

## HRMPO TAC Minutes June 4, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing Call

Voting Member	Alternates	Staff
<b>City of Harrisonburg</b>	Lisa Perry, Rockingham	✓ Ann Cundy
✓ Tom Hartman	Jay Litten, Bridgewater	✓ Jonathan Howard
✓ Bill Blessing, Chair	Shane Stevens, Mt. Crawford	✓ Rita Whitfield
✓ Thanh Dang	Dennis Driver, Mt. Crawford	
✓ Erin Yancey	Avery Daugherty, Harrisonburg	<b>Others</b>
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Patrick Wilcox, Rockingham Co.
<b>Rockingham County</b>	Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	✓ Kyle Lawrence, SVBC
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
✓ Bradford Dyjak	✓ Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
✓ Casey Armstrong	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	✓ Matthew Dana, VDOT
<b>Town of Bridgewater</b>	Josh Dunlap, VDOT	
✓ Alex Wilmer	Grant Sparks, DRPT	
<b>Town of Dayton</b>		
Susan Smith		
<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	Lee Eshelman, JMU	
Don Komara	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
<b>VDRPT</b>		
✓ Wood Hudson		

### Call to Order

The June 4, 2020, Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing call of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairperson Blessing. Ms. Cundy reviewed some ground rules for the Zoom Video/Audio conferencing call.

### Minutes

Chairperson Blessing presented the minutes from the May 7, 2020, TAC meeting. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

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

### **FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (TAC Action Form #20-2)**

Chairperson Blessing presented for consideration the FY 2021-2024 TIP. Ms. Cundy gave a review on the TIP, noting under Federal regulations, all transportation projects and programs receiving federal funds in the MPO region shall be listed in the TIP and in the statewide TIP. She stated that to be included in the TIP, a project or program must be in the HRMPO's Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRPP). Ms. Cundy noted that the TIP was released for public comment on March 24, 2020, for the 21-day public comment period and HRMPO staff have not received any public comments. She noted that based on a comment from DRPT, the TIP has been updated since its release to public comment to include a revised FY 2021 operating award for Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS). Ms. Cooper moved, seconded by Ms. Dang, to recommend approval of the FY 2021-2024 TIP to the Policy Board. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

### **FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (TAC Action Form #20-3)**

Chairperson Blessing presented for consideration FY 2021 UPWP. Mr. Howard gave a review on the UPWP, noting that the UPWP identifies how federal, state, and local funds will be spent on HRMPO administrative and programmatic activities during FY 2021. He reviewed the approval process, noting that staff shared the draft FY 2021 UPWP, with the Policy Board at its May 21, 2020 meeting. He stated that the UPWP was released for public comment on April 16, 2020, and the MPO has not received any comments to date. Mr. Howard noted that due to COVID-19, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) notified staff on April 6, 2020, that VDOT, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) would accept a final draft of the FY 2021 UPWP for review and approval prior to MPO Policy Board meetings. Staff submitted the final draft FY 2021 UPWP on April 17, 2020. Ms. Dang moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to recommend approval of the FY 2021 UPWP to the Policy Board. Motion carried unanimously.

### **SMART SCALE Resolutions of Support (TAC Action Form #20-4)**

Chairperson Blessing presented for consideration SMART SCALE Resolutions of Support. Mr. Howard reported that in coordination with VDOT and regional planning partners, the HRMPO submitted 5 pre-applications in Round 4 of the SMART SCALE program, and local governments and regional agencies submitted 13 pre-applications for 9 projects. He noted that the full application window opens

on June 1, and closes August 3, 2020. Mr. Howard stated that SMART SCALE requires MPO Resolutions of Support for locality projects within the MPO boundary that are not listed in the MPO's Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). He presented the following Resolutions of Support for the projects in the MPO area, noting that some resolutions (\*) acknowledge both the local and regional application for the project.

#### HRMPO

- South Main Street Safety Improvements\* (Harrisonburg)
- I-81 Exit 243 Interchange Treatments\* (Harrisonburg)
- Port Republic Road Corridor Improvements\* (Harrisonburg)
- Bluestone Trail Extension
- Mt. Crawford Exit 240 Park and Ride Expansion \* (Rockingham County)

#### City of Harrisonburg

- Port Republic Road Turn Lane and Sidewalk
- Pear Street and Erickson Avenue Intersection Modified RCUT
- North Main Street Sidewalk (submitted by the CSPDC)

#### Rockingham County

- Smithland Road Improvements

Mr. Wilmer moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to recommend endorsement of the Resolutions of Support for SMART SCALE projects within the MPO boundary to the Policy Board. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

### **FY 2021 Small Area Study Program (TAC Memo #20-11)**

Chairperson Blessing presented for discussion FY 2021 Small Area Study Program. Mr. Howard stated that each year, the HRMPO assists member jurisdictions with short-range transportation planning studies. He reviewed the timeline, noting that the FY 2021 Small Area Study will need to be completed by December 2020, to prevent overlap with the next Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update, which will begin in January 2021, and can be kicked off in August 2020. Mr. Dyjak presented a potential study proposal for Rockingham County to evaluate the Erickson Avenue corridor from U.S. 33 – VA 42. Ms. Yancey and Mr. Hartman presented a potential study proposal for the City of Harrisonburg for Port Republic/Bluestone Drive bicycle/pedestrian bridge feasibility study. Discussion ensued regarding the two potential projects. Mr. Howard reviewed the next steps, noting that once the projects have been selected by the TAC, they will be advanced to the HRMPO Policy Board for approval.



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

Mr. Reed reported on SMART SCALE applications, noting that the portal will be open June 9<sup>th</sup>; and reported on the logistics of the cost estimating process. He stated that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors approved a Resolution of Support for US 33 Arterial Management Plan. Mr. Reed noted that the Plan will help guide County staff in decision-making that will lead to safer access while minimizing congestion. He stated that it will also assist with planning and design for future levels of access, future development in the corridor, and improve the County's position when applying for SMART SCALE, Revenue Sharing, or other transportation grants.

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

Ms. Cundy stated that Mr. Hudson had to leave the Zoom Videoconference early and she would give an update on his behalf. She reported that DRPT will be following up with the HRMPO on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) once they receive final information regarding FY21 awards. Ms. Cundy noted that the FY21 Six Year Improvement Plan is anticipated to be adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in September.

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

Mr. Gatobu reported on HDPT's handling of the COVID-19 situation, noting that HDPT is operating with modifications to protect operators and riders. He stated that in addition to safety measures being implemented for riders, drivers, mechanics, and other staff, HDPT is following statewide guidance regarding social distancing on the buses. Mr. Gatobu reported that due to COVID-19, ridership is currently down. He stated that HDPT was waiting to receive word from James Madison University regarding their plans to resume classes in the fall and HDPT will then begin preparing route plans. Mr. Gatobu reported on the CARES Act relief funding for transit systems.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on June 18, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on July 2, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.



**Harrisonburg  
Rockingham**  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organization

112 MacTanly Place  
Staunton, VA 24401

**Phone** (540) 885-5174  
**Fax** (540) 885-2687

### **Adjournment**

A motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Howard".

Jonathan Howard  
Transportation Planner