

HRMPO Policy Board Minutes
February 17, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

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

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	✓ Bill Yates, JMU*	✓ Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC*
Sal Romero	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
Deanna Reed	Kevin Jones, FHWA	✓ Manas Ranjan, CSPDC
Vacant	✓ Wood Hudson, DRPT*	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	✓ Jeremy Crute, CSPDC*
✓ George Hirschmann, Vice Chair		Others
Rockingham County	Alternates	✓ Lisa Peterson, Airspace*
Casey Armstrong	✓ Rhonda Cooper, Rockingham	✓ Corey Baker, Airspace*
✓ Rick Chandler	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg*
✓ Stephen King	Ande Banks, Harrisonburg	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT*
Town of Mt. Crawford	Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance*
✓ Dennis Driver, Chair	Neal Dillard, Mt. Crawford	✓ Kyle Lawrence, SVBC*
Town of Dayton	Christa Hall, Dayton	
Angela Lawrence	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT*	
Town of Bridgewater	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
Jay Litten	✓ Don Komara, VDOT	
VDOT	Matt Dana, VDOT	
✓ Randy Kiser*		
Zoom Participants*		

Call to Order

The February 17, 2022, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dennis Driver. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, HRMPO Policy Board members may participate in meetings of the HRMPO or its committees through electronic communication means. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Driver presented the minutes from the January 20, 2022, HRMPO Policy Board Zoom

meeting. Mr. Chandler moved, seconded by Mr. Hirschmann, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

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

MAP-21 Safety Targets (Board Memo #22-4)

Chairperson Driver presented the MAP-21 Safety Targets. Ms. Cundy gave a review on the Map-21 Safety Targets, noting that the safety targets must be updated annually, and that the HRMPO must set its own targets, or concur with the State's targets, by February 27, 2022. The State's safety targets are set by VDOT, using trend data from the last four or five years. She stated that as with the past years' targets, staff recommends concurring with the statewide 2022 targets, noting that the HRMPO has no direct power to impact the trends, and that there is no penalty for not meeting the targets. Ms. Cundy reviewed the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investments (OIPI) projections for fatalities, serious injuries, non-motorized fatalities, and serious injuries statewide. She noted that applying the statewide rate and percentage changes to the HRMPO, the MPO is currently meeting or exceeding the targets.

Ms. Cundy suggested that staff submit the letter to VDOT concurring with the statewide safety targets for 2022. She suggested one possible activity to consider in this coming Fiscal Year would be to request that the HRMPO undertake a regional highway safety plan in collaboration with VDOT's central office trafficking engineering division in an effort to address these safety trends. Ms. Cundy noted that the study's recommendations would be a set of strategies focused on the particular kinds of crashes that this region is experiencing. After discussion, Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Chandler, to support the recommendation to propose a regional highway safety plan with VDOT to address regional safety trends. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update (Board Memo#22-5)

Chairperson Driver presented for consideration the HRMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update. Mr. Ranjan stated that in the past month, staff has drafted the existing conditions chapter of the document and mapped the socioeconomic characteristics and transportation systems by reviewing all relevant data on development trends, economic development, and multi-modal

transportation systems. He noted that a draft set of maps was presented to the Working Group at their January 18, 2022, meeting, and the Existing Conditions chapter of the LRTP will be presented to the Working Group at their March 8th meeting. Ms. Cundy reported on the Public Engagement Plan, noting that staff and Avid Core are implementing Phase I of the Public Engagement Plan. She reported on the MetroQuest survey that will close on March 2, 2022, noting that to date, 143 surveys have been received. Ms. Cundy stated that staff, along with Avid Core, has produced an animated video on the LRTP update process and a free webinar was held on February 16th. She noted that staff has conducted five local elected body briefings regarding the LRTP update and the survey. Mr. Ranjan reported on the next steps, noting that after presenting the draft Existing Conditions chapter to the Working Group on March 8th, staff will begin evaluating multi-modal transportation needs. He noted that Avid Core will conduct a midpoint evaluation of the survey to assess if it is reaching the targeted audience. Once the survey is complete, Avid Core and MPO staff will prepare and send stakeholder follow-up communications, analyze the survey results, and prepare media updates for visioning survey results.

