

HRMPO TAC Minutes September 1, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Rockingham County Administration Center
20 East Gay Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802

Voting Member	Alternates	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	Megan Byler, Bridgewater	✓ Ann Cundy
✓ Tom Hartman	Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford	✓ Ansley Heller
✓ Bill Blessing, Chair	✓ Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg*	✓ Rita Whitfield
✓ Thanh Dang	Elliot Menge, Harrisonburg	
✓ Erin Yancey	Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	Others
Cheryl Spain	Josh Dunlap, VDOT	✓ Shane McCabe, VDOT
Rockingham County	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT	
Casey Armstrong	Angela Lawrence, Dayton	
Rachel Salatin	Kayla Yankey, Rockingham	
Town of Bridgewater	Wood Hudson, DRPT	
✓ Alex Wilmer	✓ Gerald Gatobu, Harrisonburg	
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	
DRPT	✓ Valerie Kramer	
✓ Grace Stankus		
*Zoom Participants		

Call to Order

The September 1, 2022, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Bill Blessing. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, HRMPO TAC members may participate in meetings of the HRMPO or its committees through electronic communication means. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Ms. Cundy introduced and welcomed Valerie Kramer, non-voting representative for James Madison University (JMU).

Minutes

Chairperson Blessing presented the minutes from the April 7, 2022, TAC meeting. Mr. Reed 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.

FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and FY21-24 TIP Administrative Modifications (TAC Memo #22-3)

Chairperson Blessing presented the FY23 UPWP and FY21-24 TIP Administrative Modifications. Ms. Cundy reported that staff has administratively modified the FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the transit portion of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She noted that the FY23 UPWP modification reflects the FY22 FTA Section 5303 carryover amount after the close-out of the fiscal year and an additional \$3,412 has been added to the Long Range Planning Work Element of the UPWP. Ms. Cundy reported on the FY21-24 TIP Modification, noting that the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT) requested that the MPO modify the TIP to reflect the award of FTA 5307 capital funds in FY24 to install a new ITS system on all buses, replace two medium-duty buses, and seven large heavy-duty buses. She noted that staff submitted the TIP Administrative Modification to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the FY23 UPWP modification will be submitted to VDOT and DRPT.

Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Virtual Meeting Policy (TAC Memo #22-4)

Chairperson Blessing presented the FOIA Virtual Meeting Policy. Ms. Cundy gave a review on the FOIA Virtual Meeting Policy, noting that House Bill 444 permits some public bodies to hold a limited number of virtual meetings each year. She stated that the new law allows electronic meetings for MPOs to hold “all-virtual” meetings but must meet all other requirements of the FOIA law, including adoption of a policy on the holding of these meetings, which the HRMPO already has in place. Ms. Cundy noted that these “all-virtual” provisions can only be used for two, or 25 percent of the public body’s meetings per year, whichever is greater. Upon a question regarding all virtual meetings and the number of participants in the same room, Ms. Cundy responded that no more than two voting

members of the TAC or Policy Board may participate in the meeting together. She reviewed the HRMPO Public Participation Plan (PPP), noting that the PPP requires that the HRMPO publish a schedule of Policy Board and TAC meetings at the beginning of the calendar year, including the meeting location. The PPP requires that any meetings for which the date, time, or venue are changed, the MPO must publicly advertise the change on in the local paper of record at least seven days in advance of the meeting. Ms. Cundy noted that the TAC or Board Chair would make this decision and direct staff to publicly notice the change at least one week prior to the meeting. Chairperson Blessing expressed his preference to hold in-person meetings. After some discussion, Ms. Cooper moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to schedule one virtual meeting for both the TAC and the Policy Board each year in the winter, and leaving the other two meetings “floating” to hold virtually to be utilized as necessary with proper notification. Motion carried only with Chairperson Blessing opposing.

HRMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update (TAC Memo #22-5)

Chairperson Blessing presented the HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update. Ms. Heller gave an update on the LRTP. She reported on Phase 2 of the Public Engagement Plan process, noting that staff has launched a MetroQuest survey to gain community input on the Draft Universe of Projects, and hosted several community events to promote the LRTP survey. She noted that to date, 200 responses to the survey have been received. Ms. Heller distributed copies of the MetroQuest Respondents by Zip Code (attached to file minutes). She reviewed the next steps, noting that following the wrap-up of the MetroQuest survey, staff will work with Kimley Horn and the LRTP Working Group to develop a methodology for scoring projects. Ms. Heller stated that staff will schedule a LRTP Working Group meeting in late September to go over scoring methodology and revenue projections. She noted that public input on the proposed projects with the TAC and Policy Board will be shared in October to finalize the project and study lists.

Agency Updates

Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Komara reported on the following construction projects: Route 682 Friedens Church Road bridge project in Rockingham County, noting that it was ahead of schedule and should be completed this winter; Route 720 Smithland Road, noting that the project should begin construction next week; Town of Broadway bridge project; gave an update on the I-81 widening project; and on paving projects in the area. He announced a public hearing will be held on October 19, 2022, starting at 4:00 p.m., at the

VDOT Harrisonburg Residency regarding the sidewalk project on Route 11 at Harrisonburg's city limits.

Mr. Reed gave an update on the FY24-27 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Plan. He reported on SMART SCALE applications, noting that 42 applications were received in the Staunton District. Mr. Reed announced the tenth annual Local Programs Workshop will be held on October 4-6, 2022, at the Hotel Roanoke, and that registration is currently open. This workshop will focus on providing an overview of local programs, and will provide training for program management and project development. Mr. Reed announced that the Governor's Transportation Conference will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach on October 26-28, 2022. Ms. Cundy announced that VDOT will be hosting the September Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting at the Hotel 24 South in Staunton on September 20-21, 2022.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Ms. Stankus announced that September is Discover Transit Month. She noted that throughout the month of September, DRPT will be informing Virginians about transportation options and encouraging use of local transit services to commute, travel, and explore their communities. Ms. Stankus stated that DRPT is in the process of developing the Virginia Statewide Rail Plan for 2022. She announced that DRPT will be hosting a virtual public meeting on the Plan on September 27th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. to receive public comment. Ms. Stankus reported on the Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study, which is aimed at identifying opportunities to advance equitable transit within the Commonwealth. The study team is working to complete final review on the action plan and will present it to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in early fall.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gatobu gave an update on HDPT's federal and state triannual audits. He reported on the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) on the City of Harrisonburg's transit buses to improve customer service and increase passenger ridership, noting that Passio Technologies is upgrading, installing, and implementing the system. Mr. Gatobu gave an update on the Feasibility Study for Microtransit; and announced that HDPT is hiring additional bus drivers.



City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works

Mr. Hartman reported on paving construction projects in the City of Harrisonburg. He announced that a design public hearing for the University Boulevard realignment project is scheduled for September 8, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the City of Harrisonburg City Council Chambers. Mr. Hartman stated that the hearing is to solicit feedback on the proposal regarding the realignment of University Boulevard from its intersection with Oak Hill Drive/Forest Hill Road to the James Madison University Old Convocation Center parking lot, and the addition of a shared use path from Port Republic Road to Carrier Drive. He noted that a survey on the proposal will be available to facilitate comments submission online. Mr. Hartman reported on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), noting that he is working with VDOT staff on potential projects for the City of Harrisonburg.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on September 15, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on October 6, 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 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation