

HRMPO Policy Board Minutes
January 20, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Video Conference Meeting via Zoom

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	✓ Bill Yates, JMU*	✓ Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC
✓ Sal Romero	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
✓ Deanna Reed	Kevin Jones, FHWA	✓ Manas Ranjan, CSPDC
Vacant	✓ Wood Hudson, DRPT	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
Gerald Gatobu	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
✓ George Hirschmann, Vice Chair		Others
Rockingham County	Alternates	✓ Mark Merrill, CTB Board Member
✓ Casey Armstrong	✓ Rhonda Cooper, Rockingham	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
✓ Rick Chandler	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg
✓ Stephen King	Ande Banks, Harrisonburg	✓ Chris Quinn, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber
Town of Mt. Crawford	Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	✓ Erin Yancey, Harrisonburg
✓ Dennis Driver, Chair	Neal Dillard, Mt. Crawford	✓ Kyle Lawrence, SVBC
Town of Dayton	Christa Hall, Dayton	
✓ Angela Lawrence	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	
Town of Bridgewater	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
Jay Litten	✓ Don Komara, VDOT	
VDOT	Matt Dana, VDOT	
✓ Randy Kiser		

Call to Order

Due to rising COVID-19 cases, a 30-day state of emergency in Virginia was declared on January 10, 2022. In light of this emergency, the January 20, 2022, HRMPO Policy Board meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom. The January 20, 2022, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dennis Driver.

Chairperson Driver introduced and welcomed new Policy Board member Mr. Rick Chandler, representing Rockingham County.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Driver presented the minutes from the December 16, 2021, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. Mr. King moved, seconded by Ms. Lawrence, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, with Mr. Chandler abstaining due to his being absent at that meeting.

Public Comment

Chairperson Driver opened the floor to the public for comments. There were no comments from the public.

FY23 FTA 5310 Applications (Board Memo #22-1)

Chairperson Driver presented for consideration FY23 FTA Section 5310 applications. Ms. Cundy stated that the HRMPO is required to maintain a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that identifies all federal transportation funding in the MPO region. Every year, the FTA 5310 program provides federal funding for capital and operational transportation assistance for the elderly and persons with disabilities through local non-profit organizations. Ms. Cundy noted that in the HRMPO, there are two non-profit organizations, Pleasant View Inc. and Way to Go, applying for assistance under the program in FY23 and gave a review on each project. She stated that FTA 5310 applications do not require a financial commitment from the MPO. Ms. Cundy noted that DRPT and the providers request that the MPO include the 5310 projects in the HRMPO TIP if the applications are funded.

HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update (Board Memo#22-2)

Chairperson Driver presented for consideration the HRMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update. Mr. Ranjan gave an update on the 2045 LRTP Scope of Work, noting that the HRMPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) must be updated every five years. He reported on the Travel Demand Model (TDM), noting that HRMPO staff has submitted final Land Use and Sociodemographic data to VDOT for development of the TDM 2045 scenario, developed existing conditions maps, and begun implementation of Phase I of the Public Engagement Plan. Mr. Ranjan stated that staff: developed the 2045 control totals with socioeconomic data for MPO member jurisdictions and submitted the final dataset to VDOT; is reviewing all relevant plans and data that provides essential background information on land use, development trends, economic development, tourism, and multi-modal transportation needs; and is presenting a draft set of maps to the Working Group at their January 18, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Cundy reported on the Public Engagement Plan. She noted that staff issued a Notice to Proceed to CSPDC On-Call Consultant Kimley Horn and sub-consultant Avid Core to assist with this task, as well as provide assistance with project scoring. Ms. Cundy stated that staff and Avid Core are implementing Phase I of the Plan, including MPO assessment, developing an online visioning survey and webinar, stakeholder communications, and scheduling local elected body briefings. She noted that the community priorities identified in the survey will be used to determine which transportation projects are considered, and to develop the evaluation criteria for projects. Ms. Reed raised a question regarding various ways to communicate to citizens who do not have access to technology, and language interpretation services. Ms. Cundy responded that the MetroQuest survey is mobile device friendly and comments can be submitted in writing. She stated that staff is also looking into language translation availability as well.

FY22 UPWP Budget Update (Board Memo #22-3)

Chairperson Driver presented the FY22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Update (attached to file minutes). Ms. Riedesel reviewed the expenditures by the HRMPO as of December 31, 2021, noting that spending is shown by task, and by VDOT and DRPT funding.

Remarks from Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Member Mark Merrill

Chairman Driver introduced and welcomed Mr. Mark Merrill, CTB member. Mr. Merrill expressed his appreciation to the HRMPO members for their service to the Commonwealth. He stated that there was a lot going on in the Commonwealth of Virginia, especially regarding transportation and reviewed the highlights of the major topics. Mr. Merrill reported on the upcoming and outgoing political roster of Cabinet appointees by newly-elected Governor Youngkin. He reported on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and gave a review on construction allocation funds and revenue sharing, noting that the revenues are coming in more favorably than forecasted, and on the fiscal standpoint, there was nothing but good news. Mr. Merrill reviewed the rails to trails initiatives that would convert out-of-service railroads into multi-use recreational trails, noting that the CTB has been supportive for the trails. He reported on safety initiatives, noting that the number of fatalities and serious crashes did not decrease over the past year, and there was an initiative underway to try and reduce the number of fatalities on Virginia's highways by 2 percent a year for the next 20 years. Mr. Merrill reported on other items of interest from the CTB regarding climate change, economic development, and funding allocated for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). He noted that updated information on

various projects on I-81 can be viewed on <https://improve81.org>. On behalf of the HRMPO, Chairperson Driver expressed his appreciation to Mr. Merrill for his attendance on the Zoom meeting and for his presentation, and for his hard work and dedication to the region.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Under VDOT Update, Mr. Reed announced that a public meeting for a transportation planning study concerning Route 33 (Spotswood Trail) in Rockingham County will be held on February 3, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Spotswood High School. The study is part of the Route 33 Arterial Management Plan, which focuses on Route 33 between the City of Harrisonburg and the Town of Elkton. Study team members including VDOT Staunton District staff, area leaders, and project consultants will be present to gather public opinion. He gave an update on the Project Pipeline Program study in the City of Harrisonburg on U.S. 11, from Pleasant Valley Road to Mosby Road, noting that a MetroQuest survey will be posted on February 14th to gather feedback on the project.

Mr. Komara reported on the following: Route 720 Smithland Road bridge project, noting that it went to advertisement on January 11th; gave an update on Route 682 Friedens Church Road bridge project in Rockingham County; announced that the flash, speed limit and no parking signs will be installed next week on Route 11 in Mt. Crawford; gave an update on the Route 33 bridge construction project, noting that it will be going to advertisement in February or March; and reported on snow removal in the HRMPO area.

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Under DRPT Update, Mr. Hudson gave an update on the upcoming transit grant cycle, noting that grant applications are due on February 1, 2022; and announced that SMART SCALE preapplications will begin in March. He stated that DRPT staff was available if any jurisdictions needed assistance on their applications.

Harrisonburg Public Works

Mr. Hartman gave an update on the upcoming and ongoing activities of the City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works as follows: The Friendly City Trail shared-use path project, which consists of sidewalk and shared-use path improvements along Garbers Church Road, and between



Garbers Church Road and Westover Park is nearing completion; University Boulevard relocation project, scheduled to hold a design public meeting in April; preparation of upcoming SMART SCALE projects in the City of Harrisonburg; and reported on new design and road configuration projects in the area.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Driver announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on February 3, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on February 17, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the HRMPO Policy Board, Mr. King moved, seconded by Ms. Lawrence, for adjournment at 3:55 p.m. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation