

AGENDA

RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD

**Thursday, August 5, 2021
9:30 a.m.**

PlanRVA James River Board Room

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.

CALL TO ORDER (Williams).....

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Williams).....

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Williams)

- **Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration**
RRTPO Policy Board Non-Voting Alternate

CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM (Mueller)

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Consideration of Amendments to the Action Meeting Agenda
(Williams)

2. Approval of July 1, 2021 RRTPO Policy Board Action Meeting Minutes
(Williams)page 1
ACTION REQUESTED

3. Open Public Comment Period
(Williams/5 minutes)

4. RRTPO Chair's Report
(Williams/5 minutes)

5. RRTPO Secretary's Report
(Parsons/5 minutes).....page 6
a. [Current Work Efforts](#)
b. [RRTPO Work Status and Financial Report for June 2021](#)

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Virginia's Transportation Program: Recent Changes and COVID Impacts**
(Mr. Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia/45 minutes)page 21
INFORMATION ITEM
2. **FY21 – FY24 TIP Amendments: GRTC Request**
(Busching/10 minutes)page 25
ACTION REQUESTED
3. **Draft Regional Conformity Assessment Report (draft report to be sent separately)**
(Aryal/10 minutes)page 29
ACTION REQUESTED
4. **ConnectRVA 2045 - Public Review and Comment Period**
(Aryal/10 minutes)page 33
ACTION REQUESTED

C. AGENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Transportation Agency Updates**
(VDOT, DRPT/10 minutes)
 - a. VDOT – Mann
 - b. DRPT – DeBruhl
2. **Community Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Report**
(Martin/10 minutes)page 35

D. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Future Meeting Topics**
(Williams/5 minutes)page 38
2. **RRTPO Member Comments**
(Williams/5 minutes)
3. **Next Meeting: September 2, 2021**
(Williams)

E. ADJOURNMENT

CAP/nm
Attachments

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 rrtpinput@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.

Agenda Item A.2.

*Minutes of the July 1, 2021 RRTPO Policy Board
Action Meeting*

1

REQUESTED ACTION

*The RRTPO Policy Board is requested to approve
the Minutes of the July 1, 2021 RRTPO Policy Board
action meeting as presented.*

**RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD**

MINUTES OF ACTION MEETING

Thursday, July 1, 2021

9:30 a.m.

PlanRVA James River Board Room

MEMBERS and ALTERNATES (A) PRESENT:

Town of Ashland		Charles City County		Chesterfield County	
John H. Hodges	x	William G. Coad		Kevin P. Carroll	x
Anita Barnhart (A)		Vacant (A)		James M. Holland	x
				Christopher Winslow	x
				Leslie Haley (A)	
Goochland County		Hanover County		Henrico County	
John L. Lumpkins Jr.	x	Sean M. Davis		Patricia S. O'Bannon	x
Vice Chair Susan F. Lascolette	x	W. Canova Peterson	x	Frank J. Thornton	
Vacant (A)		Faye O. Prichard (A)		Thomas M. Branin (A)	
Vacant (A)		Vacant (A)		Vacant (A)	
New Kent County		Powhatan County		City of Richmond	
Patricia A. Paige	x	David T. Williams	x	Andreas D. Addison	
C. Thomas Tiller Jr.		Karin M. Carmack	x	Katherine L. Jordan	
Thomas W. Evelyn (A)		Vacant (A)		Stephanie A. Lynch	
Vacant (A)		Vacant (A)		Cynthia I. Newbille	x
				Michael J. Jones (A)	
				Kristen Nye Larson (A)	
				Ellen F. Robertson (A)	
				Vacant (A)	
Capital Region Airport Commission		GRTC Transit System		RIC Metropolitan Transp. Authority (RMTA)	
John B. Rutledge		Julie E. Timm	x	Joi Taylor Dean	
		Sheryl Adams (A)			
Secretary of Transportation or Designee		CTAC		DRPT	
R. Shane Mann	x	Upton S. Martin (non-voting)	x	Jennifer B. DeBruhl (non-voting)	
Mark E. Riblett (A)	x	Lisa M. Guthrie (A) (non-voting)		Tiffany T. Dubinsky (A) (non-voting)	x
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)		Federal Transit Administration (FTA)		RideFinders	
Thomas L. Nelson Jr. (non-voting)		Daniel Koenig (Liaison)		Von S. Tisdale (non-voting)	x
Richard Duran (A) (non-voting)				Cherika N. Ruffin (A) (non-voting)	
VA Dept. of Aviation (DOAV)					
P. Clifford Burnette Jr. (non-voting)					

The technology used for the RRTPO Policy Board meeting was a web-hosted service created by Zoom and YouTube Live Streaming and was open and accessible for participation by members of the public. A recording of this meeting is available on our [Plan RVA YouTube Channel](#).

CALL TO ORDER

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board Chair, David T. Williams, presided and called the July 1, 2021 RRTPO Policy Board action meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in PlanRVA's James River Board Room.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Williams introduced Karin Carmack as the new policy board member representing Powhatan County.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF MEETING QUORUM

Nicole Mueller, Program Coordinator of the RRTPO, certified that a quorum was present.

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Consideration of Amendments to the Action Meeting Agenda

There were no requested changes to the meeting agenda.

On motion of Patricia A. Paige, seconded by Christopher Winslow, the RRTPO Policy Board unanimously approved the July 1, 2021 agenda as presented.

2. Approval of June 3, 2021 RRTPO Policy Board Action Meeting Minutes

On motion of Cynthia I. Newbille, seconded by Patricia S. O'Bannon, the RRTPO Policy Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 3, 2021 meeting as presented.

4. RRTPO Chair's Report

On recommendation of the RRTPO Executive Committee, the policy board discussed the declining trend in revenue sharing and the effects of the [Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021](#) on state transportation revenues which does not contain how the existing shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund's revenue will be covered. Members were concerned about the user-pays/user-benefits principle the gas tax was based on and how highway user tax revenues are being diverted to an array of non-highway uses. It was shared that the Commonwealth Transportation Board has delayed funding by four years and reduced funding for revenue sharing.

With the advent of the CVTA, more and more of the funding responsibility for transportation needs are pushed to the local level. General agreement among board members was that state and federal transportation agencies should honor their obligation commitment to the interstate highway system. The Byrd Road Act of 1932 was passed by the Virginia General Assembly with the purpose to relieve the county taxpayers of the cost of constructing and maintaining roads. It was recommended to send a letter to elected representatives so these concerns can be considered at the state and federal level.

On motion of W. Canova Peterson, seconded by Susan Lascolette, 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 directs staff to draft a resolution letter to elected officials of the United States Congress and the Virginia General Assembly to let the RRTPO Policy Board's position known as they work through the transportation bill and that those elected officials be invited for a discussion and;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RRTPO coalesce with the Central Virginia Transportation Authority to support these efforts.

VDOT staff offered to bring back a summary of all the revenue sharing changes that are impacted statewide for all areas. Staff will compose a draft letter that will come back to the policy board for their consideration, and staff will look for possible meeting dates with state and federal officials.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Action on ConnectRVA 2045 – Constrained List of Projects

On motion of Patricia S. O'Bannon, seconded by Christopher Winslow, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board unanimously approved the following resolution as presented:

RESOLVED, that the RRTPO Policy Board approves the draft 'Constrained List of Projects' for the ConnectRVA 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan as presented by staff and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RRTPO Policy Board approves the Constrained List of Projects in the ConnectRVA 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan and ungrouped projects of FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as RRTPO projects for air quality conformity analysis as required by federal regulations (23 CFR § 450.326) and authorizes the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review the draft conformity analysis and open the public review and comment period as needed.

2. Action on Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) Designation

On motion of John H. Hodges, seconded by James M. Holland, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board unanimously approved the following resolution as presented:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board approves the designations of the [Critical Urban Freight Corridors as determined by OIPI](#).

3. Action on FY21 – FY24 TIP Amendments: VDOT Request

On motion of Kevin P. Carroll, seconded by R. Shane Mann, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board unanimously approved the following resolution as presented:

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**

4. Action on Draft Regional Project Selection and Allocation Framework

On motion of John L. Lumpkins, seconded by W. Canova Peterson, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board unanimously approved the following resolution as presented:

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 and

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

C. AGENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Transportation Agency Updates

- a. ** A copy of the Virginia Department of Transportation update provided by Shane Mann is available at: [VDOT Update](#)
- b. ** A copy of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation update provided by Jennifer DeBruhl, Chief of Public Transportation at DRPT, is available at: [DRPT Update](#)

D. OTHER BUSINESS

3. Next RRTPO Policy Board Meeting: August 5, 2021

The next action meeting will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2021, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Richmond, Virginia.

E. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:46 a.m. on July 1, 2021.

Agenda Item A.5.

RRTPO Secretary's Report

2

NO ACTION REQUESTED – INFORMATION ITEM

RRTPO Secretary, Chet Parsons, will review items in the RRTPO Secretary's Report included under this agenda tab.

- a. Current Work Efforts..... pages 7*
- b. RRTPO Work Status and Financial
Report for June 2021..... pages 9*

Current Work Efforts Update – Item A.5.a.

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.



Work Program Status Report June 2021

PlanRVA

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The RRTPO Work Program Progress Report provides a short summary of each activity for the month of June 2021. Please reference the [2021 UPWP](#) for details concerning the approved budget and work description for each task. Table 1 identifies all the tasks in the UPWP and the associated budget.

Table 1 summarizes overall federal and local revenues budgeted by PlanRVA in FY 2021 to support the work of RRTPO. Federal funds budgeted constitute 80 percent of the total; State and local matching funds constitute 20 percent, unless otherwise noted.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF FY 2021 RRTPO UPWP BUDGET

Work Task	RRTPO Budget				TOTAL
	PL	5303	CO 5303	OTHER (I)	
	Total	Total	Total	Total	
7110 Program Management	145,661	67,619	-	-	213,280
7120 UPWP, Budget, and Contract Administration	45,242	7,873	-	-	53,115
7210 Public Outreach and Equity Analysis	147,980	56,457	-	-	204,437
7220 Special Planning Efforts	53,813	-	-	-	53,813
7230 Contingency Funding	16,584	-	30,000	-	46,584
7310 Metropolitan Transportation Plan	370,904	134,734	-	-	505,637
7320 Travel Demand Modeling & Emission Analysis	120,935	48,062	-	593,550	762,547
7330 Transit	47,310	137,265	-	-	184,575
7340 Active Transportation- Bicycle & Pedestrian	145,615	23,201	-	-	168,816
7350 Systems Resilience Plan	105,285	-	-	-	105,285
7410 Performance Based Transportation Planning	66,441	20,515	-	-	86,955
7420 Financial Programming/ Transportation Improvement Program	305,928	20,354	-	-	326,282
7430 Rail, Freight & Intermodal Planning	14,621	8,959	-	-	23,579
7500 Rural Transportation	-	-	-	72,500	72,500
TOTAL (\$)	1,586,320	525,038	30,000	666,050	2,807,408

(I) 7320 funds are RSTBG funds for travel demand model development and scenario planning, 7500 funds are PlanRVA allocated rural transportation funds shown for reference

7100 Program Management

7100	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Program Management	\$266,395	\$16,439	\$160,097	60%	10

- Developed agenda packets for the RRTPO Policy Board, Technical Advisory Committee and Community Transportation Advisory Committee
- Participated in a June 9 virtual meeting with Nicole Mueller and FY22 CTAC Chair and Vice Chair Upton Martin and Lisa Guthrie, respectively. Prepared a summary of the major points from the discussion.
- Participated in a June 15 in-person discussion of considerations related to institution of a more comprehensive agency telework policy. Followed up by providing a summary of the main points of a recent memo regarding safe return to work practices for Federal employees.
- Participated in the June 24 Livable Buckhead (GA) webinar, "The Future Is Now: Innovative Workplace Solutions." Prepared a summary of the main points of the webinar, which featured presentations and a discussion of workplace telework policies.
- Participated in the June 24 meeting of the Tri-Cities MPO and prepared a summary of the major actions
- Participated in the June 25 virtual VAMPO peer exchange meeting. Among the topics discussed were plans for re-opening and resuming in-person meetings; suggestions concerning audio-visual equipment for broadcasting meetings; agency telework practices and policies post-pandemic; inclusion of VDOT pipeline projects in regional plans and programs; support for the development of cost estimates for TAP applications; plans for the submission of Federal earmark projects; and upcoming virtual staff training
- Participated in the June 28 staff meeting. The topics included presentations by Andy Gillies of the Chesterfield County Planning Department and Amanda Roberts of Avid Core. Mr. Gillies reviewed some of the major development proposals that have been approved, which include adaptive reuse of several shopping centers. Ms. Roberts provided an overview of the PlanRVA community engagement strategy, including goals, audiences and key messages, tactics, and performance metrics.
- Participated in the June 30 Title VI Staff Workshop. Among the topics discussed were living out our commitments and the implications for PlanRVA staff; matching intentions with actions; how Title VI informs our mission and vision; public meetings and concerns; expectations of success, both technical and interpersonal; and recruiting and staffing concerns.

7210 Public Outreach & Equity Analysis

7210	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Public Outreach & Equity Analysis	\$204,437	\$2,109	\$83,055	41%	12

- LRTP Public Engagement coordination meetings - internal
- General outreach to planning partners and stakeholders, relating to ConnectRVA 2045 and other transportation projects.

7220 Special Planning Efforts

7220	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Special Planning Efforts	\$53,813	\$951	\$54,873	102%	14

- Data requests from planning partners and peer agencies
- GRP technical advisory steering committee
- Coordination with GRTC, RMTA, GRP, ChamberRVA and RRT on their initiatives and areas of overlap with our agencies.
- Data sharing discussions with GRTC, RMTA and GRP
- Coordination of speaking engagements to highlight agency achievements with groups like AMPO, NADO, and local/regional partners
- Coordinated with local staff, elected officials, and congressional representatives on developing project applications for potential federal earmarks.

7310 Long-Range Transportation Plan (ConnectRVA 2045)

7310	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
L RTP	\$505,638	\$32,543	\$507,394	100%	16

- Developed the constrained budget for the ConnectRVA 2045 plan based on VDOT and DRPT Revenue Projections.
- Developed the draft constrained list of projects for the ConnectRVA 2045 plan.
- Participated in the Project Champion (the nine localities and GRTC) individual meetings meetings) to discuss and address any concerns with the draft constrained list of projects from June 4 to June 11.
- Participated in the June 2 and June 24 virtual meetings of the ConnectRVA 2045 Advisory Committee. The primary topics included presentations on the constrained list of projects and the L RTP schedule.
- Continued groundwork and participation in the internal staff meetings to execute various tasks for the L RTP Including constrained plan development, plan evaluation, public participation strategy and website maintenance
- Participated in the June 1 virtual meeting of the L RTP Public Engagement Committee. Among the topics discussed were the comment period for the constrained projects list and desired public input; development of Wikimaps depicting the project time bands; and how the information from the public review period will be reported to the Advisory Committee
- Participated in the June 2 US DOT Volpe center webinar, “Innovation for a Sustainable, Equitable Transportation”. The webinar featured remarks by USDOT Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. Secretary Buttigieg noted the challenges facing our transportation networks and the role of automated vehicles in addressing some of these challenges; how to engage the next generation of transportation planners and administrators; and the importance of keeping safety at the forefront of all policies and programs.
- Participated in (observed) the June 2 virtual meeting of the ConnectRVA 2045 Advisory Committee. The primary meeting topics included the universe of projects scoring results, the budget allocation survey results, the constrained plan budget, and recommended list of constrained projects.
- Presented a summary of the May 20 CTAC meeting at the June 3 TPO Policy Board meeting
- Participated in the June 4 virtual meeting of the Tri-Cities MPO Technical Advisory Committee. Among the topics discussed were the final FY22UPWP; the status of SMART SCALE, Congressional earmarks, and RAISE applications; the Transit Ridership Incentive Program; and Plan2045 vision, candidate projects, and schedule
- Participated in the June 11 Mineta National Transportation Finance Summit presentation, “Electrifying the Transportation Future.” Opening remarks were provided by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who posed several key questions related to the production of electric vehicles (EV’s), the extent to which they will be accessible to all individuals and their impacts on climate change. Other speakers noted that widespread deployment of electric vehicles will require modernization of the electric power grid; that it will be necessary to address the growing pains of EV deployment such as providing a

convenient and accessible vehicle charging infrastructure; and creating an equitable means of collecting user fees (taxes) from the owners/users of EV's.

- Participated in (observed) the June 14 virtual meeting of the CVTA Technical Advisory Committee. Among the topics discussed were commitments to fund the Fall Line Trail, an update on the regional project prioritization measures, the CVTA FY22 Local Allocation Plan, and the FY22 regional public transportation plan
- Participated in (observed) the June 24 virtual meeting of the ConnectRVA 2045 Advisory Committee. The primary topics included a presentation on the constrained plan budget; summary of public comments received; presentation and approval of the constrained list of projects; and a review of the steps associated with the air quality conformity analysis.
- Participated in the June 30 FHWA ADA webinar, "The Role of MPO's in Transition Plan Implementation." The webinar featured an overview of the role of MPO's in ADA transition planning and included presentations on the involvement of two MPO's in the development of sidewalk inventories and assessments for compliance with the requirements of the ADA. The presentations reviewed the data collection points and tools and lessons learned in the production and review of pedestrian facilities databases.

7320 Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM)

7320	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
RTDM	\$762,547	\$8,638	\$136,709	18%	17

Consultant Support

- Continued discussion with the consultants and refinement of the tools being developed for Task 8: ConnectRVA 2045 Tools Development including RTC model-based tools, the accessibility tool, the Benefit Cost Analysis Tool and the Economic Impact Analysis Tool. These tools would be used to evaluate the ConnectRVA 2045 Constrained Plan.
- Reviewed the on-call consultant invoice and developed invoice cover memo for the invoice delivered on June 23, 2021.

7330 Transit

7330	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Transit	\$184,575	\$12,774	\$150,520	77%	18

- Staff is serving on a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) advisory committee with community partners to assist Greater Washington Partnership (GWP) conduct a data-driven research analysis of the next potential BRT route. PlanRVA's role is to provide

underlying statistics from the July 2017 Pulse Corridor Plan (prepared under contract by PlanRVA for the City of Richmond) sharing similar metrics which may be considered to measure viability of a north-south route. A stakeholder meeting for the new study was held on June 21.

- Reviewed the following documents:
 - Guidebook and Research Plan to Help Communities Improve Transportation to Health Care Services
 - VDOT Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) Use Case Summary
 - APTA Reimagining Transit
 - A New Autonomous Mobility Vision for Michigan
- Participated in the June 3 Transit Talk webinar sponsored by RVA Rapid Transit. The primary topic was transit governance, and the presentation included a brief history of public transit; recent planning activities, the functions and powers of the CVTA, a discussion of transit service governance going forward, and three keys to effective transit service governance in the future.
- Participated in the June 4 virtual meeting of the CVTA Transit Service Governance Subcommittee. The primary meeting topics included reports on transit service governance issues; oversight and accountability; representation by Henrico County on the GRTC Board of Directors; types, levels and costs of future transit service; factors for consideration associated with the creation of a transportation district; and areas of further study
- Participated in the June 8 VDOT virtual CAV Readiness Workshop. The workshop featured an overview of CAV's, CAV use cases and applications, and CAV investment considerations.
- Participated in the June 14 TRB webinar, "Redesigning Transit Networks for the New Mobility Future." The webinar featured an overview of TRCP 221-"Redesigning Transit Networks for the New Mobility Future: Resource and Toolkit." The presentation covered the reasons for bus network redesigns; eight key findings related to bus network redesign; and the contents of three redesign toolkits that can help facilitate the redesign process.
- Participated in the June 15 virtual meeting of the GRTC Board of Directors.
- Participated in the June 17 RVA Rapid Transit "Transit Talk" program, which featured a panel discussion of the importance of bus stop benches and shelters in contributing to the transit rider's experience and enhancing the overall transit service delivery system. Sean O'Brien of Bon Secours and Julie Timm of GRTC noted that of GRTC's 1650 stops, only 20% have benches and 5% have shelters. Mr. O'Brien noted that the findings of health assessments pointed to the need to improve community conditions and amenities, and for that reason Bon Secours has partnered with GRTC to provide 17 shelters in the East End of Richmond. Julie Timm described the steps that were involved in the installation of bus shelters and the importance of public dialogue, advocacy and involvement in identifying and prioritizing the locations of stops that warrant benches and shelters.
- Participated in the June 29 Eno Center for Transportation webinar, "Leveraging Transit Data: Best Practices for Data Management and Sharing." The webinar featured a discussion of why and how to share data, and the sources of external data. Topics discussed included the benefits, costs and challenges of sharing data, the pros and cons of public and private data sharing, and data sharing methods

Paratransit and CHSMP

- Participated in the June 10 NADTC webinar, "Making Mobile Trip Planning Work for You and Your Clients." The webinar featured an overview of how General Transit Speed

Specification (GRFS) data can be used to plan transit trips. It was noted that trip planners can enable the consolidation of data from multiple agencies and providers; present information in accessible formats and various languages; and enable users to choose among multiple modes, accessibility options, walking distances, and preferred departure and arrival times

- In preparation for the June 15 virtual meeting of the ModiviCare (formerly LogistiCare) Advisory Board prepared an update of recent activities related to ConnectRVA 2045, the regional public transportation plan, CTAC and the CVTA. Participated in the June 15 virtual meeting. The primary topic was an overview of a digital workflow initiative. Among the features of the new technology are a transportation provider scorecard, electronic verification of trips provided, the ability to pinpoint the exact locations of individuals waiting for a ride, and the ability to aggregate data and create trip summaries and score cards.
- In preparation for the virtual public meeting on the Senior Connections Area Plan for Aging Services, reviewed the documentation concerning the agency's Strategic Plan Update. Participated in the June 23 virtual meeting, offered comments on the plan, and followed up by e-mailing the comments to Senior Connections staff.
- Reviewed the following documents:
 - Autonomous Vehicles: Considerations for People with Disabilities and Older Adults

7340 Active transportation: Bicycle and Pedestrian

7340	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Active Transportation	\$168,816	\$19,235	\$162,465	96%	19

Active Transportation Work Group

- Staff continues to work with Henrico staff on the County's ATWG and efforts to develop the bicycle and pedestrian chapter of the county's comprehensive plan. Plans are underway to join Henrico staff and staff from the University of Richmond to tour the Gamble's Mill Eco-Corridor and also discuss safer bicycling and pedestrian connections into the campus.

East Coast Greenway

- Staff continued to work with East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECG) on updates to designated sections of the trail the Richmond region. The ECG coordinator for Virginia will be changing her role soon and PlanRVA staff has agreed to assist the ECG in the Commonwealth during this phase if the need arises.

Richmond Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

- Staff continues to meet with partner localities for project list inclusion and updates on funding for projects in concert with the ConnectRVA 2045 constrained project list.

- Staff consults with partners to make additions and revise the interactive GIS story map data collected for the plan. The draft plan is being written for review by the steering committee in mid-July.
- As part of the Bike/Ped plan, staff continues to develop and revise the [regional plan story map](#). The map and data have been presented to the steering committee and staff will continue to revise.
- Continued update of a SharePoint website and a Google Drive updated for committee members to share resources and their own observations of travel around the region on foot or bike. Committee continues to update a [WikiMap](#) shared by the LRTP.

Town of Ashland Pilot Project and Regional Guidance for Complete Streets

- Complete streets guidelines, or a “tool-box” of resources, depicted through graphic and photographic examples will to serve as implementation support for the regional bike/ped plan. These images are intended to show specific locations where good standards have been implemented and where infrastructure improvements could incorporate complete streets elements for better solutions throughout the region. The illustrated [story map](#) is available for review and continues to be updated in conjunction with the bike ped plan update.

Fall Line (formerly Ashland Trolley Line Trail / Ashland to Petersburg Trail)

- The National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program continues to provide technical assistance for the participating localities. Virtual call with NPS staff on June 8 scoped out possible approaches to add value through historic interpretation of the Trolley Line. Staff shared additional local input on July 1 with the NPS with plans to arrange a site visit in September. Two story maps for the project illustrate the importance and potential for the 14-mile Trolley Line Trail, including [history of the trolley line](#) and a [design sketchbook](#).

7350 Systems Resilience Plan

7350	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Systems Resil. Plan	\$105,285	\$1,626	\$21,572	20%	20

- Continued Coordination with coastal program initiatives, and hazard mitigation plan effort, including data mapping and overlap in programs among the eastern counties in the MPO study area.
- Development of GIS analysis to develop water risk areas (sea level rise, storm surge, floodplain), mapping potential flood closures, and identifying vulnerable populations
- Coordination through participation of the transportation work group for the RVA Green 2050 plan being prepared by the City of Richmond Office of Sustainability.

7410 Performance Based Transportation Planning

7410	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Perf. Based Transp. Plng.	\$86,956	\$9,742	\$71,536	82%	21

System Performance

- Updated the dashboard (<https://planrva.org/transportation/covid-19-pandemic/>) to track various PlanRVA transportation related metrics and the changes in those metrics due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The dashboard is on the Transportation home page of the PlanRVA website. The interactive dashboard was created using Tableau.
- Attended the OIPI-VDOT-DRPT-MPO Quarterly Coordination Meeting.
- Attended an FTWA FTA webinar on the assessment on the effectiveness of Performance-Based Planning and Programming. Best practices and lessons learned from several MPOs were presented.
- Finalized the CMP StoryMap and converted it to a PDF to be an appendix of the LRTP.

7420 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

7420	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TIP	\$326,282	\$22,527	\$256,683	79%	23

Maintenance

Based on a VDOT request (6/4/21), the RSTBG funds transfer Has been completed for the following project:

- Transferred \$379,334 FY21 RSTBG funds from the Henrico County West Broad St intersection improvements at Dominion Blvd and Cox Rd (#118597) to the Hanover County Rt 360 widening project (#13551).

After receiving a VDOT request (6/4/21), CMAQ funds transfers have been reviewed for the following projects:

- Transferred \$134,568 FY06 CMAQ funds from the Balance Entry (#70719) to the Henrico County Brook Rd and Hilliard Rd trail project (#118153); and \$21,776 FY16 CMAQ funds from the regionwide project (#101492) to the Henrico County Brook Rd and Hilliard Rd trail project (#118153).

- Transferred \$21,750 FY05 CMAQ funds and \$303,551 FY07 CMAQ funds from the Balance Entry (#70719) to the Henrico County Brook Rd and Hilliard Rd trail project (#118153).
- Transferred \$28,717 FY05 CMAQ funds from the Balance Entry (#70719) to the Chesterfield Rt 360 intersection improvements at Spring Run Rd project (#104886).

The CMAQ funds transfers will be completed at the beginning of July.

Received a RSTBG funds transfer request from VDOT to shift \$48,770 RSTBG funds from the Charles City Rt 609 reconstruction between Rt 603 to Rt 602 closeout project (#85337) to the regionwide project (#101492) on 5/10/21. The transfer was completed at the middle of June.

Based on a VDOT TIP amendment request, TIP amendment documents prepared for the following two projects:

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

The amendment documents for these projects were included in the June 8, 2021 TAC meeting agenda package. Based on TAC discussion and recommendation, these amendment documents were included in the July 1, 2021 TPO meeting agenda package.

Received a TIP adjustment request from VDOT (6/14/21), and the TIP adjustment documents were prepared for the following three projects:

- UPC 13551: Rt 360 (Mechanicsville Turnpike) widening from 0.61 MW Rt 643 (Lee Davis Rd) to 0.18 ME Rt 656 project – Hanover County
- UPC 15958: Commerce Road widening from Bells Road (south junction) to 0.13 MN Bellemeade Road project – City of Richmond
- UPC T203: Regionwide Air Pollution Reduction Program – RideFinders

After receiving all concurrences from locals, the TIP adjustments were completed and submitted to VDOT on 6/30/21.

Received a TIP amendment request from GRTC on 6/22/21. After receiving concurrence from DRPT, the TIP amendment documents have been prepared and included in the July 13 TAC meeting agenda package for the following project:

- UPC GRTC069: GRTC Shop Equipment Shed project – GRTC

Project Selection Guidelines Update

The Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the draft project selection guidelines at the June meeting. The draft guidelines were published online and a request for public review and comment was sent to committee members, interested parties, and the media. The policy board is expected to review and adopt the new guidelines at the July 1 meeting.

7430 Rail, Freight, Intermodal Planning

7430	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Rail, Freight, Interim. Pang.	\$23,580	\$1,233	\$13,075	55%	24

Staples Mill Road Station Advance Planning and Design Study

- DRPT and their consultant are in the final stage of completing 30% design documents for the replacement of the Staples Mill Amtrak Station. The final Staples Mill Road Station Area Transit-Oriented Development Concept Plan recommended a corridor working group be formed that consists of Henrico, VDOT, DRPT, and PlanRVA to guide the VDOT sub-area plan and more detailed traffic studies of Staples Mill Road to improve both multimodal access to the station and usher in a more supportive land use pattern within the corridor.
- The working group is being formed by VDOT for the next stage of the sub-area plan.

Other

- Staff coordinated with OIPI on designations for critical urban freight corridors (CUFC) in the region
- Staff presented CUFC designation to TAC and Policy Board for approval

7500 Rural Transportation

7500	BUDGET	Billed this month	Total Funds Expended	% Total Funds Expended	UPWP Page
Rural Transportation	\$72,500	\$10,481	\$35,748	64%	25

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

- Staff followed up on the February meeting with data layer which shows the populations in the rural counties which are the most vulnerable to being cut off from road access due to road flooding from extreme weather events, poor road/bridge conditions or sea level rise, all factors which contribute to an assessment of the rural road system with regard to “resilience”. This package of mapping is intended to help the rural localities in their own comprehensive planning and capital improvements programming.
- Opportunities related to environmental and coastal resources and hazard mitigation plan development have also been shared with the RTAC.

Agenda Item B.1.

Virginia's Transportation Program: Recent Changes and COVID Impacts

NO ACTION REQUESTED – INFORMATION ITEM

This agenda item was added to provide more background and explanation regarding Virginia's transportation program, recent changes, and impacts from COVID. Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Virginia, will provide this report.

3

**Received from Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
July 26, 2021**

Mr. Williams, Ms. Lascolette, and Chet – Thanks again for your time last Wednesday. The purpose of this email is to provide a follow up in writing on the items we discussed.

Supplanting of Funds

The Commonwealth has not and will not reduce funds otherwise available to the localities that are members of the Central Virginia Transportation Authority. As with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, there are Code restrictions and CTB policy (practice) of not using regional funds to supplant state dollars available to an area.

Funds from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund are allocated and mostly distributed to construction districts via formula, with the larger exception of High Priority Projects Program and the discretionary portion of the Interstate Operations and Enhancement Program. Those formulas are set out in Code and cannot be administratively altered by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Secretary of Transportation, VDOT or DRPT.

Formula Changes and Interstate Funding

Over the past decade there have been a number of changes made to how the formula programs for transportation are structured. In 2015, the General Assembly adopted House Bill 1887 which replaced the old “40-30-30” or primary-secondary-urban formula and the temporary ‘CTB formula’ with a new formula.

Under the old “40-30-30” formula, funds were taken off the top by the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund projects on the Interstate system. The Board had discretion to increase or decrease this amount which in turn would reduce or increase, respectively, the amount of funding distributed through the formula.

This restructuring provides that the Interstate funds along with funds used in the old “40-30-30” formula are distributed through the new formula. This increased the amount of funds available to each district under the new formula compared to the old “40-30-30” formula. It also provides increased flexibility for local governments and regions to apply for projects on the Interstate system or for other improvements based on what they consider their highest priority. This may be a project on the Interstate system while it could also be an improvement to a secondary route or expanded transit service.

The intent of this change was not to devolve responsibility for Interstate projects to local governments but to increase the amount of funds running through the formula and to provide more flexibility to local and regional governments to identify priorities for consideration.

Another outcome intended by the formula change was to move from a system where localities received small allocations that were often not enough to advance their priority projects. For example, a local government may have received \$2M/year in secondary highway funds but their priority project was \$8M. This led to many jurisdictions 'banking' funds for a number of years until they had sufficient funding available. After several years the cost of the project typically increased and would exceed the original estimate of \$8M requiring funds to be set-aside and banked for a longer period of time.

Under the new formula the CTB established a policy, later codified by the General Assembly (Subsection E of 33.2-214), that projects selected for funding under SMART SCALE and State of Good Repair would be fully funded for all phases – engineering, right-of-way and construction. This means that while a locality may not have a project selected for funding every year – when a project is selected it will receive all the funding necessary to fully delivery and construction the project.

As a final note in 2020 the General Assembly establish a new Interstate Operations and Enhancement Program that is funded with new revenues. Those funds are allocated by the Board with certain requirements regarding the amount of funds that must be allocated to I-81, I-95 and I-64.

COVID Impacts and Revenue Sharing

State transportation revenue collections and estimates went down significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, it is forecasted that transportation revenues through FY27 will be down \$1.79 billion compared with expectations in March 2020 post General Assembly session. We do not yet have end of year collection information for fiscal year 2021 and do not expect a full six-year revenue forecast update until this December. At that time we will have a better sense of longer-term impacts of COVID.

In mid-2020, we did not understand the full impact of COVID on transportation revenues but knew there would be a significant impact. As a part of the mitigation efforts the Secretary's Office worked with all transportation agencies to identify administrative cost reductions and cash allocated to projects that was not planned to be spent in FY20, FY21 and/or FY22.

The purpose of this effort was to identify strategies that would allow the Commonwealth to maintain its on-going projects/contracts as well as our planned commitments to previously selected projects.

Through this work it was determined that there was ~\$495M in Revenue Sharing Program funds allocated in FY20 or earlier that would not be spend in FY20. In most instances funds were not expected to be expended in FY21 either based on existing project schedules. These projects were expected to spend their allocations over a 4-5 year period.

During the 2020 Special Session, the General Assembly enacted a provision to the Appropriations Act that provide the Commonwealth Transportation Board with the following authority:

- To redirect the \$495M in previous Revenue Sharing Funds to cover other on-going costs that would allow the Commonwealth to maintain all existing projects and commitments.
 - o As a condition of this action, the Board had to repay funds to these projects from FY21 to FY24 using future Revenue Sharing dollars. Repayment had to be done in manner that met each's project's existing schedule.
- To reduce funding for new programs planned as a part of the Governor's 2020 Omnibus Transportation legislation.

These two actions allowed the Board to not cancel or delay a single previously funded project at a time when project revenues had declined significantly.

The language can be found in subsection P of Item 430 of the Appropriations Act – <https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/item/2020/2/HB5005/Chapter/1/430/>. It states:

"It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commonwealth Transportation Board shall take steps necessary to address the reduction in revenues available for the Commonwealth Transportation Fund pursuant to § 33.2-1524, Code of Virginia, in a manner to reduce the impacts on currently programmed projects and to allow for a phased implementation of the additional revenues made available by Chapters 1230 and 1275 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly."

Agenda Item B.2.

FY21 – FY24 TIP Amendments: GRTC Request

REQUESTED ACTION

Review a request from GRTC to amend the FY21 – FY24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a new project.

RESOLUTION

The following resolution is presented for RRTPO Policy Board consideration:

RESOLVED, that the RRTPO Policy Board amends the FY21 – FY24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adding the following new project and

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**

4

POLICY BOARD AGENDA 8/5/21; ITEM B.2.

FY21 – FY24 TIP AMENDMENTS: GRTC REQUEST

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: Review a request from GRTC to amend the FY21 – FY24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a new project.

BACKGROUND: The RRTPO 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 RECOMMENDATION: The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the proposed amendment at the July meeting and unanimously recommended approval of the amendment as presented.

PUBLIC REVIEW: The draft amendment and summary presentation were posted on the PlanRVA website for public review and comment on July 15th and notice was sent via email to all committee members and interested parties. Any comments received will be provided to the policy board for consideration along with the draft amendment.

ACTION REQUESTED: The following resolution is presented for consideration:

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:

MPO Note:

No Image Available

Schedule

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

Cost Estimates / Previous Obligations

Cost Estimates	
PE:	
RW:	
CN:	
Total:	

Goals addressed

Access	No	Congestion	No	Environment	No
Freight	No	Landuse	No	Maintenance	Yes
Safety	No	Reliability	Yes	Multimodal	No

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	

Agenda Item B.3.

Draft Regional Conformity Assessment Report

REQUESTED ACTION: *Review and approval of the draft Regional Air Quality Conformity Assessment Report. (Draft Report to be sent separately)*

RESOLUTION

The following resolution is presented for RRTPO Policy Board consideration:

RESOLVED, *that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board approves the Richmond Regional Conformity Assessment Report as presented.*

RRTPO POLICY BOARD AGENDA 8/5/21; ITEM B.3.

DRAFT REGIONAL AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: Review and approval of the draft Regional Air Quality Conformity Assessment Report. (Draft Report to be sent separately)

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 was held immediately before the July 7, 2021 TAC meeting to review the process and methodology for the conformity analysis. The draft conformity report was reviewed by the relevant local governments and TAC members as part of the interagency consultation.

PUBLIC REVIEW: The draft conformity analysis report was opened for public review by TAC under authority granted by the policy board at the July meeting. The public comment period ran for 16 days, between July 9 and July 24. Six public comments were received during this period.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the draft conformity report as presented.

ACTION REQUESTED: The following resolution is presented for RRTPO Policy Board consideration:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board approves the Richmond Regional Conformity Assessment Report as presented.

SA

Attachment

1. Public Comments

Public Comments – Draft Regional Conformity Report (July 9 - July 24)

Name: Felipe Nascimento

Email: edgatech@yahoo.com

Message:

No funding dollars should be spent on infrastructure for private cars; this includes new highways, more roads, larger intersections, highway expansions, wider roads, and more parking. Not only are all these antithetical to clean air and will only exacerbate the global climate crisis we are in, it will only serve to increase car dependence in our region. A robust public transportation system needs to be implemented in our region. Better transportation alternatives need to be implemented in our region. If we follow the same bad playbook as every other region (Northern Virginia, the Tidewater area), we will end up just like them: chocked in roads and bad traffic.

Name: Virginia Cowles

Email: yipcowles@gmail.com

Message:

It is gratifying to see so many public transportation and bike/pedestrian projects on the draft Air Quality Conformity Report. They will all help improve the air quality of the region. One would hope that many of the regionally significant road widening projects would also include the construction of sidewalks. The League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metropolitan Area supports multi-modal transportation, which includes walking and bicycling, and public transportation. The national League of Women Voters supports air pollution controls (See Impact on Issues, p. 98 <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/LWV-impact-2020.pdf>.)

Name: Coryelle Pondy

Email: clpondy@yahoo.com

Message:

I am incredibly disappointed that so much of this money is going to projects that harm air quality. Additionally, the building of highways instead of better transit options (busses, bike lanes) is a deep point of concern. To add to this, I am surprised and frustrated that the suburban county of Henrico that already is very difficult to move within without a car is getting so much regional transit money and spending so little of it to improve mobility for lower income people. The lack of useful service between Richmond and Henrico requires people to own cars throughout henrico, thereby negatively impacting the air quality of neighborhoods. I live in the city of Richmond on a bus line and work in Henrico County. It would take me 50 minutes via bus (instead of 15 via car) to get to my office (also on a bus line). I would also love to bike to work, but can't do so during the workday as it is so very unsafe. Building better interchange between Richmond and Henrico specifically would allow for more people to use busses and bikes to commute rather than cars. This would be better for the overall health and mobility of the region as well as air quality (due to a decreased reliance on cars).

Name: Gary Menefee

Email: garymenefee@comcast.net

Message:

The plan is wonderful. Apparently, the people who oppose it never go anywhere unless they can walk or bike.

Name: Faithea Foster

Email: faflowers@yahoo.com

Message:

The allocation percentage to roads is too high. Please allocate more to shared transportation, bike and pedestrian options.

Name: Andrew Clarke

Email: andyclarkeva@gmail.com

Message:

I am surprised to read that a plan where one quarter of all the projects explicitly add capacity for more cars in the region passes any kind of air quality assessment -- on the face of it, that's just not credible. And that's before taking into account the dollar value of these projects compared to potential alternatives, and the reality that many of the \"safety\" projects are primarily operational changes that will add capacity, and that several new roads and added capacity on smaller roads are not even assessed. We should not be adding any more capacity for cars. Period.

Agenda Item B.4.

*ConnectRVA 2045 – Public Review and
Comment Period*

REQUESTED ACTION: *Authorization to open the final public review and comment period for the ConnectRVA 2045 long-range transportation plan.*

RESOLUTION

The following resolution is presented for RRTPO Policy Board consideration:

RESOLVED, *that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board authorizes staff to open the final public review and comment period for the ConnectRVA 2045 plan from August 16, 2021 through September 15, 2021.*

RRTPO POLICY BOARD AGENDA 8/5/21; ITEM B.4.

CONNECTRVA 2045 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: Authorization to open the final public review and comment period for the ConnectRVA 2045 long-range transportation plan.

BACKGROUND:

ConnectRVA 2045 is the new long-range transportation plan for the Richmond region that is currently under development. The long-range transportation plan sets the vision for the next 20 years of transportation improvements in the region and includes a financially constrained list of projects which are expected to be built over that time period. The Long-Range Transportation Plan Advisory Committee (LRTP-AC) spearheads the development of the LRTP with autonomy to make decisions guiding the process and outcomes.

The RRTPO Policy Board approved the constrained list of projects for the ConnectRVA 2045 at their July meeting. Staff has since been working to evaluate the various aspects of the plan and to develop a report to document the planning process. During the development process of ConnectRVA 2045 plan, four public review and comment periods have been conducted so far. The final public review and comment period will seek input from the public regarding the overall planning process and the draft plan document.

The 30-day public review and comment period will begin on August 16th through September 15, 2021. The policy board will receive an update from staff at the September 2, 2021 policy board meeting. The final action on ConnectRVA 2045 plan is scheduled for the October 4, 2021 policy board meeting. The final draft document for public review will be available on August 16, 2021 and a copy of the document will be sent to the policy board members.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the requested action as presented.

ACTION REQUESTED: The following resolution is presented to the RRTPO Policy Board for approval:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board authorizes staff to open the final public review and comment period for the ConnectRVA 2045 plan from August 16, 2021 through September 15, 2021.

SA

Agenda Item C.2.

*RRTPO Community Transportation Advisory
Committee (CTAC) Meeting Report*

NO ACTION REQUESTED – INFORMATION ITEM

*A brief report is provided on major discussion items
from the July 15, 2020 CTAC meeting.*

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

Agenda Item D.1.

Future RRTPO Meeting Topics

NO ACTION REQUESTED – INFORMATION ITEM

Enclosed under this agenda tab is a list of future meeting topics to be scheduled later in FY22.

**RRTPO POLICY BOARD AGENDA 8/5/2021; Item D.1.
FUTURE MEETING TOPICS***

- Annual Richmond Region Transportation Forum (November)
- DRPT Transit Modernization and Equity Study
- Agreement between the Commonwealth and Amtrak, CSX, and Virginia Railway Express, launching a \$3.7 billion investment to expand and improve passenger, commuter, and freight rail in Virginia and create a vital connection in America's national rail network between the Northeast and Southeast corridors.
- Public Engagement/Community Outreach Efforts

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