

HRMPO TAC Minutes

January 7, 2021, 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	✓ Sam Styers, McCormick Taylor
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 January 7, 2021, HRMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom. The January 7, 2021, Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing call of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Cooper.

Minutes

Vice Chairperson Cooper presented the minutes from the November 5, 2020, TAC Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing call. Ms. Dang moved, seconded by Mr. Gatobu, 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 and System Performance Targets (TAC Memo #21-1)

Vice Chairperson Cooper presented the MAP-21 Safety and System Performance Targets. Ms. Cundy stated that in accordance with MAP-21 and FAST Act legislation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) set final rulemakings for National Performance Measures for Safety Performance in March 2016, and System Performance and Asset Management in January 2017. She noted that safety targets must be updated annually, and the HRMPO's deadline to set its own targets or concur with the State's targets is February 27, 2021. Ms. Cundy stated that in 2019, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved VDOT's recommendation to set statewide targets in accordance with its own annual trendline methodology. She noted that the CTB requested a more data-driven process that accounts for increases in vehicle-miles-traveled, economic influences, and behavioral changes, and she presented the 2021 Safety Performance Targets. Ms. Cundy stated that MPO staff will share the 2021 safety targets with the Policy Board this month, and send a letter to the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) stating the HRMPO's intent to concur with the State's 2021 safety targets. She noted that there is no penalty for a MPO missing a target. Ms. Cundy stated that MPO staff will also submit a letter concurring with VDOT's adjusted target for the percentage of bridge deck surface in good condition (letters attached to file minutes).

FY21 UPWP and TIP Administrative Modifications (TAC Memo #21-2)

Vice Chairperson Cooper presented the FY21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modifications, FY22 5310 Applications. Ms. Cundy reviewed the FY21 UPWP modification, noting that it reflects the final FY20 FTA Section 5303 (transit funds) carryover amount after the close-out of the fiscal year. She stated \$12,843 was added to Long Range Planning, and \$15,569 to Short Range Planning. Ms. Cundy noted that following the conclusion of the Port Republic Road Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study, the MPO has \$50,000 still available for a second small area study in the second half of FY21.

Ms. Cundy reviewed the FY21-24 TIP modification, noting that DRPT notified the MPO that the vehicle cost amounts in the TIP for three 5310 providers needed to be updated. She stated that the transit portion of the TIP's financial plan reflects adjusted funding amounts for the Arc of Harrisonburg/Rockingham, and Pleasant View, Inc., corrected the VPAS entry, and moved \$18k from capital to operating. Ms. Cundy noted that MPO staff has administratively modified the FY21 UPWP and the transit portion of the TIP, and submitted these changes to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT).

FY21 Small Area Study Program Update (TAC Memo #21-3)

Vice Chairperson Cooper presented FY21 Small Area Study Program Update. Ms. Cundy gave an update on the Program, noting that this small area study has evaluated the feasibility of a bicycle-pedestrian bridge over Port Republic Road at the intersection with Bluestone Drive and Hillside Avenue. She stated that Phase I of the study concluded that a pedestrian bridge over Port Republic Road is infeasible. Ms. Cundy noted that the Study Team and AMT are finalizing Phase 2 of the Study, which is evaluating Alternative 4, a consolidation of the two crosswalks on Port Republic Road to the western leg of the intersection. She presented the draft concept for Alternative 4 and reviewed the next steps. Ms. Cundy noted that AMT is refining the Alternative 4 concept and cost estimate based on comments from the Study Team. She stated that the Study Team is developing a plan for gathering public input on the concept, and evaluating a timeline and method for delivering the project. Ms. Cundy noted that the Study is planned to conclude in early 2021.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Update

Mr. Komara gave updates on several bridge construction projects in the HRMPO area: announced that the Mauzy bridge construction project for \$12.5 million was completed; the Fairfield bridge project was completed six months ahead of schedule; the Smithland Road bridge project is scheduled for this fall; the Route 682 Friedens Church Road project is out for contract; the Route 33 bridge project for \$60 million over I-81 is scheduled for 2022; the Route 11 right-of-way four-lane project is moving in a positive direction; reported on the signs for the Mt. Crawford bridge project; and reported on VDOT winter operations including brush cutting and upcoming snow removal. Mr. Komara announced that Mr. Mark Merrill was appointed as the new Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) member, replacing retiree Dixon Whitworth.



Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson gave an update on DRPT activities. He reported that the due date for the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Performance Measures for the MPOs is February 7, 2021; announced that the DRPT Six-Year Improvement Plan was published December 9, 2020, and is available on DRPT's website; announced that the Federal COVID-19 Relief Bill that was just passed includes \$14 billion to be allocated towards transit agencies; and reported on the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, noting that the next meeting will be held on January 25, 2021, by Zoom.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gatobu reported on HDPT's activities. He stated that HDPT is currently working with area public schools and James Madison University (JMU), which has pushed back their return date, on meeting all safety needs and providing effective transit routes. Mr. Gatobu noted that DRPT is working on their budget regarding capital and operating projects and expenditures.

Other Business

Under Other Business, Ms. Cundy announced that Katie Schwing, Program Analyst, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), Office of the Secretary of Transportation, would be present at the next meeting to give an update VTrans 2045 Mid-Term Needs Prioritization process.

Upcoming Meetings

Vice Chairperson Cooper announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on January 21, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on February 4, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation