

# AGENDA

## RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 7, 2021  
8:30 a.m.

### Zoom Meeting

Members of the public may observe the meeting via YouTube Live Streaming at [www.youtube.com/c/PlanRVA](http://www.youtube.com/c/PlanRVA). Opportunities for sharing comments are described in the [Public Participation](#) guide on the [www.PlanRVA.org](http://www.PlanRVA.org) website.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Le Duc).....

### STATEMENT REGARDING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

(Parsons)..... page 1

### ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

(Mueller).....

### 1. Consideration of Amendments to the Action Meeting Agenda

(Le Duc).....

### 2. Approval of June 8, 2021 TAC Action Meeting Minutes

(Le Duc)..... page 2

#### **Action Requested**

### 3. Open Public Comment Period

(Le Duc/5 minutes).....

### 4. TAC Chairman's Report

(Le Duc/10 minutes).....

### 5. RRTPO Update

(Parsons/10 minutes)..... page 10

- a. Federal Recertification
- b. Fall Transportation Forum
- c. Current Work Efforts
- d. CVTA Update – [CVTAva.org](http://CVTAva.org)
- e. ConnectRVA 2045 Update

<b>6. FY21 – FY24 TIP Amendment: GRTC Request</b> (Busching/10 minutes) .....	page 12
<b>Action Requested</b>	
<b>7. CRRSAA Highway Infrastructure Program Funds</b> (Busching/10 minutes) .....	page 15
<b>Action Requested</b>	
<b>8. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside</b> (Busching/5 minutes) .....	page 17
<b>9. Draft Regional Conformity Report</b> (Aryal/10 minutes) .....	page 18
<b>Action Requested</b>	
<b>10. Transportation Agency Updates</b> (VDOT, DRPT/10 minutes).....	
a. DRPT - Dubinsky	
b. GRTC - Torres	
c. RideFinders – O’Keeffe	
d. VDOT - McAdory	
<b>11. Future Meeting Topics</b> (Amos/5 minutes).....	page 19
<b>12. TAC Member Comments</b> (Amos/5 minutes) .....	
<b>13. Next Meeting: August 10, 2021</b> (Amos) .....	
<b>14. Adjournment</b> (Amos).....	

CAP/nm  
Attachments

pc:	David T. Williams, RRTPO Policy Board Chair	Ron Svejkovsky, Tri-Cities MPO
	Upton Martin, CTAC Chair	Martha Heeter, PlanRVA
	Richard Duran, FHWA	TAC Interested Parties
	Daniel Koenig, FTA Liaison	Area News Media
	Jennifer DeBruhl, DRPT	

## Opening Statement for Electronic Meetings

Due to the 2020 COVID-19 virus and current guidance regarding physical distancing to reduce the potential for spread, meetings of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commissions will continue to be held in a virtual format as authorized by Va. Code § 15.2-1413 from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021. This meeting will be held through electronic communication means pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2021-181, adopted June 28, 2021.

While we meet in a remote/virtual format, we remain committed to public accessibility and opportunity to participate. Staff provided notice of this meeting to members and the public through electronic posting on the PlanRVA website and email distribution of notice to members, alternates, and known interested parties, including the media.

This meeting will be recorded. Audio and visual recordings of the meeting and materials will be posted on the PlanRVA website within 48 hours of this meeting.

Any member of the public participating as an observer during the meeting today may submit comments or questions at any time prior to or during the meeting via email at [rrtpoinput@PlanRVA.org](mailto:rrtpoinput@PlanRVA.org). All comments and questions submitted at this time will be reviewed following the meeting and to the extent practical, responses will be provided or posted on the PlanRVA website.

We ask that members identify themselves first when speaking so we can more accurately record the activities of the meeting. All lines should be muted to minimize additional noise and feedback. You may unmute your line at any time to request acknowledgement from the Chair.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the process for assuring effective facilitation of this meeting or for how members of the public may participate.

By providing this statement, staff certifies that we have followed the approved procedures for appropriate notice of this meeting and the means by which we are convening.

Please indicate your presence by saying "HERE" when your name is called during a roll call. Anyone who wishes to identify themselves following the roll call of members will be invited to do so.

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

**MINUTES OF ACTION MEETING  
PlanRVA James River Board Room  
June 8, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS and ALTERNATES (A) PRESENT:**

<b>Town of Ashland</b>		<b>Charles City County</b>		<b>Chesterfield County</b>	
Nora D. Amos, FY21 Chair	x	(vacant)		Barbara K. Smith	x
Vacant (A)				Chessa Walker (A)	x
<b>Goochland County</b>		<b>Hanover County</b>		<b>Henrico County</b>	
Thomas M. Coleman	x	Joseph E. Vidunas	x	Sharon Smidler	x
Mike Campbell (A)		J. Michael Flagg (A)	x	Todd Eure (A)	
<b>New Kent County</b>		<b>Powhatan County</b>		<b>City of Richmond</b>	
Kelli Le Duc, FY21 Vice Chair	x	Bret Schardein	x	Dironna Moore Clarke	x
		Andrew Pompei (A)		Travis A. Bridewell (A)	
<b>Capital Region Airport Commission</b>		<b>DRPT</b>		<b>GRTC</b>	
John B. Rutledge	x	Tiffany T. Dubinsky	x	Adrienne Torres	x
		Grant Sparks (A)		Emily E. DelRoss (A)	x
<b>PlanRVA</b>		<b>RideFinders</b>		<b>RMTA</b>	
Chet Parsons	x	Von S. Tisdale		Theresa Simmons	
Sulabh Aryal (A)	x	John O'Keeffe (A)	x		
<b>VDOT</b>					
Liz McAdory	x				
Jacob C. Herrman	x				

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. Voting record tables are attached to the action meeting minutes in Appendix A. A recording of this meeting is available on our [Plan RVA YouTube Channel](#).

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Nora D. Amos, presided and called the June 8, 2021 RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF MEETING QUORUM**

Nicole Mueller, Program Coordinator, took attendance by roll call and certified that a quorum was present.

## 1. Consideration of Amendments to the Action Meeting Agenda

Staff recommended to change the regular July 13 TAC meeting to July 7 at 8:30 a.m. The reason for this change is to accommodate the LRTP interagency review for air quality conformity. There is significant overlap between the TAC and the conformity review and rather than have two separate meetings, staff has combined them into one meeting that fits the timeline for conformity review.

On motion of Joseph E. Vidunas, seconded by Barbara K. Smith, the June 8, 2021 agenda was approved by acclamation as amended (voice vote).

## 2. Approval of May 11, 2021 RRTPO TAC Action Meeting Minutes

On motion of Barbara K. Smith, seconded by John O’Keeffe, the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously approved the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting by acclamation as presented (voice vote).

## 6. Richmond Urbanized Area Critical Urban Freight Corridor Designation

On motion of Joseph E. Vidunas, seconded by Sharon Smidler, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously recommended RRTPO Policy Board approval of the following resolution as presented (see Appendix A):

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval of the [designation of the Critical Urban Freight Corridors](#) (CUFC) as determined by OIPI.

## 7. FY21 – FY24 TIP Amendments: VDOT Request

On motion of Barbara K. Smith, seconded by Joseph E. Vidunas, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously recommended RRTPO Policy Board approval of the following resolution as presented (see Appendix A):

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board amends the *FY21 – FY24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* adding the following two new projects and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these projects are considered exempt from conformity under provisions contained in section 93.126 of the conformity rule as follows:

### Two New Projects:

- UPC 118144: Rt 360 Superstreets Study from Winterpock Rd to Harbour Point Pkwy/Mockingbird Ln project—Chesterfield County; **Study**
- UPC 118145: Rt 60 Corridor Improvement Study from Winterfield Rd/LeGordon Dr to Old Buckingham/Woolridge Rd project—Chesterfield County; **Study**

## 8. Draft RSTP/CMAQ Guidelines

The RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee recommended to revise the “Project Development and Reporting” section of the document to change the quarterly reporting requirement to a semiannual reporting requirement.

On motion of Dironna Moore Clarke, seconded by Sharon Smidler, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously recommended RRTPO Policy Board approval of the following resolution as amended (see Appendix A):

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board adopts the Regional Project Selection and Allocation Framework for the allocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set Aside funds.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the RRTPO Policy Board rescinds the Richmond Area MPO RSTP and CMAQ Project Review, Selection, and Funds Allocation Process.

## 10. Election of FY22 RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee Officers

On motion of Barbara K. Smith, seconded by Dironna Moore Clarke, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) voted unanimous approval of the following resolution (see Appendix A):

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization elects Kelli LeDuc as FY22 Chair and Sharon Smidler as FY22 Vice Chair to serve from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

## 11. Transportation Agency Updates

\*\* A copy of the [Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation](#) update provided by Tiffany Dubinsky, Statewide Transit Planner at DRPT, is available at: [DRPT Update](#)

\*\* Emily DelRoss, [GRTC](#)'s Acting Director of Planning and Scheduling, provided the following update:

- The next [GRTC Board of Directors meeting](#) will be on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

\*\* John O’Keeffe, Account Executive at [RideFinders](#), provided the following update:

- Participated in Sportsbacker/BikeWalkRVA crosswalk mural painting for pedestrian and cyclist safety;
- Participated in GroundworkRVA/Bellemeade Community Center Bike Race;
- Attended a Bike to School Event at Cool Spring Elementary in Hanover County with 138 riders;
- Celebrated National Bike Month encouraging commuters and others to bike commute for work, errands, etc.;
- Promoted TDM Week May 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>;
- Launched "It's A Green Thing" Clean Air Campaign;

- Promoted Virginia's Celebrate Transportation Day which showcases each Virginia multimodal transportation agency and all that is offered to residents and visitors;
- Working with other state TDM agencies and DRPT on how vanpooling may look post COVID;
- Continue to work on projects with The City of Richmond and Tri-Cities as well as GRTC;
- Worked with representatives from DRPT, RRPDC and VDOT to get federal authorization for FY 21 CMAQ funding contract;
- Working with Mike Tardiff, ED of the Central New Hampshire Planning District Commission on RideFinders Outreach strategies and initiatives and having account executives present at their meeting this month;
- Scheduled RideFinders Advisory Board Meeting for the end of the month.

\*\* A copy of the [Virginia Department of Transportation](#) update provided by Liz McAdory, District Planning Manager at VDOT, is available at: [VDOT Update](#)

## **12. Future Meeting Topics**

- Bylaws amendment proposal to formally authorize virtual meetings through remote communication and establish criteria for conducting such virtual meetings.

## **14. Next RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

Chair Amos noted the next regular RRTPO TAC action meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

## **15. Adjournment:**

Chair Amos adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m. on June 8, 2021.

CAP/nm

## APPENDIX A

### RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Voting Record Tables

#### Item 6. Action on Richmond Urbanized Area CUFC Designation

Jurisdiction/Agency	Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Town of Ashland	Nora D. Amos	x			
Charles City County	(vacant)				
Chesterfield County	Barbara K. Smith	x			
Goochland County	Thomas M Coleman	x			
Hanover County	Joseph E. Vidunas	x			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler	x			
New Kent County	Kelli Le Duc	x			
Powhatan County	Bret Schardein	x			
City of Richmond	Dironna Moore Clarke	x			
Capital Region Airport Commission	John B. Rutledge	x			
DRPT	Tiffany T. Dubinsky	x			
GRTC Transit System	Adrienne Torres	x			
PlanRVA	Chet Parsons	x			
RideFinders	John O'Keefe (A)	x			
RIC Metropolitan Transp. Authority	Theresa Simmons				x
VDOT	Liz McAdory	x			
<b>TOTAL</b>		14			1

Quorum is at least one-half of TAC's membership to include a minimum of four local government representatives (as per Article V, Section 2 of the bylaws).



### Item 7. Action on FY21 – FY24 TIP Amendments: VDOT Request

Jurisdiction/Agency	Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Town of Ashland	Nora D. Amos	x			
Charles City County	(vacant)				
Chesterfield County	Barbara K. Smith	x			
Goochland County	Thomas M Coleman	x			
Hanover County	Joseph E. Vidunas	x			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler	x			
New Kent County	Kelli Le Duc	x			
Powhatan County	Bret Schardein	x			
City of Richmond	Dironna Moore Clarke	x			
Capital Region Airport Commission	John B. Rutledge	x			
DRPT	Tiffany T. Dubinsky				Not able to record a voice vote
GRTC Transit System	Adrienne Torres	x			
PlanRVA	Chet Parsons	x			
RideFinders	John O’Keeffe (A)	x			
RIC Metropolitan Transp. Authority	Theresa Simmons				x
VDOT	Liz McAdory	x			
<b>TOTAL</b>		13			2

Quorum is at least one-half of TAC’s membership to include a minimum of four local government representatives (as per Article V, Section 2 of the bylaws).

### **Item 8. Action on RSTP/CMAQ Guidelines**

<b>Jurisdiction/Agency</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Town of Ashland</b>	Nora D. Amos	x			
<b>Charles City County</b>	(vacant)				
<b>Chesterfield County</b>	Barbara K. Smith	x			
<b>Goochland County</b>	Thomas M Coleman	x			
<b>Hanover County</b>	Joseph E. Vidunas	x			
<b>Henrico County</b>	Sharon Smidler	x			
<b>New Kent County</b>	Kelli Le Duc	x			
<b>Powhatan County</b>	Bret Schardein	x			
<b>City of Richmond</b>	Dironna Moore Clarke	x			
<b>Capital Region Airport Commission</b>	John B. Rutledge				x
<b>DRPT</b>	Tiffany T. Dubinsky	x			
<b>GRTC Transit System</b>	Adrienne Torres	x			
<b>PlanRVA</b>	Sulabh Aryal (A)	x			
<b>RideFinders</b>	John O'Keeffe (A)	x			
<b>RIC Metropolitan Transp. Authority</b>	Theresa Simmons				x
<b>VDOT</b>	Liz McAdory	x			
<b>TOTAL</b>		13			2

Quorum is at least one-half of TAC's membership to include a minimum of four local government representatives (as per Article V, Section 2 of the bylaws).

### Item 10. Election of FY22 RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee Officers

Jurisdiction/Agency	Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Town of Ashland	Nora D. Amos	x			
Charles City County	(vacant)				
Chesterfield County	Barbara K. Smith	x			
Goochland County	Thomas M Coleman	x			
Hanover County	Joseph E. Vidunas	x			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler	x			
New Kent County	Kelli Le Duc	x			
Powhatan County	Bret Schardein	x			
City of Richmond	Dironna Moore Clarke	x			
Capital Region Airport Commission	John B. Rutledge				x
DRPT	Tiffany T. Dubinsky	x			
GRTC Transit System	Emily E. DelRoss (A)	x			
PlanRVA	Chet Parsons	x			
RideFinders	John O'Keeffe (A)	x			
RIC Metropolitan Transp. Authority	Theresa Simmons				x
VDOT	Liz McAdory	x			
<b>TOTAL</b>		13			2

Quorum is at least one-half of TAC's membership to include a minimum of four local government representatives (as per Article V, Section 2 of the bylaws).

## **Current Work Efforts Update – Item 5.c.**

### **ConnectRVA 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan**

Staff has developed a draft cost constrained list of projects for the ConnectRVA 2045 plan from the “Universe of Projects”, which was approved by the RRTPO Policy Board on May 6. The constrained list of projects will come before RRTPO Policy Board for review and approval at their July 1 meeting.

### **Ashland Trolley Line Trail Study**

Staff attended the Friends of the Fall Line meeting on May 26 to provide updates on the Trolley Line Trail committee. Staff continues to work with the National Park Service’s Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, including a meeting on June 8 with their staff to explore the opportunity for adding the skills of an NPS public historian for greater interpretation of the trolley line’s former role in community connections through signage and self-guided walking tours. Two story maps for the project illustrate the importance and potential for the 14-mile Trolley Line Trail, now a segment of the Fall Line Trail, and include [history of the trolley line](#) and a [design sketchbook](#).

### **Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update**

Working with regional partners, staff continues to make additions and revise the interactive GIS story map data and foundational elements for the plan. The draft plan entitled *BikePedRVA 2045* including recommendations for priority projects to fulfill the regional network will be available for review by the steering committee at their next meeting on June 29 or 30<sup>th</sup>. This plan is being prepared concurrently with *ConnectRVA 2045* as a major update to the 2004 Richmond Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The Complete Streets toolbox or illustrated [story map](#) continues to be updated as one resource intended to implement *BikePedRVA 2045*.

### **Active Transportation Work Group (ATWG)**

In addition to the regular quarterly meetings, staff continues to support Henrico staff on the County’s ATWG and efforts to develop the bicycle and pedestrian chapter of the county’s comprehensive plan. Staff also assists the East Coast Greenway on potential designations of segments of the future route of the trail through the Richmond region.

### **Public Transportation Work Group**

The RRTPO Public Transportation Work Group continues to meet as needed to support the development of the GRTC Regional Transportation Plan. The draft plan was shared with RRTPO TAC on June 8<sup>th</sup>, CVTA TAC on June 11<sup>th</sup>, and the full CVTA on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The Authority approved the FY22 Regional Public Transportation Plan at their June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Vision Zero Work Group**

The RRTPO Vision Zero Work Group is working with VDOT and their consultant on a regional action plan. The data collection and analysis kicked off with a work group meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> and will progress for the next few months, with the next meeting

scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup>. This action plan will be a great resource for member localities as they position for safety improvements around the region. A schedule for completion of the plan is being developed.

**Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)**

Staff has provided road network resiliency mapping and data to help the four (4) rural localities which have made up RTAC over the years of the Rural Transportation Program to consider long-term resiliency in their own planning and prioritization for roadway and bridge/culvert improvements. This data will help them work with VDOT to ensure better service to populations vulnerable to flooding. The data has also been useful throughout the Richmond region to assist in measuring “environmental resiliency” performance for project scoring through the LRTP process. Funding opportunities for implementing flood prevention measures, addressing hazard mitigation, and coastal resiliency have also been shared with RTAC. Staff will work with RTAC through the transition to inclusion of the full geography of the rural localities into the designated TPO jurisdiction by October 2021.

**TAC AGENDA 7/7/21; ITEM 6.**

**FY21 – FY24 TIP AMENDMENTS: GRTC REQUEST**

**Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization**

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Review and provide recommendation to the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board on a request from GRTC to amend the FY21 – FY24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a new project.

**BACKGROUND:** The RRTPO Policy Board has received a request from GRTC to amend the TIP to add a new project. Amendment details are outlined below:

**One New Project:**

- UPC GRTC069: Shop Equipment Shed – GRTC

**TAC ACTION REQUESTED:** The following resolution is presented for TAC review and recommendation to the RRTPO for approval:

**RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board amends the *FY21 – FY24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* adding the following new project and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this project is considered exempt from conformity under provisions contained in section 93.126 of the conformity rule as follows:

**One New Project:**

- UPC GRTC069: Shop Equipment Shed – GRTC; **Mass Transit - Reconstruction or renovation of transit buildings and structures**

Attachments

CAP/jl

# FY 2021 to FY 2024 Richmond Region TPO Transportation Improvement Program

## Public Transportation

**UPC**    **GRTC069**

**Jurisdiction:**      GRTC

**Route/Street:**

**Description:**      Shop Equipment Shed

**Scope:**              Transit

**From:**

**To:**

**Length:**

**Administered By:** GRTC

**Regionally Significant:**

No Image Available

**MPO Note:**

### Schedule

Phase	Start	End	Status
<b>Preliminary Engineering (PE):</b>			
<b>Right of Way (RW):</b>			
<b>Construction (CN):</b>			

### Cost Estimates / Previous Obligations

### Goals addressed

<b>Cost Estimates</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Congestion</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>PE:</b>	<b>Freight</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Landuse</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>RW:</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Reliability</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Multimodal</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>CN:</b>						
<b>Total:</b>						

### Federal Obligations

Fund Source	Federal Obligations			
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
FTA 5307	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
State	\$17,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

### Amendments

**Amd 20**      8/5/2021 Approved

1). This is a new project added to the TIP. 2). Obligate \$7,000 FTA Sec 5307 funds (State match \$17,000 and local match \$1,000) to FY21.

Date Requested    6/22/2021

FY 2021 to FY 2024 Richmond Region TPO Transportation Improvement Program

Project Amendments - Tracking Records

Amd 20	GRTC069	GRTC	Shop Equipment Shed
8/5/2021	Approved	1). This is a new project added to the TIP. 2). Obligate \$7,000 FTA Sec 5307 funds (State match \$17,000 and local match \$1,000) to FY21. Date Requested 6/22/2021	



## TAC AGENDA 7/7/21; ITEM 7.

### HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (HIP) FUNDS

#### Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Provide direction to staff on the use of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funds.

**BACKGROUND:** In December 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) of 2021 was enacted. In this legislation, Congress appropriated nearly \$10 billion in supplemental funding to FHWA for the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP). The majority of this funding (\$9.8 billion) was apportioned to the states using the same formula as the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program which includes specific suballocations for urbanized areas with more than 200,000 people. For more information the program, please see the [FHWA implementation memorandum](#).

In total, the RRTPO share of the funding is \$7,642,406. This funding is split between two programs: HIP > 200k - \$1,166,204 and HIP-CRRSAA > 200k - \$6,476,202. Both funds are eligible to be used for anything that would be eligible for the STBG (formerly RSTP) program. In addition, the HIP-CRRSAA funds can also be used for preventative maintenance, routine maintenance, operations, personnel, debt service, availability payments, and other lost revenues (see the implementation memorandum linked above for details).

As with STBG funds, no local match is required for either program. The CTB provides the required 20% match for the HIP > 200k funds and the HIP-CRRSAA program allows for 100% federal funding and requires no match. These funds must be allocated, included in the TIP/STIP, and obligated before September 30, 2024, or they will lapse.

VDOT *strongly* recommends using the funds for existing projects in the SYIP to ensure they are obligated and expended within the allowable time.

**ALLOCATION APPROACH:** After consulting with VDOT and several of the member localities, staff has identified three primary approaches to using the HIP funds:

1. *STBG Replacement* – This option would allocate all funds to *existing* projects in the RRTPO's STBG program (or CMAQ program where eligible). Where the funds replace existing RRTPO allocations, the corresponding STBG or CMAQ funds would then be freed up and reallocated in the next cycle of project selection. This option would help to address the unfunded balance on existing projects caused by the reduction in FY22 – FY27 funding and would potentially free up additional funding for the FY23 – FY28 allocation cycle. As the projects are existing, the HIP funds would be readily obligated and the RRTPO would be assured that no funding would be lost. This is the approach recommended by VDOT.

