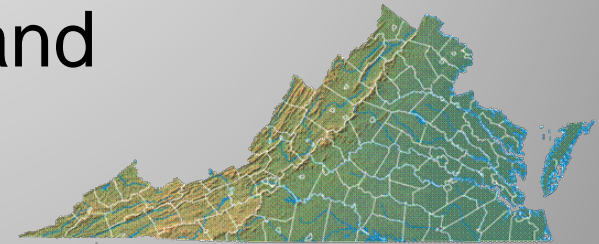


# VTrans Regional Transportation Planners' Forum

Making the Connection: Implementing  
Performance-Based Planning and  
Programming in Virginia  
**January 24, 2014**



## Breakout Session Summary Slides

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations - Bristol



### 1. BENEFITS/OUTCOMES

- **Defendable Priority of Projects**
- **Consistency**
- **Purpose and Need**
- **Did Projects Work?**
- **Spending Dollars on Best Projects**

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations - Bristol



### 2. CHALLENGES/CONCERNS

- **Scores Based on Access, Environment, Need**
- **Regional Needs and Targets**
- **Congestion and Safety**
- **Regional Differences in Weighting**
- **More Involvement from Localities**

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations - Bristol



### 3. SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS

- Economic Development
- Reactionary vs. Proactive
- Access Management
- Politics
- Money
- Other Factors (i.e. water and sewer)

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations - Roanoke



### 1. BENEFITS/OUTCOMES

- Less arbitrary, relies on data.
- Better balance between political process and technical analysis (qualitative vs. quantitative)
- More transparent.
- Better connect CTB, Central Office, District Offices, and MPOs.

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations - Roanoke



### 2. CHALLENGES/CONCERNS

- Uniform statewide measures are a concern. Education SOLs as an example.
- Commitment at the state level is necessary.
- Lack of knowledge about how programming decisions get made at the state level.
- Important to be careful about how incentives are set up. “If you pay people to make things worse, they will get worse.” CMAQ example.
- What is the purpose of performance measures for small MPOs that control very little funding?
- Performance measures may conflict. Which wins out? Financial vs. Planning measure is an example.

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations - Roanoke



### 3. SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS

- **Consider scaling performance measures. Make them more applicable to local conditions.**
- **Use multiple screens for decision making. Qualitative + quantitative.**
- **Clarify the connections between state level programming and regional priorities.**
- **Performance measures are less important in regions with little control over decisions about funding. One approach might be to strengthen rural PDCs so they act more like RPOs in NC.**

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Northern Virginia



### 1. BENEFITS/OUTCOMES

- **Common language between MPO and funders (for example: what is crash data?)**
- **See short-term progress on long-range projects (long-term goals)**
- **Promotes coordination among agencies on projects/programs – important to start as early as possible – at the goal level**
- **Proposed legislation in VA offers variable goals based on congestion for economic development – depending on district/region (will be some sort of prioritization but will be different throughout the state – prioritization offers objectivity rather than subjectivity, will provide a litmus test for combatting congestion among other things) (CTB comment)**



# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Northern Virginia



### 2. CHALLENGES/CONCERNS

- **Coordination with stakeholders and local jurisdictions – stakeholders and their goals don't always align (e.g. state/local goals may not align eg “cost-effectiveness” can be different for a rural or urban locality)**
- **Defining performance measures in rural/urban contexts – captive versus choice riders need to be taken into account**
- **How to quantify equity (*CTB comment*)**
- **Difficult to quantify economic benefits for a project**
- **Mode-share targets vary by urban/rural contexts**
- **MWCOG has to coordinate across multiple jurisdictions – challenges of common language across states and federal government**
- **Agreement on use of data (use of other agency's data may be challenged)**
- **How to go about capturing the qualitative impacts of projects (like QOL and economic benefit)**

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Northern Virginia



### 2. CHALLENGES/CONCERNS

- **Equity of data and differences in context (rural versus urban) – how to put them on a level playing field or do you measure them differently**
- **Cost Benefit Analysis has to be a tool – not the tool /Don't let the tail wag the dog**
- **Project rating is not project ranking**
- **Overcoming the breakdown between planning and programming (which can lead to missed opportunities; planning tends to be more holistic, programming tends to be more fiscal – goals between disciplines may not align)**
- **The modes have their own relationships & criteria for their Federal counterparts**

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Northern Virginia



### 3. SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS

#### OVERALL SUGGESTIONS

- Develop a system that uses existing data/information rather than starting a whole new data gathering process
- Standardize data collection throughout the state
- Expanding use of cell phone/INRIX data
- Use real time arrival data from transit agencies – speaks to ridership and reliability

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PBPP MANUAL

- Ensure that PBPP doesn't preclude local/qualitative concerns
- A website linking to current guidance and best practices (national and local), latest information on Federal status, latest TCRP and TRB reports,

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Hampton Roads



### 1. BENEFITS/OUTCOMES

- **Transparency of the entire process (this has an increasing emphasis, particularly under MAP-21).**
- **Establishing a common language. Communication across the state.**
- **Better collaboration between localities and state.**
- **More efficient decision-making.**

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Hampton Roads



### 1. CHALLENGES/CONCERNS

- **MPO prioritization processes are all different, making it challenging for CTB to evaluate projects on an even playing field.**
- **Local priorities versus state priorities.**
- **Challenges associated with planning to the need rather than the metric.**
- **Conveying value (ROI, Economic Impact) of the project.**

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Hampton Roads



### 3. SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS

- Perhaps opportunities for CTB to evaluate like-minded projects. For example, prioritized projects within downtown areas be evaluated together.
- Potential for VTrans to have a project scoring system/section that creates the various project categories (like-minded projects) so that apples are compared to apples (expanded on point mentioned above).
- Economic impact is an important prioritization criteria to consider. Everything, including infrastructure, starts from the condition of our economy.
- Planning to the need.
- Different scoring methods for different project categories and eligibilities (example: CMAQ versus HSIP).
- Better agency identification of prioritization inputs and outputs to help enhance CTB understanding.

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Richmond



### 1. BENEFITS/OUTCOMES

- Limited funds will be spent on the most pressing needs.
- Helps remove politics out of decision-making process.
- Credible and consistent approach.
- Transparency to CTB and public
- Provides politicians with a defensible use of funds.
- Accountability – has implementation actually reached a goal?
- Defensible way to seek more money from legislature – show basic needs and improvements
- Build public trust
- Build opportunities for alternatives, - not always highway projects.

# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Richmond



### 2. CHALLENGES/CONCERNS

- Data Issues
  - Consistency
  - availability
  - Mode-neutrality
- Linking planning horizons
  - Lag time between long-range planning, implementation, and monitoring
- Limit of agencies' influence
  - Eg. Weather events, human behaviors, private sector decisions can reflect poorly on performance
  - Output vs. Outcome
- Local vs. Statewide Goals
- Qualitative Measures/ Weight of Measures are subjective
- Translating 20-yr plans to immediate programming
- How to set reasonable targets?



# Breakout Session SUMMARY

## Key Themes & Observations – Richmond



### 3. SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS

- Better mode split modeling
- Include cost to implement 'best practices' from other states
- Need more detail and examples of how long range planning has been linked to implementation in other states
- What is impact to funding overall – need to identify how that will be linked – will be limited to constrained funding sources (can't use CMAQ funds for unqualified projects even if PBPP says they are a priority)
- Investigate data gap for unquantifiable measures