



**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE INTERSTATE I-81 COMMITTEE**

Hampton Inn  
401 E Nelson Street  
Lexington, Virginia 24450  
August 13, 2019  
2:00 PM

The first meeting of the I-81 Committee was held at the Hampton Inn in Lexington, Virginia. The meeting began at 2:05 PM on August 12, 2019. The meeting began with opening remarks from Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation.

Present: Delegate Terry Austin, Delegate Chris Collins, Delegate Chris Hurst, Delegate Tony Wilt, Senator Bill Carrico, Senator John Edwards, Senator Mark Obenshain, Chairman Frank Friedman, Councilman Bill Bestpitch (designee for *Bradley Grose*), Chairman Michael Harvey, Chairman Dennis Morris, Chairman Tim Reeves, CTB Member Ray Smoot, Jr., CTB Member Jerry Stinson, CTB Member Dixon Whitworth, CTB Member Greg Yates, Commissioner Steve Brich, ex-officio, Director Jennifer Mitchell, ex-officio.

1. Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation presented on the roles and responsibilities of the Committee.

General discussion: Deputy Donohue discussed with the Committee the need for staff to receive guidance on policy goals related to the prioritization of projects along the corridor. There was Committee discussion related to funding projects in each of the three VDOT districts and if they should be funded from the top down, based on score. Further discussion was related to having flexibility for projects and the need to consider which ones have the most benefit and equity considerations when advising on which projects to fund first.

Procedural action: Election of committee chair and vice-chair

Motion for Delegate Terry Austin for chair of the Committee made by: Ray Smoot  
Seconded by: Delegate Chris Hurst  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion for Senator Bill Carrico for vice-chair made by: Delegate Tony Wilt  
Seconded by: Senator John Edwards  
Vote: Unanimous

2. John Lawson, Deputy Secretary of Transportation presented the financial overview.  
*Referenced by the attached presentation*

General Discussion: The Committee discussed options for financing projects to include pay-as-you-go and bonding which would require action by the General Assembly.  
General discussion on the potential for bonding to help deliver projects sooner.

3. Bart Thrasher, Chief Engineer Virginia Department of Transportation presented the project prioritization process.  
*Referenced by the attached presentation*

General Discussion: The Committee was briefed on operational improvements that began July 1, 2019 and requested a list of these projects, 16 operational projects began and 47 capital improvements remain. The Committee requested VDOT to prepare a draft schedule and plan for the remaining capital improvement projects at the next meeting. The Committee requested that lead time be addressed and required environmental reviews. There was continued discussion on potential funding options. The Committee requested that staff to further explore bond financing to get projects constructed sooner and leverage funds to maximize bonding.

4. Delegate Terry Austin, Chairman of the Committee gave closing remarks and opened the floor for public comment. The next meeting date was deferred.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m. The next meeting date and location will be determined upon call of the Chair.