

AGENDA

RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 10, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Le Duc).....

STATEMENT REGARDING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

(Parsons)..... page 1

ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

(Parsons).....

1. Consideration of Amendments to the Action Meeting Agenda

(Le Duc).....

2. Approval of July 7, 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 9

a. Federal Recertification - Update

b. Fall Transportation Forum – Topic Review

c. Current Work Efforts

d. Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report

e. ConnectRVA 2045 Update

6. CRRSAA Highway Infrastructure Program Funds <i>(Busching/10 minutes)</i>	page 13
Action Requested	
7. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside <i>(Busching/5 minutes)</i>	page 16
Action Requested	
8. STBG/CMAQ VDOT Coordination <i>(Busching/10 minutes)</i>	page 21
9. Transportation Agency Updates <i>(VDOT, DRPT/10 minutes)</i>	
a. DRPT - Dubinsky	
b. GRTC - Torres	
c. RideFinders – O’Keeffe	
d. VDOT - McAdory	
10. Future Meeting Topics <i>(LeDuc/5 minutes)</i>	page 24
11. TAC Member Comments <i>(LeDuc/5 minutes)</i>	
12. Next Meeting: September 14, 2021 <i>(LeDuc)</i>	
13. Adjournment <i>(LeDuc)</i>	

CAP/nm
Attachments

pc:	David T. Williams, RRTPO Policy Board Chair	Ron Svejkovsky, Tri-Cities MPO
	Upton Martin, CTAC Chair	Martha Heeter, PlanRVA
	Ivan Rucker, 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, meetings of the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization were transitioned to a virtual format in accordance with provisions of Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2 and related legislation approved by the General Assembly of Virginia during the period of the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration for COVID. The opportunity for public bodies to continue functioning in a virtual format has been extended and 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 (Richmond City Council Action).

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, including instructions for accessing the meeting and materials, 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 and accessible on the PlanRVA website.

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. 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
Zoom Meeting
July 7, 2021
8:30 a.m.**

MEMBERS and ALTERNATES (A) PRESENT:

Town of Ashland		Charles City County		Chesterfield County	
Nora D. Amos	x	(vacant)		Barbara K. Smith	x
Vacant (A)				Chessa Walker (A)	x
Goochland County		Hanover County		Henrico County	
Thomas M. Coleman	x	Joseph E. Vidunas		Sharon Smidler, FY22 Vice Chair	x
Mike Campbell (A)	x	J. Michael Flagg (A)	x	Todd Eure (A)	
New Kent County		Powhatan County		City of Richmond	
Kelli Le Duc, FY22 Chair		Bret Schardein	x	Dironna Moore Clarke	
		(vacant) (A)		Travis A. Bridewell (A)	x
Capital Region Airport Commission		DRPT		GRTC	
John B. Rutledge		Tiffany T. Dubinsky	x	Adrienne Torres	
		Grant Sparks (A)		Emily E. DelRoss (A)	x
PlanRVA		RideFinders		RMTA	
Chet Parsons	x	Von S. Tisdale		Theresa Simmons	
Sulabh Aryal (A)	x	John O’Keeffe (A)	x		
VDOT					
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

In the absence of the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee Chair Kelli Le Duc, Ms. Nora Amos presided and called the July 7, 2021 RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee action meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. The regular July 13 TAC meeting was changed to July 7 at 8:30 AM. The reason for this change was 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, the two meeting were combined into one meeting that fits the timeline for conformity review.

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

There were no requested changes to the meeting agenda. Seeing and hearing no objections, the July 7, 2021 agenda was approved by acclamation as presented.

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

On motion of Liz McAdory, seconded by Barbara K. Smith, the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously approved the minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting by acclamation as presented (voice vote).

6. FY21 – FY24 TIP Amendment: GRTC Request

On motion of Tiffany T. Dubinsky, seconded by Liz McAdory, 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 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**

7. CRRSAA Highway Infrastructure Program Funds

On motion of Barbara K. Smith, seconded by Liz McAdory, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously voted approval of the following resolution as presented (see Appendix A):

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.

9. Draft Regional Conformity Report

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

On motion of Liz McAdory, seconded by Barbara K. Smith, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously voted approval of the following resolution as presented (see Appendix A):

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.

10. 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:

- [Public Meeting on July 8th at 5:00 p.m.: Preview September Service Updates](#)
- The next [GRTC Board of Directors meeting](#) will be on July 20th, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

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

- Attended Commuter Assistance Program Grant Administration Workshop held by DRPT;
- Held the RAB meeting;
- Prepared Board Action and received authorized signature for the Resolution for the two (2) Commuter Assistance Project grant applications;
- Promoted Air Quality Education and worked on Air Quality awareness pledge announcement;
- Continue to promote "It's a green thing" clean air campaign;
- Promoted RVA Bike Share's survey regarding 20 new bike station locations;
- Promoted DRPT's public comment period on the policy brief for the new Transit Ridership Incentive Program;
- Communicated GRTC's continuation of zero fares;
- Attended GroundworkRVA Summer Bike Summit and Bike Races;
- Presented to Commute Smart New Hampshire staff a presentation on how RideFinders does employer outreach efforts as they are just starting a TDM program;
- Supporting GRTC on Micortransit program;
- Mr. O'Keeffe completed a 2 year course at the University of South Florida Commuter Choice Certificate.

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

13. Next RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Ms. Amos noted the next regular RRTPO TAC action meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

14. Adjournment:

Ms. Amos adjourned the meeting at 9:16 a.m. on July 7, 2021.

CAP/nm

APPENDIX A

RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Voting Record Tables

Item 6. Action on FY21 – FY24 TIP Amendment: GRTC 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	Mike Flagg (A)	x			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler, VC	x			
New Kent County	Kelli Le Duc, Chair				x
Powhatan County	Bret Schardein	x			
City of Richmond	Travis A. Bridewell (A)	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			
TOTAL		12			3

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 CRRSAA Highway Infrastructure Program Funds

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	Mike Flagg (A)	x			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler, VC	x			
New Kent County	Kelli Le Duc				x
Powhatan County	Bret Schardein	x			
City of Richmond	Travis A. Bridewell (A)	x			
Capital Region Airport Commission	John B. Rutledge				x
DRPT	Tiffany T. Dubinsky	x			
GRTC Transit System	Emily Del Ross (A)	x			
PlanRVA	Chet Parsons	x			
RideFinders	John O'Keeffe (A)	x			
RIC Metropolitan Transp. Authority	Theresa Simmons				x
VDOT	Liz McAdory	x			
TOTAL		12			3

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 9. Action on Draft Regional Conformity Report

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	Mike Flagg (A)	x			
Henrico County	Sharon Smidler, VC	x			
New Kent County	Kelli Le Duc, Chair				x
Powhatan County	Bret Schardein	x			
City of Richmond	Travis A. Bridewell (A)	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			
TOTAL		12			3

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

Following project scoring and discussions with project champions, the constrained list of projects was presented to RRTPO Policy Board for review and approval at their July 1 meeting. The requisite VDOT Air Quality Conformity public review process is also now underway. Staff continues to work on the full *ConnectRVA 2045* draft document, incorporating technical reports, and preparing for an active in-person and virtual public engagement process from August 16 through September 15.

Ashland Trolley Line Trail Study

Staff continues to work with the National Park Service's Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program 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. Plans are underway for a September field trip to the corridor with NPS staff. 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, project list, and foundational elements for the plan. The draft plan entitled *BikePedRVA 2045* including recommendations for priority projects to fulfill the regional network was presented to the steering committee for the plan on July 14. 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 Alliance (ECG) on potential designations of segments of the future route of the trail through the Richmond region and during quarterly ECG council meetings.

Public Transportation Work Group

The RRTPO Public Transportation Work Group wrapped up its support in the development of the GRTC Regional Transportation Plan. The draft plan was approved by the CVTA on June 25th.

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 13th and will progress for the next few months, with the next meeting scheduled for July 29th. 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 the four rural members of the RRTPO to prepare for the October 2021 full transition to urban designation in the RRTPO.

MEMORANDUM

To: Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board
RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee

From: Kenneth Lantz, Jr., RRTPO Mobility Manager

Date: July 16, 2021

Subj: RRTPO Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report

The following is a brief report on major discussion items from the July 15, 2021 CTAC meeting.

Disability Inclusive Transportation-Assessment of First/Last Mile Conditions in the Richmond Region

Rebekah Cazares highlighted the purpose of her study, which was to increase access to public transportation services in the Richmond region for individuals with disabilities. Examples of first and last mile barriers to public transit service were presented, along with estimates of the disability demographics in the region. All 240 census tracts in the region were analyzed with regard to their accessibility to transit, and a detailed case study was undertaken of a census tract having a high score on factors that limit access to transit. Recommendations to address first/last mile barriers to accessing transit were developed, along with a proposed implementation timeline.

Virtual Tour of the VDOT Richmond District Traffic Operations Center

Ed Correa of VDOT reviewed various aspects of the planning, construction and operation of a new Traffic Operations Center at the VDOT Richmond District Complex. In addition to reviewing the timeline for the design and construction of the facility, Mr. Correa noted some of the challenges encountered, the benefits of the facility and the number of traffic incidents, work zones, and weather events monitored and managed by the center during calendar year 2020.

City of Richmond Transportation Survey

Kelli Rowan of the City of Richmond Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility provided an overview of “Path to Equity”, a policy guide for the Richmond Connects equitable mobility and accessibility plan. Ms. Rowan noted that

efforts to engage the community in the planning process had included pop-up events and an on-going survey. To encourage participation, the City has arranged for a food truck to be present at upcoming survey events, and individuals completing the survey are given vouchers for free food.

Next CTAC Meeting

The next CTAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2021.

KEL/nm

TAC AGENDA 8/10/21; ITEM 6.

CRRSAA HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FUNDS

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: Review the proposed allocation strategy and provide a recommendation to the RRTPO Policy Board.

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 on 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.

At the July meeting, TAC directed staff to develop an allocations plan which uses HIP funds on existing STBG and congestion mitigation and air quality (CMAQ) projects only. Staff has coordinated with VDOT to prepare a recommended strategy for allocating this funding.

PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS: In developing the recommended strategy, staff reviewed all active projects with a new phase starting in FY23. After a review of the budgets, schedules, and delays in implementation, UPC 113846 (Early Settlers Rd Sidewalk: Robious Rd to Hospital/Park – Chesterfield) and UPC 112042 (Route 1 Improvements: Ashcake Rd to Arbor Oak Dr – Ashland) were identified as viable recipients.

VDOT also reviewed active projects and suggested replacing STBG funds on UPC 13551 for construction which is starting this fall. This project is scheduled for completion in FY23 and replacing STBG allocations provides a better match between funding years and project schedule.

Finally, UPC 118153 (Brook Rd & Hilliard Rd Trail – Henrico) was reviewed to advance funding. This spring, the RRTPO approved a transfer of previous CMAQ funding to advance preliminary engineering (PE) on the project. Funding for right-of-way (RW) and construction (CN) need to be advanced with the next allocation plan. Rather than significantly reworking the CMAQ allocations plan, staff worked with VDOT to develop an allocation which covers RW and the balance of CN.

The table below summarizes the projects proposed to receive HIP funding and the STBG or CMAQ funding which will be returned to the balance entry.

UPC	Program	HIP Funds	Replaced Funds	Surplus Year
113846	STBG	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	FY23
13551	STBG	\$1,869,997	\$1,638,526 \$ 231,471	FY23 FY24
112042	STBG	\$2,910,512	\$ 638,725 \$2,271,787	FY23 FY24
118153	CMAQ	\$2,711,897	N/A	Unfunded Balance

For STBG, the HIP funds will offset existing STBG allocations for projects which are advancing on schedule and will be able to meet the obligation deadline. In total, the proposed use of HIP funds will free up \$2,427,251 in FY23 and \$2,503,258 in FY24 STBG funding which will be reallocated to new or existing STBG projects in the next funding cycle which will begin in October.

For CMAQ, the balance to complete selected projects required after FY27 will be reduced by \$2,711,897, or 27%. Funding for the Brook Rd & Hilliard Rd segment of the Fall Line will be fully advanced (a process started with approval of the surplus CMAQ transfer this spring) and the project will be able to start this fall rather than FY24 as originally allocated in 2020.

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

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) of 2021 appropriated nearly \$10 billion in supplemental funding to FHWA for the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP); and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization share of the HIP funding is \$7,642,406; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board allocates the available HIP funds as follows:

- \$150,000 to UPC 113846
- \$1,869,997 to UPC 13551
- \$2,910,512 to UPC 112042
- \$2,711,897 to UPC 118153

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board approves the transfer of regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding from the recipient projects to the RRTPO balance entry as follows:

- \$150,000 in FY23 funds from UPC 113846
- \$1,638,526 in FY23 funds from UPC 13551
- \$231,471 in FY24 funds from UPC 13551
- \$638,725 in FY23 funds from UPC 112042
- \$2,271,787 in FY24 funds from UPC 112042

TAC AGENDA 8/10/21; ITEM 7.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) SET-ASIDE

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: Review the list of candidate projects and provide a recommendation to the policy board regarding endorsement of the applications.

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, at the July TAC meeting RRTPO staff requested that all project sponsors submit the proposed project information by July 23, 2021, via email. At minimum the summary was to include the project name, a brief description, the total cost, and the requested TA funding.

PROJECTS SUBMITTED: Projects were submitted by Chesterfield, Hanover, and Henrico counties for endorsement. The table below includes a name and description of each project.

Sponsor	Project	Description
Chesterfield	Courthouse Road Shared-Use Path (Rte 10 to Fallow Dr)	This project will continue the effort to provide a pedestrian and bike facility along Courthouse Road as recommended in the County’s Bikeways and Trail Plan. Ultimately this facility will connect to Pocahontas State Park.
Chesterfield	Fall Line (Shop St. to Chester Linear Park)	This project will construct a portion of the Fall Line Trail consistent with recommendations in the VDOT Ashland to Petersburg Trail study and will include a pedestrian crossing at the intersection with Route 10.

Chesterfield	Route 360 at Courthouse Rd	This project will install pedestrian accommodations at the intersection of Route 360 and Courthouse Road.
Chesterfield	Route 360 at Turner Rd	This project will install pedestrian accommodations at the intersection of Route 360 and Turner Road.
Chesterfield	Commonwealth Center Trail (Brad McNeer Pkwy to Craig Rath Blvd)	This project involves construction of a bike and pedestrian trail, which will run parallel to Swift Creek, from and along Brad McNeer Pkwy. to Craig Rath Blvd. The project also includes construction of a trailhead.
Hanover	Cool Spring ES Safe Routes to Schools	Install high-visibility crosswalk and replace painted median with curbed median and pedestrian refuge at Merrittcroft Ct & Honey Meadows Rd; install ~450 lf of sidewalk between school driveway and school access road; install ~70 lf of sidewalk between school driveway and Honey Meadows Rd; Add/replace sidewalk ramps as needed
Henrico	Lakeside Community Trail - Phase 1	This is a segment of the regionally significant Fall Line Trail. The project consists of approximately 0.66 miles of 12-ft wide multi-use trail, termini points are Spring Park and Dumbarton Road. A trailhead with a parking lot located at the southeast corner of Dumbarton Road and Gillespie Avenue.
Henrico	Lakeside Community Trail - Phase 2	This is a segment of the regionally significant Fall Line Trail. The project consists of approximately 0.50 miles of 12-ft wide paved multi-use trail, termini points are Dumbarton Road and Lakeside Recreation Area; Two 16-ft wide wooden bridges totaling 500-ft spanning over the Upham Brook waterway. Trail will connect to Phase 1 with an at grade crossing of Dumbarton Road. A spur trail, approximately 250-ft in length, will connect to the Brook Run Drive (Overlook at Brook Run apartment community).

Henrico	Lakeside Community Trail - Phase 3	This is a segment of the regionally significant Fall Line Trail. The project consists of approximately 0.80 miles of 12-ft wide paved multi-use trail, termini points are Lakeside Recreation Area and Hilliard Road. A 16-ft wide wooden bridge will connect the trail to Lakeside Recreation Area.
Henrico	Nuckols Road Corridor Shared Use Path	The project consists of approximately 5200-ft of shared use path connecting Springfield Road to Francistown Road. Approximately 3200-ft will be off-road accommodations and 2000-ft on-road accommodations. Construction will include one 16-ft wide bridge approximately 200-ft in length going over the Meredith Branch tributary. Trail will follow the existing Nuckols Road right of way alignment
Richmond	A Carnation St Phase II	Sidewalk improvements, new curb extensions, new curb ramps and bike/pedestrian improvements from Leigh Street to 23rd Street
Richmond	B SR 147 (Main St) Ped Safety (Ph I)	Construct Pedestrian curb extensions on Main Street from Belvidere Street to Arthur Ashe Boulevard
Richmond	C SR 147 (Cary St) Ped Safety (Ph II)	Construct Pedestrian curb extensions on Cary Street from Arthur Ashe Boulevard to Belvidere Street
Richmond	D US 360 (Hull St) PHB	Install newly pedestrian hybrid beacons on Hull Street at the intersection of 29th Street
Richmond	E Gilles Creek Greenway Phase IV	Extend the shared-use path that is currently in final design approximately 0.8 miles from Jenny Scher Rd to E. Richmond Rd.

Richmond	F Scott's Addition Greenway	Project will construct curb and gutter, sidewalk, shared use path, and retaining walls as needed from Summit Ave to Altamont Ave
Richmond	G Downtown Core Protected Bike Lanes	Enhance the downtown protected bike lanes by installing physical protection and separation between the bike lanes and motor vehicle lanes on Franklin St from Belvidere to 9th, on 1st St from Duval to Franklin, and on 3rd St from Broad to Byrd, consistent with the design proposed by the Fall Line Trail study.
Richmond	H Patterson Avenue Bike Lanes	Extend the parking-protected bike lanes on Patterson Avenue approximately one mile from Commonwealth Avenue to Willow Lawn Drive.
Richmond	I US Route 1 PHBs	Install new Pedestrian hybrid beacons on Rte. 1 at two locations; Dinwiddie Ave and Westminster Ave
Richmond	J Forest Hill Ave Bike/Ped Improvements	Construct bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Forest Hill Ave from 41st Street to 43rd Street, enhancing safety and reducing conflicts with motor vehicles.
Richmond	K Jefferson Avenue Phase II	Sidewalk improvements, new curb extensions, new curb ramps and bike/pedestrian improvements from Leigh Street to 23rd Street

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

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Guidance requires all Transportation Alternatives applications located within the boundaries of a Metropolitan Planning Organization to obtain a resolution of endorsement from the appropriate MPO; and

WHEREAS, Chesterfield, Hanover and Henrico counties and the City of Richmond have indicated their intent to submit FY23 – FY24 Transportation Alternatives applications for the following projects:

Chesterfield County

- Courthouse Road Shared Use Path (Route 10 to Fallow Drive)
- Fall Line (Shop Street to Chester Linear Park)
- Route 360 at Courthouse Road
- Route 360 at Turner Road
- Commonwealth Center Trail (Brad McNeer Pkwy to Craig Rath Blvd)

Hanover County

- Cool Spring ES Safe Routes to Schools

Henrico County

- Lakeside Community Trail – Phase 1
- Lakeside Community Trail – Phase 2
- Lakeside Community Trail – Phase 3
- Nuckols Road Corridor Shared Use Path

City of Richmond

- A Carnation St Phase II
- B SR 147 (Main St) Ped Safety (Ph I)
- C SR 147 (Cary St) Ped Safety (Ph II)
- D US 360 (Hull St) PHB
- E Gilles Creek Greenway Phase IV
- F Scott's Addition Greenway
- G Downtown Core Protected Bike Lanes
- H Patterson Avenue Bike Lanes
- I US Route 1 PHBs
- J Forest Hill Ave Bike/Ped Improvements
- K Jefferson Avenue Phase II

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization endorses these projects as applications for the FY23 – FY24 Transportation Set-Aside process.

TAC AGENDA 8/10/21; ITEM 8.

STBG/CMAQ VDOT COORDINATION

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: No action requested at this time.

BACKGROUND: Selecting and prioritizing projects for funding is one of the primary roles of the RRTPO in developing the regional transportation system. Projects selected by the TPO to receive funding are included in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for adoption by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). This process usually takes place from October to April of each fiscal year.

In June of 2021, the RRTPO Policy Board adopted new guidelines for project selection and allocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The newly adopted guidelines can be reviewed [on the PlanRVA website](#).

A new requirement included in the guidelines is sponsor coordination with VDOT prior to submission of any application which will lead to construction. In the past, RRTPO staff has sent projects to VDOT for review which left little time to coordinated changes with project sponsors. The new approach allows project sponsors to work directly with VDOT to review the project estimate and schedule, allowing for more efficient and timely review. Coordination with VDOT can happen at any time, but the primary window for coordination will be July to October each year. This is the period when VDOT will have the most resources available to work on STBG/CMAQ projects.

To ensure adequate time for review, requests for coordination must be submitted to RRTPO staff via email no later September 29, 2021. RRTPO staff will review the projects for eligibility and email the sponsor and VDOT to initiate the review process. Project sponsors are encouraged to submit projects for coordination as early as possible.

A memo summarizing the coordination process and options for VDOT assistance is attached to this staff report. For any questions or to initiate the review process, please reach out to Myles Busching at mbusching@planrva.org.

Attachment

VDOT Coordination Guidelines

Purpose

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) coordinates closely with VDOT in the review of Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (RSTBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) project applications. VDOT has provided project cost estimate and schedule validation for several years during the project review process. This validation is used to develop funding plans for VDOT administered projects and to understand potential risks for projects that are intended to be locally administered.

To enhance coordination between project sponsors and VDOT, the Regional Project Selection and Allocation Framework requires applicants to coordinate review of the estimate and schedule for projects leading to construction with VDOT directly prior to submitting an application. This document lays out the options, process, and schedule for this coordination.

Coordination Options

VDOT offers several coordination options to assist in project development. The several options are detailed below.

1. **Project Validation** – This option is required for all projects leading to construction. VDOT will review the project details and prepare a recommended cost estimate and schedule for the RRTPO. This VDOT validation must be submitted with all applications for RSTBG or CMAQ funding if the project will lead to construction. For projects that are to be VDOT administered, the funding application must match the VDOT schedule and cost estimate. For projects that are intended to be locally administered, the funding application is not required to match the VDOT schedule and cost estimate.
2. **Concept Development/Refinement** – This option is available to applicants that have a concept which is not yet detailed enough for an application such as an improvement included in a comprehensive plan. VDOT will help the sponsor to refine the project scope and develop project sketches, estimates, and schedules as needed to prepare for the application.
3. **Studies** – This option covers a range of potential coordination options including operational studies, safety studies, STARS studies, and AMP studies. These options can provide more information to applicants who have identified issues but have not yet identified solutions or who have project concepts that need additional study.

Process

The process for coordinating a project application is outlined below:

1. **Eligibility Screening** – The project sponsor must submit an intent to apply to the RRTPO designated staff. RRTPO staff will verify sponsor, location, and project type eligibility. RRTPO will inform sponsor and VDOT of eligibility.
2. **Outreach to VDOT** – Once the project has been deemed eligible, the sponsor can begin coordination with VDOT Richmond District. Coordination begins by submitting an intent to coordinate to the VDOT Planning point of contact.
3. **Coordination** – VDOT planning will serve as coordinator between VDOT and the sponsor.

Schedule

VDOT is responsible for validating projects for a variety of funding programs. To ensure adequate time for project review, the primary coordination window will be from **June until three weeks before the application deadline** each year. Coordination is not limited to this time, but this is the time when VDOT staff will be most available to work on RSTBG and CMAQ applications.

Project validation must be requested at least three (3) weeks before the application deadline. For concept development and refinement, the coordination period is expected to be longer and must be requested at least six (6) weeks prior to the application deadline. More complex studies such as STARS, AMP, corridor, and small/special area plans must be requested at least twelve (12) months prior to the planned application deadline.

TAC AGENDA 8/10/21; ITEM 10.

TAC Future Meeting Topics*

Future Meeting Topics

- Fall Transportation Forum
- 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.