



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda November 5, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting by ZOOM Videoconference

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85086430190?pwd=cS9wM1FGSHJDT05Mek5qMjVRR0pjQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 8643 0190

Passcode: 494187

Dial In: 1-301-715-8592

1. Call To Order
2. Approval of Minutes of September 3, 2020 Meeting*
3. Public Comment
4. 2021 Meeting Calendar (TAC Action Form #20-7)*
5. FY 2021 Small Area Study Program Update (TAC Memo #20-14)
6. FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification (TAC Memo #20-15)
7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. HDPT
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. HRMPO Policy Board Meeting Thursday, November 18, 2020, 3:00 pm
 - b. HRMPO TAC Meeting Thursday, December 3, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjournment

* Action needed

HRMPO TAC Minutes September 3, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing Call

Voting Member	Alternates	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	✓ Patrick Wilcox, 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	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	✓ Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	✓ Sarah Rhodes, Richmond Regional TPO
✓ Bradford Dyjak	✓ Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓ David Birkenthal, Shenandoah Alliance
Casey Armstrong	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	✓ Katie Schwing, OIPI
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

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. In light of this emergency, the September 3, 2020, HRMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom. The September 3, 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 July 2, 2020, TAC Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing call. Mr. Dyjak moved, seconded by Ms. Cooper, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

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

SMART SCALE Round 4 Program Update (TAC Memo #20-12)

Chairperson Blessing presented SMART SCALE Round 4 Program Update. Mr. Howard gave an update on SMART SCALE, noting that the SMART SCALE program 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. He stated that in coordination with regional partners, HRMPO staff submitted 3 project grant applications on behalf of the localities. Mr. Howard noted that a total of nine SMART SCALE regional project applications were submitted within the HRMPO region, totaling \$36.7 million. Mr. Reed stated that the Staunton District, which covers 11 counties, submitted 45 SMART SCALE applications for Round 4, totaling \$230 million; and approximately 400 applications were submitted statewide, totaling \$7.4 billion.

FY 2021 Small Area Study Update (TAC Memo #20-13)

Chairperson Blessing presented FY 2021 Small Area Study Update. Mr. Howard gave an update on the Port Republic Road Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge proposal that was selected by the HRMPO in July as the FY 2021 Small Area Study. He stated that 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. Mr. Howard reported that two pedestrian-vehicle crashes occurred at the Hillside Avenue crosswalk; one in 2016 and another in 2017. He noted that after the review of proposals from three engineering firms, the study team selected A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. (AMT) as the consultant lead. Mr. Howard stated that the study kicked-off on August 6, 2020, and Phase 1 of the study is expected to wrap up in October. He noted that the study team selected two bridge design concepts which are currently being analyzed by AMT, and a third bridge design concept is still under preliminary review. Mr. Reed reported on the congestion analysis, noting that the Virginia Department of Transportation is providing services to do the before and after operational analysis. Mr. Howard reviewed the next steps, noting that 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.

Vtrans Mid-Term Transportation Needs Presentation

Mr. Howard introduced and welcomed Ms. Katie Schwing, Program Analyst, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP), Office of the Secretary of Transportation. Ms. Schwing presented a PowerPoint presentation on VTrans: Approach to Prioritizing the Mid-Term Transportation Needs (attached to file minutes). She stated that the VTrans Mid-Term Needs are a companion to the long-range element of the VTrans update process, and provides direction toward achieving the plan's overarching vision and goals. Ms. Schwing noted that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) accepted the VTrans Mid-Term Needs in January 2020. She stated that based on the CTB's direction, the Prioritized Mid-Term Needs may be used to inform state-level planning and project developments processes, develop policies related to transportation programs and activities, and inform other programmatic or planning related functions. Local and regional planning agencies may utilize the prioritized needs to inform local and regional planning efforts. Ms. Schwing reviewed the Prioritization of VTrans Mid-Term Needs context and significance, and next steps. Questions were raised and responded to regarding how congestion is calculated in college/university areas, how prioritization will be utilized moving forward, and allocation of funding.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Update

Mr. Komara reported on several bridge and paving construction projects and mowing in the HRMPO area. He reported on Interstate 81 improvements, noting that VDOT has launched a new website www.improve81.org, which offers updated information on funded operational and capital improvement projects. Mr. Reed gave an update on the U.S. 33 Arterial Management Plan in Rockingham County, noting it will be kicked off on September 18, 2020.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson gave an update on the Six-Year Improvement Program and reported on recommendations DRPT is presenting to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to be considered. He gave an update on Virginia Breeze, noting that it has resumed service after temporary suspension of service due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and reported on the new Virginia Breeze routes.



Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gatobu stated that HDPT is currently working with area public schools on school routes and with James Madison University (JMU) regarding holding classes virtually and plans to resume in-person classes. He stated that HDPT is working with riders and staff to meet all safety needs and social distancing.

Other Business

Mr. Howard announced that VDOT has released their fall Quick-Start Mini-grant applications. He stated that these grants are \$1,000 reimbursements grants that can be used to start and continue Safe Routes to School programs and activities that encourage safe walking and bicycling to school. Mr. Howard stated that the applications will be reviewed periodically on September 10, 2020, and October 8, 2020. He stated that CSPDC staff is available to provide assistance to the jurisdictions. Mr. Howard gave an update on state transportation revenues, noting that the Secretary of Finance announced that there is a lower than expected revenue loss due to the strong state economy and action taken at the federal level.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on September 17, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on October 1, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 2:50 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: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: November 5, 2020
RE: **TAC Action Form #20-7 - HRMPO 2021 Meeting Calendar**

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the HRMPO 2021 Meeting Calendar.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff have developed the 2021 HRMPO Policy Board and TAC meeting schedules in order to provide the public, board members, and staff with advance planning for meeting dates. A public notice for the 2021 meeting schedules will be published in local newspapers, and posted on www.hrvampo.org in accordance with the HRMPO Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Changes to the date, time or location of meetings will be posted on the website, and publicly noticed in local papers as required by the PPP. TAC and Policy Board members will be notified of meeting cancellations via email at least one week in advance of the scheduled meeting date.

2021 HRMPO Policy Board Meeting Schedule	
Thursday, January 21, 2021	Thursday, July 15, 2021
Thursday, February 18, 2021	Thursday, August 19, 2021
Thursday, March 18, 2021	Thursday, September 16, 2021
Thursday, April 15, 2021	Thursday, October 21, 2021
Thursday, May 20, 2021	Thursday, November 18, 2021
Thursday, June 17, 2021	Thursday, December 16, 2021
Meeting Time: 3:00 p.m. (Meetings last approximately one hour) Location*: Due to the CV-19 pandemic, meetings will be held via video conference until further notice. *Once in-person meetings resume, the regular location will be at the Rockingham County Administration Center, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, unless otherwise noted.	

2021 HRMPO TAC Meeting Schedule	
Thursday, January 7, 2021	Thursday, July 1, 2021
Thursday, February 4, 2021	Thursday, August 5, 2021
Thursday, March 4, 2021	Thursday, September 2, 2021
Thursday, April 1, 2021	Thursday, October 7, 2021
Thursday, May 6, 2021	Thursday, November 4, 2021
Thursday, June 3, 2021	Thursday, December 2, 2021
Meeting Time: 2:00 p.m. (Meetings last approximately one hour) Location*: Due to the CV-19 pandemic, meetings will be held via video conference until further notice. *Once in-person meetings resume, the regular location will be at the Rockingham County Administration Center, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, unless otherwise noted.	



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: November 5, 2020
RE: **TAC Memo: #20-14 – FY 2021 Small Area Study Program Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study kicked-off on August 6, 2020, and Phase 1 of the study is now complete. A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. (AMT) completed the analyses of three bridge concepts, developed cost estimates, and evaluated bicycle/pedestrian level of service and travel times as performance metrics. The bridge concepts were ranked 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/viewshed impact. AMT delivered the final study report on October 28, 2020, and it is currently under review by the study team.

STUDY UPDATE

The study team met on October 13, 2020, to discuss the final decision matrix results, the feasibility of a bridge, and how to proceed to Phase 2 of the study. Refined visuals of the bridge concepts can be found [here](#). During the study, a fourth alternative idea which consolidates and improves existing crosswalks, rose to the top in terms of cost, feasibility, and common-sense engineering.

The study team agreed to add another alternative to the study called **Alternative 4**. Based on VDOT's analysis, Alternative 4 performed slightly better than a bridge in terms of relieving congestion, at a fraction of the cost of a bridge. Phase 1 was successful at comparing bridge concepts and determining the strengths and weaknesses of each type, and it will be a reference in the future if conditions change. The project elements of Alternative 4 can be reviewed on the next page.

NEXT STEPS

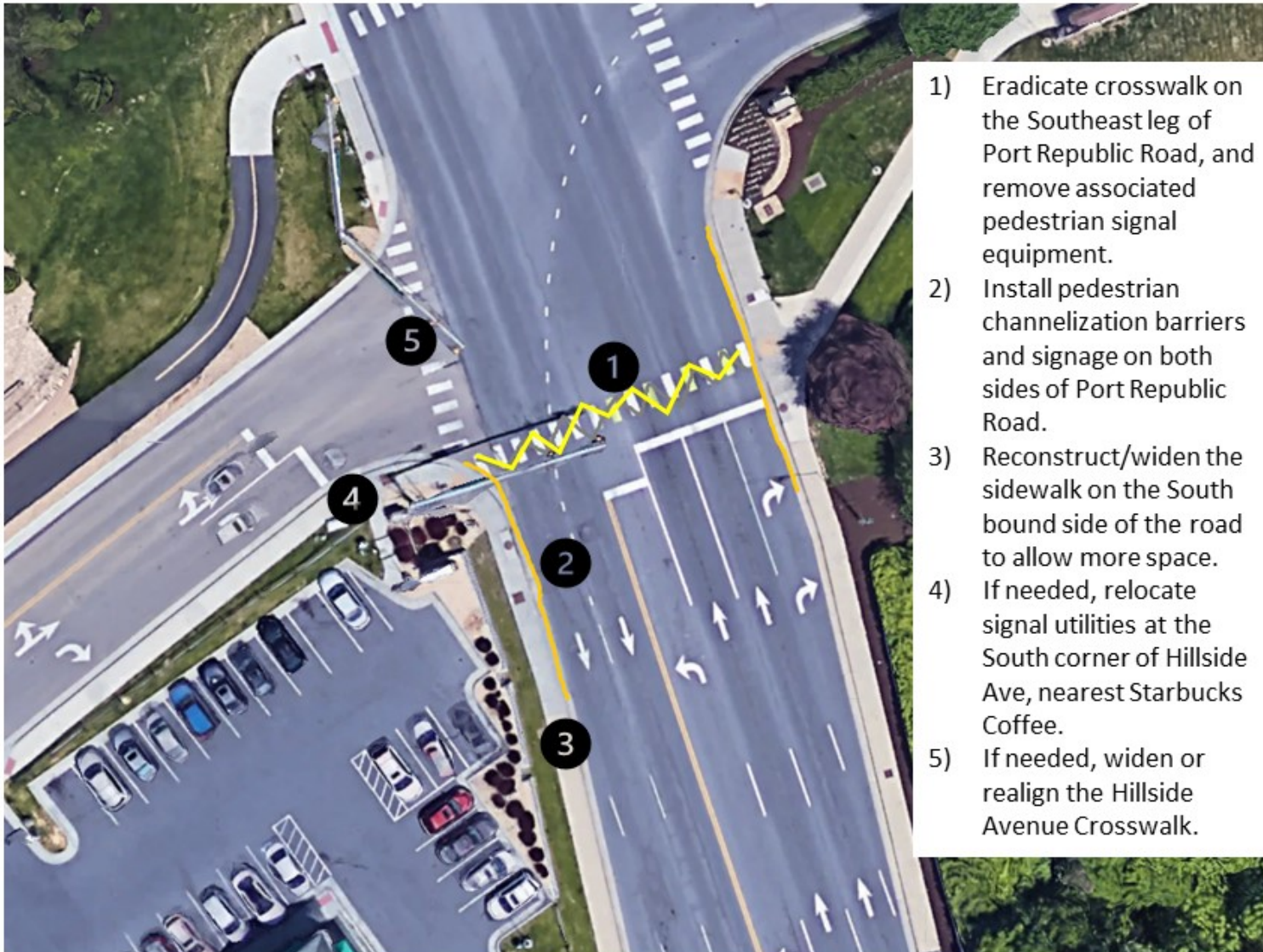
MPO staff will work with AMT on developing a task order and scope of work for Phase 2 of the study, which will perform preliminary engineering, develop a conceptual project design sketch, and develop a cost-estimate for Alternative 4.

ATTACHMENT

- Alternative 4 – Port Republic Road and Hillside Avenue Crosswalk Improvements



Alternative 4 - Port Republic Road and Hillside Avenue Crosswalk Improvements





TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation

MEETING DATE: November 5, 2020

RE: **TAC Memo #20-15: FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff has administratively modified the FY 2021-2024 TIP. The modifications add an appendix to document the TIP's compliance with the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) for HDPT, and make adjustments to the Transit Financial Plan for the Arc of Harrisonburg/Rockingham and Friendship Industries line items. No roadway/VDOT administered projects in the TIP require amendment or adjustment at this time.

TIP ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS

PTASP AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

As a Tier II transit agency, HDPT is included in the statewide PTASP. The Virginia Statewide PTASP for Small Public Transportation Providers is a comprehensive plan outlining the Safety Management Systems (SMS) programs at 15 small transit agencies in the Commonwealth. This comprehensive plan is required by 49 United States Code 5329, and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 673.

The PTASP provides general information on each transit agency, including its overall structure and services; the agency Safety Management Policy; Safety Risk Management program; Safety Assurance program; and Safety Promotion program.

The TIP now includes Appendix H, which documents that the TIP incorporates the PTASP and its associated performance targets into the MPO document. HDPT operations, as documented in the TIP, work toward meeting the safety targets established in the PTASP.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TRANSIT FINANCIAL PLAN

Based on adjustments to agency applications for FY21, the transit portion of the TIP's financial plan reflects adjusted funding amounts for the Arc of Harrisonburg/Rockingham, and Friendship Industries. The changes are documented in blue text in the Description under each section on page 21 of the document.

NEXT STEPS

No action is needed by the Board for these modifications. Staff will submit the modified TIP to VDOT and DRPT, and post on the MPO website TIP page.

ATTACHMENT

- [TIP Administrative Modification](#)