

HRMPO TAC Minutes January 5, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Rockingham County Administration Center
20 East Gay Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Voting Members	Alternates	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	Susan Smith, Dayton	✓ Ann Cundy
✓ James Baker	Jay Litten, Bridgewater	✓ Rita Whitfield
✓ Bill Blessing, Chairperson	Lisa Perry, Rockingham	
✓ Thanh Dang	Shane Stevens, Mt. Crawford	
✓ Tom Hartman	Avery Daugherty, Harrisonburg	Others
✓ Gerald Gatobu	✓ Erin Yancey, Harrisonburg	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
Rockingham County	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, CAP
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chairperson	Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	✓ Noland Stout, Daily News Record
✓ James May	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	
✓ Casey Armstrong	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
Town of Bridgewater	✓ Josh Dunlap, VDOT	
✓ Alex Wilmer	Jay Lindsey, DRPT	
Town of Dayton	Non-Voting Members	
Robert Popowicz	Kevin Jones, FHWA	
Town of Mt. Crawford	Michele DeAngelis, FTA	
✓ J. C. Smythers	Lee Eshelman, JMU	
VDOT	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
✓ Terry Short		
✓ Don Komara		
VDRPT		
Nick Britton		

Call to Order

The January 5, 2017, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Bill Blessing.

Minutes

Ms. Thanh Dang moved, seconded by Mr. Don Komara, to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2016, TAC meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairperson Bill Blessing opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Kim Sandum, Executive Director, Community Alliance for Preservation (CAP), distributed copies of the Port Republic and Cross Keys Battlefields map (attached to file minutes) that CAP had prepared on a project in the Port Republic area that outlines the historic districts, century farms, agricultural/forestral districts, as well as a road project. She felt this was important in looking at road projects as it gives an idea of resources that are being protected through easements or other programs.

Ms. Sandum stated that CAP has several concerns with the process used to develop the HRMPO's Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP), as well as both concerns and support for specific projects in the Vision Plan and the CLRP. She noted that CAP was disappointed in: 1) the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), as they had hoped for a fresh look but had a hard time finding any differences between this document and the 2012 document; 2) the timing of the public comment period, especially over the holidays; 3) that CAP's comments from 2012 were not meaningfully addressed in the new document. One of CAP's suggestions was to map battlefields and agricultural/forestral districts to identify conflicts as illustrated in the map that was handed out, as well as in the Dayton area where there are some agricultural/forestral districts that are included in some of the proposed projects. Ms. Sandum stated that there are several proposed projects in the document that are detrimental to the character of the area and are not really meeting transportation needs. She noted that in the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP), CAP requested removing the following projects: Project ID #129 – Switchboard section of NW Connector; Project ID#39 – Connector in Dayton between Eberly and Route 11; Project ID #27 – Bridgewater Bypass. From the Vision Plan, CAP recommended removing projects #130, 22B, 26, 77B, 137, and 138, which are pieces of the Loop Road and segments that connect Interstate 81 to Dayton. Ms. Sandum expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to comment on the CLRP.

Draft HRMPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan LRTP (TAC Memo #17-2)

Chairman Bill Blessing presented the Draft HRMPO 2040 LRTP. Ms. Cundy reviewed the LRTP process, noting that this update to the LRTP is required every five years in order to ensure that the localities can receive federal aid on construction projects, as well as to ensure that the transit systems can receive their federal operating and capital dollars. Ms. Cundy noted that an informational public open house on the LRTP was held on December 7, 2016. Maps displaying transportation performance information within the MPO over the next 25 years were presented and MPO staff was present to answer questions and receive comments from the public. She noted that the comment period on the LRTP materials presented at the December 7th open house deadline was extended from December 22, 2016, to January 5th in order to allow the public additional time to comment before the January 5th TAC meeting. The next open house will be held on March 1, 2017, 4:00-6:00 p.m., at the Rockingham County Community Room. Mr. Terry Short distributed copies and reviewed an insert for the end of Section 6-1 of the LRTP:

MAP-21/FAST ACT and Performance Based Planning and Performance Measures – In times of scarce resources for funding transportation projects, every dollar counts. The HRMPO has developed a strategy to evaluate projects using an objective, data driven process as an ongoing



product of the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to ensure that the region meets its transportation system needs over the next 25 years. The result of this effort will be a planned amendment to this document during the FY17-18 UPWP program timeframe. The strategy to evaluate projects in this manner is connected to recent federal rulemaking and pending state guidance related to performance management measures, and affords the MPO adequate time to provide both the organization and the public sufficient opportunity to develop and implement comprehensive, local-driven-performance criteria for the HRMPO area consistent with federal and state guidance. For instance, the FHWA issues the Final Rule on Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning and Metropolitan Transportation Planning in the Federal Register to implement the changes to the planning process established by MAP-21 in 2012 and revised by the FAST Act in May 2016, and a subsequent Final Rule on Asset Management Plans in October 2016. Lastly, VDOT performance management measures are not expected to be published until the fall of 2017. The HRMPO is committed to ensuring that the process will meet both federal and state guidance.

It was the consensus of the members present to add the insert to the draft LRTP. Ms. Cundy reviewed the timeline for adoption as follows:

- January 19th - First draft presented to the Policy Board
- February 2nd - Final draft presented to the TAC; recommend to the Policy Board to release for public comment
- February 16th - Policy Board releases final draft for public comment period
- March 1st - Final Public Open House, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Rockingham County Community Room
- March 16th – HRMPO adopts the Plan

FY17 Highway TIP Amendment (TAC Memo #17-1)

Chairperson Bill Blessing presented for consideration the FY17 Highway Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment (attached to file minutes). Ms. Ann Cundy gave a brief review on the TIP Amendment. She noted that the TIP Amendment is simply a reformatting of the funds for Rockingham County's Route 11 widening SMART SCALE project to isolate the state's debt service. There is no change to the HRMPO funding levels and this will go into the existing STIP grouping with the SMART SCALE project. Ms. Cundy noted that in order to expedite the amendment, VDOT requested that the Policy Board vote by email to release the TIP Amendment for a 21-day public comment period. She stated that the public notice was released for public comment and to date, no comments have been received. Ms. Cundy noted that the TIP Amendment will go before the Policy Board at the January 19, 2017 meeting for approval.

VMTP 2025 Meeting

Chairman Blessing presented VMTP 2025 Meeting. Ms. Cundy announced that the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment will participate in the joint SAWMPO-HRMPO TAC meeting at the CSPDC Office on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, to present the initial draft Multimodal Transportation Plan 2025 Recommendations. She noted that she would confirm the time and send out notices. Ms. Cundy stated that a brief presentation at the Joint TAC meeting will be followed by a 60-minute open house where maps and descriptions of each recommendation will be available for review and comment. Mr. Short reported on the upcoming meeting, noting that the recommendations address the Tier 1 Consolidated 2025 Needs that were refined through stakeholder input in the spring and summer of 2016 and presented recently at the Fall Transportation meetings.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Updates

Under VDOT Update, Mr. Reed gave an update on SMART SCALE applications, noting that they were heavily into the scoring process and currently going through congestion mitigation scoring. Mr. Terry Short announced that the CTB will announce the SMART SCALE scores at their January 17, 2017, meeting. Mr. Don Komara reported on projects in the Staunton District and expressed concern regarding the importance of funding for Interstate 81. Discussion ensued on the need for funding for Interstate 81.

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Update

Under DRPT Update, Mr. Gerald Gatobu stated that the City of Harrisonburg's Department of Public Transportation (HDPT) is in the process of updating its six year transit development plan. He reported on a public survey being conducted as part of the planning process. Mr. Gatobu stated that the purpose of the survey is to enable area residents to voice their opinions concerning public transportation in the city. He noted that the survey is open until January 31, 2017.

Other Business

Under Other Business, Mr. Tom Hartman reported on the updates to the VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant program. He noted that at the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) December meeting, there were over \$212 million dollars in requests, with only \$100 million in available allocations. This will only allow the Tier 1 projects to receive funding, which means that for FY18, no new projects will be receiving funding. Also at the December CTB meeting, options for changes to the Revenue Sharing program were presented. The City of Harrisonburg submitted a letter to the Secretary of Transportation requesting that the CTB consider increasing the FY18 allocation to allow for at least a prorated award to the Tier 2 projects. The City agrees with Options 1 and 2; however, has great concern with Option 3, due to the fact that additional Revenue Sharing applications would not be allowed after the initial approval, due to the local matching funds being considered for other committed funds. The City also suggested the CTB consider the formation of a working group, comprised of VDOT staff and locality representatives, to evaluate all of the proposed options and present its findings to the CTB.



Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the TAC, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann W. Cundy".

Ann W. Cundy
Transportation Program Manager