

## HRMPO Policy Board Minutes March 16, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

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

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Staff
<b>City of Harrisonburg</b>	✓ Lee Eshelman, JMU	Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC
✓ Ted Byrd, Vice Chairman	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
Deanna Reed	Kevin Jones, FHWA	Jonathan Howard, CSPDC
Kurt Hodgen	Nick Britton, DRPT	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
✓ Reggie Smith	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
✓ George Hirschmann		<b>Others</b>
<b>Rockingham County</b>	<b>Alternates</b>	✓ Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg
✓ Rick Chandler, Chairman	Michael Breeden, Rockingham	✓ Erin Yancey, Harrisonburg
✓ Frederick Eberly	✓ Rhonda Cooper, Rockingham	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT
✓ Stephen King	Casey Armstrong, Rockingham	✓ Nolan Stout, DNR
<b>Town of Mt. Crawford</b>	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, CAP
✓ Dennis Driver	Gerald Gatobu, Harrisonburg	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
<b>Town of Dayton</b>	Ande Banks, Harrisonburg	
✓ Robert Popowicz	Susan Smith, Dayton	
<b>Town of Bridgewater</b>	✓ Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	
Jay Litten	Neal Dillard, Mt. Crawford	
<b>VDOT</b>	Terry Jackson, VDOT	
Randy Kiser	✓ Terry Short, VDOT	
	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
	✓ Don Komara, VDOT	

### Call to Order

The March 16, 2017, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Chandler.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ted Byrd moved, seconded by Mr. Frederick Eberly, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2017, Policy Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

Chairman Chandler opened the floor to the public for comments. Ms. Kim Sandum, Community Alliance for Preservation (CAP) Executive Director, made the following comments: 1) Requested to renew her previous requests to have project number 129, Switchboard Road, moved to the 2040 Long Range Transportation (LRTP) Plan's Vision List; 2) Requested adding Cross Keys Battlefield to the HRMPO maps in the 2040 LRTP. She stated that part of Cross Keys Battlefield is in the HRMPO and felt it needed to be added to the HRMPO maps in order to help protect this important historic resource; 3) Expressed concern with communications with the Old Order Mennonite community when public meetings are held involving their farmlands.

Mr. Frederick Eberly suggested looking into developing a mailing list to send public notices to those whose land is affected, such as those in the Old Order Mennonite community. It was suggested looking into the possibility of holding meetings in the areas affected and contacting the Bishops or other key contacts in order to spread the word throughout the Mennonite community. Discussion ensued regarding communications with the Old Order Mennonite community and the suggestion for the removal of project number 129, Switchboard Road to the LRTP Vision List. There was a suggestion to make the improvement only a 2-lane rural rustic improvement rather than 4-lane, perhaps with a right of way for 4 lanes reserved, or realigning the road. Mr. Terry Short stated that the HRMPO will be going through a travel demand modeling process over the next year which will assess all projects on the LRTP Vision List and Constrained List that could refine this issue. After discussion, it was the consensus of the members present to leave project number 129, Switchboard Road, on the 2040 LRTP Constrained List pending the review process in the next year.

## **Consideration of FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (PB AF #17-7)**

Chairman Chandler presented for consideration FY 2018-2021 TIP. Ms. Ann Cundy gave a review of the TIP, noting that this is a new TIP for transportation projects and programs to be obligated for the federal fiscal years 2018-2021 for highway and transit projects. She stated that the TIP was released for public review for 21 days and that no comments were received; however, she did receive a change to the transit portion of the TIP. Ms. Cundy distributed copies and reviewed the changes to the TIP (attached to file minutes). Mr. Ted Byrd moved, seconded by Mr. Robert Popowicz, to approve the FY 2018-2021 TIP. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Consideration of HRMPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (PB AF #17-8)**

Chairman Chandler presented for consideration the HRMPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Ms. Cundy stated that the LRTP was released for public comment in February and the final open house on the LRTP was held on March 1, 2017. She distributed copies of two additional comments regarding the LRTP she had received. Ms. Cundy stated that all comments received regarding the LRTP have been included in the LRTP under Appendix C: Public Comment. Mr. Ted Byrd moved, seconded by Mr. Frederick Eberly, to include the Cross Keys Battlefield to the HRMPO maps in the 2040 LRTP. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Ted Byrd moved, seconded by Mr. Reggie Smith, to approve the 2040 LRTP. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Consideration of Nominating Committee's Recommendation for Officers**

Chairman Chandler presented for consideration the Nominating Committee's Recommendation for Officers. Upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Don Komara moved, seconded by Mr.

Frederick Eberly, for the current Chairman Rick Chandler and Vice Chairman Ted Byrd, to continue serving for the next two years, effective July 1, 2017. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

### **City of Harrisonburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Presentation**

Ms. Ann Cundy stated that the City of Harrisonburg will present an update on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan at the April meeting. She also stated that Rockingham County will present an update on the UDA Study for the Route 33 East Spotswood Trail project at a later date.

### **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Update**

Chairman Chandler presented VDOT Update. Mr. Terry Short gave an update on the status of Smart Scale applications. He reported on the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting that was held on March 14, 2017, in Richmond. Mr. Short stated that the CTB will be holding their spring meeting on April 22, 2017, 5:30 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Community College's Plecker Center and encouraged everyone to participate.

Mr. Brad Reed gave an update on the Transportation Alternatives Program. Mr. Don Komara reported on a meeting he had attended the previous day on the Bridgewater Study to help the traffic congestion on Route 42. He also gave an update on the Route 11 bridge project in Mt. Crawford.

Mr. Terry Short reported on the Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) grant program and project development process. Due to time constraints in submitting applications (a week and a half), he suggested making an application on the HRMPO's behalf to identify a potential project and cost in the hopes of successfully obtaining funding for a potential project. Mr. Short stated that it would ultimately be the HRMPO's final decision to approve the project. It was the consensus of the members present for Mr. Short to express interest on the HRMPO's behalf in participating in the STARS program on a noncommittal basis to see if there was potential for funding.

### **Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Update**

Chairman Chandler presented DRPT Update. Mr. Terry Short reported on the Commonwealth Transportation Board's presentation and discussion on capital costs at their March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, stating that it did not look good for federal dollars on the capital side and it was a very sobering presentation. He stated that the discussion could be viewed on the CTB website. Mr. Reggie Smith reported on the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Request for Proposal (RFP) for a proposed rural intercity bus service to operate between Blacksburg and Washington DC.

### **Other Business**

Under Other Business, Chairman Chandler noted that he would be contacting the Trump Administration regarding the proposed trillion-dollar infrastructure to inform them of the County's needs regarding Interstate 81 and other needed projects. Mr. Robert Popowicz also suggested expressing concern to the Administration on how Interstate 81 connects to Interstate 64 and expressing support for the shipping area in Norfolk as well.



## **Adjournment**

Chairman Chandler announced that the next HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on April 20, 2017. There being no further business to come before the Policy Board, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann W. Cundy  
Transportation Program Manager