TRI-CITIES AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE Revised Meeting Agenda

Petersburg Multi-Modal Station 100 West Washington Street Petersburg, Virginia November 9, 2017 4:30 PM

Meeting Type:	□Annual
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✓ Regular

□Special (Called)

Invitees:

Agency Name Chesterfield County Steve Elswick City of Colonial Heights John Wood Chairman Dinwiddie County William Chavis City of Hopewell Brenda S. Pelham City of Petersburg Samuel Parham Prince George County T.J. Webb Virginia Department of **Bart Thrasher** Transportation (VDOT) Petersburg Area Transit Charles Koonce Crater Planning District Denny Morris Commission David Hyder MPO Secretary Crater Planning District Commission Crater Planning District Christopher Nicholas Commission **DPRT** Katie Schwing Johnnie Butler Hopewell **VDOT** Ron Svejkovsky Mark Riblett **VDOT**

Call to order

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Approval

The Minutes of the August 10th, 2017 Meeting area attached for your review.

Status Report on the NEPA Rail Station Study

Information

We still expect a final decision (i.e., the FONSI) later in 2017.

2040 Plan Update

Information

Nothing to report.

2018 - 2021 TIP Process

Information

We have received USDOT's approval of the FY 2018 – FY 2021 STIP and MTIP. The approval was conditional. FHWA asked for signed Title VI Assurances for all but one Virginia MPO. We have sent our signed certifications to the Richmond District to forward to the Central Office. A copy of USDOT's letter is attached as an informational item.

Unified Planning Work Program

Information

<u>Committee Bylaws-</u>We are awaiting the results of the legal review of the proposed bylaws before recommending your adoption.

Information

<u>Certification Review-</u>We would like to thank Mr. Elswick, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wood, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Morris and Mr. Butler for taking time to attend parts of the Certification Review. Staff would also like to thank staff from the Richmond TPO for their time and especially Mr. Koonce and the PAT staff for their support.

Staff from the FHWA's Virginia office will present their preliminary findings from the certification review at this meeting.

Approval

The MPO can ask that USDOT include comments from us in their final certification report. Mr. Hyder has prepared draft comments on the certification review for your consideration. A copy of the draft comments is included for your review.

Information

<u>Progress Report-</u> The MPO's work tasks and accomplishments during this quarter were:

- Advertisement of the 2040 Metropolitan Long Range Transportation Plan:
- Hosting a public meeting before adopting the 2040 Metropolitan Long Range Transportation Plan;
- Adoption of the 2040 Metropolitan Long Range Transportation;
- One meeting each of the MPO and the Technical Advisory Committee including:
 - Preparing and advertising agendas;
 - Attending the meetings themselves;

- o Preparing draft agendas for the meetings; and
- Posting approved Minutes on the MPO's website
- Preparing for the USDOT Quadrennial Certification Review including:
 - reviewing and responding to information requests from USDOT,
 - o preparing a formal presentation for the Certification Review,
 - participating in the field portion of this review and in the field portion of the Richmond TPO's review,
 - participating in the USDOT public meeting required by the certification review,
 - providing additional information to USDOT as requested in the field portion of the review, and
 - Preparing formal comments to USDOT regarding the conduct of the certification review;
- Preparing revised draft bylaws for the MPO and the Technical Advisory Committee;
- Amending the Transportation Improvement Program to reflect current expenditures; and
- Project management work for the Lower Appomattox River Trail Feasibility Study including:
 - Attending physical and telephonic meetings;
 - o Reviewing and commenting on the scope of work and fee;
 - Developing stakeholder distribution and contact lists;
 - Reviewing and commenting upon the stakeholder survey for the project and
 - o Distributing same.

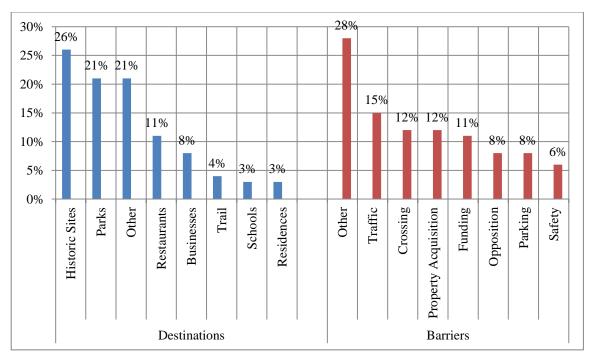
Appomattox River Trail Update

Information

The consultant is making progress on the Lower Appomattox River Trail Connection to the Virginia Capital Trail. The stakeholder survey was widely distributed. So far we have received over 120 responses. The respondents preferred in order:

- 1. A new bicycle/pedestrian bridge over the river,
- 2. A bicycle/pedestrian lane on the Benjamin Harrison Bridge,
- 3. A ferry service and
- 4. A dedicated shuttle.

The graph below shows the desired destinations and perceived barriers to the service.



The structural engineers report that it is not feasible to add a bicycle lane to the existing bridge. The consultant is reviewing the other options focusing on potential ferry landings.

VDOT Report

Discussion of the Temple Avenue project was deferred to allow Colonial Heights and VDOT to reconcile their project accounts.

Route 600 Roundabout

Approval

The committee discussed funding transfers needed to close out the Route 600 roundabout (UPC 80993). The project has a shortfall of \$435,012. VDOT is proposing a three step funding transfer to ensure that the money is available in the proper years. The proposed transfer if described below:

- Transfer \$435,012 from UPC 1436 (Cedar Level Road Widening) to UPC 80993;
- 2. Transfer \$435,012 from UPC 90019 (Cedar level Road Widening) to UPC 80993 to make up the deficit incurred on UPC 1436;
- 3. Transfer \$435,012 from UPC 70725 (Tri-Cities RSTP Balance Entry) to make UPC 90019 (Cedar level Road Widening.

According to VDOT these transfers will not delay the Cedar Level Road Projects. Based upon a motion by Dinwiddie County (Mark Bassett) with a second by

Chesterfield County (Barb Smith) the TAC recommends that the MPO approve these transfers.

Transportation Alternative Projects (TAP) Projects

The committee discussed the following TAP projects:

- Petersburg's VSU Gateway Project: Petersburg, FOLAR and VSU have submitted a TAP project for a pedestrian bridge between Petersburg and VSU. \$196,680 TAP; Match \$49,170; Total \$245,850
- Colonial Heights Phase IV of the Appomattox River Greenway Trail (UPC108236) from Route 1 (Boulevard) to Appamatuck Park. TAP \$422,071; Match \$105,518; Total 527,589
- Colonial Heights High School Sidewalks Construct sidewalk on both sides of Conduit Road between Colonial Heights High School and Edinborough Drive. Sidewalk on eastern side will continue north to Riveroaks Drive. \$542,432 TAP; \$135,608 Match; Total \$678,040.
- Hopewell Bicycle Projects (Details not available).

Adjournment

Attachment 1: Draft Minutes

TRI-CITIES AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Petersburg Multi-Modal Station 100 West Washington Street Petersburg, Virginia September 14, 2017 4:30 PM

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N	111 1(1	Type:	

□Annual

✓ Regular

□Special (Called)

Invitees:

Agency Name

Steve Elswick	Present
John Wood	Present
William Chavis	Chairman, Present
Brenda S. Pelham	
Samuel Parham	Present
T.J. Webb	Present
Bart Thrasher	Present
Charles Koonce	
Denny Morris	Present
David Hyder	MPO Secretary, Present
Christopher Nicholas	Present
Erin Musselwhite	Present
Katie Schwing	Present
Johnnie Butler	Present & Voting for Ms.
	Pelham
Ron Svejkovsky	Present
Mark Riblett	Present
Daphne Campbell	Present
	John Wood William Chavis Brenda S. Pelham Samuel Parham T.J. Webb Bart Thrasher Charles Koonce Denny Morris David Hyder Christopher Nicholas Erin Musselwhite Katie Schwing Johnnie Butler Ron Svejkovsky Mark Riblett

Call to order

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Upon a motion by Mr. Webb (Prince George Co.) with a second from Mr. Elswick (Chesterfield Co.) and 8 eight 0f 9 members voting, the Minutes of the August 10th meeting were approved as distributed.

Status Report on the NEPA Rail Station Study

Mr. Hyder reported that Federal Rail Administration had not yet made a final decision on the environmental document (FONSI).

2040 Plan Update

There is nothing new to report on the 2040 Constrained Long Range Plan.

2018 – 2021 TIP Process

Nothing to Report

Unified Planning Work Program

VDOT has informed us that by the end of July 2017 the MPO had spent \$383,125.84 more RSTP money for supplemental planning than was in the UPC (72904) for that work. In addition, the MPO needs \$85,000 of RSTP money to cover its work during this fiscal year. This is a total of \$468,125.84.

We have reviewed the invoices and the account looking for errors. The problem appears to have been caused by:

- Misinterpreting the budgeting process and the amount of money available to the account,
- The additional staff resources needed to ensure smoothly transitioning one MPO Director to another, and
- The additional staff resources needed to manage the Congestion Management Plan and Rail Station Study.

After reviewing our options, internally, and with VDOT we are proposing the following transfers from balance reserves and completed projects to make the program whole. Our goals were to:

- fund the MPO without delaying construction projects,
- use older Federal Aid first, and
- ensure that budget overruns to not happen in the future.

Upon a motion by Mr. Elswick (Chesterfield Co.) and seconded by Mr. Butler (Hopewell) and with eight of eight members voting aye, the MPO approved the fund transfers shown in the tables below.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wood (Colonial Heights) and seconded by Mr. Elswick (Chesterfield Co.) the MPO also directed the staff to revise the UPWP to reflect the changes to the STIP shown above.

<u>Transfers for CTB Concurrence September 2017</u>

Proposed Transfer –	September Supplement #1
Donor Project (From):	UPC -70725 (RICHMOND TRI-CITIES REGIONAL STP (RSTP) BALANCE ENTRY)
Impact to Donor:	Impact – none;
Recipient Project (To):	UPC 72904 (SUPPLEMENTAL MPO PLANNING STAFF FUNDING FOR CRATER PDC);
Impact to Recipient:	Impact – this transfer will work towards covering deficit balance on the recipient project.
Amount:	RSTP Funds \$55,080
Comments:	Potential consideration by Tri-Cities MPO Policy Committee 9/14/17.
Recommendation:	The District advises that the proposed funding transfer from the donor project is available for transfer to the recipient project.

Proposed Transfer –	September Supplement #2
Donor Project	UPC -75238 (RTE 36 - TURN LANES & SIGNAL
(From):	MODIFICATION AT 2 LOCATIONS) Prince George
	County
Impact to Donor:	Impact – none, project is awaiting financial closure.
	Identified funds are surplus.
Recipient Project	UPC 72904 (SUPPLEMENTAL MPO PLANNING STAFF
(To):	FUNDING FOR CRATER PDC);
Impact to	Impact – this transfer will work towards covering
Recipient:	deficit balance on the recipient project.
Amount:	RSTP Funds \$77,238
Comments:	Potential consideration by Tri-Cities MPO Policy
	Committee 9/14/17.
Recommendation:	The District advises that the proposed funding
	transfer from the donor project is available for
	transfer to the recipient project.

Proposed Transfer –	September Supplement #3
Donor Project	UPC -77250 (RTE 36 - INSTALL LTLS & SIGNAL
(From):	MODIFICATIONS ON WBL) Prince George County
Impact to Donor:	Impact – none, project is awaiting financial closure.
	Identified funds are surplus.
Recipient Project	UPC 72904 (SUPPLEMENTAL MPO PLANNING STAFF
(To):	FUNDING FOR CRATER PDC);
Impact to	Impact – this transfer will work towards covering
Recipient:	deficit balance on the recipient project.
Amount:	RSTP Funds \$145,135
Comments:	Potential consideration by Tri-Cities MPO Policy
	Committee 9/14/17.
Recommendation:	The District advises that the proposed funding
	transfer from the donor project is available for
	transfer to the recipient project.

Proposed Transfer –	September Supplement #4
Donor Project	UPC -101033 (RTE 301 - UPGRADE SIGNALS)
(From):	Petersburg
Impact to Donor:	Impact – none, project is awaiting financial closure.
	Identified funds are surplus.
Recipient Project	UPC 72904 (SUPPLEMENTAL MPO PLANNING STAFF
(To):	FUNDING FOR CRATER PDC);
Impact to	Impact – this transfer will work towards covering
Recipient:	deficit balance on the recipient project.
Amount:	RSTP Funds \$190,673
Comments:	Potential consideration by Tri-Cities MPO Policy
	Committee 9/14/17.
Recommendation:	The District advises that the proposed funding
	transfer from the donor project is available for
	transfer to the recipient project.

<u>Committee Bylaws-</u>The Committee briefly discussed revising the bylaws at our August Meeting. Since then Mr. Hyder has prepared a draft set of bylaws and a side by side comparison of the existing bylaws with the proposed for your review. Copies of this material are attached for your review and comment. Mr. Hyder has also prepared a draft of Bylaws for the Policy Committee. Our next step for the bylaws will be to have a legal review.

<u>Certification Review-</u> Mr. Hyder reminded the members of the upcoming certification review and asked that those who could attend part of the review. (Mr. Elswick, Mr. Wood, Mr. Webb and Mr. Butler

VDOT Report

The project limits of UPS 101287 Dupuy Avenue Minor widening need to extend westward by about 50 feet.

Boulevard Funding Allocation

Colonial Heights is working with VDOT to resolve a cost overrun on the Temple Avenue project.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wood (Colonial Heights) and seconded by Mr. Parham (Petersburg) and with eight of eight members present voting aye the MPO approved moving \$47,369 from UPC 98882 to UPC 52434 as shown below. This action covered current bills but more action

Transfer for Policy Committee and CTB Concurrence

Proposed Transfer U	PC 98882 to UPC 52434
Donor Project	UPC 98882 (RTE 144 (TEMPLE AVE) - EXTEND TURN
(From):	LANE AT CONDUIT RD); Colonial Heights
Impact to Donor:	Impact – none; Project is Waiting Financial Closure
	and has surplus funds of \$47,369.
Recipient Project	UPC 52434 (RTE 1 - ADD CENTER TURN LANE);
(To):	Colonial Heights in Chesterfield County
Impact to	Impact – This transfer will help fund the project
Recipient:	deficit of (\$252,658).
Amount:	CMAQ funds - \$47,369
Comments:	This transfer has concurrence from the Technical
	Committee
Recommendation:	The District concurs with this transfer and will
	provide any additional information needed.

<u>Lower Appomattox River Trail Feasibility Study</u> The kick-off meeting for the Appomattox River Trail was held August 29th.

Mr. Svejkovsky reported that VNDIA all of the MPO's VNDIA projects would be underway by the end of 2017.

Adjournment

Staff reported that there were not any action items for the October meeting and suggested that the MPO cancel the October meeting. This was done by acclamation. There being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned.



Sign In Sheet TRI-CITIES AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Petersburg Multi-Modal Station 100 West Washington Street Petersburg, Virginia September 7, 2017 4:30 PM

Meeting Type:

□Annual

√ Regular

□Special (Called)

Invitees:

Agency	Name	
Chesterfield County	Steve Elswick	SAF
City of Colonial Heights	John Wood	Preserv but did art 1919-14
Dinwiddie County	William Chavis	Chairman 1/6
City of Hopewell	Brenda S. Pelham	
City of Petersburg	Samuel Parham	101
Prince George County	T.J. Webb	931 Jell 1
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Bart Thrasher	B.A. Chealm
Petersburg Area Transit	Charles Koonce	75.5
Crater Planning District Commission	Denny Morris	Present has did not init
Crater Planning District Commission	David Hyder	MPO Secretary
Crater Planning District Commission	Christopher Nicholas	u
DPRT	-Katie Schwing	astron.
Hopewell	Johnnie Butler	Solver & Button
VDOT	Ron Svejkovsky	0/2
VDOT	Mark Riblett	Mare think
VDOT	Daphne Campbell	Doephne Campbell

Attachment 2: TIP Approval Letter



of Transportation.

Federal Transit Administration Region III 1780 Muhat Street, Suite 500 Philadospha, Pannayivania 19100 215-856-7100 215-856-7250 (flax) Federal Highway Administration Virgina Division 400 North Sth Street, Room 750 Houtenood, Virgina 23219 604-775-3320

September 29, 2017

Secretary Aubrey L. Layne, Jr. Secretary of Transportation Patrick Heory Building 1111 East Broad Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

Subject: FY2018-FY2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Secretary Layne

The Federal Trueisit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have reviewed the Commonwealth of Virginia's FY2018-FY2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that includes highway and transit projects to be federally funded or approved by FTA and FHWA in Virginia. Based on this review. FTA and FHWA find that the FY2018-FY2021 STIP is based on a statewide transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 USC 134 and 135, 49 USC 5303 and 5304, and 23 CFR 450 subparts A, B, and C. Accordingly, as requested in your letter dated July 10, 2017, FTA and FHWA jointly approve the STIP subject to the following corrective action being taken by the Commonwealth:

 Submission of a signed Title VENendiscrimination Assurance to support the following self-certification statements: VDOT/Central Virginia MPO: VDOT/Charlottesville-Albemarie MPO: VDOT/Danville MPO: VDOT/Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO: VDOT/New River Valley MPO: VDOT/Richmord Regional TPO: DOT/Rounoke Valley TPO: VDOT/Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO: VDOT/Tri-Cities MPO: VDOT/VDRPT/Hampton Roads TPO: and VDOT/Winchester-Frederick MPO: Bristol MPO, and Kingsport MPO.

The signed Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurances should be submitted by December 31, 2017. Attached is a conditional planning finding supporting the STIP approval that contains additional details on the corrective action as well as recommendations to help strengthen the transportation planning and program development process.

We look forward to the continued cooperation of you and your staff in efforts to carry out the statewide and metropolitan planning processes in an effective manner.

Sinconds.

Terry Garcia Crews
Regional Administrator, Region III
Federal Transit Administration

for Jessie Yung P.E.

Virginia Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration

John Damkins

Attachment

ze: Mr. Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation. Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Attachment 3: Draft Certification Review Comments

November ___, 2017

Jessie Yung, P.E. Terry Garcia Crews

FHWA Virginia Division FTA Region III

Administrator

1760 Market Street, Suite 500

400 North 8th Street, Room 750 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Richmond, VA 23219

Subject: The Tri-Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization's Concerns and Comments on our 2017 Federal Certification Review

The Tri-Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a small MPO in south side Virginia sharing an urbanized area with the Richmond Transportation Planning Organization. We understand the purposes of the Certification Review Process outlined in 23 CFR § 450.336 are to: ensure that transportation planning meets the requirements of federal law, identify strengths and weaknesses of the transportation planning process and to guide federal, state and local, work programs for the next four years. Generally a certification review has six steps:

- 1. A desk review of the MPO's processes and products;
- 2. A field review in which the review team meets elected officials, residents and staff on site;
- 3. Preparation of a draft report by the federal team;
- 4. Local and state review and comment on the draft report;
- 5. Issuing the final report including a certification, as defined under 232 CFR §450.336 (1), and
- 6. Recommend changes to the transportation planning process intended to improve the transportation planning process

The MPO believes that the transportation planning process is a partnership involving local elected officials, state officials, transit operators and federal agency staff. Therefore the MPO asks that the comments below be included in the Final 2017 Certification Review Report.

First, we believe that bullet point number 4 of the process was inadequately communicated to MPO. We believe that all participants in the review would have benefitted by clearly reviewing the process at the outset and during the field review. We also suggest that the steps in the review process be clearly stated in future reviews.

Second, the federal team identified risks and weaknesses in some of the MPO's products (e.g., the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan). Some of the weaknesses could have been fixed before certification by commenting upon the draft documents given to USDOT for review. We have similar concerns with other planning partners and feel that it is reasonable to raise this issue here.

Third, Federal Highway Administration has suggested adding a member to the MPO representing the Division of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). A long discussion of this is beyond the scope of this letter. However, we would like to point out that:

- The General Manager of the Petersburg Area Transit is a voting member,
- Adding DRPT to the MPO equals adding a second vote for the Virginia Secretary of Transportation, and
- Any DRPT representative will be a transportation professional not an elected or appointed official thus diluting the authority of local elected officials.

Fourth, the MPO is concerned that despite the importance of Title VI, and other antidiscrimination statutes, that part of the review was handled remotely using a speaker phone with a poor connection. It also appeared that the reviewer had not reviewed the information given to the Division Office. The MPO feels that additional Title VI basic training is needed here, and may be need across the Commonwealth. We are aware that nationwide few MPOs excel at Title VI or public involvement. The MPO needs help from its planning partners to improve its performance on Title VI and public involvement. First, we need clear, concise, consistent expectations. The expectations need to be communicated early and often not late and seldom. Second, we need all our partners to comment on draft documents completely and quickly. When we get our partners' comments before review documents are published and before formal board action we can avoid, unnecessary

rework, corrective actions and confusion. Third, we need and active partner to help improve our work, especially the Title VI program.

Fifth, for the MPO the time needed to prepare for the review was about two person months. For larger MPOs two person months may be reasonable. For smaller TMAs two person months is a huge diversion of resources to administrative work.

Finally, the MPO asks that our federal partners actively participate in the planning process. We recognize that it is not possible to attend every meeting. We also understand that everyone is understaffed; however, this applies equally to local staff, and elected officials who devote their personal time to the MPO. It is important that the Federal voice be heard at MPO meetings and we are asking that appropriate federal staff participate in our board meetings.

We look forward to working with you to improve our transportation planning and programming.

Sincerely,

Mr. William D. Chavis Mr. David W. Hyder, P.E.

Chairman,
Metropolitan
Organization

Tri-Cities Planning Secretary, Tri-Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization

Cc:

Attachment 3: UPWP Progress

