

HRMPO Policy Board Minutes
April 21, 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	✓ Bill Yates, JMU*	✓ Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC*
Sal Romero	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
Deanna Reed	Kevin Jones, FHWA	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
Vacant	✓ Grace Stankus, DRPT*	
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
George Hirschmann, Vice Chair		Others
Rockingham County	Alternates	✓ Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg
Casey Armstrong	Rhonda Cooper, Rockingham	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
Rick Chandler	✓ Rachel Salatin, Rockingham	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance*
✓ Stephen King	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg*
Town of Mt. Crawford	Ande Banks, Harrisonburg	✓ Andrea Dono, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance
✓ Dennis Driver, Chair	✓ Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	✓ Brian Shull, Harrisonburg
Town of Dayton	Neal Dillard, Mt. Crawford	✓ Erin Yancey, Harrisonburg*
✓ 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 April 21, 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 February 17, 2022, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Kiser, 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.

Draft FY23 UPWP to Release for Public Comment (Board Action Form#22-1)

Chairperson Driver presented for consideration the Draft FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for public comment. Ms. Cundy gave a brief review on the Draft UPWP, noting that it is the annual work program and budget for the MPO. She noted that the FY23 UPWP maintains the work elements and funding allocations from the FY22 UPWP to fund staff hours and a consultant contract to complete the 2045 LRTP update. She reviewed the funding allocations for FY23 and the previous year. Ms. Cundy noted that to align the HRMPO's work with a revised set of federal Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs), new language was added under several work elements from the updated PEAs. She stated that the HRMPO TAC reviewed the draft FY23 UPWP at their April 7, 2022 meeting, and recommended that the Policy Board release it for 21 days of public comment. Ms. Lawrence, moved, seconded by Mr. King, to release the Draft FY23 UPWP for the 21-day public comment period. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update (Board Memo#22-6)

Chairperson Driver presented for consideration the HRMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update. Ms. Cundy gave an update on the LRTP, noting that staff has developed a Summary Report on the Phase 1 Public Input Survey to share with the HRMPO and the public. She stated that the report documents who responded to the survey, their identified needs and priorities, and describes how the MPO will use the survey input to develop and prioritize projects in the Plan in subsequent phases. Ms. Cundy reported on the next steps, noting that the LRTP Working Group will meet in May to finalize a draft Framework Document for defining the Universe of Projects in the Plan, and assemble data sets to define multi-modal transportation needs. She noted that Phase 2 of public involvement is anticipated mid-summer 2020.

FY22 UPWP Budget Update (Board Memo #22-7)

Chairperson Driver presented the FY21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Update (attached to file minutes). Ms. Riedesel reviewed the expenditures by the HRMPO as of February 28, 2022, noting that spending is shown by task, and by VDOT and DRPT funding.

Presentation: Harrisonburg Downtown Master Plan – Andrea Dono, Executive Director, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance and Brian Shull, Harrisonburg Economic Development Director

Ms. Cundy introduced and welcomed Ms. Andrea Dono, Executive Director of the Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance and Mr. Brian Shull, Economic Development Director for the City of Harrisonburg. Ms. Dono and Mr. Shull were present to give a PowerPoint presentation on the City of Harrisonburg Downtown Master Plan. Ms. Dono gave a review on the Master Plan, noting that the City of Harrisonburg and Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance launched Harrisonburg Downtown 2040, a community-driven plan for downtown Harrisonburg. She stated that the final plan is now available and can be reviewed on the City of Harrisonburg's website. Ms. Dono stated that Downtown 2040 is the result of a community-driven process designed to learn from residents, business owners, community leaders, employees, developers, tourists, and others about their ideas and concerns regarding Downtown for the next two decades of growth and change in Downtown Harrisonburg. Mr. Shull reported on how the Plan addresses the key issues facing Downtown including housing, transportation, economic development, arts and culture, parking, zoning, parks, development opportunities, events, and programming. He reviewed the public input process. Mr. Shull noted that downtown 2040 is a guiding document to inspire change and form lasting partnerships to make real improvements in Downtown over the next 20 years. Some discussion ensued regarding how downtown can play a key role in providing more housing for a wider mix of incomes; repurposing a travel lane for cyclists; and the issues with the removal of a travel lane.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Under VDOT Update, Mr. Reed reported on SMART SCALE applications, noting that the smart portal closed April 1st and 56 preapplications were received. He noted that the smart portal for full applications will open June 1st and full applications are due August 1st. Mr. Reed reported on the Route 33 Arterial Management Plan, which focuses on Route 33 between the City of Harrisonburg and the Town of Elkton, noting that a final draft document was available. He gave an update on Phase II

of the Project Pipeline Program Study in the City of Harrisonburg on U.S. 11, from Pleasant Valley Road to Mosby Road, noting that the project was moving into Phase III.

Mr. Komara reported on several construction projects in the area as follows: gave an update on Route 682 Friedens Church Road bridge project in Rockingham County, noting that it was moving along very well and construction was scheduled to be completed by winter of 2020; Route 720 Smithland Road bridge project, noting that seven bids were received; reported on a shoulder widening safety project on Route 259 outside of the HRMPO area; and announced a public hearing to be held on May 24th at the Staunton District office for the widening of I-81 from mile post 221 to 225 in Augusta County.

Mr. Kiser gave an update on the proposed improvements to the Interstate 81 interchange ramps and replacement of the Route 33 bridges over Interstate 81 and the Norfolk and Southern Railroad, which is approximately a \$50 million project. He announced that VDOT will be hosting a Spring Six-Year Program public meeting at 4:00 p.m. on May 9, 2022, at Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education. Mr. Kiser stated that this was a great opportunity for each locality to highlight their transportation projects to be added to the Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP).

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson introduced and welcomed Grace Stankus, who will be representing DRPT on the HRMPO. Ms. Stankus gave an update on FTA's Discretionary Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs, noting that applications are due May 31, 2022. She noted that DRPT is available to provide assistance to localities with their applications. Ms. Stankus reported on DRPT's rediscovery ride initiative, noting that the initiative is to reach individuals who stopped using public transportation or are hesitant to use the service because of COVID-19. She noted that the initiative's goals are to strengthen public confidence in transit service and to increase ridership on public transportation. Ms. Stankus stated that marketing materials are available on DRPT's website, as well as available funding for additional marketing efforts.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gatobu reported on the following: gave an update on the Feasibility Study for Microtransit, noting that request for quotes for the study have been advertised; reported that HDPT is getting ready for James Madison University's (JMU) graduation which is scheduled for May 13-14th; reported that



HDPT plans on hiring additional full-time transit bus drivers in the fall; and reported on upcoming state and federal audits this summer.

Harrisonburg Public Works

Mr. Hartman noted that Harrisonburg Public Works has approximately 33 active construction projects in the area. He gave an update on the University Boulevard relocation project; various construction projects in the area; SMART SCALE projects; and reported on the Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) study in the City of Harrisonburg.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Driver announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on May 5, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on May 19, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the HRMPO Policy Board, Mr. Kiser moved, seconded by Mr. King, for adjournment at 4:40 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