



Commonwealth Transportation Board Environmental Subcommittee

VDOT Central Office
1221 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

September 19, 2023

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members of the Subcommittee in attendance: Angel Deem (Chair), Scott Kasprowicz, Mark Merrill, Laura Sellers, Linda Green, and Fred Stant.

Welcome

Angel Deem, VDOT Chief of Policy, welcomed everyone and introduced Chris Swanson, VDOT Environmental Division Director, as the meeting's facilitator.

Approval of May 2023 minutes

Mr. Swanson briefly summarized the contents of the May meeting minutes.

Minutes approved.

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program

Mr. Chris Berg, Office of Transportation Sustainability (OTS) Director, provided an overview of the Department's NEVI program including updates on Virginia's 2023 Deployment Plan, round 7 nominations for Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs), and the status of the Request for Applications (RFA) to deploy NEVI formula funds.

Discussion from Subcommittee members included how NEVI funds can be used (e.g. installation and maintenance of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations), whether the use of renewable energy sources could be part of the selection criteria, whether NEVI can be used to upgrade existing facilities, and whether evaluations consider price to the consumers.

Mr. Kasprowicz emphasized, as in previous meetings, the importance of including renewable energy sources in the selection criteria. The Department's staff discussed the current limitations of including such a criteria in this current RFA, but shared the Department will continue to evaluate such criteria for future RFAs as more information becomes available.

Ms. Sellers inquired about what happens to NEVI funding that is not utilized. The Department clarified that NEVI funds are available for obligation until expended.

Mr. Merrill indicated that NEVI money should be applied in areas where the market would not otherwise install charging stations. Mr. Berg indicated that this current RFA is targeted at the

current AFCs, which is required before NEVI money can be applied in other areas of the Commonwealth. Future RFAs will include non-interstate corridors that have not seen private sector investment in charging stations to date.

Ms. Sellers asked if the electric grid could handle the increased demand. The Department's staff discussed the close coordination it has with Virginia Energy and utility providers to ensure the grid has sufficient capacity in areas where stations are installed.

Mr. Kasprovicz discussed the importance of an RFA process that prevents a single applicant from potentially securing a monopoly on charging stations installed using NEVI funds. The Department's staff discussed how the current RFA is a competitive selection process, and that additional measures to explicitly prevent a monopoly were not put in place. The Department shared it will continue to evaluate such criteria for future RFAs as more information becomes available.

Land Management and Stewardship

Mr. Berg presented on the Department's enhanced land use review and management process, which has been identified as an objective of the VDOT FY24-26 Business Plan, and OTS's Land Stewardship Action Plan being developed to support this objective. The objective of the Action Plan is to identify and take advantage of opportunities to maximize value to the Commonwealth and meet commitments, maximize the beneficial outcomes and outputs of VDOT's existing land assets, and ensure future land use decisions are consistent and defensible.

Mr. Kasprovicz discussed the importance of evaluating overall benefits of various land stewardship practices and that minimizing impacts should be part of the evaluation process. Moreover, Mr. Kasprovicz stated that develop an evaluation process that is focused on the benefits and return on investments to support its decision making.

Next Meeting

TBD

Public Comment

No public comments were received.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.