HRMPO Policy Board Minutes
January 16, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Rockingham County Administration Center
20 East Gay Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Voting Members | Non-Voting Members | Staff
City of Harrisonburg | Lee Eshelman, JMU | Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC
✓ Sal Romero | Michelle DeAngelis, FTA | ✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
✓ Deanna Reed | Kevin Jones, FHWA | ✓ Jonathan Howard, CSPDC
✓ Eric Campbell | Wood Hudson, DRPT | ✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
✓ Gerald Gatobu | Rusty Harrington, Aviation |
✓ George Hirschmann |

Rockingham County Alternates | Others
✓ Casey Armstrong | Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance |
✓ Sallie Wolfe-Garrison | Brad Reed, VDOT |
✓ Stephen King | Burgess Lindsey, VDOT |

Town of Mt. Crawford |
✓ Dennis Driver | Brad Reed, VDOT |

Town of Dayton |
✓ Angela Lawrence | Brad Reed, VDOT |

Town of Bridgewater |
✓ Jay Litten | Jeff Lineberry, VDOT |
✓ Randy Kiser | Don Komara, VDOT |
✓ VDOT | Dan Sonenklar, DRPT |
✓ Matt Dana, VDOT |

Call to Order
The January 16, 2020, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairman Driver.

Approval of Minutes
Chairman Driver presented the minutes from the November 21, 2019, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. Ms. Wolfe-Garrison moved, seconded by Mr. Dyjak, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
On behalf of the HRMPO, Chairman Driver expressed his deepest sympathy to the friends and family members of the victims from the multi-vehicle crash along I-81 that occurred the previous day near Mt. Crawford, in which there were three fatalities. He asked everyone to keep the friends and family members in their thoughts and prayers.

**Public Comment**

Chairman Driver opened the floor to the public for comments. There were no comments from the public.

**Consideration of FY20 FTA 5310 Grant Application Requests (PB AF #20-1)**

Chairman Driver presented for consideration FY20 FTA Section 5310 grant application requests. Ms. Cundy stated that the HRMPO is required to approve a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that identifies all federal transportation funds that will be expended in the HRMPO region. She noted that the FTA Section 5310 grant program provides funding for transportation for the elderly and persons with disabilities through local non-profit organizations. Ms. Cundy stated that Valley Program for Aging (VPAS), The Arc of Harrisonburg-Rockingham, Pleasant View, and Friendship Industries are making applications to the FTA Section 5310 program to support operating costs and to purchase new vehicles for human service and mobility in the region. Ms. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mr. Gatobu, to endorse the FTA Section 5310 applications as follows and include the grants in the HRMPO Transit TIP if awarded:

- VPAS is requesting funds in the amount of $85,000 to support the operating costs of their Senior Transportation program, which operates throughout the CSPDC region. If fully funded, the federal portion would be $42,000, the state portion $34,000, and the local match would be $8,500. VPAS is also requesting capital funds to purchase one new minivan with a wheelchair ramp to replace the oldest minivan in their fleet, for a total cost of $45,000 with a match of $9,000.
- Pleasant View is requesting capital funds to purchase two new modified minivans with wheelchair ramps for a total cost of $90,000, with an applicant match of $18,000.
- The Arc of Harrisonburg is requesting capital funds to purchase two new modified minivans with wheelchair lifts for a total cost of $90,000, with an applicant match of $18,000.
- Friendship Industries Inc. is requesting capital funds to purchase one new 15 passenger body on chassis vehicle for a total cost of $68,000, with an applicant match of $13,600.

Motion was carried by unanimous vote.
FY20 Small Area Study Updates (Board Memo #20-1)

Chairman Driver presented FY20 Small Area Study Updates. Mr. Howard gave an update on the following:

- Harrisonburg Downtown Enhancements Traffic Impact Analysis: Mr. Howard stated that this study is evaluating the traffic impacts of the downtown transportation network using three lane configuration changes that reduce Main Street and/or Liberty Street to one automobile travel lane. He noted that VHB has completed the first phase of the downtown street network traffic capacity analysis. The analysis compared the 2030 No Build Model with a 2030 Build Model that reduced Main Street and Liberty Street to one vehicle travel lane, optimized signal timings, and assumed no change in traffic pattern shifts to alternate routes like High Street and Mason Street. Mr. Howard reviewed the model comparisons; and stated that the next steps will be to update the 2030 Build Model with traffic rerouting scenarios approved by the study team, and then develop any necessary mitigation improvements.

- Mt. Crawford Park and Ride: Mr. Howard stated that the study’s objectives seek to increase carpool and transit options in the HRMPO, mitigate right of way and construction risks through detailed site investigation, and further refine park and ride improvement concepts. He noted that the HRMPO study team reviewed site constraints, conceptual lot designs, and selected a final lot design in December. Mr. Howard stated that the consultants, Timmons Group, have completed a detailed design sketch based on feedback from the study group. Mr. Howard stated that the consultants will review existing topography and prepare the final cost estimate.

- Mr. Reed gave an update on the U.S. 11 Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program - South Main Street. He stated that the purpose of the STARS project is to evaluate operational and safety conditions and identify potential short- and long-term improvements for a critical segment of South Main Street from Mosby Road to Stone Spring Road/Erickson Avenue; and second, the study will evaluate and develop a solution to handle anticipated traffic growth at the intersection of Erickson Avenue and Pear Street. Mr. Reed presented MetroQuest, a survey tool for transportation planning for online public involvement. He announced that the City of Harrisonburg will be hosting a public meeting regarding the STARS project on February 5, 2020, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., at the City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works, Harrisonburg.

Upcoming FY20 Activities (Board Memo #20-2)

Chairman Driver presented Upcoming FY20 Activities. Ms. Cundy stated the HRMPO will develop updated planning and policy documents; and collaborate with members to develop new projects and grant applications in 2020. She gave a summary on the following upcoming activities:
• FY21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development;
• FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development;
• Small Area Study wrap up and FY21 scoping;
• SMART SCALE applications; and
• Bike/Pedestrian Projects Pipeline wrap up.

FY20 UPWP Budget Update (Board Memo #20-3)
Chairman Driver presented the FY20 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Update (attached to file minutes). Ms. Cundy reviewed the expenditures by the HRMPO as of November 21, 2019, noting that spending is shown by task, and by VDOT and DRPT funding. She noted that the remaining budget percentage excluding contingency is 66 percent.

Presentation: VTrans 2045 and SMART SCALE Updates from January CTB Meeting – Brad Reed, VDOT Staunton Assistant District Planner
Mr. Reed gave a PowerPoint presentation on VTrans 2045 and SMART SCALE Updates from the January Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting. He reported that the new mid-term VTrans 2045 needs were adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). Mr. Reed stated that the needs are a major change from VTrans 2040 and will be used for SMART SCALE project screening. He reported that the CTB is expected to take action in February 2020 on incremental SMART SCALE policy changes that were proposed in December 2019 and January 2020. Mr. Reed reviewed the VTrans goals and needs, Round 4 timeline, and the next steps. He noted that the SMART SCALE Round 4 application window opens March 1, 2020.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Under VDOT Update, Mr. Komara reported on several construction projects in the HRMPO area. He stated that the Mauzy bridge, a $12 million project over Route 11, is moving along; reported on bids for the bicycle and buggy access and safety improvement project in Dayton; and gave an update on the I-81 Exit 245 Interchange realignment project. Mr. Hirschman stated that he had been contacted by several citizens regarding safety issues in crossing the road due to the redesigning of traffic flow on South Main Street where the new high school will be located. Mr. Komara stated that he will look into this and report back.
**Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)**

Under DRPT Update, Mr. Hudson distributed copies of a handout regarding the importance of continued investment and support for public transportation in Virginia. He stated that the presence of transit as a travel option in communities throughout Virginia has a large impact on the economy of the state and reviewed the amount of additional benefits. Mr. Hudson stated that for every dollar of public investment in transit generates $2.91 in economic activity statewide. He reviewed the projected statewide transit capital needs and funding, noting that over the next five fiscal years, transit agencies have identified $932 million in capital projects statewide; and taking into account project funding, there will be a $208 million shortfall in state-controlled funds. Mr. Hudson reported on the upcoming SMART SCALE grant application process for transit agencies; solicitation of bids for two expansion routes; reported that Virginia Breeze ridership was performing very well; and announced the CSX $3 billion award for rail service increases.

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

On behalf of the HRMPO, Chairman Driver announced and congratulated Mr. Gatobu on becoming the new Director for HDPT. Mr. Gatobu reported on the upcoming grant season for HDPT. He stated that he was in the process of presenting a budget for HDPT transit services to Harrisonburg City Council for their consideration. Mr. Gatobu stated that HDPT is busy planning ahead regarding bus routes and schedules for returning students from the holidays for area public schools, as well as James Madison University (JMU).

**Upcoming Meetings**

Chairman Driver announced the following meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on February 6, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.; HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on February 20, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.; and the public meeting regarding the STARS project on February 5, 2020, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., at the City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works, Harrisonburg.
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the HRMPO Policy Board, Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Kiser for adjournment at 4:25 p.m. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation