



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda September 3, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting by ZOOM Videoconference

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81458801376?pwd=M2JMc2I3NkQ0MXd6bHhXNIBNRWk4UT09>

Meeting ID: 814 5880 1376

Passcode: 827647

Dial In: 1-301-715-8592

1. Call To Order
2. Approval of Minutes of July 2, 2020 Meeting*
3. Public Comment
4. SMART SCALE Round 4 Program Updates (TAC Memo #20-12)
5. FY 2021 Small Area Study Update (TAC Memo #20-13)
6. Presentation - *VTrans Mid-term Transportation Needs*, Katie Schwing, Program Analyst, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP), Secretary of Transportation's Office
7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. HDPT
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. HRMPO Policy Board Meeting Thursday, September 17, 2020, 3:00 pm
 - b. HRMPO TAC Meeting Thursday, October 1, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjournment

* Action needed

HRMPO TAC Minutes July 2, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing Call

Voting Member	Alternates	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	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	Others
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Sam Styers, McCormick Taylor
Rockingham County	Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	✓ Kyle Lawrence, SVBC
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
✓ Bradford Dyjak	✓ Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
✓ Casey Armstrong	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	
Town of Bridgewater	Josh Dunlap, VDOT	
✓ Alex Wilmer	Grant Sparks, DRPT	
Town of Dayton		
Susan Smith		
Town of Mt. Crawford	Non-Voting Members	
J. C. Smythers	Kevin Jones, FHWA	
VDOT	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	
Terry Short	✓ Bill Yates, JMU	
✓ Don Komara	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
VDRPT		
✓ Wood Hudson		

Call to Order

The July 2, 2020, 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 Chairperson Blessing.

Minutes

Chairperson Blessing presented the minutes from the June 4, 2020, TAC Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing call. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Dang, 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 Small Area Study Selection (TAC Action Form #20-5)

Chairperson Blessing presented for discussion FY 2021 Small Area Study Selection. Mr. Howard stated that each year, the HRMPO assists member jurisdictions with short-range transportation planning studies of transportation needs. He noted that at the June 4, 2020 TAC meeting, the Committee discussed two proposed small area/corridor studies for the MPO to pursue during FY 2021, for Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg. Mr. Howard stated that after review of Rockingham County's proposal to study Erickson Avenue, it was agreed that the County's interest in the corridor can be addressed better by a long-range planning scope and process, which includes more extensive public involvement. Mr. Howard gave a brief review on the City of Harrisonburg's proposal for Port Republic/Bluestone Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study. He stated that HRMPO staff will use consultants in the CSPDC's On-Call Program to conduct the study for the City of Harrisonburg. He reviewed the next steps, noting that the study will be presented to the Policy Board at their July 16, 2020 meeting and if approved, a study kick-off meeting will be scheduled in August. Ms. Cooper moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to recommend approval of the FY21 Small Area Study, Port Republic/Bluestone Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study, to the Policy Board. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Update

Mr. Komara reported on several construction and bridge projects that are underway in the HRMPO area, as well as paving and mowing along the secondary roads. Mr. Reed gave an update on SMART SCALE applications, noting that the submission deadline is still currently August 3, 2020. He noted that no word has been received yet regarding extending the deadline. Mr. Reed gave an update on the US 33 Arterial Management Plan in Rockingham County, noting that VDOT was successful in requesting funding for that study. He noted that the Plan will help guide County staff in decision-making that will lead to safer access while minimizing congestion, and assist with planning and design for future levels of access and development in the corridor.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson reported on SMART SCALE applications for transit. He noted that DRPT is in the process of reviewing and improving the contracts for operating systems for the transit agencies. Mr. Hudson



reported on funding models, how they will be able to move forward with forecasting revenues, and how it will impact the FY21 Capital Improvement Plan.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gatobu stated that HDPT will begin preparing route plans once they receive word from the area public schools and James Madison University (JMU) regarding plans to resume classes in the fall. He stated that HDPT is following statewide guidance to meet all safety needs for riders and staff, and social distancing on the buses.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on July 16, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on August 6, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jonathan Howard
Transportation Planner



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Jonathan Howard, Transportation Planner

MEETING DATE: September 3, 2020

RE: **TAC Memo #20-12: SMART SCALE Round 4 Program Updates**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

[SMART SCALE](#) is a program that distributes transportation funds based on a transparent and objective evaluation of projects to determine how effectively they achieve the needs outlined in Virginia’s Multimodal Transportation Plan, [VTrans 2045](#).

In coordination with regional partners, HRMPO staff submitted 3 grant applications on behalf of localities. The total number of project applications submitted within the HRMPO region is as follows: HRMPO - 3, the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) - 1, the City of Harrisonburg - 4, and Rockingham County- 1. The combined cost of all projects totaled \$36.7 million.

The projects are listed below and the project sketches are available [HERE](#).

Applicant	Project Application	Description	Rounded Cost After Inflation	Relevant Study
HRMPO	Bluestone Trail Extension	Closes a 0.7 mile gap between two sections of the Bluestone Trail, a 10' wide paved shared use path, between Stone Spring Rd and the new high school.	\$9.4M	City Bike/Ped Plan
HRMPO	Port Republic Road Corridor improvements	Install traffic signal with signalized crosswalks and WB left turn lane at Port Republic Rd & Bradley Dr. Install median between the Bradley Dr and Devon Ln. Install channelizing island at Hunters Rd to prohibit left turns.	\$4.1M	HRMPO SAS 2019
HRMPO	Mount Crawford Park and Ride Lot Improvements	Expansion of the existing Mt. Crawford Park and Ride at I-81, Exit 240 with 32 new spaces; construct a bus stop with shelter, bike racks, lighting, and infrastructure for an EV charging station.	\$3.1M	HRMPO SAS 2019-2020
Harrisonburg	Port Republic Road Turn Lane and Sidewalk	Extend the EB Port Republic Rd left turn lane at Bluestone Dr from 100' of storage to 300; Extend sidewalk and install median from Hillside Ave/Bluestone Dr to Crawford Ave.	\$2.9 M	HRMPO SAS 2018-2019



Applicant	Project Application	Description	Rounded Cost After Inflation	Relevant Study
Harrisonburg	Erickson Avenue and Pear Street Modified RCUT	Install restricted crossing treatment at Erickson Ave & Pear St with new signal at U-turn on Erickson Ave.	\$3.1M	VDOT STARS 2019-2020
Harrisonburg	South Main Street Safety Improvements	Install median on S Main St from Stone Spring Rd/Erickson Ave to just south of Mosby Rd; Install sidewalk on east side, same extents; Addition of bus shelters at 3 bus stops.	\$2.6M	VDOT STARS 2019-2020
Harrisonburg	South Main Street and I-81 Exit 243 Interchange Improvements	At US-11 & Covenant Dr: widen SB approach & receiving I-81 on-ramp for dual left; reconfigure and widen I-81 off-ramp to provide dual left and expanded storage; install sidewalk on west side from truck stop to Weavers Flooring. Ped signals at Pleasant Valley Rd.	\$5.7M	Bluestone TIA 2019
CSPDC	North Main Street Sidewalk	Install sidewalk on east side of N Main St from Holly Hill Dr to Vine St; Install signalized crosswalks at N Main St & Vine St.	\$2.5M	City Bike/Ped Plan
Rockingham	Smithland Road (Route 720) Widening	Widen Rt. 720/Smithland Road beginning 300 ft from US-11 to add 4-ft shoulders on both sides and increase lane width where possible; Construct right turn lane on Rt. 720 at US-11.	\$3.3M	VDOT on-call study
REGIONAL SMART SCALE REQUEST TOTAL			\$36.7M	



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Jonathan Howard, Transportation Planner

MEETING DATE: September 3, 2020

RE: **TAC Memo: #20-13 – FY 2021 Small Area Study Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July, the TAC and Policy Board selected the Port Republic Road Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge proposal as the FY 2021 Small Area Study. After the review of study fee proposals from three engineering firms, the study team selected A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. (AMT) as the consultant lead. The study kicked-off on August 6, 2020, and Phase 1 of the study is expected to wrap up in October. The study team selected two bridge design concepts at the kickoff meeting, which are currently being analyzed by AMT. A third bridge design concept is still under preliminary review.

STUDY PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

The study will determine the feasibility of a Bluestone Trail bicycle-pedestrian bridge over Port Republic Road at the intersection with Bluestone Drive and Hillside Avenue. The bridge is a recommendation from the FY 2019 HRMPO Small Area Study of the Port Republic Road corridor between South Main Street and Devon Lane. Two pedestrian-vehicle crashes occurred at the Hillside Avenue crosswalk; one in 2016, and another in 2017.

Port Republic Road between South Main Street and Devon Lane experiences significant peak-hour congestion. There are 10 closely-spaced intersections along the corridor whose traffic signals are coordinated to reduce congestion and delay. During peak vehicle traffic hours, pedestrians call for a walk signal at the Port Republic Road/Bluestone Drive intersection, which disrupts traffic signal coordination along the corridor. Removing the at-grade crosswalk, pedestrian signal, and installing a bridge would improve safety, and it would also give more traffic signal green time to vehicles on Port Republic Road. This study will offer more information and insight about the cost-benefit ratio and feasibility of a bridge.

NEXT STEPS

AMT will complete the analyses of all three bridge concepts, develop cost estimates, and evaluate bike/pedestrian level of service as a performance metrics. The study team will then rank the bridge concepts using a decision matrix table that uses goal-weighted factors such as the desirability of bicycle pedestrian use, cost, utility impact, impact on traffic during construction, and environmental impact.