

HRMPO Policy Board Minutes
September 15, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

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

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	Kevin Jones, FHWA	Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC
Sal Romero	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
Deanna Reed	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	✓ Ansley Heller, CSPDC
Vacant	✓ Grace Stankus, DRPT*	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Bill Yates, JMU	
✓ Richard Baugh	✓ Valerie Kramer, JMU*	Others
Rockingham County	Alternates	✓ Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg
✓ Casey Armstrong	Rhonda Cooper, Rockingham	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
✓ Rick Chandler	Rachel Salatin, Rockingham	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
✓ Stephen King	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	
Town of Mt. Crawford	Ande Banks, Harrisonburg	
✓ Dennis Driver, Chair	✓ Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	
Town of Dayton	✓ Neal Dillard, Mt. Crawford	
Angela Lawrence	✓ Christa Hall, Dayton	
Town of Bridgewater	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	
Jay Litten	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
VDOT	✓ Don Komara, VDOT	
✓ Randy Kiser*	Matt Dana, VDOT	
	Wood Hudson, DRPT	
Zoom Participants*		

Call to Order

The September 15, 2022, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dennis Driver. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, HRMPO Policy Board 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.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Driver presented the minutes from the July 21, 2022, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Chandler, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairperson Driver opened the floor to the public for comments. There were no comments from the public.

Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Virtual Meetings Policy (BAF #22-5)

Chairperson Driver presented the FOIA Virtual Meetings Policy. Ms. Cundy gave a review on the FOIA Virtual Meetings 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. 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. Mr. Chandler moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, 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 was carried by unanimous vote.

FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and FY21-24 TIP Administrative Modifications (Policy Board Memo #22-12)

Chairperson Driver 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 City of 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 Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) on September 6, 2022, and the FY23 UPWP modification to VDOT and DRPT on August 30, 2022.

HRMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update (Policy Board Memo #22-13)

Chairperson Driver presented the HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update. Ms. Heller gave a review on the LRTP Update. 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, approximately 300 responses to the survey have been received. Ms. Cundy reviewed the next steps, noting that following the close of the MetroQuest survey, staff will work with Kimley Horn and the LRTP Working Group to develop a methodology for scoring projects. She stated that staff will schedule a LRTP Working Group meeting on September 29, 2022, to share a proposed methodology, revenue projections, and a summary of the survey responses.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Reed reported on the upcoming Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant applications, which receives federal and state safety funding to implement safety improvements across the roadway network in Virginia. He noted that VDOT staff is available to assist any localities on their project proposals. Mr. Reed reported on SMART SCALE applications, noting that 42 total applications were submitted in the district, totaling \$336 million, with 11 applications in the HRMPO area, totaling \$81 million in projects.

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; gave an update on the Route 33 bridge construction project at Exit 247, noting that a preconstruction conference was held last week; Route 720 Smithland Road, noting that the project has



started construction with a completion date of next fall; reported on the Route 11 four-lane project, noting bids are anticipated to be submitted late 2023; Route 682 by Friedens Church project to remove the curb, with advertisement to be announced this fall; 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; 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, and reported on newly appointed CTB members; reported on the status of upcoming Revenue Sharing Program projects; and gave an update on VDOT maintenance projects in the area.

Upon a question by Ms. Cundy regarding the Ready, Set, Go! Transportation Alternatives Grant Program, Mr. Reed stated that this is a pilot grant program designed to assist Virginia's smaller population, non-MPO local partners in identifying, evaluating, and reporting achievable, affordable, and targeted non-motorized improvements for a community with less than 50,000 population. He stated that if selected for funding, a consultant-led team will assist communities to prepare for their potential FY25-26 Transportation Alternatives application. These project evaluations will provide the preliminary information needed to apply for federal Transportation Alternatives funding. Mr. Reed stated that eligibility is limited to non-MPO communities with a 2020 census population of less than a population of 50,000.

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

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 September 27, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to receive public comment on the Plan.

City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gatobu gave an update on the Microtransit Feasibility Study and reported on the next steps. He reported that HDPT continues to deal with a bus driver shortage. Mr. Gatobu noted that the City has increased driver pay and offered a number of hiring incentives over the last year to try to attract more drivers, but hiring them has remained difficult. He announced that DRPT was awarded funding from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Clean School Bus Program and funds were used to purchase electric school buses.

City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works

Mr. Hartman reported on the design public hearing for the University Boulevard realignment project that was held on September 8, 2022, at the City of Harrisonburg City Council Chambers, noting that approximately 30 people attended. He noted that the survey on the proposal is still available online for comments. Mr. Hartman reported on the City of Harrisonburg's SMART SCALE projects and paving projects around the City.

Other Business

Under Other Business, Mr. King stated that he had met with the Town of Bridgewater regarding the need for a study for a long-term plan for the Dinkel Avenue (Route 257), Friedmans Church, and Mt. Crawford Avenue area. Ms. Cundy responded that the study is on the list of proposed studies in the HRMPO Small Area Study Program for FY24 and a scope of work will be developed for the study after the Long Range Transportation Plan has been completed in May 2023.

Mr. King presented for discussion the need for overnight truck parking in the area. He stated that a public hearing was held at the Rockingham County Administration Center regarding a proposed travel center to be located off Interstate 81 in Mauzy at Exit 257 interchange and was denied. Mr. King noted that one of the concerns from the public hearing expressed was the lack of truck parking. Ms. Cundy suggested inviting Mr. Andy Alden to an upcoming HRMPO meeting, who serves as the Executive Director of the Interstate 81 Corridor Coalition and Alternative Systems Research Group at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, to discuss the concern. There followed a discussion regarding the potential for expanding the number of overnight truck parking spaces at Interstate 81 rest areas in the Valley.

Also under Other Business, Chairperson Driver noted that because of upcoming anticipated departures due to members not running for reelection in 2023, the HRMPO will need to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in January 2023. He stated that as current Chairperson, he will appoint a Nominating Committee in December consisting of Mr. Stephen King, Mr. Ande Banks and Mr. Randy Kiser, and for the Committee to make their recommendations for a Chair and Vice Chair at the January 2023 HRMPO Policy Board meeting.



Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Driver announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on October 6, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on October 20, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the HRMPO Policy Board, Mr. Baugh moved, seconded by Mr. King, for adjournment at 3:55 p.m. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation