

Central Virginia Transportation Technical Committee

828 Main Street, 12th Floor, January 9, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Brian Booth (U)..... Greater Lynchburg Transit Company
Todd Carroll (U).....Liberty University
Mariel Fowler (U/R)Bedford County
Paul Harvey (U/R)..... Campbell County
J. Lee Newland (U)City of Lynchburg
Anne Nygaard (U)City of Lynchburg
Johnnie Roark (R)Appomattox County
Daniel Sonenklar (U/R)..... Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation
Sharon Williams (R)..... Town of Altavista

ABSENT

Doyle Allen (U/R)..... Bedford County Citizen Representative
Jeremy Bryant (U/R) Amherst County
Sara Carter (U) Town of Amherst
Andrew LaGala (U).....Lynchburg Regional Airport
Kevin Jones (U/R).....Federal Highway Administration
Gary Shanaberger (R)..... Town of Appomattox
Russell Thurston (R) Town of Brookneal
Bart Warner (R) Town of Bedford

U- Members representing the urbanized area of the region

R- Members representing the rural area of the region

OTHERS PRESENT

Will Cockrell EPR, PC
Mallory Cook CVPDC
Philipp Gabathuler.....CVPDC/CVMPO
Samuel Hayes.....Moffatt & Nichol
Kelly Hitchcock..... CVPDC
Jennifer Martin Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living
J.P. MorrisVDOT Bedford Residency
Scott SmithCVPDC/CVMPO
Phil White EPR, PC
Mary Zirkle..... Town of Bedford

1. Call to Order

Paul Harvey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. Approval of the October 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Lee Newland, and seconded by Mariel Fowler, the minutes of October 17, 2019 were unanimously approved.

3. Update on Potomac River Long Bridge Project

Scott Smith reported that passenger rail traffic in Virginia cannot be expanded northward until the Long Bridge that runs across the Potomac from Arlington County to Washington DC is expanded. Last year, TTC sent a resolution to the policy board requesting improvements to the Long Bridge, which is own by CSX and is over 100 years old.

In December, news was reported that CSX and the State of Virginia, as well as other parties, have agreed to spend 3.7 billion dollars on this project. If that happens, it will allow for greater frequency of trains to Richmond with the possibility of expansion southwest past Roanoke to places in southwest Virginia that are requesting passenger rail services.

At this time, expansion southwest is not possible, as it cannot be expanded, however this is a possibility in the future. Some of the surrounding MPOs have passed resolutions, and all of these communities are working together with the state to help see this through to completion.

4. 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment (US 501 & US 221 Intersection Improvements)

Scott Smith reported that VDOT has requested that TTC add the 221/501 Intersections Improvements Project to the TIP, which was funded by Smart Scale and the City of Lynchburg, because it was not in the TIP previously.

There was a comment period that ran between October 14, 2019 and November 14, 2019, and there were no comments received, positive or negative. The intention is to send this to the MPO policy board during the January 16, 2020 meeting to add this to the TIP.

A motion was made by Lee Newland to recommend the TTC recommend the TIP amendment to the MPO. The motion was seconded by Mariel Fowler. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Setting Goals and Performance Measures for Connect Central Virginia 2045

Scott Smith reported that this serves as a continuation of the discussion during the October 2019 TTC meeting. The purpose of this is to evaluate the Long-Range Plan (LRTP) projects after TTC members shared input from previous TTC and MPO meetings as well as data collected from the survey sent in December.

Will Cockrell with EPR reviewed the progress on the Long-Range Transportation Plan and the engagement results from 671 surveys compiled via Metro Quest. The survey will be available until January 15, 2020 and the goal is to receive 1,000 responses.

Anne Nygaard asked about pedestrian measures and how they are scored compared to other projects. The concern would be that bike and pedestrian projects would not score competitively against other transportation projects. Kelly Hitchcock explained that focusing on other components, such as placemaking, involved in bike and pedestrian projects would impact scores positively.

Regarding Bike and Pedestrian Evaluations, Scott Smith recommended that using Active Trans for bike and pedestrian projects would help to highlight those projects in their own regard. Mary Zirkle shared that separating motorized versus non-motorized projects would make the most sense.

Anne Nygaard noted that it would be most beneficial to see how several projects are scored before committing specifically to this plan.

The Committee recommends splitting out bike and pedestrian only projects from the proposed LRTP measures. Scott Smith affirmed with this that bike and pedestrian only projects would be scored separately from traditional projects that include bike and/or pedestrian components.

6. Matters from the Committee

Mary Zirkle announced that the Town of Bedford will be issuing an RFP for a review of their zoning ordinance. She also provided a brief update on the DRPT-led study for a potential Amtrak station stop in Bedford.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

The next meeting will be on February 13, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.