

Minutes
for the
April 23, 2024, Meeting
of the
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization

Attendees

Lee Vogler, City of Danville, Chairman
Kenneth Gillie, City of Danville
Ken Bowman, Pittsylvania County
Eddie Hite, Pittsylvania County
Brian Dunevant, City of Danville
Carson Eckhardt, VDOT
Chris Winstead, VDOT
Paige Lazar, DRPT (Via Zoom)
Kristie Eberly, Danville MPO Administrator
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff

1. Call to Order

Mr. Vogler called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the January 10, 2024 meeting

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2024 meeting. Mr. Chris Winstead made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Brian Dunevant. The motion was voted on and was approved unanimously.

3. Presentation of FY 25 MPO Unified Work Program (UWP), Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner

The UWP is the document the MPO uses to annually program anticipated funds for the fiscal year, beginning July 1st. This coming year, the MPO will be receiving \$191,013 in PL funds. We will have a carry-over from FY 23 of \$73,879.11, for a total of \$264,892.11. Of this \$264,892.11, the MPO has budgeted for \$254,487.11, to cover the various activities in which we're involved. In years past, the MPO received \$50,000 in base funding, but beginning this fiscal year, our base funding has been bumped up to \$75,000. Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville have agreed to provide a match of \$19,101.32, or \$9,550.50 apiece. Amount needs to be verified. Amount was verified to be correct.

4. Adoption of FY 25 MPO Unified Work Program (UWP)

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Adoption of the FY 25 MPO Unified Work Program (UWP). Mr. Brian Dunevant made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Chris Winstead. The motion was voted on and was approved unanimously.

5. Adoption of Resolution to Carry Over PL funds from FY 23 to FY 25

Joe Bonanno stated that there was \$73,879.11 in carry-over funds available from FY 23. This involved a local match that totaled \$7,387.91. It was explained that the amount would be moved into the upcoming year. The Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution to Carry Over PL funds from FY 23 to FY 25. A motion was made by Mr. Brian Dunevant, which was seconded by Mr. Eddie Hite. Upon the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of 2024 MPO Self-Certification, Kristie Eberly, Danville MPO Administrator

The annual process we do every year to ensure the MPO is in compliance with Title VI and other non-discrimination laws. It was reviewed and we were found to be in compliance. The MPO staff recommends adopting the Resolution of 2024 MPO Self-Certification. The Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the 2024 MPO Self-Certification resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Eddie Hite, which was seconded by Mr. Brian Dunevant. Upon the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

7. Endorsement of Pittsylvania County and Danville MPO Smart Scale Round 6 Resolutions: Route 41 Improvement Projects and Connector Road Expansion at Berry Hill (resubmission) Pittsylvania County

Mr. Bonanno spoke about 2 Pittsylvania County projects.

- Franklin Turnpike Median, Shared Use Path & Roundabouts: The project would include adding a median and shared-use path from 400 feet north of Hunting Hills Road to 700 feet south of Swanson Avenue. An oval roundabout with crosswalks is proposed at the Mount Hermon Circle (north) and Oak Forest Circle intersections, a single lane roundabout with crosswalks is proposed at Ridgecrest Drive, and a right-turn lane is proposed at NB Mount Hermon Circle (north). Additionally, right-turn tapers are proposed at NB Hunting Hills Rd, NB Mount Hermon Circle (south), and SB Jeanette Drive. Mr. Ken Bowman mentioned that a Route 41 Meeting was held 2 weeks prior with nearly 100 in attendance and they went through design phase about widening with not much objection. Some discussion about roundabout close to the Mount Hermon circle area. Chris Winstead mentioned that these applications were new to Smart Scale and staff is reviewing now, and in recognition in being new, he was going to abstain because his staff is still working through it. Mr. Bowman continued with an oval roundabout – some citizens were confused because side streets do not align, so an oval was not fitting exactly like they wanted it to, so they preferred a peanut-shaped roundabout. Also, there was discussion about where 41 coming south from two lanes to four lanes extended to the roundabout to reduce to a safer speed. We're looking for calming devices due to fatalities.

An endorsement was requested from the MPO board for Pittsylvania County Smart Scale Application. A motion to approve was made by Ken Bowman and was seconded by Mr. Eddie Hite. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Chris Winstead as abstention.

- A resubmission of the Connector Road Expansion at Berry Hill. The expansion of a programmed connector road (UPC 115493), currently under development, and extending from Berry Hill Road (Route 311) east to the Oak Ridge Farms Road (Route 1260) at the Danville Expressway (U.S. Route 58) in Pittsylvania County. The application seeks funding to widen the initial two-lane connector road to a median-separated four-lane configuration to accommodate a larger volume of traffic as the Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill develops. The project also includes improvements at existing intersections as well as upgrading of the existing Oak Ridge Farms Road interchange to a Diverging Diamond configuration. Mr. Chris Winstead mentioned that he and his VDOT staff were very familiar with this Connector Road Expansion. Mr. Lee Vogler supports the resubmission expansion application. The Chairman made a motion, which was seconded by Ken Bowman. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

8. Proposed Amendment to the Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner

Brian Dunevant, from the City of Danville, had asked about the possibility of amending the Vision List of the Danville MPO to include several additional projects and to remove several other projects that had either been funded or are no longer considered by the City of Danville to be priorities. Mr. Bonanno mentioned that even though the Vision Plan was amended, the order of Pittsylvania County's projects did not change, according to Brian Dunevant.

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Proposed amendment to the Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Brian Dunevant made a motion to approve seconded by Mr. Eddie Hite. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Adoption of amendment to the Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Proposed amendment to the Danville MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Brian Dunevant made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Eddie Hite. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Approval of Danville MPO Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) 2050 land use data, Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner

In the packet was included a number of items relating to this portion of the TAZ update, which include a summary of the methodology for developing the 2050 population, households/household population, and employment. Using the 2017 – 2021 ACS, Mr. Bonanno stated that he developed a ratio of estimated vehicles per household at the census tract level and applied it to all TAZs in each census tract. From there, he applied that same ratio to the future year

estimated population to estimate the number of vehicles per TAZ. What follows the methodology is a listing of the residential and non-residential projects that are either proposed or underway in Danville and the MPO portion of Pittsylvania County. Last is a compilation of the raw data for each of the TAZs, followed by a map showing the TAZ locations.

The Chairman asked for a motion for the approval of the Danville MPO Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) 2050 land use data. Mr. Brian Dunevant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddie Hite. Upon the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

11. FHWA Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant-funded Safety Action Plan update, Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner

Safe Streets and Roads for All process to develop the Safety Action Plan began at the January meeting. Since that time, a lot of progress has been made.

- A virtual Working Group meeting was held on March 8th, which involved participation from first responders, planners, VDOT, public safety, Danville Public Works, City Council /County BOS, the Health Collaborative and, of course, EPR, which led the discussion. Discussion involved identifying safety issues throughout different areas of the City and County, and discussing what success would look like.
- EPR recently launched a project website and an interactive "Social Pinpoint" survey to encourage the public to provide input on safety issues throughout the MPO. This survey will be live for the next four or five weeks or so.
- A soft launch of the survey took place last Wednesday at the Danville Health, Wellness, and Resource fair at the Community Market building.
- The next Working Group meeting scheduled for Friday, June 7th.
- EPR was able to receive the safety data they needed from VDOT.
- I will send out the links to the website and the survey, and I ask that you spread them far and wide!

There were no questions or comments.

12. Comments/Updates from VDOT/DRPT/FHWA

Mr. Chris Winstead, VDOT, mentioned a public meeting on May 1, 2024, at 4pm in Lynchburg to receive public comments of the draft Six Year Improvement Program. He was pleased to inform the Board that the total amount is over \$609 million for that six-year period. There is a list available showing some revenue sharing projects in the draft which includes three in Danville. He added that he expected the Secretary of Transportation to be there as well as Linda Green and possibly Steve Bridges. Not the largest time frame, we will see this with round 6 with Smart Scale next spring.

Mr. Carson Eckhardt added that a Ready Set Go grant-funded project in Chatham for a sidewalk improvement project began during the last week of March.

Paige Lazar, of DRPT, noted that agency would also be hosting a public hearing for the Six-Year Improvement Program, which was scheduled for May 16, 2024, at 4 pm in our Richmond headquarters. She added that one would also take place in NOVA, and a virtual meeting option would be available as well. The purpose of this meeting is to gather public feedback on draft SYIP 2025 – 2030 for the various transportation projects proposed over that period. Ms. Lazar added that DRPT was collecting feedback and then presenting to the CTB in June. Ms. Lazar noted that DRPT was conducting the Connecting Commuters Marketing Campaign from March through May. She then introduced an app called Connecting VA that is free for Virginians to plan personal travel. Furthermore, she noted that North Carolina and Virginia recently were awarded a \$200,000 federal grant to improve passenger and freight rail between both states, which pertained to planning and Coordinating along Southeast Corridor.

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Adjourn 6:17 p.m.



Kristina Eberly
Danville MPO Administrator