

HRMPO TAC Minutes May 7, 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	✓ Patrick Wilcox, Rockingham Co.
Rockingham County	✓ Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	✓ Kyle Lawrence, SVBC
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
✓ Bradford Dyjak	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓ David Birkenthal, Shenandoah Alliance
Casey Armstrong	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	✓ William Bushman, Hurt & Proffitt
Town of Bridgewater	Josh Dunlap, VDOT	✓ Matthew Dana, 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 May 7, 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 Chairman Blessing.

Minutes

Chairman Blessing presented the minutes from the March 5, 2020, TAC meeting. Mr. Komara moved, seconded by Ms. Cooper, 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 2020 Small Area Study Updates (TAC Memo #20-8)

Chairman Blessing presented the FY20 Small Area Study Updates. Mr. Howard gave an update on the Small Area Studies for FY 2020 as follows:

- Harrisonburg Downtown Enhancements Traffic Impact Analysis: Mr. Howard stated that this study is evaluating the reconfiguration of the downtown transportation network. He noted that using traffic software models, VHB consultants and the study team analyzed lane reconfiguration scenarios which reduce Main Street and/or Liberty Street to one automobile travel lane. Mr. Howard stated that VHB has developed the existing and future year (2030) traffic models for over 30 downtown intersections, and lane reconfiguration concepts have been tested in the future model (2030) with three traffic impact mitigation recommendations. Mr. Howard 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. He noted that the model comparisons revealed that the Downtown street network had sufficient capacity to accommodate the lane reductions. Mr. Howard stated that vehicle queue lengths were variable at intersections throughout the network in the 2030 No-Build and 2030 Build scenarios. He reviewed the three recommendations aimed to improve intersection level of service and intersection vehicle queue lengths in the 2030 Build scenario. Mr. Howard stated that the study team met on March 24, 2020, to review the final draft report, and presented their comments to the consultants. He noted that the report is still in the process of being finalized and anticipates presenting a final report of the study in June.
- 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. The 50-space Park and Ride lot is over capacity, has limited lighting, no ADA access or transit capabilities. He noted that the study team and Timmons Group Inc. delivered a final project design for an 82-space lot, including 4 handicap spaces, and 1 Electric Vehicle charging station. Mr. Howard stated that the lot accommodates a coach-size bus pull-through, and a staging area that will have a bus shelter, benches, bicycle racks, lighting, and



ADA accessibility, for a total project cost estimate of \$1,937,040. He noted that the HRMPO submitted a grant pre-application to SMART SCALE for the project and it is awaiting VDOT eligibility and VTrans Needs screening. Mr. Howard said that once the project is screened in, the full application will open in SMART PORTAL by June 1, 2020, at the latest.

FY 2021 Small Area Study Program (TAC Memo #20-9)

Chairman Blessing presented the FY 2021 Small Area Study Program. Mr. Howard stated that through the FY20 UPWP Work Task 2.02, Short-Range Transportation Planning, the HRMPO assists member jurisdictions with short-range transportation planning studies. These studies focus on specific areas or corridors within the HRMPO region, address transportation issues, and provide improvement recommendations. He noted that Small Area Study recommendations are intended to advance projects to the funding program application phase. Mr. Howard reviewed the timeline and next steps. He noted 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. Ms. Cundy noted that TAC members should be prepared to present a site or corridor at the June 4, 2020, TAC meeting for consideration and once a study location has been selected, it will be advanced to the HRMPO Policy Board for approval.

SMART SCALE Round 4 Project Updates (TAC Memo #20-10)

Chairman Blessing presented SMART SCALE Round 4 Project Updates. Mr. Howard stated that in coordination with regional partners, the HRMPO and CSPDC submitted six transportation project pre-applications to the SMART SCALE grant program. He noted that the pre-applications are currently undergoing eligibility and VTrans screening and once the projects are screened in, the full applications will open in SMART PORTAL by June 1, 2020. Mr. Howard stated that the full applications are due on August 3, 2020, and HRMPO resolutions of support are due by September 1, 2020. Mr. Hartman reviewed the seven SMART SCALE Round 4 projects for the City of Harrisonburg as follows:

- South Main Street Safety Improvements project for approximately \$1.8 million;
- I-81 Exit 243 Interchange Treatments project for approximately \$3.7 million;
- Bluestone Trail Extension for approximately \$6.2 million;
- Port Republic Road Corridor Improvements project for approximately \$2.8 million;
- Port Republic Road Turn Lane and Sidewalk project for approximately \$2.1 million;
- Pear Street/Erickson Avenue Modified RCUT project for approximately \$1.8 million; and
- North Main Street Sidewalk project for approximately \$1.1 million.



Mr. Howard reviewed the Mt. Crawford Exit 240 Park and Ride Expansion project for approximately \$1.94 million; and Mr. Dyjak reviewed the Rockingham-Smithland Road (Route 720) Widening project for approximately \$5.7 million. (List of SMART SCALE Round 4 projects attached to file copy.)

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Update

Under VDOT Update, Mr. Komara gave updates on several projects in the area as follows: the Mauzy bridge project, noting that it was moving along; buggy access and safety improvement project in the Town of Dayton; the Route 720 (Smithland Road) bridge replacement project; the Waynesboro Park and Ride project; and the I-81 Exit 245 interchange project.

Mr. Reed reported on the SMART SCALE applications prescreening and timeline, noting that the full application period opens June 1, 2020, if not earlier, with full applications due August 3, 2020. He reported that there were 46 projects submitted in the Staunton District and 484 preapplications submitted statewide, totaling \$7.5 billion. Mr. Reed reported on the STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) program application intake period process for new projects. A question was raised and answered by Mr. Dana regarding updated projections and information on the website for the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Plan.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson reported on the Six-Year Improvement Program funding for transit agencies and the impact of Covid-19. He noted that the General Assembly recently included a provision to extend the Six-Year Plan through FY 2021 if needed. He reported on the CARES Act which has provided significant funding relief for the transit agencies as transit ridership has plummeted by 95% over the past eight weeks due to Covid-19.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on May 21, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on June 4, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Howard
Transportation Planner