

**JOINT MEETING  
RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD  
CENTRAL VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
PlanRVA, the REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**VDOT Richmond District Office  
2430 Pine Forest Drive, South Chesterfield, VA 23834**

**MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, June 2, 2022  
9:00 a.m.**

*The technology used for the 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](#).*

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

David Williams, Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Chair, was present and welcomed all attendees. He noted this is the first annual joint meeting of all the organizations that make regional planning successful in central Virginia: the RRTPO, the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) and PlanRVA, the Regional Commission. Frank J. Thornton, CVTA Chair, and Christopher Winslow, PlanRVA Chair, were also present.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Williams led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Chair Williams introduced the Honorable W. Sheppard Miller, III, Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Secretary Miller addressed the group and shared thoughts on the importance of all organizations involved working together to ensure funding of the I-64 widening project. He noted the economic benefits that would result. He provided a recap of the funding that is expected to be available from the state budget and the funds requested from the CVTA and the Hampton Roads Authority.

### **SPECIAL PROGRAM**

Chris Winslow, Chair, PlanRVA, addressed the group and shared thoughts on chairing the Commission this past year. He noted the opportunity to serve on the Commission provides not only the opportunity to connect with elected and appointed leaders from across the region, but the chance to interact with a dynamic staff committed to quality planning, efficiency and problem solving.

Chair Winslow reported that Tim Davey led the board through an exciting effort this year to establish the PlanRVA brand- an activity kicked off last fall following the completion of our award winning Community Engagement Plan. He and his committee members, including Immediate Past Chairman Neil Spoonhower, CVTA Chairman Frank Thornton and citizen members Jacob Giovia and Charlie Waddell have been guiding staff through a process that is designed to be much more outward focused and providing content and information that is useful to each of us in sharing the work of the Commission and how local governments can

be more effective together. This work has been years in the making- starting when Tim chaired the strategic planning committee in 2018 and through today.

One of the things that will be released soon is a monthly newsletter that highlights the activities of the CVTA, RRTPO and Commission each month. This newsletter will be designed to give each of us a quick overview of the decisions and actions as well as some highlights of exciting things happening in the region. It should be a helpful piece to share with our colleagues back home and a way to ensure more communication occurs in between meetings.

The progress over the last two years to increase engagement and branding would not be possible without financial stability. The Commission's Audit, Facilities and Finance Committee has been hard at work these last few years to focus on accountability and productivity. The committee's Chairman, Jim Holland, has facilitated the committee members through a year of deliberation and planning regarding office space. Earlier this year, a big commitment to the organization's future was made in deciding to relocate. Jim and his Committee members, including Andreas Addison, Mike Byerly, Pat O'Bannon, and Canova Peterson, have been overseeing every step of the process for the design and buildout of the new space in the Current in Manchester at 424 Hull Street.

PlanRVA stepped into a new space this year with the partnership grant from Virginia Housing. In September PlanRVA named Partnership for Housing Affordability as implementation partner to make available \$2.7 million to area nonprofit affordable housing developers in support of projects that would result in new housing opportunities. PlanRVA was a statewide leader in getting this program up and running and has exceeded our obligation to produce 30 new units by several hundred. As of the end of May, the entire award from Virginia Housing has been committed to achieve additional units of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing by the end of the three-year award period. Members of the Partnership for Housing Affordability, including Jovan Burton and Shelby Carney, were recognized for making this program such a success.

PlanRVA supported the establishment of a new partnership known as the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative, which includes the three Counties of Charles City, James City and New Kent as well as the federally and state designated tribal organizations in our region- the Lower Chickahominy- Easter Division, the Lower Chickahominy and the Pamunkey. The first of its kind in Virginia and maybe the country, the collaborative seeks to promote communication and coordination across jurisdictional and tribal and structures with the end goal of preserving the unique ecology of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed while providing opportunity for economic development. This is just one of many of the highlights in the environmental program led by Sarah Stewart. She and her team, including Rebekah Cazares, Katie Moody and Heather Barrar, are focused on building the necessary partnerships to promote environmental sustainability and resiliency across our region. It's this kind of commitment that makes our partnership with the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River so incredible and impactful. In addition to moving the Lower Appomattox River Trail Master Development Plan forward by leaps and bounds this year, Wendy Austin has grown the staff team at FOLAR to realize the full breadth of its mission, to protect the Appomattox River.

Fulfilling the region's environmental transportation and housing planning needs is just a small part of the work of the Commission. PlanRVA supports the Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia. The Alliance was recognized for their work to raise public awareness of

what to do in the event of a disaster and to coordinate resources, training opportunities and information that is so necessary to address any disaster that may come our way.

Members of the PlanRVA staff who have achieved some significant milestones this year were recognized. Leigh Medford will celebrate 24 years with PlanRVA this July and Jin Lee will celebrate 34 years this June.

Mr. Frank J. Thornton, Chair of CVTA, was introduced and shared recent CVTA activity. He noted the CVTA provides new funding opportunities for priority transportation investments across the region. This Authority was established by the 2020 General Assembly of Virginia and comprises the counties and cities located in Planning District 15, also known as PlanRVA.

The creation of the CVTA allows the nine jurisdiction members of PlanRVA to plot their own course and have more ownership in transportation investments in central Virginia. The Authority provides a resource for member governments and agencies that previously did not exist. CVTA is a partner that can leverage resources for competitive funding opportunities and will help central Virginia compete on a larger scale. Much like the future-forward planning work that occurs through PlanRVA, the CVTA will allow the region to look to the future, knowing that there is a stable foundation of financial resources to support investments in the region.

### **Regional Project Prioritization**

Barbara K. Smith, Chesterfield County, gave a report on this and noted the Code of Virginia states that in the creation of the CVTA, The Authority shall develop a prioritization process based on an objective and quantifiable analysis that considers the benefits of projects relative to their cost. Only projects evaluated using such process may be funded.

Work is underway to continue the development of this framework once this first full funding cycle is complete. Ideas on adjustments that can be made to better serve the region are being explored.

### **Fall Line Trail – First Two Years Programming for Projects**

Mr. Todd Eure, Henrico County and CVTA TAC Chair, provided a report on the Fall Line Trail. The first major commitment for the CVTA was to take its first two years of collected regional revenue and pledge \$104 million to advance efforts to build the Fall Line, a 43-mile regional multi-use trail spanning the Richmond region, from Ashland all the way to Petersburg. This pledge moves trail development forward and is now fueling two design-build projects that will construct a section from Ashland to Henrico County, followed by a section from southern Chesterfield County into Petersburg.

### **Executive Director Recruitment**

Mr. Neil Spoonhower, Goochland County, and Patricia A. Paige, New Kent County, provided an update on the ongoing recruitment for the CVTA Executive Director position and reported that the expectation is that the role will be filled in the near future

### **Recognition**

Chair Thornton recognized the following groups and individuals:

### **Technical Advisory Committee**

The committee has provided a steady, solid technical foundation for all the hard work that the CVTA has undertaken these first two years. The work of this committee has enabled the CVTA to establish a data-driven regional project selection process, commit to support the Fall Line,

consider a second round of regional funding for 30 projects, evaluate transit governance in the region, and engage a third-party firm to verify project cost estimates, among many other indispensable tasks. Chair Todd Eure, Vice Chair Dironna Moore-Clarke, and the rest of the committee were recognized for their tireless support.

### **Fall Line Trail Work Group**

Once the CVTA committed \$104 million to help the Fall Line get underway, the real work began. This work group of the Technical Advisory Committee has continued to meet regularly to ensure the development process for the Fall Line proceeds on schedule. Partnering with VDOT, the work group has developed two design-build segments for the trail that will begin to roll out this summer and next fall so that the tremendous momentum experienced around this project is not lost. Workgroup members were recognized.

### **HR Round Table**

Chair Thornton announced that the CVTA could not have gotten to where it stands today without the immense buy-in provided by the member governments and staff. A prime example of this teamwork is the HR Roundtable, made up of Human Resources directors from around the region that have volunteered their immense expertise to help the CVTA develop programs and policies for its operation. Yvette George, Mary Martin Selby, Janet Lawson, Mona Adkins-Easley, and Wanda Cornwell were recognized.

### **Finance Directors**

Chair Thornton noted the CVTA would not have been able to commit almost \$102 million to regional projects, \$43.5 million to regional transit, and \$145 million to local transportation priorities without the support of local finance directors. Abbey Pemberton, Debbie Baicy, Matt Harris, Barbara Horlacher, John Zinzarella, Terrell Hughes, Matt Reynal, Rebecca Guthrie, Charla Schubert, Ned Smither, Sheila White, and Joi Dean were recognized.

### **RRTPO Update**

Chair Williams reported the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization, or RRTPO, has been developing plans and recommendations for the region since the first memorandum of understanding was signed by PlanRVA and RRTPO on December 31, 1984. The Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is a federally mandated and federally funded transportation policy-making organization. It's made up of nine member governments and a representative group of local stakeholders. The TPO was created to ensure regional cooperation in transportation planning. It also safeguards that expenditures of governmental funds for transportation projects and programs are made based on a "Comprehensive, Cooperative and Continuing (3-C) planning process." Federal funds for transportation projects and programs are channeled through this process. Area highway and transit projects must be approved by the MPO to be eligible for federal funds. The relationship between PlanRVA and RRTPO is fully integrated and seamless, and with the creation of the CVTA, the RRTPO looks forward to continuing that collaborative nature well into the future, now with an eye towards moving our plans into implementation.

### **ConnectRVA 2045**

Joseph Vidunas, Hanover County, came forward and provided an update on ConnectRVA 2045. In developing ConnectRVA 2045, the need to reach out to the community for participation in the process and feedback on decisions was identified. RRTPO hired a consultant through its on-call communications contract that helped develop online tools and communication strategies to share key information about the planning process.

ConnectRVA 2045 was adopted in October 2021, and had a very high participation rate when compared to previous plans. The community outreach, especially during the pandemic, was exceptional and brought in many community members who otherwise would not have been engaged.

### **Regional Bike/Ped Plan Update**

Nora Amos, Town of Ashland, came forward and reported that there hasn't been an update to the regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan since 2005. With the development of ConnectRVA 2045, the bike-ped plan was a natural candidate for a full update. The active transportation community in our region is very engaged in the work we do at RRTPO and were very enthusiastic about this long overdue update. The plan is very comprehensive and captures needs, concepts, and solutions from across the entire spectrum of thought regarding active transportation. It includes identification of existing networks, gaps in those networks, and proposes new connections that should be made. It looks at safety improvements, policy ideas, and programs to increase equity and accessibility of the entire regional system.

### **Regional Transportation Safety Plan**

Chet Parson, Director of Transportation, provided an update on this. The region has a great network of roads, bridges, trails, and sidewalks and a comprehensive transit system that connects many of our more urban neighborhoods. The City of Richmond has long been an advocate for Vision Zero, which is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. This concept is a lofty aspiration, and it is one that is difficult to put into place without lots of hard work and dedication to the goal.

At RRTPO, a region-wide transportation safety plan was completed that takes vision zero concepts and focuses on putting the data out there for use by the public, staff, and ultimately decision-makers as new improvements to the transportation network are considered. This plan outlines the primary factors preventing people from arriving safely at their destinations along with locations where safety improvements could make a difference. Regional safety trends, crash characteristics, crash locations, and next steps are outlined in the plan. The goal is for it to be another useful tool for member jurisdictions to use as they prioritize transportation spending.

### **Recognition**

Chair Williams recognized the following groups and individuals:

#### **TAC**

The RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee is the backbone of the organization. This group of mostly local planning and engineering staff make sure that all our work is done with professionalism and respect. The members of this committee have all served the region well, cooperating on complex issues and prioritizing the needs of the region through all the work they have been involved in, from development of ConnectRVA 2045 to STBG/CMAQ funding allocations. RRTPO TAC members were recognized.

#### **Senior Connections**

One of the TPO's critical roles in the region is to help make connections between transportation-dependent communities and transportation providers. RRTPO has had a long-standing relationship with Senior Connections and in 2018 designated Senior Connections as the Human Services Transportation Coordination Entity for our region. The steering committee for this effort represents a wide cross-section of key partners across the region including GRTC, Partnership for Housing Affordability, Department of Rail & Public

Transportation, AARP, Virginia Commonwealth University, and mobility services agencies in most of our nine member jurisdictions. We are excited about the future of our partnership! I'd like to ask representatives from Senior Connections to stand and be recognized, along with anyone else in attendance who has had the opportunity to get involved in this great program.

### **Federal Certification**

Chet Parsons reported that Metropolitan Planning Organizations of our size have the ability to sponsor and allocate funding to a wide variety of transportation programs and projects. To continue the ability to allocate those critical funds, the TPO has to go through a multi-day certification process every four years. The Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration are required to jointly review and evaluate the transportation planning process for each urbanized area over 200,000 in population at least every four years to determine if the process meets Federal planning requirements. The review for RRTPO last August found that the metropolitan transportation planning process conducted in the RRTPO area meets Federal planning requirements and received eight commendations on exemplary techniques and approaches to fulfilling federal transportation planning requirements. This is a vast improvement since the last certification review.

### **PLANNING for OUR FUTURE -**

Martha Heeter, PlanRVA Executive Director, recognized members of the PlanRVA staff.

### **Regional Planning and Collaboration: Priority Initiative Alignment**

Martha Heeter shared comments on the importance of collaboration amongst the three organizations. She shared the key initiatives for FY2023.

### **Scenario Planning, ForwardRVA**

Chet Parsons gave a presentation on scenario planning. An RFP is out to solicit support from the private sector in developing a data driven tool that helps provide support in transportation decision making.

Martha Heeter opened a discussion on any topics attendees wanted to address. Mr. Bill Lawson, Office of Emergency Management, City of Richmond, addressed the group and shared a number of topics that could be brought forward for discussion at future meetings. Microtransit, data sharing and the amount of data collected by the state was discussed. Other topics discussed were: opportunities to move the region forward, public mobility; fare free transit; bike/ped and freight & logistics. John Hodges shared comments on local traffic. Andreas Addison shared thoughts about housing affordability, fuel costs, and the importance of connectivity.

Martha Heeter reported on funding and investment opportunities, leveraging state and local dollars in seeking federal funding, and being more competitive as a region

### **RRTPO – Unified Planning Work Program (FY2023)**

Chet Parsons provided a report on the FY2023 UPWP and described the four main areas, program support, general development and comprehensive planning, long-range planning and short-range transportation planning.

On motion by John L. Lumpkins, seconded by John H. Hodges, the members of the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board voted unanimously to adopt the FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program, as follows:

Name, Jurisdiction/Agency	Vote	Name, Jurisdiction/Agency	Vote
John H. Hodges, Town of Ashland	Aye	C. Thomas Tiller, New Kent County	Absent
Byron Adkins, Charles City County	Aye	David T. Williams, Powhatan County	Aye
Kevin P. Carroll, Chesterfield County	Aye	Karin Carmack, Powhatan County	Aye
James M. Holland, Chesterfield County	Aye	Andreas D. Addison, City of Richmond	Aye
Christopher Winslow, Chesterfield County	Aye	Katherine L. Jordan, City of Richmond	Absent
John L. Lumpkins, Goochland County	Aye	Stephanie A. Lynch, City of Richmond	Absent
Susan Lascolette, Goochland County	Absent	Cynthia I. Newbille, City of Richmond	Aye
Sean M. Davis, Hanover County	Abstain*	John B. Rutledge, Capital Region Airport Commission	Absent
W. Canova Peterson, Hanover County	Abstain*	Julie Timm, GRTC	Absent
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Henrico County	Abstain*	Joi Taylor Dean, RMTA	Aye
Frank J. Thornton, Henrico County	Aye	R. Shane Mann, Secretary of Transportation Designee	Aye
Patricia A. Paige, New Kent County	Aye		

\*Member present for meeting but out of the room during vote.

### MEMBER COMMENTS

Patricia Paige expressed her appreciation to Chair Williams and his efforts to make this meeting happen. She also expressed her appreciation to Dr. Cynthia Newbille for chairing the committee to explore future transportation forums and joint meetings.

### NEXT MEETINGS:

Chair Williams noted the next meetings are as follows:

- RRTPO: July 7, 2022
- CVTA: June 17, 2022
- PlanRVA Commission: July 14, 2022
- Joint Meeting: tentatively planned for June 1, 2023

### ADJOURNMENT

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:53 a.m.