



## **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda July 2, 2020, 2:00 p.m.**

**Meeting by ZOOM Videoconference**

Weblink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89980950628?pwd=d01oV0VoZitudDJZMzl1YXV3WGZGUT09>

Dial In: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 899 8095 0628

Password: 335406

1. Call To Order
2. Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2020 Meeting\*
3. Public Comment
4. FY 2021 Small Area Study Selection (TAC Action Form #20-5)\*
5. Agency Updates
  - a. VDOT
  - b. DRPT
  - c. HDPT
6. Other Business
7. Upcoming Meetings
  - a. HRMPO Policy Board Meeting Thursday, July 16, 2020, 3:00 pm
  - b. HRMPO TAC Meeting Thursday, August 6, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
8. Adjournment

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\* Action needed

## 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

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### **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

**TO:** Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Jonathan Howard, HRMPO Transportation Planner

**MEETING DATE:** July 2, 2020

**RE:** **TAC Action Form: #20-5 – Fiscal Year 2021 Small Area Study Selection**

## RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Policy Board approve the FY 2021 Small Area Study.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, the HRMPO assists member jurisdictions with short-range transportation planning studies of transportation needs. The studies develop recommendations to advance to the grant application and programming stage. At the June 4, 2020 TAC meeting, the Committee discussed two proposed small area/corridor studies for the MPO to pursue during FY 2021. After review of Rockingham County's proposal to study Erickson Avenue, all parties 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. MPO staff will use consultants in the CSPDC's On-Call Program to conduct the following study for the City of Harrisonburg:

Study	Timeframe
Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study at the intersection of Port Republic/Bluestone Drive	July– December 2020

## FY 2021 SMALL AREA STUDY TIMELINE

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. The HRMPO will begin the 2045 LRTP update in January 2021.

## NEXT STEPS

- Policy Board approval at the July 16, 2020 meeting.
- Work with the City to develop a Scope of Work for the Study.
- Assemble Study Team and request a Scope and Fee proposal from consultant.
- Schedule study kick-off meeting in August.

## ATTACHMENTS:

City of Harrisonburg Small Area Study Proposal



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**PUBLIC  
WORKS**

320 EAST MOSBY ROAD, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

OFFICE (540) 434-5928 • FAX (540) 434-2695

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 27, 2020  
To: HRMPO Technical Advisory Committee  
FROM: Erin Yancey, AICP  
Re: 2020 Small Area Study

**Project Name:** Port Republic/Bluestone Drive bicycle/pedestrian bridge feasibility study

**Problem Statement:** The segment of Port Republic Road between S. Main Street and Forest Hill Road experiences significant peak hour congestion. There are many closely spaced signalized intersections along the corridor that are operated in coordination for better efficiency. However, because the Port Republic Road/Bluestone Drive intersection experiences such a large number of pedestrian calls during peak times, the signal coordination plan is disrupted for the majority of peak hour operation. Additionally, the Bluestone Trail crosses this intersection, which is likely perceived as uncomfortable for many due to its size and amount of traffic, despite the provision of pedestrian signals. This is particularly true for families with children and inexperienced cyclists, which are primary target audiences for separated facilities like the Bluestone Trail.

**Background:** The HRMPO completed a study of the Port Republic Road corridor in 2019. This study identified the problem described above, and recommended a pedestrian bridge as a mitigation. Providing the bridge for the heavy bicycle and pedestrian demand would reallocate green time to service Port Republic Road, which would otherwise be spent frequently servicing a long pedestrian crossing. It is assumed that the bridge would also improve bicycle and pedestrian accessibility. The site for the bridge is fairly constrained for such an improvement, however.

**Regional Significance:** Any improvements along this corridor would affect the MPO as a whole, due to its direct connection to I-81 and the largest employers in the region, JMU and Sentara RMH.

**Study Objectives:**

Assess the desirability of the improvement when compared to the existing condition, based on performance metrics, such as bike/ped level of service, traffic operational improvement, design compromises needed to overcome constraints, and cost.

**Study Tasks:**

- Conceptual plan, including design considerations accompanying the removal of the at-grade pedestrian phase of the signal operation. 30% conceptual plan, if budget and time allow.



- Build and no-build bicycle/pedestrian level of service evaluation, based on be based on the Highway Capacity Manual 6th Edition (consultant expertise needed).
- Cost estimate.
- Comparison and discussion of build and no-build performance metrics, including but not limited to bike/ped level of service, traffic operational improvement, design compromises needed to overcome constraints, and cost.
- Public involvement.
- Recommendation on whether the project makes sense to advance, based on study findings.
- Note: VDOT to perform the no build & build operations comparison for the vehicle performance metrics (delay, queue length).

**Delivery Timeline:** Kick-off in August. Completed by end of 2020.

