

HRMPO TAC Minutes November 5, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing Call

Voting Member	Alternates	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	Patrick Wilcox, Rockingham	✓ Ann Cundy
✓ Tom Hartman	Jay Litten, Bridgewater	✓ Rita Whitfield
✓ Bill Blessing, Chair	Shane Stevens, Mt. Crawford	
✓ Thanh Dang	Dennis Driver, Mt. Crawford	
✓ Erin Yancey	Avery Daugherty, Harrisonburg	Others
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Katie Schwing, OIPI
Rockingham County	Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	✓ Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
✓ Bradford Dyjak	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓ Kyle Lawrence, SVC
✓ Casey Armstrong	Brad Reed, VDOT	
Town of Bridgewater	Josh Dunlap, VDOT	
✓ Alex Wilmer	Grant Sparks, DRPT	
Town of Dayton		
Susan Smith		
Town of Mt. Crawford	Non-Voting Members	
J. C. Smythers	Kevin Jones, FHWA	
VDOT	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	
Terry Short	✓ Bill Yates, JMU	
✓ Don Komara	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
VDRPT		
✓ Wood Hudson		

Call to Order

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. In light of this emergency, the November 5, 2020, HRMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom. The November 5, 2020, Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing call of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Blessing.



Minutes

Chairperson Blessing presented the minutes from the September 3, 2020, TAC Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing call. Mr. Hartman moved, seconded by Ms. Dang, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairperson Blessing opened the floor for public comment. Upon a question by Ms. Sandum regarding Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) member Mr. Dixon Whitworth's retirement, Ms. Cundy responded that Mr. Whitworth has currently not been replaced and he will continue to serve as the Staunton District representative until his replacement has been announced. Ms. Sandum ask if there was an update on the Route 33 East Corridor Study. Mr. Komara responded that a kick-off meeting was held earlier this month, and the project was underway. He stated that he hoped to have additional information on the project at the next meeting.

2021 HRMPO Meeting Calendar (TAC Action Form #20-7)

Chairman Blessing presented the 2021 Meeting Calendar for the HRMPO Policy Board and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (attached to file minutes). Ms. Cundy noted that the 2021 HRMPO Policy Board and TAC meeting schedules are based on a monthly meeting schedule. She stated that the schedules for the HRMPO Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee will be presented to the Policy Board at their November 19, 2019, meeting and after approval, will be posted on the website and published in the appropriate newspapers, in accordance with the HRMPO Public Participation Plan. Ms. Dang moved, seconded by Mr. Dyjak, to approve the 2021 HRMPO Policy Board and TAC meeting calendar. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

FY 2021 Small Area Study Program Update (TAC Memo #20-14)

Chairperson Blessing presented FY 2021 Small Area Study Program Update. Ms. Cundy gave a report on the Study, noting that the consultants, A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. (AMT) has completed the analyses of three bridge concepts, developed cost estimates, and evaluated bicycle/pedestrian level of service and travel times as performance metrics. She stated that AMT delivered the final study report on October 28, 2020, to the study team. The study team met on October 13, 2020, to discuss the final decision matrix results, the feasibility of a bridge, and how to proceed to Phase 2 of the study, and agreed to add Alternative 4, another alternative to the Study. Ms. Cundy reviewed the project elements of Alternative 4, noting that based on VDOT's analysis, Alternative 4 performed slightly better than a

bridge in terms of relieving congestion, at a fraction of the cost of a bridge. She reviewed the next steps, noting that MPO staff will work with AMT on developing a task order and scope of work for Phase 2 of the study, which will perform preliminary engineering, develop a conceptual project design sketch, and develop a cost-estimate for Alternative 4.

FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification (TAC Memo #20-15)

Chairman Blessing presented the FY 2021-24 TIP Administrative Modification. Ms. Cundy noted that staff has administratively modified the FY 2021-2024 TIP. She stated that the modifications add an appendix to document the TIP's compliance with the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) for HDPT, and make adjustments to the Transit Financial Plan for the Arc of Harrisonburg/Rockingham and Friendship Industries line items. Ms. Cundy noted that no roadway/VDOT administered projects in the TIP require amendment or adjustment at this time. She stated that as a Tier II transit agency, HDPT is included in the statewide PTASP. The TIP now includes Appendix H, which documents that the TIP incorporates the PTASP and its associated performance targets into the MPO document. HDPT operations, as documented in the TIP, work toward meeting the safety targets established in the PTASP. Ms. Cundy noted that no action is needed by the Board for these modifications. She stated that staff will submit the modified TIP to VDOT and DRPT, and post on the MPO website TIP page.

VTrans Mid-Term Transportation Needs Update

Chairperson Blessing introduced and welcomed Ms. Katie Schwing, Program Analyst, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), Office of the Secretary of Transportation, who was present to give an update on VTrans Mid-Term Transportation Needs. Ms. Schwing noted that she had given a presentation to the TAC at their September 3, 2020, meeting on the approach to prioritizing the Mid-Term Transportation Needs which may form the basis for VDOT and DRPT's planning and project development efforts, as well as the development of policies related to transportation programs and activities. She reviewed the method for prioritization, noting that the 2019 Mid-Term Needs are prioritized using a four-step process and can be reviewed on the website at www.vtrans.org. Ms. Schwing stated that the Draft Policy for the prioritization of the VTrans Mid-Term Needs follows previously approved policy decisions by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on the identification of the Mid-term Needs and is available for public review and comment in the form of the draft Policy Guide that can be found on the website. Ms. Schwing noted that there were several

methods to provide comments on the Draft Policy for the prioritization of the Vtrans Mid-Term Needs and all information can be found on the website.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Update

Mr. Komara reported on several bridge construction projects in the HRMPO area. He reported on I-81 improvements, noting that updated information regarding funded operational and capital improvements projects can be viewed on the new website, www.improve81.org. Mr. Komara gave an update on maintenance items including mowing and brush cutting, and upcoming snow removal. He reported on SMART SCALE, noting that the projects are going through the final validation process and recommendations for funding should be announced in January 2021.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson gave an update on the FY 2021 Draft Six-Year Improvement Program, noting that it will be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for consideration at their December 2020 meeting. He reported on the FY 2022 merit grant cycle, noting that the grant cycle kicks off on December 1, 2020.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gatobu stated that HDPT is currently working with James Madison University (JMU) and area public schools on transit school routes and plans to resume in-person classes. He stated that DRPT is making adjustments to provide enough coverage after Thanksgiving to serve them effectively and meet all safety needs.

Other Business

Under Other Business, Ms. Cundy gave an update on Afton Express and the challenges on launching a commuter bus system under a pandemic. She stated that Afton Express provides public commuter bus transportation between Staunton, Waynesboro, Fishersville, Charlottesville, and Fifth Street Station in Albemarle County. Ms. Cundy expressed her appreciation to DRPT for providing funding for the commuter bus system under their demonstration grant program.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on November 19, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on December 3, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.



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Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation