

**RICHMOND REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 5, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John H. Hodges, **Chairman** Town of Ashland
Manuel Alvarez, Jr. Goochland County
Joi Taylor Dean..... RMTA
Jennifer B. DeBruhl.....DRPT
Kimberly B. Gray City of Richmond
Angela Kelly-Wiecek Hanover County
Cynthia I. Newbille..... City of Richmond
Patricia S. O'Bannon..... Henrico County
Patricia A. Paige New Kent County
W. Canova Peterson, IV Hanover County
Mark Riblett (Alternate)..... Secretary of Transportation Designee
Herbert A. Richwine (Nonvoting) CTAC
Von S. Tisdale (Nonvoting)..... RideFinders
David T. Williams Powhatan County
Christopher Winslow Chesterfield County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Floyd H. Miles, Sr., **Vice Chairman**..... Charles City County
Sheryl Adams (Alternate) GRTC Transit System
Andreas D. Addison City of Richmond
Parker C. Agelasto..... City of Richmond
Cliff Burnette (Nonvoting) DOAV
Richard Duran (Alternate, Nonvoting)..... FHWA
Steve A. Elswick..... Chesterfield County
James M. Holland..... Chesterfield County
John Lumpkins, Jr..... Goochland County
William E. Melton Powhatan County
John B. Rutledge..... CRAC
Frank J. Thornton Henrico County
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr..... New Kent County

CALL TO ORDER

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Chairman John H. Hodges called the September 5, 2019 RRTPO meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the PlanRVA James River Board Room.

CERTIFICATION OF MEETING QUORUM

Chet Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, certified that a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE

Chairman Hodges led the RRTPO policy board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Approval of RRTPO Agenda

Chet Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, noted the addition of one item for consideration under the Secretary's Report, a draft letter regarding a priority

for the I-95 Corridor Improvement Plan. On motion of David T. Williams, seconded by W. Canova Peterson, IV, the RRTPO policy board unanimously approved the September 5, 2019 meeting agenda as amended.

2. Approval of June 27, 2019 RRTPO Meeting Minutes

Chairman Hodges called for corrections or changes to the minutes and there were none. On motion of W. Canova Peterson, IV, seconded by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., the RRTPO policy board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

3. Consent Agenda

On motion of David T. Williams, seconded by Christopher Winslow, the RRTPO policy board unanimously approved the consent agenda as follows:

a. TIP Amendments: VDOT

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

- UPC 115193: Road Diet Study at Route 637/ Hopkins Road, Turner Road, Whitepine Road – Chesterfield County (various); \$300,000 RSTBG funds allocated in FY20; exempt under Planning and Technical Studies.
- UPC 115202: Countywide Sidewalk Plan – Chesterfield County (countywide); \$150,000 RSTBG funds allocated in FY20; exempt under Planning and Technical Studies, Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities.
- UPC 115534: Hopkins Road/Chippenham Parkway Interchange Modification Report (IMR) – Chesterfield County; \$500,000 RSTBG funds allocated in FY20; exempt under Planning and Technical Studies.

b. TIP Amendment: DRPT

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

- UPC T22896: Cash for Carpool Incentive Program – RideFinders; \$135,000 in CMAQ funds allocated in Fiscal Year 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this project is considered exempt from conformity under provisions contained in section 93.126 of the conformity rule under Air Quality – Continuation of ride-sharing and van-pooling promotion activities at current levels.

[The Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) meeting report was moved up on the agenda so that the CTAC Chairman could leave early.]

D. 2. Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report

Herbert A. Richwine, CTAC Chairman, reported that CTAC did not meet in August, but would meet on September 19. The July 18 meeting report is included in the agenda package.

Mr. Richwine mentioned difficulties with bus routes at the start of school that had been reported in the news and said as a former school principal, he encouraged supervisors and council members to be certain the school principals in their various jurisdictions were familiar with the bus routes and where the children riding them should be let off and picked up.

A. 4. Open Public Comment Period

There were no requests to address the RRTPO.

5. RRTPO Chairman's Report

John Hodges, RRTPO Chairman, reported as follows.

1. Presentation to FY19 RRTPO Chairman – Chairman Hodges expressed appreciation to Patricia S. O'Bannon, immediate past RRTPO policy board chairman, for her service and presented her with a gift basket of items donated by RRTPO policy board member jurisdictions and agencies.
2. Appointments to FY20 RRTPO Executive Committee – FY20 RRTPO Executive Committee members were announced as follows: Town of Ashland: John D. Hodges, Chairman, George F. Spagna, alternate; Charles City County: Floyd H. Miles, Sr., Vice Chairman, William G. Coad, alternate; Chesterfield County: Steve A. Elswick, James M. Holland, alternate; Goochland County: Manuel Alvarez, Jr., John L. Lumpkins, Jr., alternate; Hanover County: W. Canova Peterson, IV, Angela Kelly-Wiecek, alternate; Henrico County: Patricia S. O'Bannon, Frank J. Thornton, alternate; New Kent County: C. Thomas Tiller, Jr., Patricia A. Paige, alternate; Powhatan County: David T. Williams, William E. Melton, alternate; and City of Richmond: Cynthia I. Newbille, and Andreas D. Addison, alternate.
3. Ashland Express Bus Service – Reported as an information item only, there was a petition submitted to Town Council for Express Bus Service from Ashland to downtown Richmond from residents of the greater Ashland area. Chairman Hodges will be glad to provide a copy to anyone requesting it.
4. Seventh Annual Transportation Forum, November 7, Randolph-Macon College – Chairman Hodges noted that the Town of Ashland has secured facilities at the college and will provide refreshments. Chet Parsons mentioned topics that are being developed for the Forum. Angela Kelly-Wiecek noted a regional trail workshop on the regional trail from Ashland to Petersburg being sponsored by Sports Backers on October 29.

6. RRTPO Secretary's Report

Chet Parsons, RRTPO Secretary, noted a draft letter distributed at the table to Richmond District Commonwealth Transportation Board member Carlos Brown regarding projects recommended for priority consideration in the I-95 Corridor Improvement Plan currently being developed. Mr. Parsons indicated that Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Nick Donohue, is urging MPOs and jurisdictions to make their priorities known for this plan. Project

suggestions in the letter focus on the Bells Road interchange and the area around the Richmond Marine Terminal as well as Maury Street and the ramps at Chippenham Parkway.

On motion of Patricia S. O'Bannon, seconded by Cynthia I. Newbille, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission voted unanimous support of sending the letter to Carlos Brown, signed by RRTPO policy board chairman, John H Hodges.

Mr. Parsons reported on other items as follows:

- a. Current Work Efforts** – These are included under agenda tab three. The Ashland Complete Streets Pilot Project was highlighted noting the Public Open House being held on September 23, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Tuckahoe Library in Henrico County. This event is being facilitated by Smart Growth America and Michael Baker International and is an opportunity for stakeholders to review recommendations and to learn more about Complete Streets principles. Other projects being finalized this fall were noted and the Active Transportation Work Group meeting was noted with speakers on the Gambles Mill Eco-Corridor and the James River Park Master Plan. There was additional discussion on the Gambles Mill project.
- b. RRTPO Work Status and Financial Reports** – The work status and financial reports were included under tab three of the agenda package. Terry Eckhout was introduced as the new Director of Finance.
- c. Chesterfield Letter to CTB: Request COS Status for Route 288** – A letter from Chesterfield County to CTB member Carlos Brown was distributed at the table as an information item. VTrans, the statewide transportation plan, is being updated and comments were being solicited and other jurisdictions may want to submit similar letters.
- d. Scenario Planning Workshop** – Staff received a grant to bring in an expert from Kansas City, Missouri to conduct a workshop on scenario planning and how it impacts long-term regional goals. Mr. Parsons discussed the scenario planning approach and how it helps in developing strategies to address future states of the region. Staff would like to use an internal process for the 2045 long-range plan and expand to a full scenario planning process with public input for the 2050 plan.

B. OLD BUSINESS

L RTP Socioeconomic Data

Sulabh Aryal, Planning Manager, directed attention to the staff report contained in agenda tab four and noted that the full draft report was distributed digitally. The data has been amended or reviewed with minor changes in school enrollment data in Hanover County and a link to the revised Socioeconomic Data Report was sent with the agenda package. The Executive Summary of the Socioeconomic Data Report was distributed at the table. The Socioeconomic Data Workgroup and TAC have both reviewed the data and recommend approval; staff concurs with the TAC recommendation.

Mr. Aryal responded to questions explaining how the data was derived for each segment for both base year and future year. He clarified the definition of group quarters.

On motion of David T. Williams, seconded by Manuel Alvarez, Jr., the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) policy board unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) policy board approves the 2017 Base Year Socioeconomic Data and 2045 Future Year Socioeconomic Data at the Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ), Jurisdictional and Regional levels, as presented, to be used in the Richmond/Tri-Cities (RTC) Model update process.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Richmond Tri-Cities Model Overview

Sulabh Aryal, Planning Manager, noted the staff report contained in agenda tab five and explained that the regional transportation travel demand model (RTDM) is a mathematical description of transportation system characteristics including land use, transportation networks and travelers. The model is used to predict traffic volumes in the future based on anticipated changes in land use and is an essential analytical tool for both regional and corridor transportation planning. The current version of the RTDM has a base year of 2012 and a future year of 2040 and covers the areas of both the RRTPO and Tri-Cities MPO and is therefore referred to as the Richmond/Tri-Cities travel demand model (RTC Model); the base year and future year data is being updated to 2017 and 2045 respectively. The RTDM is managed primarily by RRTPO staff in conjunction with as-needed support from the on-call consultant. The model will be used in future corridor plans, scenario planning efforts, planning studies and to support development of the 2045 long-range transportation plan as well as for further analysis with other tools for traffic microsimulation, air quality conformity and economic modeling. He reviewed the spectrum of travel demand models noting that the RTC model is at the lower spectrum of design. Funds for model development and updates were provided by action of the RRTPO policy board. Mr. Aryal described the model development process in detail.

Questions brought forward the following major points:

- The model is updated every five years with every 10 years being compliant with state code requirements. Updating the model every five years costs more than \$400,000 and is time-consuming to gather regional data. Some jurisdictions update aggregate data annually.
- Consideration in SMART SCALE for projects as they align with the LRTP is tied back to the scoring for six different factors and congestion is one of those factors considered in the LRTP. To the extent that congestion is addressed by the model, jurisdictions would absolutely get points for congestion mitigation associated with a project. VDOT has a copy of the model they use to evaluate projects.

2. Transit Vision Plan: Phase II – Initial Recommendations

Ashley Licklitter and Ben Chambers, with Kimley-Horn, the study consulting firm, provided a presentation on the second phase of the Transit Vision Plan. The presentation delineated the differences in Phase I and Phase II and focused on implementation strategy for the next five years; existing conditions and near-term development; 20 high-frequency corridors; and determining near-term

service levels. The screening results for the 20 high-frequency corridors identified in Phase 1 narrowed near-term development to four corridors recommended for full development and eight corridors are being recommended for partial development. Next steps include doing a detailed analysis on initial segments; developing a recommended level of transit service for each corridor; and prioritizing corridors for near-term implementation.

Questions brought forward the following major points:

- Ridership assumptions were based on extensive interviews with GRTC staff regarding rider feedback they have received on new or extended service. At the August 9 Steering Committee meeting jurisdiction staff members discussed where they have observed at the end of a route people walking to get to school, jobs, and health care facilities, the first and last mile.
- Mr. Parsons said staff would send out the PowerPoint presentation and a list of the Steering Committee members so that RRTPO policy board members could discuss the study in more depth with those participants.
- There was a suggestion to have the maps prior to or available during the presentation and to post the presentation online so that members may access the information and be better informed for the presentation. This would enrich the conversation about the material being considered.

D. AGENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Transportation Agency Updates

a. VDOT – Mark Riblett, alternate Secretary of Transportation designee, reported as follows:

- Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Meetings Update:
 - At the last CTB meeting in July:
 - There was discussion on the I-95 Corridor Improvement Study. Public meetings held earlier this summer focused on existing conditions and identification of existing concerns. The next round of public meetings are anticipated for October to discuss projects that could address some of the identified problems.
 - The next round of SMART SCALE was discussed evaluating the last round and possible improvements for round four. There is a desire to have a more performance based planning approach; making sure that projects that will score best are tied to identified scoring factors.
 - HSIP was discussed and a desire to have a more systemic approach at a statewide level to address highway safety.
 - Received an update on the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
 - Project UPC 93087, the bridge repair project on 195 over 76 and CSX just north of the river was approved for award.
 - The next CTB meetings are scheduled for September 17 and 18 at the VDOT Central Office auditorium.
- The SMART SCALE round four pre-application open March 1; it is not too early to begin considering what projects to submit for applications.
- The CTB will be updated on VTrans in October with anticipated final approval at the December meeting.

- There will be public meetings on the Ashland to Petersburg Trail Study on October 1 north of the river and September 30 south of the river to present work that has been done on alignment based on the consultant work and the steering committee recommendations. Dates, times and locations are still being finalized.
- A public notice is out for comments for construction of an emergency pull-off on the I-95/I-64 overlap, one of the recommendations from the Overlap Study.

b. DRPT – Jennifer DeBruhl, Chief of Public Transportation, reported as follows:

- There are impacts to Amtrak schedules due to hurricane Dorian today and tomorrow [September 5 and 6] with cancellations in Richmond and Hampton Roads.
- Try Transit week is September 16 through 20 to promote travel by transit instead of single occupancy vehicle.
- Coordinated Human Service Mobility Plan meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2 with additional meetings being scheduled for transportation demand management programs in November.
- Preparations are being made for SMART SCALE round four. DRPT is requesting that they be advised by the end of this month of any potential transit projects being considered as applications so they can be sure to have the resources to assist with the application process.
- An application has been submitted for federal funding under their integrated mobility initiative for rural microtransit service in the Middle Peninsula /Northern Neck region along the Bay and also in Southwest Virginia. In response to a question, Ms. DeBruhl explained that microtransit is getting away from the large vehicle and fixed route service in favor of smaller vehicles and trips scheduled on demand. Funding would be for demonstration projects, but successful projects will be evaluated for additional funds.
- Funding will be available in FY21 to support other types of innovative mobility and transit projects and now is the time to talk to DRPT about any projects of interest for this funding.
- The DRPT submitted a nomination for recognition in the Americas Transportation Awards program to the Southeastern Association of State Highway Transportation Officials for the Pulse and the Pulse won in the Quality of Life Community Development award category being recognized specifically for the collaborative effort to fund and construct the Pulse.

2. Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report

This report was provided earlier in the meeting.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. RRTPO Member Comments

- Patricia Paige expressed appreciation for the three lanes on I-64 coming to Exit 205 in New Kent County. There is still a bottleneck and they will be tackling the congestion and widening I-64 through the county in the upcoming round of SMART SCALE.

- Canova Peterson said Hanover County has been working with Ms. DeBruhl and DRPT and others to establish a specialized transit program and they will be receiving RFPs next week to get that pilot program started.

2. Future Meeting Topics

Suggestions for additional future meeting topics should be submitted to the RRTPO Secretary.

3. Next Meeting: October 3, 2019

Chairman Hodges briefly reviewed upcoming meeting topics included in the agenda package.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hodges adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m.

CAP/sr