

Rural Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes: July 16th, 2019

Committee – Voting Members

*Dan Butch, *Albemarle County*
*Chuck Proctor, *VDOT Culpeper District*
Jim Frydl, *Greene County*
*Tom Egeland, *Louisa County*
*David Cook, *VDOT Lynchburg District*
*Stephen Johnson, *JAUNT*
*Kristian Zimmerman, *RideShare*
*Dylan Bishop, *Nelson County*
*Douglas Miles, *Fluvanna County*

TJPDC Staff

Kristian Zimmerman
Sandy Shackelford

* *Represents voting members present*

Call to Order:

Mr. Egeland called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm, and provided an opportunity for the attendees to conduct introductions.

Matters from the Public:

There were no matters from the public

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were motioned for approval by Mr. Egeland and seconded by Mr. Johnson. The minutes were approved.

Officer Elections:

Mr. Egeland was elected as Chairman.
Mr. Miles was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Review of By-laws:

The list of Rural Technical Advisory Committee members was updated with new staff representatives, and the list of alternatives were also updated.

There was a minor revision made to Article III to provide a procedure when the Chairman is the member that misses three consecutive meetings.

Article IV was revised to add a description for the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Article V was revised to amend the requirements for how frequently the Rural and MPO Technical Committees shall conduct joint meetings.

Jefferson Area Bike/Ped Plan Update:

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors adopted the plan into the transportation chapter of their Comprehensive Plan. Charlottesville will consider adoption when they conduct their Comprehensive Plan update. Mr. Zimmerman

reminded the committee members that the rural localities can also adopt sections of the plan into their local Comprehensive Plans, and the TJPDC staff are available to make presentations to Boards and Commissions as desired.

Getting to Know More - Autonomous Vehicles:

David Blount, TJPDC Legislative Liaison, began the conversations by discussing the state of broadband infrastructure investment and development throughout the region.

Ms. Shackelford led a discussion on the role of broadband infrastructure in technology needed to support autonomous vehicles. Likely beneficiaries would be elderly, youth under driving age, people who are underprivileged, people with disabilities. There is a need to focus on connecting major destination points, and to leverage public-private partnerships to build the needed networks.

There was a brief discussion about needing to conduct research to understand how autonomous vehicles could impact the larger regional traffic and development patterns.

Getting to Know More – Surface Transportation Block Grants:

Ms. Shackelford introduced a brief overview of surface transportation block grants. They are a flexible program to apply for funding for federal-aid highways. There is a federal share of 80% for most projects, 90% for interstate systems. The project has to be in the state-wide transportation implementation plan and in the MPO long-range plan in order to qualify for funding.

Mr. Proctor clarified that the grants are applied for by the VDOT Central Office on a state-wide basis and not utilized as much on a regional level. The state utilizes these grants to increase the total funding available to award to projects.

Updates and Discussion:

Albemarle County got the Bike/Ped Plan incorporated into their Comprehensive Plan and is going to go through the same process with the Rural Long-Range Plan. They've been having some climate-action discussions in the County, some of which is transit-related. They are trying to consider development goals in rural and growth areas, trying to promote alternative transportation options where possible. They are also looking at some of the functional classifications of the roads and questioning whether some of the roads can be updated and figuring out what the process would be to make those upgrades.

Six projects were awarded through Smart Scale in the TJPDC's Culpeper VDOT district. VDOT is preparing for the FY21-24 TIP/STIP update. There is a study kicking off for the Zion Crossroads area for Louisa and Fluvanna counties. VDOT is also working on the extension of 5th Street, and conducting a lot of traffic analysis. VDOT will be meeting with the localities to start considering plans for the 2020 round of Smart Scale applications.

Fluvanna County recently completed the VTRANS 2040 UDA update.

Louisa County's Planning Commission recommended approval of almost 600 residential units and a large amount of commercial development. The Route 15 Corridor study is about to get kicked off. Louisa County is about to kick off the transportation section of the Comprehensive Plan. The public outreach is completed, and they are now in the drafting stage.

JAUNT is about to launch the Crozet Connect commuter route. There are events planned to promote the launch. JAUNT is also consolidating their fare schedule to reduce the number of fares to a total of six fare types to simplify the process. It will be easier to make reservations and for drivers to manage the fare payments, as well as make for a better customer experience. Some fares will be reduced, and some will be increased as a result. A public hearing on the fare schedule change is scheduled for August 14th. There is likely to be frustration that the rates will increase for some people, but it parts of the process.

There was an R-cut that was funded through Smart Scale on Highway 6 and 29 in Nelson County. The Lynchburg VDOT District is also conducting an assessment of the Park and Ride lots.

Nelson County is looking to conduct a Comprehensive Plan update or overhaul, but the details of how that will be managed are to be determined at this time.

There will be a VTRANS workshop on August 22 in Culpeper. Representatives from all localities should be represented at the workshop.

Action Items & Other Business:

The topic of how transit-oriented design principles could be implemented in a rural area without a main street was introduced as a potential discussion topic for the next meeting.

Additional Matters from the Public:

There were no additional matters from the public.

Closing:

Mr. Egeland motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:47 pm.