

HRMPO TAC Minutes

February 3, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing Call

Voting Member	Alternates	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	Megan Byler, Bridgewater	✓ Ann Cundy
✓ Tom Hartman	✓ Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford	✓ Manas Ranjan
✓ Bill Blessing, Chair	✓ Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	✓ Rita Whitfield
✓ Thanh Dang	Elliot Menge, Harrisonburg	
✓ Erin Yancey	Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	Others
✓ Cheryl Spain	Josh Dunlap, VDOT	✓ Kim Sandum, Shen. Alliance
Rockingham County	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	Grant Sparks, DRPT	✓ Rachel Salatin, Rockingham
Casey Armstrong	✓ Angela Lawrence, Dayton	✓ Kyle Lawrence, SVBC
Vacant		✓ Jitender Ramchandani, OIPI
Town of Bridgewater		
✓ Alex Wilmer		
Town of Dayton		
Christa Hall		
Town of Mt. Crawford	Non-Voting Members	
✓ J. C. Smythers	Kevin Jones, FHWA	
VDOT	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	
✓ Brad Reed	✓ Bill Yates, JMU	
✓ Don Komara	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
VDRPT		
✓ Wood Hudson		

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 February 3, 2022, HRMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom. The February 3, 2022, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) TAC was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Bill Blessing.

Minutes

Chairperson Blessing presented the minutes from the December 2, 2021, TAC meeting. Mr. Komara moved, seconded by Mr. Hartman, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairperson Blessing opened the floor for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

MAP-21 Safety Targets (TAC Memo #22-1)

Chairperson Blessing presented the MAP-21 Safety Targets. Ms. Cundy gave a review on the Map-21 Safety Targets, noting that the safety targets must be updated annually, and the HRMPO must set its own targets, or concur with the State's targets, by February 27, 2022. She stated that as with the past years' targets, staff recommends concurring with the statewide 2022 targets, noting that there is no penalty for not meeting the targets. Ms. Cundy reviewed the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investments (OIPI) projections for fatalities, serious injuries, non-motorized fatalities, and serious injuries statewide. She noted that the 2020 stay-at-home order and reduction in vehicle miles traveled is the likely cause of the almost doubling of the fatality and serious injury rates in 2020, despite the reduction in their actual count. Ms. Cundy stated that HRMPO staff will share this information with the Policy Board on February 17th, and will submit the letter to VDOT concurring with the statewide safety targets for 2022.

HRMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update (TAC Memo#22-2)

Chairperson Blessing presented the HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update. Mr. Ranjan stated that in the past month, HRMPO staff has submitted final Land Use and Sociodemographic data to VDOT for development of the Travel Demand Model (TDM) 2045 scenario, developed existing conditions maps, and continued work to implement Phase I of the Public Engagement Plan. He noted that staff worked with the jurisdictions to incorporate suggested changes to the preliminary distribution and submitted the final dataset to VDOT on January 6, 2022. Ms. Cundy gave an update on the Public Engagement Plan and the Community Partners Toolkit. She reported that staff and Avid Core are implementing Phase I of the Public Engagement Plan, which focuses on the Metroquest survey that will help everyone to understand the region's current transportation needs, and a vision for the region's future transportation system. Ms. Cundy noted that the survey will be open from February 1, 2022 to March 2, 2022. She reported that HRMPO staff has developed a printed version of the survey in English and Spanish language, and have distributed copies to multiple locations around the

Harrisonburg and Rockingham area. Mr. Ranjan reported on the next steps, noting that staff is addressing the Working Group feedback on the existing conditions maps following the January 18th meeting, and after completion of the existing conditions chapter for the LRTP, staff will begin evaluating multi-modal transportation needs. He stated that the HRMPO will host a free webinar on February 16, 2022, 7:00 p.m., to take attendees through the survey platform and answer community members' questions.

Presentation: VTrans Risk & Opportunity Register – Jitender Ramchandani, OIPI

Ms. Cundy introduced and welcomed Mr. Jitender Ramchandani, Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investments (OIPI) Statewide Transportation Planning Manager. Mr. Ramchandani presented a PowerPoint presentation and video on VTrans Risk and Opportunity Register. He stated that in December 2021, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) adopted the Policy for Development and Monitoring of VTrans Risk & Opportunity Register. Mr. Ramchandani noted that VTrans long-term planning focuses on the development and monitoring of a Long-Term Transportation Risk & Opportunity Register. He stated that a methodical and systematic monitoring of long-term risks and opportunities allows Virginia to be better prepared to achieve the Commonwealth Transportation Board's Vision for Transportation. Mr. Ramchandani reviewed the components of VTrans, and identified the risks and opportunities for Virginia's transportation system due to the external factors or Megatrends in the coming decade (climate, technological advancement, consumption patterns, and socio-demographic changes). After the presentation, Mr. Ramchandani reviewed the next steps, noting that OIPI will monitor long-term risks and opportunities and modify based on new data and information; collaborate with VDOT, DRPT, and other stakeholders to implement and monitor the VTrans Strategic Actions; and inform local and regional jurisdictions of available resources to ensure all stakeholders are aware.

Agency Updates

Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Reed announced that the Virginia Department of Transportation, in coordination with Rockingham County and the Town of Elkton, will host a public meeting for a transportation planning study concerning Route 33 (Spotswood Trail) in Rockingham County on February 3, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Spotswood High School. He noted that 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. Mr. Reed 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. He reported on SMART SCALE applications, noting that the portal would be open for applications on March 1st. Mr. Reed gave a review on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) discretionary grant programs, which provide funding for the nation's infrastructure, including roads, highways, electric systems, and railway systems. He noted that if any locality wished to pursue any of the programs available and had questions or needed assistance, to let VDOT know.

Mr. Komara reported on the following: Route 682 Friedens Church bridge project improvements in Rockingham County, noting that construction is scheduled for March or April; announced that the flashing and speed limit signs were installed on Route 11 in Mt. Crawford; reported on the Route 720 Smithland Road bridge project, noting that it is scheduled for advertisement next week; noted that the Route 33 bridge construction project is scheduled for spring; and reported on tragedies and traffic accidents in the area.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson reported on the Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study, which is aimed at identifying opportunities to advance equitable transit within the Commonwealth. He noted that the Interim Report is available on DRPT's website. Mr. Hudson reported on FY23 Section 5303 funding, noting that the estimates will be available this month and applications are due to DRPT by May 2, 2022. He reported on SMART SCALE Round 5, noting that if any jurisdiction needed assistance on their applications, to let DRPT know.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Ms. Spain gave an update on the Multimodal Transfer Center Feasibility Study, a project to develop an improved passenger transfer center for its community bus routes, noting that it is currently in the site selection stage. She gave an update on the transit driver shortage and route changes, noting that HDPT has hired several new drivers who are currently in training.



City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works

Mr. Hartman gave an update on the activities of the City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works. He gave an update on the Reservoir Street corridor improvement project; bridge construction maintenance projects; and upcoming SMART SCALE projects.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on February 17, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on March 3, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation