

**RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RRTPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 9, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Andrew Pompei (**Chairman**) ..... Powhatan County  
Barbara K. Smith (**Vice Chairman**) ..... Chesterfield County  
Nora D. Amos ..... Town of Ashland  
Myles Busching ..... Charles City County  
Dironna Moore Clarke ..... City of Richmond  
Thomas Coleman ..... Goochland County  
E. Todd Eure ..... Henrico County  
Kelli Le Duc ..... New Kent County  
John O’Keeffe (Alternate) ..... RideFinders  
Chet Parsons ..... RRPDC  
Mark Riblett ..... VDOT  
Joseph E. Vidunas ..... Hanover County  
Garland W. Williams ..... GRTC Transit System

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tiffany Dubinsky ..... DRPT  
John B. Rutledge ..... CRAC  
Theresa Simmons ..... RMTA  
Von S. Tisdale ..... RideFinders

**ALTERNATE MEMBER PRESENT – NOT VOTING**

Sulabh Aryal (Alternate) ..... RRPDC  
Travis Bridewell (Alternate) ..... City of Richmond

**Certification of Quorum**

Andrew Pompei, TAC Chairman, called the April 9, 2019 TAC meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and Chet Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, certified that a quorum was present.

**1. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

On motion of Barbara K. Smith, seconded by Joseph E. Vidunas, TAC unanimously approved the April 9, 2019 TAC meeting agenda as presented.

**2. Public Comment Period**

There were no requests to address TAC.

**3. Approval of March 12, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes**

On motion of John O’Keeffe, seconded by Thomas W. Coleman, TAC unanimously approved the March 12, 2019 TAC meeting minutes as presented.

**4. TAC Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Pompei had nothing to report.

**5. RRTPO Update**

Chet Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, reported on the following items:

- b. Current Work Efforts Update** – A one-page summary of RRTPO staff current work efforts was included on page six of the agenda package. This report was well-received by the RRTPO and could include locality items of regional significance as well.
- a. RSTP and CMAQ RRTPO Policy Board Action** – The RRTPO policy board took action in April to allocate funds for five items. This will be discussed in more detail under agenda item 7.
- c. Website Update** – The 1998 RRPDC website redesign should be live at the end of April. This website should be more responsive to user and community needs and the agency would welcome any suggestions in that regard.
- d. CTB Meeting** – The CTB workshop meeting is this morning beginning at 10:00 a.m. and a presentation on the I-81 legislation is scheduled for early in the meeting. This legislation will impact I-64 and I-95 and there was consideration of live-streaming that discussion during the TAC meeting to learn what the impacts might be for the Richmond region and its localities.

## **6. SMART SCALE: Next Round Perspective**

Brooke Jackson, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP), reviewed SMART SCALE Round 3, feedback on process and results, the submission process being considered for Round 4, and next steps. A record 480 applications were received requesting \$6.9 billion for available SMART SCALE funds of \$780 million, the amount likely to be available in future years. Only six of 85 Richmond District projects were screened out of consideration in round 3. Ms. Jackson discussed Round 3 observations on project readiness, descriptions and scope and the need for more detail. She noted there was a significantly larger amount of unallocated funds in Round 3 than in previous rounds and reviewed recommended modifications to the staff scenario for distribution of these funds.

Responses to a survey and other comments submitted on the Round 3 process showed concerns about low cost project bias; concerns that mega projects skew the scoring results; and a general recognition that limited funding is a major issue. SMART SCALE staff is working to address some of the findings from an independent survey conducted by the SMART SCALE team such as planning and hosting statewide training sessions to enhance understanding of the SMART SCALE process in more detail, and, working on recommendations to improve the scoring process. Other concerns expressed were inadequate financial and staff resources to plan and develop projects and applications; a need for portal improvements; and a need for simplification of the application process.

Ms. Jackson discussed process changes under consideration for SMART SCALE Round 4. A Pre-application will be required for every project; screening will be done from the Pre-app and a determination will be made as to whether the project moves on; changes to scope, data, or supporting documentation will require VDOT/DRPT concurrence. If an application does not make it through the needs, eligibility and readiness process, it will not move on.

Ms. Jackson responded to numerous TAC questions and comments and discussed the funding for I-64, I-95 and other interstates in Virginia that will be available from the I-81 corridor funding recently authorized. She reported that there is an I-95 study in progress that has been extended to the North Carolina line and there should be legislation to study I-64 next year.

## **7. FY20 – FY25 RSTP and CMAQ Recommendation**

Chet Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, reviewed the staff report in the agenda package including the TAC action requested, the background on RSTP and CMAQ funding. Mr. Parsons expressed appreciation for the dedicated assistance provided by VDOT in developing the RSTP and CMAQ recommendations this year in light of staff changes.

Chairman Pompei requested that CMAQ tables be considered first and called for questions or comments. Mr. Parsons explained that the first two and a half pages were existing projects and explained the color coding on the last page. There was TAC discussion regarding the order of magnitude of the Regionwide Traffic Operations funding and Mr. Parson's indicated there is a slight increase. VDOT indicated they are okay with this as long and year one is fully funded.

Barbara Nelson, Vice President for Government Affairs and Transportation Policy at the Port of Virginia, expressed the Port's appreciation for the allocation of \$3 million in FY22 for the purchase of a new barge and noted the exponential growth in volumes at the Richmond Marine Terminal with two new businesses adding 7,500 new containers to the barge service. Ms. Nelson indicated that with the concern of federal rescission of funds, the Port is in a position to move sooner on this project should that be a possibility.

At the request of Chet Parsons, Jasmine Amanin, VDOT, addressed the rescission risk. There were approximately 60 active CMAQ projects, 13 of which are potentially at risk for rescission totaling about \$21 million. VDOT has done a comprehensive review of the projects and adjusted timelines and allocations mitigating significant rescission risk and is working to secure four projects.

[TAC discussed interrupting the meeting to listen to the CTB meeting live for discussion of the I-81 corridor funding; TAC decided to continue with the meeting agenda and have a summary of the CTB discussion sent to them.]

Chet Parsons noted that CMAQ funds function as a sub-allocation of the state and the RRTPO policy board is required to seek concurrence from the Richmond District CTB member. That process has been initiated and will be reported when complete.

On motion of E. Todd Eure, seconded by Barbara K. Smith, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) voted unanimously to recommend RRTPO policy board approval of the FY20 – FY25 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program allocations as presented.

Mr. Parsons provided an overview of the RSTP tables and reviewed the color coding for six new projects and for two projects approved by the RRTPO policy board for submission to the CTB for inclusion in the SYIP. He noted that in FY21 and FY22, the balance is smaller than typically comfortable, but that resolves in FY23 and future years. There was discussion about comfort with this and the need to secure projects against possible federal rescission. There was discussion about several specific projects in Hanover County and the City of Richmond and a request for full funding of those projects and the ramifications for securing other funding. There was TAC concurrence that the intent was there to fully fund these projects and agreement that the projects could be noted that it is

the intent of the RRTPO policy board to fully fund these projects. It was also agreed to add \$315,748 to fully fund the Pole Green Road project in Hanover County.

On motion of Joseph E. Vidunas, seconded by John O’Keeffe, the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to add \$315,748 from Regionwide in FY25 to fully fund the Pole Green Road project in Hanover County and to add a note of intent to fully fund to the Atlee Station Road project in Hanover County and to the Hull Street Road project in the City of Richmond; and to recommend approval of the RSTP and CMAQ funding recommendations, as amended above, to the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization policy board.

## **8. VDOT TIP Amendment Requests**

Chet Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, reviewed the VDOT request to amend the to amend the FY18 – FY21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add five new projects. Mr. Parsons noted that TIP amendment sheets were included in the agenda package and briefly reviewed each of the projects. There were no questions or comments.

On motion of Barbara K. Smith, seconded by Mark Riblett, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend RRTPO policy board approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization policy board amends the *FY18 – FY21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* adding the following five new projects:

- UPC 113843: Route 1 (Merriewood Rd. to Elliham Ave.) Sidewalk – adds this project to the TIP and obligates the preliminary engineering phase – Chesterfield;
- UPC T22773: Route 60 (Boulders Parkway – Ruthers Road) Shared-Use Path – adds this project to the TIP and obligates the preliminary engineering phase – Chesterfield;
- UPC T22775: Arthur Ashe Park-N-Ride Bus Purchase – adds this project to the TIP and obligates the construction phase – City of Richmond;
- UPC T22779: I-95 at Commerce Road Access Study – adds this project to the TIP and obligates the preliminary engineering phase – City of Richmond, Port Project; and,
- UPC T22783: Parham Road/Hungary Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Study – adds this project to the TIP and obligates the preliminary engineering phase – Henrico County.

## **9. FY19 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, reviewed a request from staff for the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee to recommend to the RRTPO policy board amending the FY19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) budget. Following RRTPO policy board approval, the document will be submitted to VDOT, DRPT, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Mr. Parsons reviewed background on the proposed amendment request saying in order to reconcile the changes in staff composition and assignment of specific work tasks over the course of the past fiscal year, funds need to be reallocated to activities that can reasonably be expected to be completed in the fiscal year. He noted several tables included in the agenda package. The proposed amendments adjust individual funding levels for specific work tasks originally included in the FY19 UPWP and the funding amounts by source are not impacted; nor are the overall budget for the FY19 UPWP or match obligations adjusted through the amendment. There were no questions or comments.

On motion of E. Todd Eure, seconded by Barbara K. Smith, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend RRTPO policy board approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) policy board approves the amendments to the *RRTPO Fiscal Year 2019 Unified Planning Work Program* as presented in the agenda package; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the RRTPO policy board action to amend the UPWP, as submitted, meets all requirements noted in the VDOT/RRPDC Agreement for the Utilization of Federal and State Funds to Support Metropolitan Planning in the Richmond Area as provided in Article III, Statement of Work, which includes VDOT and FHWA approval of this RRTPO action and amending the FY19 UPWP.

#### **10. FY20 Unified Planning Work Program**

Chet Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, introduced the Draft Fiscal Year 2020 Unified Planning Work Program noting that the intent is to take the document to the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) policy board in May. The format may change, but this draft outlines a significant update in the presentation of the work program and simplifies the format and the readability of the product. The previous work program was roughly 95 pages and this draft pares that down to about 36 pages.

This work program is focused on an outline of what the process is for establishing the work program, what the components are and what the priorities are, with a section for each work program component. There is an outline of what the RRTPO is expected to accomplish as well as what is expected from partners in the process. There is a clear understanding as to what the components of each work task are and how they will be carried out. This was something that came up during the federal certification review, so staff has been careful to identify the purpose, method and expected results and products as well as a schedule for each work task.

In addition, the budget is split out according six work category titles: Program Support and Administration, General Development and Comprehensive Planning, Long-Range Transportation Planning, Short-Range Transportation Planning, and General Development and Comprehensive Planning which incorporates the Rural Transportation planning program. While the rural transportation program has not typically been incorporated in the UPWP and the RRTPO does not have purview over this program, it makes sense that this

program be incorporated so that everything can be planned together as a comprehensive work program for next year.

There are budget projections by work task broken out by grant source and sources for travel demand modeling and funds for rural transportation from the state. Mr. Parsons reviewed the planning program by percent of total budget. The allocations received this year are in line with previous years with only slight increases.

Mr. Parsons said he would be glad to receive comments at the meeting or in writing following the meeting. The staff recommendation would be to approve the content of the draft UPWP with the acknowledgement with the understanding that there may be formatting or other minor updates prior to presentation of the draft document to the RRTPO policy board.

There was a question regarding updating the 2004 Bike/Ped plan not being specifically differentiated from work on the next long-range plan on page 21 of the draft document and Mr. Parsons said he would update that section to make it clearer to the reader that updating the bike/ped plan would be part of the work that would go into development of the long-range plan.

On motion of Garland Williams, seconded by E. Todd Eure, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) voted unanimously to recommend RRTPO policy board approval of the Draft Fiscal Year 2020 Unified Planning Work Program as presented with minor updates and formatting changes.

#### **11. Ashland to Petersburg Trail Update**

Mark Riblett, VDOT, noted that today [April 9] was the last day to make comments on the Ashland to Petersburg Trail plan. He reported that as of that morning they had received 963 comments and 804 surveys which was a tremendous response and surpassed the number of comments that the I-81 study received. He said they anticipate a stakeholder meeting later in April or in May. More information will be available on that meeting when VDOT has had an opportunity to work with the consultant to digest the public comments they had received.

#### **12. TAC Open Comment**

There were no TAC comments to share.

#### **13. Future Meeting Topics**

Chairman Pompei noted the list of future meeting topics on page 10 of the agenda package.

#### **14. Next TAC Meeting: May 14**

Chairman Pompei said the next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. noting that an Active Transportation Work Group meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. following that TAC meeting.

#### **15. Adjournment: Scheduled for 10:45 a.m.**

Chairman Pompei adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.