



112 MacTanly Place  
Staunton, VA 24401

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**BRITE Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Summary  
March 10, 2021, 2:30 p.m.**

*Video Conference Meeting via Zoom*  
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission  
112 MacTanly Place  
Staunton, VA 24401

	Name	Organization
✓	Steve Rosenberg	City of Staunton
	Jennifer Whetzel	County of Augusta
✓	Luke Juday	City of Waynesboro
✓	Karen Clark	Augusta Health
	Mike Kelley	Wilson Workforce & Rehabilitation Center
	Greg Beam	Staunton Downtown Development Association
✓	Terry Rodgers	Shenandoah Valley Social Services
✓	Cynthia Page	Blue Ridge Community College
✓	Becky Messer	Transit Service Rider
✓	Paul Terry	Transit Service Rider
✓	Steve Wilson	Virginia Regional Transit
✓	Steve Hennessee	Department of Rail and Public Transportation

	Name	Organization
✓	Ann Cundy	CSPDC
✓	Devon Thompson	CSPDC
	Bonnie Riedesel	CSPDC
✓	Kira Johnson, City of Waynesboro	
✓	Shane Doran, Site Speciality, LLC	

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the BRITE Transit Advisory Committee (BTAC) was called to order at 2:31 PM by Ms. Terry Rodgers, Chairperson.

**Public Comment**

Chair Rodgers opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

**Approve Minutes**

Chair Rodgers presented the minutes from the January 13, 2021 BTAC meeting.



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Mr. Paul Terry moved, seconded by Mr. Luke Juday, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Business**

SMART SCALE Applications Update: Ms. Ann Cundy announced that the combined BRITE SMART SCALE application for pedestrian and bus stop improvements at three sites (US 250/Sangers Lane; US 250/Lew Dewitt; US 11/Dick Huff Lane) was recommended for funding. Ms. Cundy indicated that SMART SCALE provides 100% funding, but build timelines for projects are several years out. Ms. Cundy also gave an overview of other Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro area projects that were funded in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Staunton District, which spans from Frederick County to Alleghany County.

FY 2022 DRPT Grant Application Update: Ms. Devon Thompson indicated that Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) staff submitted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) grants in February. The following grants were submitted:

- 5307 Urban – Operating and Capital
- 5311 Rural – Operating and Capital
- Technical Assistance – Transit Development Plan
- Commuter Assistance Operating Funds (Rideshare)

Ms. Thompson indicated that DRPT was in the process of reviewing grants. Mr. Steven Hennessee indicated that initial internal reviews had been completed, and quality assurance checks would be completed next. Recommended funding scenarios were planned to be released in May 2021 to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), with approval at the June 2021 meeting.

Afton Express Update: Ms. Thompson reminded the committee that a Demonstration Grant had been awarded for the startup of the Afton Express transit service that would connect Staunton, Fishersville, and Waynesboro to Charlottesville and Albemarle County at Fifth Street Station. Current plans call for the startup of service in July 2021, contingent on the rollout of the COVID vaccine and recovery of public transit use. Ms. Nancy Gourley had continued work on the development of an addendum for the operating contract with Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) that would include the Afton Express service. The addendum would go to the CSPDC Commission for approval at their April meeting.

UVA Telework Survey: Ms. Thompson indicated that in February 2021, the CSPDC, in cooperation with University of Virginia (UVA) and Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), conducted a public survey to ascertain the demand for a collective workspace in the Fishersville area. The survey was widely distributed – UVA employees based on their zipcode, TJPDC's employer contacts, the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce (GARCC) members and contacts, a press release, and social media posts. Out of the 359 survey respondents, 72 percent stated that their employment had shifted entirely or partially to telework, and 61 percent indicated that they anticipated continuing to telework in the future and utilizing a shared workspace between one and four days per



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week. The desired amenities for a shared workspace included privacy, security, and enhanced technology and cleaning services. Most respondents were located in Waynesboro (40 percent) followed by Stuarts Draft and Fishersville (18 percent) and Staunton (16 percent). The steering committee would reconvene later in March, and survey results and next steps would be discussed and determined.

Contractor Update: Mr. Steve Wilson discussed various items with the committee:

- General Operations:
  - VRT was hiring transit drivers – the market for bus drivers had become competitive.
  - VRT was encouraging drivers to get their COVID-19 vaccinations.
  - Masks were still being offered and distributed on buses for passengers to comply with the CDC Mask Order where masks were required to ride public transit (issued on January 29, 2021). There had not been a lot of pushback from passengers.
  - Bus capacity was increased to 50 percent (from 20-25 percent), similar to what other transit agencies across the State were doing. There had been some challenges with 20-25 percent capacity, and this would help remedy some of those challenges. Mr. Rosenberg inquired as to whether the 50 percent capacity was consistent with State / health agency guidelines, and Ms. Cundy and Mr. Wilson indicated that the State / health agencies issued general guidance and no mandates were issued on bus capacity. The 50 percent capacity model still maintained social distancing.
- Imperial Drive Bus Stop Request: Mr. Wilson indicated that a bus stop request was received from South Creek Development for a bus stop at US 250 / Imperial Drive in Fishersville. Mr. Wilson provided some background on the bus stop request. Mr. Shane Doran, a representative of the developer, provided additional context on the new development – Goose Creek Crossing, 116 new units located near the existing Waterford Village. Mr. Wilson presented information regarding (see attached presentation slides):
  - Current conditions (flag down service and BRITE Access)
  - Schedule timing impacts
  - Safety concerns
  - Staff recommendation

Due to current infrastructure, Mr. Wilson recommended that at this time the stop remain a flag down stop, and at a later date this could be revisited. Mr. Doran was appreciative of the committee's review of the stop request. Mr. Juday inquired as to whether the developer would be amenable to add bus stop infrastructure /accommodation as development progressed in the specific area, and Mr. Doran indicated that this could be considered. Discussion ensued regarding logistics and criteria of adding bus stop infrastructure. Ms. Thompson noted that Mr. Doran could forward along the future development plans and they could be shared with the consultant for the upcoming Transit Development Plan to review for future route evaluation and planning.



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- Myers Corner Bus Shelter and Bench Installation Update: Mr. Wilson indicated that within the Myers Corner development in Fishersville a new bench and shelter would be installed in the coming weeks. Installation had been delayed due to the inclement weather in February.

Other Business:

- Chair Rodgers indicated that this was the last meeting for Ms. Kira Johnson, Waynesboro. Chair Rodgers thanked Ms. Johnson for her participation on the committee.

**Adjournment**

Chair Rodgers indicated that the next BTAC meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 12 at 2:30PM. The meeting would be held via video conference, and there would be an election of officers.

There being no further business to come before the BTAC, the meeting concluded at 3:02 PM.



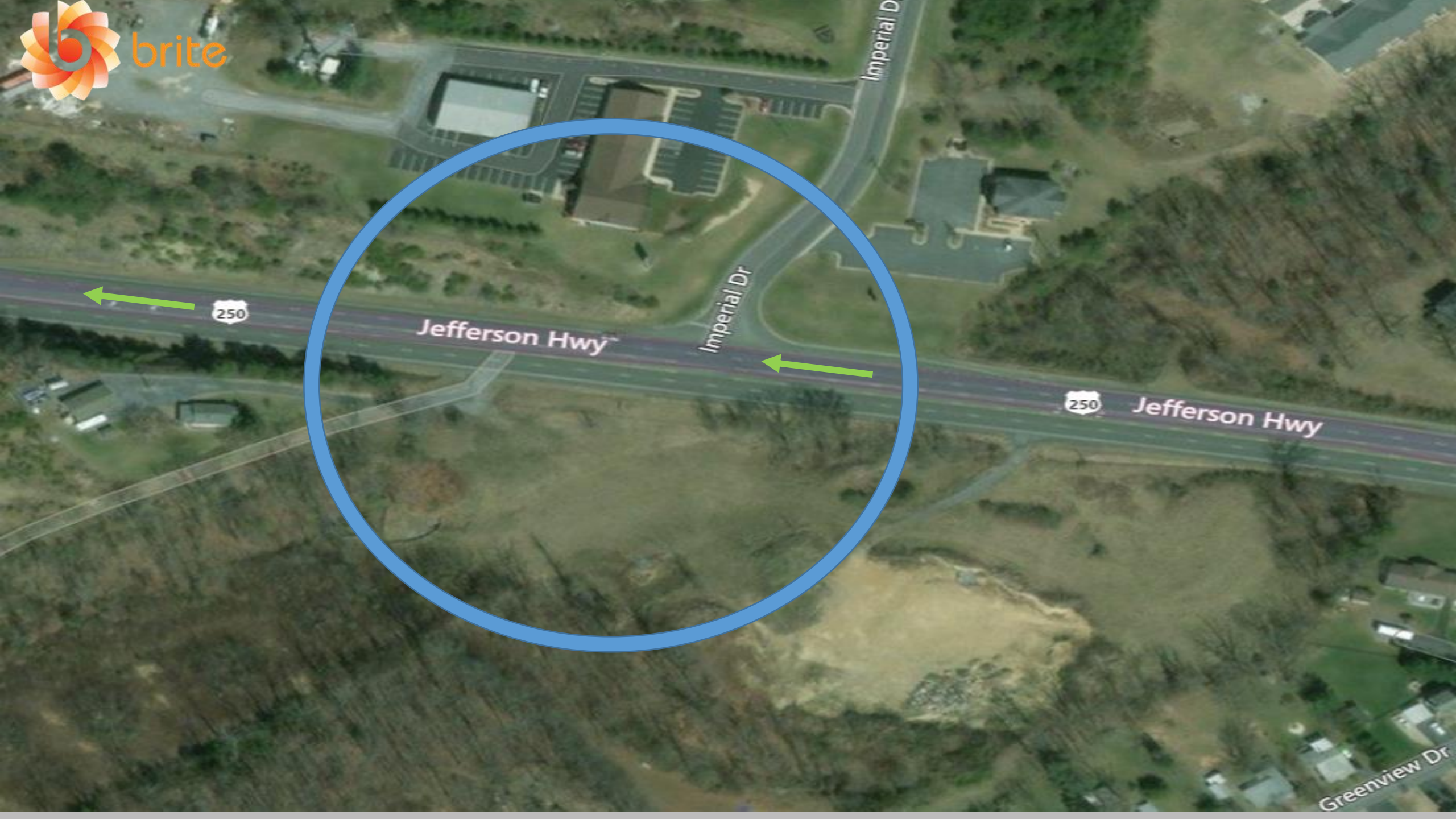
**March 10, 2021**



# Request for Brite Bus Stop

**Imperial Driver and U.S. 250 W. Fishersville Va. 22939**

South Creek Development is requesting that the CSPDC consider the addition of a BRITE stop on Imperial Drive across the street from Goose Creek Crossing. With 116 new families, in addition to Waterford Village and the new Countryside Town Homes that are accessed from Imperial Drive, the site should be well- utilized and would be helpful to the community. Construction should be complete by December of 2022.



Jefferson Hwy

Imperial Dr

250

Jefferson Hwy

Greenview Dr



# Schedule Time Impacts

- This area is currently serviced as call stop or flag down stop for the 250 Connector.
- We currently service ADA customers in the area and regular calls to access the bus traveling both ways.
- The addition of a designated stop would have little impact the route's timetable.





Proposed Stop/Sign Location



250

Jefferson Hwy

Imperial Dr

Imperial Dr

250

Jefferson Hwy

Greenview Dr



# Safety Concerns

- Requires exiting and reentering the travel lane of 250 West.
- Passengers are required to cross 4 lanes of traffic either for their pick up or return trip.
- Hill and curve in this section of 250 has a very limited view of oncoming traffic.
- Traffic Highway speeds of 55mph.





# BTAC Discussion

VRT's position is, that given the current infrastructure, it is advisable that this stop remains a flag down stop. As this area develops, we welcome the opportunity revisit this issue.