2. *Limited Application Cycle* – This option would primarily use funding as an STBG/CMAQ replacement as described in Option 1. In addition, a limited application period for new *studies* could be held. No new studies were selected in the previous round of STBG allocations and studies are generally necessary to refine projects for future applications. Studies are only one phase and could be obligated within a year of selection. This option carries the risk of funds not being obligated on time as some studies funded through the STBG program have not advanced in a timely manner in the past or have not been completed as originally intended. This option has been raised in discussions with several localities.
3. *Full Application Cycle* – The final option identified by staff would be to hold a full application cycle open to all project types. Given the tight timelines for obligating the funds, this application process would be limited to a non-RRTPO projects already in the SYIP and the sponsors would need to be able to demonstrate additional funding is in place to ensure the project is able to advance and obligate the HIP funds on time. While the projects are existing, this option is complicated by the fact that the projects are not RRTPO-selected and would require a time-intensive evaluation and selection process. As non-RRTPO projects, additional funding from STBG or CMAQ could not be allocated if needed to ensure the projects advance on time, creating a potential risk.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Due to obligation requirements, staff recommends Option 1 to use the HIP and CRRSAA-HIP funds to replace STBG funds on existing projects only.

**TAC REQUESTED ACTION:** The following resolution is presented for TAC consideration:

**Resolved,** that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee directs staff to develop an allocations plan for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds to replace Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) allocations on existing TPO projects as outlined in Option 1.

## TAC AGENDA 7/7/21; ITEM 8.

### TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) SET-ASIDE

#### Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

**REQUESTED ACTION:** No action requested.

**BACKGROUND:** The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside program provides capital grant assistance for projects defined as “transportation alternatives” in federal code. The RRTPO TA allocations are directed towards on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving bike and pedestrian access to public transportation, trails that serve a transportation purpose, and Safe Routes to School projects.

The TA application process is administered by VDOT through the Smart Portal. The deadline for preapplications was July 1, 2021. For the final application, each project within the RRTPO study area must include a resolution of endorsement from the RRTPO. For more information on the application process and requirements, see the [VDOT Local Assistance Division web page](#).

To ensure the resolution of endorsement is approved before the October 1 application deadline, RRTPO staff is requesting that all project sponsors submit the proposed project information by July 23, 2021, via email. At minimum the summary should include the project name, a brief description, the total cost, and the requested TA funding.

**TAC REQUESTED ACTION:** No action is requested from TAC at this time. All project sponsors should submit a summary of the project to RRTPO staff by July 23, 2021, for review and inclusion in the MPO resolution of endorsement.

## TAC AGENDA 7/7/21; ITEM 9.

### DRAFT REGIONAL CONFORMITY REPORT

#### Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

**REQUESTED ACTION:** The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is expected to be given authority to open a public comment period on the draft regional conformity report by the RRTPO policy board at the July 1, 2021 meeting. TAC is requested to approve opening a comment period on the draft regional conformity report to run from July 9, 2020 to July 24, 2020.

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of the ConnectRVA 2045 plan (LRTP update), the Richmond-Petersburg Area is required to demonstrate conformity under the Clean Air Act (CAA). While in attainment for all current emissions standards, the region was a nonattainment area, and later a maintenance area, for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard. In 2018, the D.C. Circuit Court issued a decision in *South Coast Air Quality Management District v. EPA* which requires all nonattainment or maintenance areas under the 1997 standards to demonstrate conformity for the LRTP and the TIP, even when in attainment under the more stringent 2015 standards. The constrained list of projects in the ConnectRVA 2045 plan along with the ungrouped projects in the FY 21-24 TIP, will constitute the RRTPO set of projects for this analysis.

An interagency consultation meeting will be held immediately before the July 7, 2021 TAC meeting to review the process and methodology for the conformity analysis. The draft conformity analysis report will be provided prior to that meeting and will be sent to all TAC members when received. The proposed resolution opens a comment period on the conformity report as required by federal regulations.

**TAC ACTION REQUESTED:** The following resolution is presented for TAC approval:

**RESOLVED,** that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization opens a 15-day comment period for public review and input on the draft regional conformity report to run between July 9, 2021 and July 24, 2021.

SA

## **TAC AGENDA 7/7/21; ITEM 11.**

### **TAC Future Meeting Topics\***

#### **Future Meeting Topics**

- DRPT – FY 2022 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan
- ConnectRVA 2045 Updates
- Bike-Ped Plan Updates
- CVTA Update

\*Draft: This is not a comprehensive list of considerations and is subject to change.