

## HRMPO TAC Minutes April 1, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing Call

Voting Member	Alternates	Staff
<b>City of Harrisonburg</b>	Patrick Wilcox, Rockingham	✓ Ann Cundy
✓ Tom Hartman	Jay Litten, Bridgewater	✓ Manas Ranjan
Bill Blessing, Chair	Libby Orebaugh, Mt. Crawford	✓ Rita Whitfield
Thanh Dang	Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	
✓ Erin Yancey	Avery Daugherty, Harrisonburg	<b>Others</b>
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
<b>Rockingham County</b>	✓ Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	Grant Sparks, DRPT	
✓ Bradford Dyjak	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
Casey Armstrong	Brad Reed, VDOT	
<b>Town of Bridgewater</b>	Josh Dunlap, VDOT	
✓ Alex Wilmer		
<b>Town of Dayton</b>		
✓ Christa Hall		
<b>Town of Mt. Crawford</b>	<b>Non-Voting Members</b>	
✓ J. C. Smythers	Kevin Jones, FHWA	
<b>VDOT</b>	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	
✓ Terry Short	✓ Bill Yates, JMU	
✓ Don Komara	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
<b>VDRPT</b>		
✓ 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 April 1, 2021, HRMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom. The April 1, 2021, 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 Acting Chairperson Bradford Dyjak.

Acting Chairperson Dyjak introduced and welcomed Christa Hall, new HRMPO TAC member representing the Town of Dayton.

## **Minutes**

Acting Chairperson Dyjak presented the minutes from the March 4, 2021, TAC Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing call. Mr. Hartman moved, seconded by Mr. Gatobu, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

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

## **Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Release for Public Comment (TAC AF #21-2)**

Acting Chairperson Dyjak presented for consideration the FY 2022 Draft UPWP. Ms. Cundy stated that the UPWP has been prepared in coordination with VDOT and DRPT. She noted that the FY 2022 UPWP maintains the work elements and annual activities of the FY 2021 UPWP. Ms. Cundy stated that to provide adequate funding for Long Range Plan update activities in FY 2022, the budget increases the Work Element 2.01 Long Range Planning line item from \$54,376 to \$103,719. She noted that this is a draft UPWP, and may be changed before final submittal and approval. Mr. Short moved, seconded by Mr. Hartman, to recommend that the Policy Board release the Draft FY 2022 UPWP for the 21-day public comment period. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

## **FY 2021 Small Area Study Program Update (TAC Memo #21-5)**

Acting Chairperson Dyjak presented the FY 2021 Small Area Study Program Update. Mr. Ranjan gave an update on the study. He stated that this small area study has evaluated the feasibility of consolidating the two crosswalks on Port Republic Road to the western leg of the intersection and includes improvements for pedestrian safety. Mr. Ranjan noted that after the finalization of Phase 2 of the proposal, the study team released a public input website with a video presentation highlighting the proposed improvement. He reported on the survey which was used to gather community input on proposed Port Republic Road and Bluestone Drive intersection improvements. Mr. Ranjan reviewed the survey's summary mode of travel, agreement and disagreement with the proposal, issues raised, and missing elements. He noted that the online survey was released on March 2, 2021, and 42 responses were received.

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

Mr. Short gave an update on the VTrans Mid-term Transportation Needs and Tier I priorities that were approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). He stated that VDOT was in regular communications with the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) regarding the next steps and VDOT will share more details as they arrive.

Mr. Komara gave an update on several construction projects in the area: the Smithland Road bridge construction project, which is scheduled for this fall; the Route 682 Friedens Church bridge project improvements with advertisement scheduled for this fall; the Route 11 four-lane right-of-way project, which is continuing to move forward; and the Route 33 bridge project at Exit 247 for \$60 million over I-81. Mr. Komara stated that I-81 Corridor Improvement Program initiatives happening across the district can be viewed on <https://improve81.org>. He gave an update on the upcoming Revenue Sharing and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant application process.

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

Mr. Hudson reported on DRPT activities. He noted that the FY 2022 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) should be coming out the latter part of this month and he reported on the SYIP public hearings. Mr. Hudson stated that Governor Northam has announced that the Commonwealth has finalized agreements with Amtrak, CSX, and Virginia Railway Express, launching a \$3.7 billion investment to expand and improve passenger, commuter, and freight rail in Virginia, and to create a vital connection in America's national rail network between the northeast and southeast corridors.

### **Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)**

Mr. Gatobu gave an update on HDPT's activities and their feasibility study. He reported on the increasing number of students attending public schools in-person and the upcoming fall schedule. Mr. Gatobu gave a report on James Madison University (JMU) attendance and upcoming graduation, and providing effective transit routes. Mr. Gatobu announced that HDPT is currently seeking to hire bus drivers.

### **Other Business**

Under Other Business, Ms. Cundy gave an update on VTrans Mid-term Transportation Needs and Multimodal Project Study Pipeline. She noted that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved a resolution adopting the VTrans Mid-term Needs Prioritization Policy, as well as a new



approach the CTB is taking called the Multi-Modal Project Pipeline. Ms. Cundy stated that the HRMPO had submitted a letter to the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) in November 2020 expressing their concerns regarding the proposed prioritization process and the eligibility to access state study dollars to advance projects and develop competitive applications for SMART SCALE and other programs. Ms. Cundy reported on the policy and options for accessing federal dollars, noting that the MPO will continue to advocate for this part of the state.

Ms. Cundy gave an update on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recommendations for changes to OMB's metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area standards. She stated that the recommendations, made by the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee, include increasing the minimum urban area population to qualify a metropolitan statistical area from 50,000 to 100,000. Ms. Cundy explained that OMB is proposing that instead of an MSA being defined by having a core urban area of 50,000, the core area would need to have 100,000 people. She stated that MPOs are currently required to represent localities in all urbanized areas with populations over 50,000, as determined by the U.S. Census. Mr. Ranjan reported that metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, delineated by OMB, are the result of the application of published standards to Census Bureau data. He stated that generally, the areas are delineated using the most recent set of standards following each decennial census. Mr. Ranjan noted that between censuses, the delineations are revised to reflect Census Bureau population estimates and, once each decade, updated commuting-to-work data. Ms. Cundy noted that staff will continue to monitor these proposed changes and report back with their findings.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Acting Chairperson Dyjak announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on April 15, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on May 6, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

A motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy  
Director of Transportation