

Minutes
for the
July 22, 2020 Meeting
of the
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization
Virtual (Online) Meeting
at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees

Joe Davis, Pittsylvania County
Lee Vogler, City of Danville
Brian Dunevant, City of Danville
Ron Searce, Pittsylvania County
David Cook, VDOT (call-in)
Chris Winstead, VDOT (call-in)
Taylor Jenkins, DRPT (call-in)
Dave Hoback, Danville MPO Administrator
Michael Armbrister, Danville MPO Staff (call-in)
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff (call-in)

1. Call to Order

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

2. Election of MPO Chairman for remainder of 2020

Mr. Davis, Vice-Chairman opened the floor for nominations for MPO Chairman. Mr. Searce nominated Mr. Vogler and Mr. Vogler seconded the nomination. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously. Mr. Davis turned the meeting over to Chairman-elect Vogler.

3. Approval of minutes from June 24, 2020 MPO Meeting

Mr. Vogler called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2020 MPO Meeting; Mr. Searce made a motion to this effect which was seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

4. Approval of FY 2018 – 21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment to incorporate new statewide/districtwide maintenance project funding (DMPO-WP 20-1)

Mr. Hoback briefly introduced the TIP document, and stated it was periodically necessary to amend this document. He noted the MPO was recently approached by VDOT to amend the current FY 18 – 21 TIP to incorporate new statewide/districtwide maintenance funding. Davis made a motion to amend the FY 2018 – 21 TIP, which was seconded by Mr. Searce. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

5. Adopt Resolutions of Support for Smart Scale Applications by City of Danville, Pittsylvania County and Danville MPO

• Pittsylvania County Smart Scale Applications: Resolution – 2020-5

• City of Danville Smart Scale Applications: Resolution – 2020-6

• MPO Smart Scale Applications: Resolution – 2020-7

Mr. Vogler introduced this agenda item, and a decision was made to vote on all resolutions together rather than on each separately. At this time, Mr. Hoback introduced Mr. Armbrister, the new Associate Director/Senior Planner of the Danville MPO and WPPDC, and then asked Mr. Armbrister to introduce the Smart Scale projects in Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville, while Mr. Bonanno would introduce those for the Danville MPO. Mr. Armbrister introduced the project applications as follows:

- Intersection improvements at U.S. Route 29 at Malmalson Road estimated to be just over \$5 million
- Intersection improvements at U.S. Route 29 and Tightsqueeze Road at an estimated cost of just under \$11 million
- Intersection improvements at U.S. Route 29 and Lawless Creek Road at an estimated cost of \$4.7 million.
- Pedestrian accessibility and safety improvements for 2.25 miles along and in the vicinity of Piedmont Drive
- Improvements on Riverside Drive from Piney Forest Road to Audubon Drive
- Improvements on Riverside Drive from Park Avenue to Westover Drive
- Improvements on Riverside Drive from Arnett Boulevard to Main Street

Mr. Bonanno then briefly discussed the project applications the Danville MPO would submit, which included the following:

- The Berry Hill Connector Road Extension from the western terminus of the new connector road south approximately 2.3 miles to Oak Hill Road, which would involve widening the existing alignment of that segment of Berry Hill Road from two to four lanes with shoulders, at an estimated cost of \$54 million.
- A new roundabout at the intersection of Mount Cross Road and Dimon Drive, along with a new segment of sidewalk and crosswalk, at an estimated cost of \$7,392,448.
- Kentuck Road Improvements, which would involve widening Kentuck Road from the intersection of Eagle Springs/Wilkerson Road to approximately 0.5-mile north, which would include new turn lanes at the intersection of Ringgold Industrial Parkway. He added that the intersection improvements at Kentuck Road's intersection with Eagle Springs and Wilkerson Roads, which were in the pre-application and included stop sign replacement, tree trimming, and pavement repair, were deemed to not be eligible for Smart Scale funds, and had been removed from the final application. He added that the estimated cost of the project was \$7,428,972.

Mr. Scarce made a motion to approve Resolutions 2020 – 5, 2020 – 6, and 2020 – 7. This motion was seconded by Mr. Davis, and the motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

6. Comments/Updates from VDOT/DRPT/FHWA

Mr. Winstead asked Mr. Cook if he had anything to share, to which Mr. Cook stated that Smart Scale applications would be due August 17th and added that applicants should be working on site plans for the economic development component of the applications. He concluded by stating that if anyone had questions about economic development, they should contact himself or Mr. Youngblood. Mr. Winstead stated that a virtual public meeting would take place on August 4th regarding the Berry Hill Connector Road project, which would satisfy the public involvement requirement during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Winstead added that new legislation passed by the General Assembly increased the gas tax by five cents beginning July 1. In addition, he noted that those areas in the state that had not already identified and enacted a regional gas tax also saw a 7.6-cent per gallon increase as well, and that these particular funds would remain in their respective VDOT districts in promotion of the Smart Scale District Grant Program. He added that the state gas tax would increase by 5 cents per gallon again on July 1, 2021. Mr. Winstead made a statement welcoming Mr. Armbrister.

Mr. Vogler stated that in a previous meeting he had asked about rumble strips on Mount Cross Road, and asked Mr. Winstead the status of those treatments. Mr. Winstead replied that he would review and inquired as to whether Mr. Vogler was interested in that road treatment for both the City and County, to which Mr. Vogler replied in the affirmative.

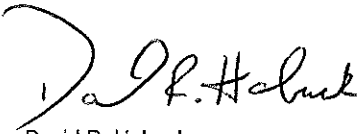
Ms. Jenkins, DRPT, reiterated that the Smart Scale application deadline had been extended, and she added that if there were any applicants for transit improvements, that they should reach out to either herself or Mr. Grant Sparks. She added that, effective July 24th, the Breeze would resume operations between Blacksburg and Washington, D.C., and it would be renamed the Valley Flyer, that it would operate at 50 percent capacity due to COVID-19, and that passengers would be required to wear personal protective equipment. Ms. Jenkins added that Virginia Breeze service from Danville to Richmond was scheduled to begin in August.

7. Other Business

Mr. Hoback stated that the next MPO meeting was scheduled for August 20th. He added that the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan and the U.S. Route 58 West Access Management Update study were both anticipated to be adopted at that meeting, and he noted that both documents were currently in the public review process. Mr. Hoback advised Mr. Fred Shanks' term on the MPO Policy Board ended June 30th and he had served the MPO for 12 years. He brought to the Board's attention a resolution expressing gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Shanks for his years of service to the MPO and asked the Board to vote on it. Mr. Scarce made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.



David R. Hoback
Danville MPO Administrator