

HRMPO TAC Minutes March 5, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

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

| Voting Members | 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 | ✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT |
| Rockingham County | Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg | |
| ✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair | Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg | |
| ✓ 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 | ✓ Lee Eshelman, JMU | |
| ✓ Don Komara | Rusty Harrington, Aviation | |
| VDRPT | | |
| ✓ Wood Hudson | | |

Call to Order

The March 5, 2020, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Blessing.

Minutes

Chairman Blessing presented the minutes from the February 6, 2020, TAC meeting. Ms. Dang moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, 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.

Draft FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Release to Public Comment (TAC AF #20-1)

Chairman Blessing presented the Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP Release to Public Comment. Mr. Howard gave a review on the TIP, noting that the VDOT Federal Programs Management Division (FPMD) is working with MPOs across the state on updating their TIPs for eventual inclusion into the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 –2024 Statewide TIP (STIP) update. He stated that FPMD would like MPOs to finalize and send their TIPs in April 2020, so they can roll them into the statewide TIP (STIP) before the federal July 1, 2020 deadline. Mr. Howard noted that the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) requested the HRMPO to develop the FFY 2021–2024 Transit portion of the TIP in partnership with the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT), and our regional human mobility service providers (FTA Section 5310 applicants). He reviewed the next steps, noting that the TIP will be presented to the Policy Board to be released for public comment at their March 19, 2020 meeting, and final approval by the Policy Board at their April 16, 2020 meeting. Mr. Dyjak moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to recommend to the HRMPO Policy Board to release the Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP for public comment. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

FY 2021 UPWP Development (TAC Memo #20-5)

Chairman Blessing presented the FY 2021 UPWP Development. Mr. Howard gave a review on the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), noting that the UPWP is the annual work program and budget for the HRMPO. He stated that the UPWP details the administrative and planning activities to be undertaken during the fiscal year, and the federal, state, and local funds used for these activities. Ms. Cundy reviewed the FY 2020 UPWP with the Draft FY 2021 UPWP comparison. She noted that as the funding from VDOT (FHWA PL funds) and DRPT (FTA Section 5303) does not change significantly from year to year, staff begins the update process with funding levels from the prior fiscal year and makes necessary adjustments prior to final approval. Mr. Howard reviewed the next steps, noting that staff will present a draft document to the TAC at their April meeting and the Policy Board at their March meeting, with final approval by the Policy Board at their May meeting.



FY 2020 Small Area Study Updates (TAC Memo #20-6)

Chairman Blessing presented the FY20 Small Area Study Updates. Mr. Howard gave an update on the Small Area Studies as follows:

- Mt. Crawford Park and Ride: Mr. Howard stated that this study revisits the design of a \$3.1 million SMART SCALE Round 3 application for an improved Park and Ride lot on Route 257 near I-81 Exit 240. He noted that the 50-space Park and Ride is over capacity, has limited lighting, no ADA access, or transit capabilities. Mr. Howard stated that the objectives of the study are to increase carpool and transit options in the HRMPO, mitigate right of way and construction risks through detailed site investigation, and refine park and ride improvement concepts. He noted that it was determined by the study team that the draft estimate of \$2.7 million was too high to be competitive in SMART SCALE, and requested a leaner design that still had at least 75 spaces. Mr. Howard stated that Timmons Group delivered a final project design for an 82-space lot, including 4 handicap spaces, and 1 Electric Vehicle charging station. He reviewed the final project cost estimate by phase, noting that the total cost of the project is \$1,937,040. Mr. Howard then reviewed the next steps, noting that the HRMPO will submit a grant pre-application to SMART SCALE for the Park and Ride project.
- Harrisonburg Downtown Enhancements Traffic Impact Analysis: Mr. Howard stated that this study is evaluating the reconfiguration of the downtown transportation network. Mr. Howard noted that the consultants and the study team used traffic software models to analyze lane reconfiguration scenarios which reduce Main Street and/or Liberty Street to one automobile travel lane. VHB consultants have completed the existing and future year (2030) traffic models for over 30 downtown intersections. He stated that the analysis compared the 2030 No Build Model (no changes to the downtown network) with a 2030 Build Model that reduced Main Street and Liberty Street to one vehicle travel lane, optimized signal timings, and assumed traffic pattern shifts to alternate routes like High Street and Mason Street. Mr. Howard noted that the model comparisons revealed that the Downtown street network had sufficient capacity to accommodate the lane reductions. Mr. Komara expressed concerns over traffic impacts if any streets in downtown Harrisonburg are reduced to one automobile travel lane. Mr. Howard reviewed the next steps, noting that a final report is anticipated at the next TAC meeting in April for review.

SMART SCALE MPO Project Updates (TAC Memo #20-7)

Chairman Blessing presented SMART SCALE MPO Project Updates. Mr. Howard gave an update on SMART SCALE projects, noting that HRMPO staff is working with localities in preparation for the



SMART SCALE pre-application period from March 2-April 3, 2020. Mr. Howard stated that the latest information on proposed changes taken by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) at their February 14-15, 2020 meetings to SMART SCALE is available online on the HRMPO website. He stated that the local resolutions of support were due by August 3 and the HRMPO resolutions of support were due by September 2nd. Mr. Howard presented and reviewed the regional projects under consideration. Mr. Hartman reviewed the projects for the City of Harrisonburg. The draft SMART SCALE Round 4 MPO projects are as follows:

- South Main Street Median project for approximately \$1.5 million.
- I-81 Exit 243 Interchange Treatments project for approximately \$3.2 million.
- Bluestone Trail Extension project for approximately \$5 million.
- Harrisonburg North Main Street Sidewalk project for approximately \$2 million.
- Exit 240 Mount Crawford Park and Ride Expansion project for approximately \$2 million.
- U.S. 11 and Smithland Road Safety Treatment project with the cost to be determined.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Update

Under VDOT Update, Mr. Komara reported on: the Mauzy bridge project, noting that the project is scheduled for completion in the fall; bicycle and buggy access and safety improvement project in the Town of Dayton, noting that the project is scheduled to begin in April; noted that the Town of Elkton sidewalk project is near completion; announced that a public hearing will be held on March 26th, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the VDOT Harrisonburg Residency Office in Harrisonburg for the Route 720 (Smithland Road) bridge replacement project; noted that the I-81 Exit 245 interchange project is scheduled for completion by the end of August 2020; and reported on concerns regarding the weight of special hauling vehicles on bridges.

Mr. Reed reported on the SMART SCALE Round 4 application timeline, noting that the portal for pre-applications is now open. He stated that the submission deadline for pre-applications must be submitted by April 3, 2020, by 5:00 p.m.; a pre-application screening review will be conducted by VDOT/DRPT staff on April 3 – June 1, 2020; the full application period opens June 1, 2020; and submission deadline for full applications is August 3, 2020, by 5:00 p.m.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson reported on the upcoming SMART SCALE grant application process for transit agencies; legislative funding for transit; and performance measures. Ms. Cundy gave an update on the Afton Express Inter-Regional Transit Study. She noted that the CSPDC anticipates applying for funds under the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT's) Demonstration Grant Program



to fund a commuter bus system, connecting the Shenandoah Valley with the City of Charlottesville. A recently completed study and service plan proposes a Monday-Friday schedule with four trips in the a.m. and four trips in the p.m., with proposed fares \$3 one way. Stops will originate at park and ride lots in Staunton, Fishersville, Waynesboro and multiple stops in Charlottesville including UVA, UVA Medical Center, Downtown Charlottesville and 5th Street Station. Partners include Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta County, University of Virginia, Albemarle County, Charlottesville, and both planning districts. If funded, the proposed system would be launched in early 2021.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT) Update

Under HDPT Update, Mr. Gatobu reported on HDPT grant applications that were submitted and upcoming HDPT activities. He announced that James Madison University will be on spring break next week. Mr. Gatobu noted that HDPT is actively seeking to hire bus drivers.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on March 19, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on April 2, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jonathan Howard".

Jonathan Howard
Transportation Planner