



Accomack-Northampton
Planning District Commission

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

AGENDA & DRAFT MINUTES

For review during November 24, 2020 Meeting

AGENDA

Date: Sept. 22, 2020

Time: 1:30 PM

Location:

Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/7577872936?pwd=QTNJdmhCc3pWdVNUZ0ZWMnVJdWpWUT09>

Join by phone:

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 757 787 2936

AGENDA:

- I. **Call to order**
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. July 28, 2020
- III. **Staff Report**
 - A. Governor's Environmental Excellence Award
 - B. Rail-to-Trail Study
 - C. Parksley TAP
 - D. Metompink Streets
 - E. SMART SCALE
 - F. Title VI Plan Update
 - G. VTrans
- IV. **Unfinished business**
- V. **New business**
 - A. Implementation Plan Funding Matrix
 - B. Review of FY-21 Rural Work Program
 - C. Member Updates
 - D. By-law Amendments & Discussion
- VI. **Public participation**
- VII. **Next meeting** – Nov 24, 2020 1:30 p.m.
Virtual or VDOT Residency, Accomac
- VIII. **Adjourn**

MEMBERS

Rich Morrison, Accomack County*
Susan McGhee, Northampton County*
Mike Tolbert, Town of Chincoteague*
Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC*
Barbara Haxter, Accomack Airport*
Ron Wolff, ANTDC*
Tim Holloway, Chesapeake Bay Bridge
Tunnel*
Chris Isdell, VDOT Accomac Residency*
Eric Stringfield, VDOT Hampton Roads
District*

John Hozey, Town of Cape Charles
Robert Duer, Town of Exmore
Matt Spuck, Town of Onancock
Jim Outland, Bay Coast Railroad
Vanessa Cousineau, ESAAA/CAA/HeadStart
Abra Jacobs, Center for Independent Living
Lisa Sedjat, ESCSB
Bill Moore, STAR Transit
Ivan Rucker, FHWA

STAFF:

Clara Vaughn, A-NPDC

2020 MEETING DATES all at 1:30 p.m.:
Nov. 24

CONTACT:

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*Voting Members

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Podemos ofrecer servicios de interpretación para la reunión. Por favor, llámanos tres días de anticipación para que podamos servir mejor a usted. 757-787-2936, ext. 127

Members Present:

Susan McGhee, Northampton County*
Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC*
Barbara Haxter, Accomack Airport*
Tim Holloway, CBBT*
Chris Isdell, VDOT Accomac Residency*
Eric Stringfield, VDOT District Planner*
Jerry Pauley, VDOT District Planner alt.*
Matt Spuck, Town of Onancock
Jim Outland, Canonie Atlantic Co.
Barbara Young, ESCSB

Voting Members Absent:

Rich Morrison, Accomack County*
Ron Wolff, A-NTDC*

** voting member*

Others Present:

Steve Johnsen, CTB
Spencer Murray, Canonie Atlantic Co.
Grayson Williams, A-NPDC

- I. Call to order: A quorum being present, Chair Susan McGhee called the meeting to order at 1:37 PM.
- II. Approval of Minutes: **Minutes of the July 28, 2020 meeting were accepted as presented by a motion of Chair McGhee, seconded by Secretary Shannon Alexander, and approved unanimously.**
- III. Staff Report
 - a. ***Governor's Environmental Excellence Award*** – Secretary Alexander reported that staff successfully applied for a Governor's Environmental Excellence Award on behalf of the partnership that cooperated to build the Southern Tip Bike & Hike Trail in Northampton County. The trail received a bronze award for Implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan during an Aug. 21 awards ceremony.
 - b. ***Eastern Shore Rail-to-Trail Feasibility Study*** – Secretary Alexander reported that VDOT's Eastern Shore Rail-to-Trail Feasibility Study stakeholder team met virtually Sept. 1 to receive a study update and provide feedback on work to date. Consultants have completed a desktop-level environmental review of the rail corridor; updated cost estimates for constructing the 50-mile trail; and completed typical sections reflecting various conditions along the corridor. They are creating a "maintenance matrix" to provide a guide for maintaining the trail and a public information video on the project. A feasibility study draft is expected at the end of October.

Mr. Tim Holloway asked if the cost estimate in the study incorporates the disposal of creosote rail ties. Mr. Jerry Pauly stated that this is likely a general cost estimate and not that specific. Mr. Eric Stringfield stated that he did not know if this cost was incorporated and would follow up to provide an answer.
 - c. ***Parksley Transportation Alternatives program application*** – Secretary Alexander reported VDOT intends to fund the Downtown Parksley Transportation Alternatives program application submitted by ANPDC staff on behalf of the Town of Parksley. The project will upgrade sidewalks in the downtown area and install ADA-compliant ramps and crosswalks on Dunne Avenue. Staff are working with VDOT to finalize the project for award of funding.
 - d. ***Metompkin Streets project*** – Secretary Alexander reported A-NPDC staff are assisting in the transfer of two Accomack-County maintained roadways, Savage and Finney Drives, in the Metompkin area, into VDOT's secondary system of DOT-maintained roads.
 - e. ***SMART SCALE applications*** – Secretary Alexander reported Accomack County, Northampton County, and the A-NPDC applied for SMART SCALE funding during the 2020 application cycle for Route 13 Improvements in Onley and Accomac, Exmore, Nassawadox, Machipongo, and Cape Charles and Cheriton; Route 175 improvements including widening from 2 to 3 lanes with a center-turn lane between T's Corner and NASA Wallops at Atlantic Road; and several bike and pedestrian improvement projects including restriping Market Street in Onancock and construction of several segments of the Eastern Shore rail-to-trail project.

f **Title VI Plan** – Secretary Alexander reported A-NPDC staff completed the 3-year update to the agency’s Title VI Civil Rights Plan for years 2020-23. The update is available on the ANPDC’s website.

g **Vtrans Workshops** – Secretary Alexander reported the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP) had scheduled several virtual Vtrans workshops, which were postponed due to technical issues. Staff will provide the Committee with the new dates once set.

IV. Unfinished business

None.

V. New business

a **Implementation Plan Funding Matrix** – Mr. Grayson Williams presented a transportation grant funding matrix developed by A-NPDC staff to match transportation projects cited in local plans with potential grant funding opportunities. Discussion ensued regarding next steps to enable the plan to best serve the region.

Mr. Holloway noted the plan does not apply to all TTAC members’ organizations and asked if forming a subcommittee of individuals to whom the plan applies as grant applicants would be appropriate. Chair McGhee noted this is a question for the attorney.

Chair McGhee asked whether the likelihood that any application for funding would be successful is known. Mr. Pauley stated that funding levels would be determined in July when the budget is finalized.

Chair McGhee noted the need to add Safety Improvements to the funding matrix. Mr. Williams stated this matrix was based on pedestrian facility and bicycle projects and that, when reviewing comprehensive plans for the Counties, there were not many projects listed off of Route 13. He noted that outreach to localities would be a helpful next step towards seeking funding and project implementation. There was also a recommendation to add an ‘all’ tab that could be sorted, rather than multiple tabs for different project types.

Mr. Steve Johnsen highlighted the issue with the Parksley TA project’s required match as an example of the need to coordinate in seeking funding.

Staff are to carefully craft an email accompanying distribution of this draft version of the matrix to localities that makes match requirements clear and does not mislead any locality regarding timelines or likelihood of success. The idea of a subcommittee is to be revisited at the next meeting following attorney feedback about the authorities of the Committee.

b **Review of FY-21 Rural Work Program** – Chair McGhee requested an update on the unfinished task in the Rural Work Program. Secretary Alexander stated she would provide an update as follow up. Chair McGhee asked if a draft Rural Work Program for FY22 could be reviewed. Ms. Alexander stated that a draft is not available until the template is provided by VDOT, but asked for Committee input on what could be included in the FY22 Program. Chair McGhee stated that asking Counties for a list of projects for which they require technical assistance would be beneficial in drafting the FY22 Rural Work Program.

c **Member Updates** – Mr. Stringfield reported the application for a STARS Study of Route 13 in Onley was approved by VDOT. The study area is between 1610 Washington Street (BB&T) and Daugherty Road (north of Alpine Village). He noted the STARS Program is one method for moving projects into VDOT’s Six-Year Improvement Program. Mr. Pauley noted the STARS Program focuses on innovative safety projects in smaller geographic areas with known safety concerns.

Mr. Chris Isdell reported that construction on several SMART SCALE projects is underway, including the new Route 13 traffic signal and median crossover improvements at the Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa; and the new Route 13 traffic signal at Route 695 in Temperanceville. Construction will begin shortly on the Route 13 improvements at Route 175 (T’s Corner). A contract has been awarded for the new Route 13 traffic signal at Route 184 (Food Lion) in Cape Charles and work is anticipated to begin in the next month.

Route 707, the bridge at Pitts Creek at the Maryland state line, is under construction and closed.

Mr. Holloway reported paving of the northbound trestle between tunnels on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and the left lane is currently underway and that the tunnel project is progressing.

Mr. Stringfield emphasized the importance of attending the upcoming VTrans workshops, as these determine prioritization of existing needs from the VTrans Plan at the state and regional levels. No new needs will be added.

- d ***By-laws Amendments*** – Secretary Alexander reported that the Commission has directed staff to seek an attorney’s opinion defining the authorities of the Commission and the TTAC and of the TTAC to change the appointing body for Committee membership. Chair McGhee indicated it is appropriate to table discussions regarding by-laws amendments until after this opinion has been received. Discussion ensued. No action was taken. Mr. Stringfield reported he will request VDOT Central Office issue an official response regarding the by-laws.
- VII. Public Participation: None was offered.
- VIII. Next meeting: November 24, 2020 1:30 PM. The VDOT Residency in Accomac is not anticipated to be open and the meeting is likely to take place virtually.
- IX. Adjourn: **The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM. by motion of Mr. Holloway, seconded by Mr. Isdell, and carried unanimously.**