Presentation: “Preparing for the Next Dimension of Mobility” – Lisa Peterson, Vice President of Business Development

Ms. Cundy introduced and welcomed Ms. Lisa Peterson, Vice President of Business Development, Airspace, who was present to give a presentation on “*Preparing for the Next Dimension of Mobility.*” Ms. Peterson in turn introduced Mr. Cory Baker, Director of Business Development for Airspace, who was also present. She presented a PowerPoint presentation, noting that Airspace’s vision is to create a world where the safe integration of drones fuels human progress, advancing social equity, the environment, and the economy. Ms. Peterson stated that Airspace is looking at drones for movement of packages and is working with the FAA and state governments to pave the way for these new opportunities. She noted that Airspace has developed a public-private partnership with the FAA to support operators and recreational drone pilots to fly safely and compliantly with the current regulations, providing authorization to fly with controlled airspace, and routing tools to increase situational awareness and safety when planning flights. Ms. Peterson stated that for communities and public safety departments looking to set up drone operations for government use, Airspace can provide support with the management and safety tools needed to get started. Questions were raised regarding the timeline for drones in the HRMPO area and safety issues. Ms. Peterson stated that being a drone pilot offers a new area of career opportunity. She noted that there is also a push for more United States-based drone manufacturing, which is another way this growing field will provide new jobs.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Under VDOT Update, Mr. Reed gave an update on SMART SCALE, noting that the smart portal opened for preapplications on March 1st and must be submitted by April 1st in order to be eligible to submit a full application. He noted that a pre-application training will be held on February 22, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Reed reported on a public meeting for the transportation planning study and public surveys regarding the Route 33 project in Rockingham County. He gave an update on the MetroQuest survey for the VDOT Project Pipeline Program Study on South Main Street in the City of Harrisonburg, from Pleasant Valley Road to Mosby Road.

Mr. Komara reported on the following: Route 720 Smithland Road bridge project, noting that it went to advertisement on January 11th; gave an update on Route 682 Friedens Church Road bridge project in Rockingham County; announced that the flashing speed limit and no parking signs were installed on Route 11 in Mt. Crawford; gave an update on the Route 33 bridge construction project on Exit 247; gave an update on the sidewalk project in Broadway, noting that it would be advertised this spring; reported on the four-lane Route 11 project, noting that VDOT was negotiating the right of way; and noted that updated information on various projects on I-81 can be viewed on <https://improve81.org>.

Mr. Kiser announced that VDOT will be hosting a Spring Six-Year Program public meeting at 4:00 p.m. on May 9, 2022, at Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gatobu reported on the following: FY23 Capital, Operating, and Technical grants, noting that the applications were submitted to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) before the February 1st deadline; gave an update on the Feasibility Study for Microtransit; and reported on the upcoming Triennial Review, which is one of FTA's management tools for examining grantee performance and adherence to current FTA requirements and policies.

Harrisonburg Public Works

Mr. Hartman gave an update on a roadway reconfiguration study of Gay Street and Mt. Clinton Pike that the City of Harrisonburg and VDOT are working on and are currently collecting traffic count data and forecasting growth for both roadway segments. He reported on an Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) grant to study roadway reconfigurations on Garber's Church Road and two



segments of West Market Street, as well as performing a City-wide connectivity study that will assist in updating the City's Transportation Improvement Plan in the future. Mr. Hartman gave an update on the University Boulevard relocation project; and timing plan changes to the Reservoir Street corridor between Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and Stonewall Drive.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Driver announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on March 3, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on March 17, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the HRMPO Policy Board, Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Chandler, for adjournment at 4:40 p.m. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann W. Cundy".

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation