

HRMPO TAC Minutes April 7, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

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

Voting Member	Alternates	Staff
City of Harrisonburg	Megan Byler, Bridgewater	✓ Ann Cundy
Tom Hartman	✓ Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford*	✓ Rita Whitfield
✓ Bill Blessing, Chair	✓ Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	
✓ Thanh Dang	Elliot Menge, Harrisonburg	
✓ Erin Yancey*	Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	Others
✓ Cheryl Spain	Josh Dunlap, VDOT	✓ Shane McCabe, VDOT*
Rockingham County	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓ Kyle Lawrence, SVBC*
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	✓ Burgess Lindsey, VDOT	
✓ Casey Armstrong	Angela Lawrence, Dayton	
✓ Rachel Salatin	Kayla Yankey, Rockingham	
Town of Bridgewater	✓ Wood Hudson, DRPT*	
✓ Alex Wilmer		
Town of Dayton		
✓ Christa Hall		
Town of Mt. Crawford	Non-Voting Members	
✓ J. C. Smythers*	Kevin Jones, FHWA	
VDOT	Michelle DeAngelis, FTA	
✓ Brad Reed	Bill Yates, JMU	
✓ Don Komara	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
DRPT		
✓ Grace Stankus*		
*Zoom Participants		

Call to Order

The April 7, 2022, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Bill Blessing. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, HRMPO TAC 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.

Minutes

Chairperson Blessing presented the minutes from the February 3, 2022, TAC meeting. Mr. Reed noted that on page 3 of the minutes, it should state “VTrans Risk” instead of “VTrans Rick”. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Spain, to approve the minutes as presented with the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairperson Blessing opened the floor for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

Draft FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) TAC Action Form #22-1)

Chairperson Blessing presented for consideration the Draft FY23 UPWP. Ms. Cundy gave a review on the UPWP, noting that the FY23 Draft UPWP has been prepared in coordination with VDOT and DRPT. She noted that the FY23 UPWP maintains the work elements and annual activities of the FY22 UPWP. Ms. Cundy reviewed the FY23 Budget Revenue estimates. Mr. Hudson reported that DRPT just received notice from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regarding Section 5303 funding, which shows an increase from last fiscal year. Ms. Cundy stated that in order to align the HRMPO’s work with a revised set of federal Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs), new language was added under several work elements from the updated PEAs. She reviewed the new language. Ms. Cundy noted that this is a draft UPWP and may be changed before final submittal and approval. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Cooper, to recommend to the Policy Board to release the Draft FY23 UPWP for the 21-day public comment period. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

HRMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Chairperson Blessing presented the HRMPO 2045 LRTP Update. Ms. Cundy reviewed the Transportation Visioning Survey Report, noting that the LRTP Visioning Survey used Metroquest to facilitate online engagement in a mobile-friendly format. She stated that a print version was available that posed the same questions to anyone who did not have access to the internet or who preferred a hard copy. Ms. Cundy reviewed the feedback gathered from the survey and how the projects will be clarified and scored from using the survey and meeting the LRTP goals. She stated that approximately 600 people responded to the survey, noting that the highest priorities for new transportation investments centered around expanding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, additional transit service, and improving transportation safety. Discussion ensued regarding sharing the demographic data publicly; identifying community members regarding gender, race, ethnicity and community

members location; suppressing the data information that is not personally identifiable to any individual, and to acknowledge the importance of those who responded to the survey. Ms. Cundy reviewed the next steps, noting that the feedback gathered from the survey will inform Phase Two, the Universe of Projects. She stated that Phase Two, which is anticipated to begin in summer of 2022, will provide the community with an opportunity to weigh in on a list of proposed projects.

Agency Updates

Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Komara reported on the following: Route 11 bridge construction project in Mt. Crawford, noting that it was moving along; gave an update on the Route 720 Smithland Road bridge improvement project, noting that six bids were received; reported on a shoulder widening safety project on Route 259 outside of the HRMPO area, noting that one bid was received; right-of-way negotiations on Route 11 four-lane project; I-81 construction projects; and reported that the Route 33 bridge construction project is scheduled for advertisement in May. He announced that VDOT will be hosting a spring meeting to allow the public to comment on transportation projects recommended for funding in the FY23-FY28 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) on May 2, 2022, 4:00 p.m., at Blue Ridge Community College. Upon a question regarding when the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) would make their decision on revenue sharing projects, Mr. Komara responded that the CTB should announce the projects in April or May.

Mr. Reed reported on SMART SCALE applications, noting that 56 preapplications were received in the Staunton District. He gave an update on Phase II of the Project Pipeline Program Study in the City of Harrisonburg on U.S. 11, noting that the project was moving into Phase III. He reported on the Route 33 Arterial Management Plan, which focuses on Route 33 between the City of Harrisonburg and the Town of Elkton, noting that a draft document was available.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson introduced and welcomed Grace Stankus, who will be the new DRPT voting member on the HRMPO TAC Committee. He reported on staff changes at DRPT, announcing that Jennifer DeBruhl was appointed as the new Director and Grant Sparks has been appointed as the Acting Chief of Public Transportation of DRPT. Mr. Hudson stated that OLGA, DRPT's online grant administration site, was back in operation. He reported on the following: announced that the FY23 Section 5303 funding applications were due on May 2, 2022; reported on the Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study,



noting that Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study team will host a virtual forum on April 21, 2022, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.; and reported on Discretionary Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs, noting that applications are due May 31, 2022.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Ms. Spain announced that HDPT awarded a contract this week to Passio Technologies to upgrade, install and implementation of an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) on the City of Harrisonburg's transit buses to improve customer service and increase passenger ridership. She reported that HDPT plans on hiring 15 more full-time transit bus drivers in the upcoming budget year, which will increase James Madison University (JMU) coverage; and gave an update on a Feasibility Study for microtransit in the area.

City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works

Ms. Yancey gave an update on the activities of the City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works. She reported on the University Boulevard relocation project; gave an update on the Mt. Pike project; and reported on the upcoming SMART SCALE applications for the City of Harrisonburg.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on April 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on May 5, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation