RideFinders. She expressed support and noted the importance in increasing ridership in public transit.

Fatima Kamara, Virginia Conservation Network, addressed the committee and spoke in favor of the increase in funding for RideFinders. She noted the importance of lowering carbon emissions and providing opportunities for individuals to commute into Richmond via public transit.

There were no other requests to offer public comment.

## 6. TAC Chairman's Report

Chair Clarke did not have a formal report.

## 7. FY26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Tasks

Myles Busching, PlanRVA, presented this item and reported that staff have developed a draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2026. The draft UPWP continues many of the region's work efforts to broaden public involvement in planning for a multimodal future. Planning priorities include continued development of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan, creation of the FY27 – FY30 Transportation Improvement Program, federal certification review, an update to the Regional Transportation Safety Plan, and a refined alignment for the western spine of the active transportation network.

Major priorities for this UPWP include continued efforts to complete the recommendations from the federal certification review, work on the federal planning emphasis areas, and continuing efforts to update the travel demand model, plan and implement multimodal projects, and advance efforts to involve the public in planning for the region. Major emphasis areas for this fiscal year include:

- **2025 Federal Certification** – Large MPOs like the RRTPO are reviewed every four (4) years by FHWA and FTA to ensure compliance with federal planning requirements. Certification of the RRTPO program is scheduled for 2025. Assisting the federal review process will be a major focus of the RRTPO for the first part of the new fiscal year.
- **Core Plan Convergence** - FY2026 will be a convergence of core planning products that only occurs every few decades. We will be largely completing the 2050 update for the long-range plan and developing and adopting the FY27 - FY30 transportation improvement program. Air quality planning will be coordinated between both plans and the Tri-Cities Area MPO to the extent possible.
- **Prioritizing Safety** - This effort will follow up on efforts to identify the regional role in reducing the fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. Major focus will include updates and enhancement of the regional safety plan.
- **Envisioning our Multimodal Future** - The focus of this effort is the continued development of our active transportation, freight, and transit networks across the region. A major emphasis will be a study to refine the proposed alignment for the western spine of the regional bike network.

Following the presentation, there was discussion about funding for the listed projects and the status of federal funding programs. Mr. Busching clarified that there are areas that can be scaled back if there is a funding shortfall; safety areas have been identified as a priority and would be kept in if at all possible.

Committee members requested that staff provide more details on the funding and the level of effort planned for each area to ensure the items listed can be achieved.

On motion by Barbara Smith, seconded by Sharon Smidler, the members of the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee voted to recommend approval of the draft FY26 Unified Planning Work Program tasks (roll call vote; see below).

<b>Jurisdiction/Agency</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Town of Ashland	Nora D. Amos	X			
Charles City County	Sheri Adams	X			
Chesterfield County	Barbara Smith	X			
Goochland County	Josh Gillespie	X			
Hanover County	Joseph E. Vidunas	X			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler	X			
New Kent County	Amy Inman	X			
Powhatan County	Ligon Webb				X
City of Richmond	Dironna Moore Clarke	X			
CRAC	John B. Rutledge				X
DRPT	Wood Hudson	X			
GRTC	Patricia Robinson	X			
PlanRVA	Myles Busching	X			
RideFinders	John O'Keeffe (A)	X			
RMTA	Theresa Simmons				X
VDOT	Larry Hagin	X			

#### **8. FY24 – FY27 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Jahnke Road - 2 Lane Improvements (UPC 19035)**

Ansley Heller, PlanRVA, presented this item and reported that The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) submitted a request to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to update the funding and cost estimate for the existing Jahnke Road improvement (UPC 19035) project to cover increased project costs. This project seeks to make roadway design, safety, and pedestrian improvements along Jahnke Rd from Blakemore Road to Forest Hill Avenue.

The project continues to focus on enhancing safety, accessibility, drainage, multi-modal transportation, and aesthetics along the corridor. Key improvements include better access to private entrances, an upgraded traffic signal at Forestview School Drive, and installation of a center raised median with landscaping and turn lanes at high-traffic intersections. Additionally, curb and gutter will be installed on both sides of Jahnke Road west of the CSX railroad, along with an 8-foot shared-use path on the north side and a 5-foot sidewalk on the south side. Sidewalk improvements will occur between Forest Hill Ave and Clarence Street, with new construction from Clarence Street to Blackmore Road. A two-way cycle track will also be added along westbound Jahnke Road, and speed tables will be placed at Westover Hills Elementary School.

Following the presentation, committee members had questions and Chair Clarke clarified that the project is in the construction phase; the amendment is due to cost increases. Larry Hagin, VDOT, clarified that the project has been advertised at least once, possibly twice. The amendment will position the project to be readvertised and awarded.

On motion by Larry Hagin, seconded by Barbara Smith, the members of the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee voted to recommend approval of the proposed TIP amendments as requested by VDOT (roll call vote; see below).

<b>Jurisdiction/Agency</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Town of Ashland	Nora D. Amos	X			
Charles City County	Sheri Adams	X			
Chesterfield County	Barbara Smith	X			
Goochland County	Josh Gillespie	X			
Hanover County	Joseph E. Vidunas	X			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler	X			
New Kent County	Amy Inman	X			
Powhatan County	Ligon Webb				X
City of Richmond	Dironna Moore Clarke	X			
CRAC	John B. Rutledge				X
DRPT	Wood Hudson	X			
GRTC	Patricia Robinson	X			
PlanRVA	Myles Busching	X			
RideFinders	John O'Keeffe (A)	X			
RMTA	Theresa Simmons				X
VDOT	Larry Hagin	X			

## 9. Flexible Regional Funding: RideFinders Requests

Mr. Busching provided an overview of this item and reported that the RRTPO has the authority to select and award funding for certain federal funding programs. The RRTPO has adopted a framework that guides this process. Nine requests were received for existing projects. RideFinders has a unique request that is substantively different from the construction projects. This request would increase funding to RideFinders by \$2M to consolidate existing TDM programs in the region and expand efforts to shift travel from single-occupancy vehicles to transit and other modes.

In January 2025, as part of the funding process, the RRTPO sent out a call for applications for existing projects seeking additional funding. The RRTPO received a total of nine (9) applications asking for additional funding. These projects are currently in progress and are at different stages. Each project is seeking additional funding to cover the shortfalls.

Cherika Ruffin, RideFinders, provided a presentation on the item and gave an overview of RideFinders' purpose and an overview of their current program and services. The plan is to have a regional trip reduction program focused on transit. Ms. Ruffin reviewed the regional and financial impacts of the proposed program.

Committee members had questions and Ms. Ruffin clarified that the amount was determined based on numerous factors; there are no current plans to charge a fare as a result of funding this program.

Ms. Ruffin clarified that the amount is a one-time request, but the funds could likely be spent over multiple years. Should the program be successful, additional funding may be requested for future years.

GRTC was asked to provide more details on the funding breakdown when the matter is presented to the Policy Board. Staff was asked to provide more frequent updates to the TAC on the program.

On motion by John O’Keefe, seconded by Nora Amos, the members of the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee voted to recommend approval of approval of RideFinders request for \$2M and recommends inclusion of this funding in the FY26 - FY31 allocations plan (roll call vote; see below).

<b>Jurisdiction/Agency</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Town of Ashland	Nora D. Amos	X			
Charles City County	Sheri Adams	X			
Chesterfield County	Barbara Smith	X			
Goochland County	Josh Gillespie	X			
Hanover County	Joseph E. Vidunas	X			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler	X			
New Kent County	Amy Inman	X			
Powhatan County	Ligon Webb				X
City of Richmond	Dironna Moore Clarke	X			
CRAC	John B. Rutledge				X
DRPT	Wood Hudson			X	
GRTC	Patricia Robinson	X			
PlanRVA	Myles Busching	X			
RideFinders	John O’Keefe (A)	X			
RMTA	Theresa Simmons				X
VDOT	Larry Hagin	X			

#### 10. Flexible Regional Funding: Construction Project Requests

Mr. Busching presented this item and reported that the Jankhe Road project request is to backfill some of the necessary expenditures with federal funding. Locality funding has been covering the balance.

On motion by Joseph Vidunas, seconded by Barbara Smith, the members of the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee voted to recommend the following requests be approved and included in the FY26 - FY31 allocations plan: UPC 113843 - \$547,024 (CMAQ/CRP), UPC 19035 - \$6,000,000 (STBG), UPC 104281 - \$951,554 (STBG) and UPC 115784 - \$321,225 (CMAQ/CRP) (roll call vote; see below).

<b>Jurisdiction/Agency</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Town of Ashland	Nora D. Amos	X			
Charles City County	Sheri Adams	X			
Chesterfield County	Barbara Smith	X			
Goochland County	Josh Gillespie	X			
Hanover County	Joseph E. Vidunas	X			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler	X			
New Kent County	Amy Inman	X			
Powhatan County	Ligon Webb				X
City of Richmond	Dironna Moore Clarke	X			
CRAC	John B. Rutledge				X
DRPT	Wood Hudson	X			
GRTC	Patricia Robinson	X			
PlanRVA	Myles Busching	X			
RideFinders	John O’Keefe (A)	X			
RMTA	Theresa Simmons				X
VDOT	Larry Hagin	X			

## **11. Regional Air Quality Update**

Doris McCleod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, provided this update on regional air quality.

Following the presentation, committee members and guests had comments and questions on radon, the Climate Reduction Plan, the importance of reducing pollution/improving air quality and the impact of data centers.

## **12. Transportation Agency Updates**

### **a. DRPT**

Wood Hudson provided an update on recent and upcoming DRPT activities, including the Virginia Transit Association upcoming meeting.

### **b. GRTC**

Patricia Robinson provided an update on recent and upcoming GRTC activities, including an update on the ambassador program

### **c. RideFinders**

John O'Keefe provided an update on the following RideFinders activities:

- Started one new vanpool started from New Kent County Public Works park and ride lot to the Pentagon.
- Conducted a random drawing and delivered an emergency road kit to the winning vanpool group and took pictures. The kit was provided to RideFinders from Vanpool Alliance and Siddall Communications for This Van Can Collaboration. The group travels from Glenside Park and Ride to Washington DC and is with K&K Enterprises vanpool.
- Participated in Southampton Elementary School's (Richmond Public Schools) Career Day and presented information on sustainability, carpools, public transit, and careers.
- Attended Virginia Department of Human Resource Management Benefits Fair where we communicated with state workers from several agencies about RideFinders services. We have several more events we will be attending this month and next.
- Received notification from the Association for Commuter Transportation that GRTC has achieved the requirements for ACT's inaugural Accredited Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Organization status for its RideFinders division. This accreditation documents our commitment to administrative excellence, the field of TDM, and continuous improvement.

### **d. VDOT**

Larry Hagin provided an update on recent and upcoming VDOT activities. The update is posted with the [meeting documents](#).

## **13. PlanRVA Newsletter: The Better Together Connector**

This was an information item.

## **14. TAC Member Comments**

Nora Amos shared comments on SmartScale and the status of the Richmond region projects. The Spring VDOT public hearing will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. She encouraged everyone to express their support of the region's projects.

Larry Hagin reiterated the importance of showing support. More information about the public hearing can be found [here](#). He clarified that the interim time between the staff recommended scenario and the June CTB action is a time for locality staff to communicate with the RRTPO CTB representative, Rex Davis, to clarify the importance of the projects in the scenario.

**15. Next Meeting**

Chair Clarke noted the next meeting will be held on May 13, 2025.

**16. Adjournment**

Chair Clarke adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.