

## HRMPO Policy Board Minutes July 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

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

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Staff
<b>City of Harrisonburg</b>	Bill Yates, JMU	Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC
✓ Sal Romero*	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
Deanna Reed	Kevin Jones, FHWA	✓ Ansley Heller, CSPDC
Vacant	✓ Grace Stankus, DRPT	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
Richard Baugh		<b>Others</b>
✓ <b>Rockingham County</b>	<b>Alternates</b>	✓ Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg
✓ Casey Armstrong	Rhonda Cooper, Rockingham	✓ Adam Campbell, VDOT
✓ Rick Chandler	Rachel Salatin, Rockingham	✓ Kim Sandum*
✓ Stephen King	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg*
<b>Town of Mt. Crawford</b>	Ande Banks, Harrisonburg	✓ Erin Yancey, Harrisonburg*
✓ Dennis Driver, Chair	✓ Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	
<b>Town of Dayton</b>	Neal Dillard, Mt. Crawford	
✓ Angela Lawrence	Christa Hall, Dayton	
<b>Town of Bridgewater</b>	Brad Reed, VDOT	
Jay Litten	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
<b>VDOT</b>	✓ Don Komara, VDOT	
✓ Randy Kiser	Matt Dana, VDOT	
	Wood Hudson, DRPT	
Zoom Participants*		

### Call to Order

The July 21, 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.

Ms. Cundy introduced Ms. Ansley Heller, newly hired Transportation Planner for the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC).

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Driver presented the minutes from the May 19, 2022, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Kiser, 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.

### **Approval of SMART SCALE Round 5 Resolutions of Support (Board Action Form#22-3)**

Chairperson Driver presented for consideration SMART SCALE Round 5 Resolutions of Support (attached to file minutes). Ms. Cundy stated that SMART SCALE requires MPO Resolutions of Support for projects within the MPO boundary that are not in the MPO's Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). She stated that in coordination with VDOT and regional planning partners, the HRMPO is submitting four applications in Round 5 for projects in the City of Harrisonburg; the CSPDC is submitting one application for a project in Rockingham County; the City of Harrisonburg is submitting four applications; and Rockingham County is submitting two applications for projects within the MPO area. She noted that each locality will pass their own resolution of support, and VDOT district planning staff will work with localities to refine cost estimates and identify economic development sites before the August 1<sup>st</sup> submission deadline. Mr. Hartman gave a brief review on the SMART SCALE applications submitted by the City of Harrisonburg, and Mr. Armstrong briefly reviewed Rockingham County's applications. Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Chandler, to endorse the Resolutions of Support for SMART SCALE Round 5 applications. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

### **HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update and Draft Universe of Projects Release for Public Engagement Phase 2 (Board Memo#22-10 and BAF #22-4)**

Chairperson Driver presented for consideration the HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update and Draft Universe of Projects Release for Public Engagement Phase 2. Ms. Cundy gave an update on the 2045 LRTP and the draft list of projects that will comprise of the fiscally-constrained (CLRP) and Vision Lists (unfunded projects) in the final LRTP. She noted that Avid Core has developed an action plan for Phase 2 of public engagement which will focus gathering public input on the draft projects to be scored and prioritized in the 2045 LRTP. Ms. Cundy stated that HRMPO staff is creating a MetroQuest Survey to gather public input on each of the draft projects. She reviewed the following upcoming public

engagements hosted by HRMPO staff: a webinar on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.; an in-person meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. at Lucy F. Simms Community Center; and an in-person meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Turner Ashby High School. Ms. Cundy stated that additionally, HRMPO staff will attend pop up events at community activities throughout Rockingham County during August and September. She reported on the LRTP Working Group's recommendations, noting that following Phase 2 Public Engagement, which closes on September 16, 2022, HRMPO staff will present public comment on the draft Universe of Projects to the TAC and Policy Board for direction prior to scoring projects. Ms. Cundy reported on the LRTP Working Group, noting that the Group met on June 21 and July 11, 2022, to review the Draft Universe of Projects (UOP), and formally recommends that the Policy Board release the draft Universe of Projects for Phase 2 Public Engagement. Mr. Chandler moved, seconded by Ms. Lawrence, for the HRMPO Policy Board to release the 2045 LRTP Draft Universe of Projects for Public Engagement Phase 2. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FY21-FY24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification (Board Memo #22-11)**

Chairperson Driver presented the FY21-FY24 TIP Administrative Modification (attached to file minutes). Ms. Cundy stated that HRMPO staff has administratively modified the FY21-FY24 TIP to reflect maintenance grouping block adjustments from the FY22-FY26 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). She noted that the modification highlights three groupings and reflects changes in funding in each category. Ms. Cundy reviewed the groupings as follows: 1) the Traffic and Safety Operations Grouping reflects changes in funding for preventative maintenance for bridges between FY21 and FY22; 2) the Preventative Maintenance and System Preservation category reflects changes in funding for STP/STBG between FY21-22; and 3) and the Preventative Maintenance for Bridges category reflects changes in funding between FY21 through FY24. She noted that no action is needed by the Board for these modifications. Ms. Cundy reviewed the next steps, noting that staff has submitted the modified TIP to VDOT and posted the updates on the MPO website TIP page. She stated that HRMPO staff will begin creating a new TIP document in the coming year.

### **Agency Updates**

#### **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**

Under VDOT updates, Mr. Komara gave an update on the following: Route 682 Friedens Church Road bridge project in Rockingham County, noting that it was ahead of schedule and should be completed this winter; Route 720 Smithland Road, noting that the project should begin construction in four to



six weeks; announced that five bids were received for the construction of replacing four bridges and maximizing traffic operations and traffic flow on Route 33 and Interstate 81 at Exit 247; reported on the Town of Broadway and Fairfield in Rockbridge County bridge projects; gave an update on I-81 widening project; and reported on paving projects in the area. Mr. Komara announced that VDOT will hold a design public hearing for the construction of truck climbing lanes on Interstate 81 in Augusta and Rockingham counties, which includes interchange improvements at Exit 235 (Route 256/Weyers Cave Road) on July 27, at Blue Ridge Community College, Plecker Center for Continuing Education, Weyers Cave at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Campbell gave an update on SMART SCALE Round 5, noting that if anyone needs assistance with reviewing their applications to let VDOT know. Mr. Kiser reported on the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting held earlier this week in Blacksburg. He announced that VDOT will be hosting the September CTB meeting at the Hotel 24 South in Staunton; and reported on newly appointed CTB members.

**Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)**

Ms. Stankus noted that she was the new representative for DRPT. She gave a report on DRPT's activities as follows: noted that DRPT's transit grant recipient workshops will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.; gave an update on the Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study, noting that the plan is in final review; reported on the SMART SCALE Round 5 application period, noting that if anyone needed assistance, to please contact DRPT staff; and announced that the Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) will hold a virtual meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

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

Mr. Gatobu reported on HDPT's activities as follows: reported on the upcoming federal and state triannual audits, noting that HDPT had one of their state audits performed last month and it went well; reported on Passio Technologies who is scheduled to upgrade, install, and implement the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) on the City of Harrisonburg's transit buses to improve customer service and increase passenger ridership; gave an update on the Feasibility Study for Microtransit; announced that HDPT is hiring additional bus drivers; and reported HDPT is looking into the possibility of purchasing electric buses.



### **Harrisonburg Public Works**

Mr. Hartman reported on construction and bridge projects in the City; gave an update on the University Boulevard relocation project, noting that the design public hearing is tentatively scheduled for September; reported on design work for the North Main Street sidewalk project; and reported on upcoming sidewalk and bike lane construction projects in the City.

### **Other Business**

Under Other Business, Chairperson Driver presented the HB444 Changes to FOIA for Virtual Meetings. Ms. Cundy gave a brief update on HB444, which will allow electronic meetings for appointed bodies like MPOs. She noted that these electronic meeting provisions can only be used for two meetings per year and will take effect September 1, 2022. Ms. Cundy stated that she was awaiting guidance from the statewide working group on Best Practices for conducting meetings by electronic means. She stated that when she received additional information, she would bring this issue back to the Policy Board for consideration.

Also under Other Business, Chairperson Driver welcomed and introduced Mr. Richard Baugh, new representative for the City of Harrisonburg, replacing Mr. Hirschmann. He stated that due to the resignation of Mr. George Hirschmann, the office of Vice Chairperson was currently vacant. Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to appoint Mr. Baugh as Vice Chairperson of the HRMPO. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chairperson Driver announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on August 4, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on August 18, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.



## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the HRMPO Policy Board, Mr. Chandler moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, for adjournment at 4:15 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