

Minutes
for the
February 4, 2025,
Meeting of the
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization

Attendees

Ken Bowman, Pittsylvania County, Chairman
Lee Vogler, City of Danville
Carson Eckhardt, VDOT
Chris Winstead, VDOT
Brian Dunevant, Danville
Ken Gillie, Danville
Eddie Hite, Pittsylvania County
Amanda Poncy, EPR
Bill Wuensch, EPR
Paige Lazar, DRPT
Lynette Wuensch, EPR
Rick Youngblood, VDOT
Linda Green, CTB
Kristie Eberly, Danville MPO Administrator
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Bowman called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Election of MPO Chairman for 2025

The Chairman, Mr. Lee Vogler, opened the floor for nominations for MPO Chairman 2025. Nomination for Mr. Ken Bowman for MPO Chairman was noted and upon the vote, the vote was carried unanimously, and effective immediately.

3. Election of MPO Vice-Chairman for 2025

The Chairman, Mr. Ken Bowman, opened the floor for nominations for MPO Vice-Chairman 2025. Nomination for Mr. Lee Vogler was noted and upon the vote, the vote was carried unanimously, and effective immediately.

4. Approval of the minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting asking for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2024, meeting. Mr. Lee Vogler made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Eddie Hite. The motion was voted on and was approved unanimously.

5. Final presentation on Safe Streets and Roads for All grant funding Safety Action Plan development, EPR, PC.

Joe Bonanno opened discussion of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan development and introduced Amanda Poncy, of EPR, PC, to deliver the final presentation, after which the Board would consider plan adoption. Ms. Poncy proceeded

to speak, covering the adoption of a new transportation safety action plan and the initiation of the update process for the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Ms. Poncy presented a slideshow presentation summarizing the final Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan, a comprehensive document outlining strategies to improve transportation safety in the region. The plan was developed over 13 months and involved extensive data analysis, community outreach and collaboration with a dedicated project working group. The plan focuses on a “safe system approach” encompassing engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency response. Several priority corridors were identified for immediate safety improvements, and systemic countermeasures were proposed for broader application across the road network.

6. Consideration of approval of Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan, Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner

Following the presentation, a motion was made by Mr. Lee Vogler, seconded by Mr. Eddie Hite for the approval of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan. Upon voting, the plan was unanimously adopted.

7. Consideration of approval of Virginia Safety Targets for Danville MPO, Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner

Joe Bonanno stated that the State of Virginia annually sets and adopts transportation safety targets as part of the federally mandated transportation performance management process. MPOs are required to adopt annual safety targets within 180 days of the state doing so, and for us, that deadline is February 28th. We have the option to either adopt the state’s targets or to develop our own targets. The staff recommendation is to adopt the state’s performance targets, as we have done in past years.

Mr. Lee Vogler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddie Hite, to approve Virginia Safety Targets for Danville MPO. Upon the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

8. Discussion of Danville MPO 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan, Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner

Joe Bonanno stated that with the SS4A plan now behind us, we will be focusing on the update to the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan to the Year 2050. The current plan was adopted in August of 2020 and needs to be updated every five years; that process needs to begin this fiscal year.

Joe Bonanno added that for those who may not be familiar with the Long-Range Transportation Plan, it serves as the MPO’s guidance document for transportation investments over a long-term period, typically 20 years or so and comprises two components: the constrained plan and the vision plan. The constrained portion of the plan includes those transportation projects that are reasonably expected to be funded over the life of the plan, whereas the vision plan is more of a “wish list” of projects that the MPO would like to implement if additional funding were to become available.

Joe Bonanno added that at this point, we have several on-call consultants available to work with us to update this plan, and those that have been discussed internally by staff include EPR, Timmons, and WRA. It is our understanding that since we have a number of on-call consultants, there is no need to send out a formal RFP, but rather a letter to each stating

the work we would like to have done. EPR updated our plan in 2020, and they did an excellent job, but we think it would be prudent to get quotes from several on-calls and to get some insight into their products. Now we just need some guidance regarding the next steps. Mr. Rick Youngblood noted that the development of this plan is a standard operating procedure for the MPO to help get funding from the Federal Funding program.

9. Discussion of Round 6 Smart Scale draft funding scenario, Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner, VDOT.

Joe Bonanno opened the discussion by stating that the Smart Scale Round 6 draft funding scenario was released during the middle of last month and Pittsylvania County was tentatively awarded a new traffic signal at the intersection of Franklin Turnpike and Orphanage Road. The Berry Hill Diverging Diamond Interchange did not make the cut this go-around.

Joe Bonanno added that there had been changes in this past round, which resulted in fewer applications submitted and scored, and far fewer funded than previous rounds. This round, 325 applications were submitted, 270 were scored, and just 53 were recommended for funding, which works out to be 1 out of 5 scored or about 20 percent. Last round, 490 were submitted, 394 scored, and 164 funded, which works out to be about 42 percent.

10. Comments/Updates from VDOT/DRPT FHWA

Mr. Rick Youngblood noted that there were proposals underway, participation changes, applications opening this round. It varies through the years and that is something that we are assessing and taking advantage of this current application process. The Town of Chatham may be applying for some grants as well for some improvements. They will be working with the General Manager and his staff as they proceed. Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), opening is in April and due between August and October.

Mr. Chris Winstead noted that the Public Hearing or a Public Meeting is being scheduled around April for Smart Scale. That will be an opportunity for anybody in the public or localities to comment on the draft funding scenario. The Franklin Turnpike & Orphanage Road project ranked 4th out of 270 in the state. Our district ended up with 4 out of 12 projects funded, accounting for approximately \$82.4 million.

Ms. Linda Green noted how great Berry Hill Road was and thanked those responsible for getting that project completed.

Ms. Paige Lazar noted that Virginia Breeze exceeded 2023 ridership figures in 2024 by 10 percent. The North Carolina DOT launched a new bus connection to Danville, which links to destinations in North Carolina. The route is named the Triangle Danville Connector, making 2 trips a day. Discussed more marketing for the connector.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26.



Kristina Eberly
Danville MPO Administrator