



**Harrisonburg  
Rockingham**  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organization

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## HRMPO Policy Board Meeting Agenda

**November 16, 2023, 3:00 PM**

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

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes of the September 21, 2023, Policy Board Meeting\*
4. HRMPO 2024 Meeting Calendar (Board AF #23-18)\*
5. FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment (Board AF #23-19)\*
6. Update on Proposed SMART SCALE Policy Changes (Board Memo #23-9)
7. Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce Policy Priorities, Chris Quinn, President and CEO, HRCC
8. Agency Updates
  - a. VDOT
  - b. DRPT
  - c. HDPT
  - d. Localities
9. Other Business
10. Upcoming Meetings
  - a. HRMPO TAC Meeting, Thursday, December 7, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
  - b. HRMPO Policy Board Meeting, Thursday, December 21, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
11. Adjournment

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\* Action needed



## HRMPO Policy Board Minutes September 21, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

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

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Non-Voting Members</b>	<b>Staff</b>
<b>City of Harrisonburg</b>	Kevin Jones, FHWA	✓ Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC
Deanna Reed	Chelsea Beytas, FTA	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
Laura Dent, Chair	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	✓ Ansley Heller, CSPDC
✓ Dany Fleming	✓ Grace Stankus, DRPT	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Bill Yates, JMU	✓ Allyson Finchum, CSPDC
Ande Banks	✓ Valerie Kramer, JMU	<b>Others</b>
<b>Rockingham County</b>	<b>Alternates</b>	✓ Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg
✓ Casey Armstrong	Rhonda Cooper, Rockingham	✓ Jeremy Mason, VDOT
✓ Rick Chandler, Vice Chair	Rachel Salatin, Rockingham	✓ Dylan Nicely, Rockingham County
✓ Stephen King	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Shane McCabe, VDOT
<b>Town of Mt. Crawford</b>	Meggie Roche, Dayton	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
✓ Neal Dillard	✓ Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	
<b>Town of Dayton</b>	Robert Taylor, Mt. Crawford	
Earl Mathers	Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford	
<b>Town of Bridgewater</b>	Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
Jay Litten	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	
<b>VDOT</b>	✓ Don Komara, VDOT	
✓ Todd Stevens	Matt Dana, VDOT	

### Call to Order

The September 21, 2023, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Chandler. Based on the 2022 amendment to Virginia's FOIA law, the HRMPO is eligible to hold up to three meetings virtually each year. The HRMPO September 21, 2023, meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing.

### Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairperson Chandler presented the minutes from the August 17, 2023, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Fleming, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.



## **Public Comment**

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

## **FY25 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Applications Resolutions of Support (BAF #23-17)**

Vice Chairperson Chandler presented for consideration FY25 TAP Applications Resolutions of Support (attached to file minutes). Ms. Cundy stated that TAP applications for projects within the HRMPO area require a resolution of support from the Policy Board. She noted that approved applicants have until October 2, 2023, to submit their resolutions with their final applications.

Mr. Wilmer presented the Town of Bridgewater's TAP project for Gen Oak Connector, Phase II. He noted that Phase II of the Gen Oak Connector will extend a shared-use permeable paver path further into Oakdale Park and running along Mt. Crawford Avenue to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety in the corridor. Mr. Wilmer stated that the total path would be approximately 900 feet in length.

Mr. Hartman reviewed the following TAP projects for the City of Harrisonburg:

- **Non-Infrastructure Application for a Safe Routes to School Coordinator:** The application would fund a new full-time Safe Routes to School Coordinator for the City of Harrisonburg, serving all 10 public schools in the city beginning fall 2024. The program will include using funds to support bicycle skills education and for various activities that encourage walking and biking to school.
- **Northend Greenway Connection:** The project constructs a shared use path along the south side of Mt. Clinton Pike between Virginia Avenue and the railroad tracks, constructs intersection improvements at Mt. Clinton Pike and Virginia Avenue to facilitate path connectivity through the intersection and constructs a path crossing of the railroad tracks that is separated from the existing Mt. Clinton Pike roadway.
- **SRTS Sidewalks at Multiple Schools:** This project will construct three sidewalk segments to fill gaps between existing sidewalks and improve safe pedestrian access to Waterman Elementary School and Keister Elementary School.

Mr. Nicely presented Rockingham County's TAP projects as follows:

- **Sidewalk Project on Stone Spring Road at The Shops at Stone Spring:** The project will construct a sidewalk segment along The Shops at Stone Spring frontage on the north side of Stone Spring Road, to improve safe pedestrian access within the Stone Port area of the Stone Spring Urban Development Area (UDA).



- **Sidewalk Project on Stone Spring Road at Bellaire at Stone Port Assisted Living and Memory Care:** The project will construct a sidewalk segment along the Bellaire at Stone Port Assisted Living and Memory Care frontage on Stone Spring Road and a portion of Port Hills Drive, to improve safe pedestrian access within the Stone Port area of the Stone Spring Urban Development Area (UDA).
- **Sidewalk Project on Stone Spring Road at F&M Bank and Shenandoah Oral and Facial Surgery:** This project will construct two sidewalk segments along the F&M Bank and Shenandoah Oral and Facial Surgery frontage on Stone Spring Road and a portion of Ridgedale Road, to improve safe pedestrian access within the Stone Port area of the Stone Spring Urban Development Area (UDA).
- **Sidewalk Project on Apple Valley Road at Moe's Southwest Grill:** The project will construct a sidewalk segment along the Moe's Southwest Grill frontage on Apple Valley Road, to improve safe pedestrian access within the Stone Port area of the Stone Spring Urban Development Area (UDA).

Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Fleming, to endorse the Resolutions of Support for TAP projects within the HRMPO. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

#### **FY24 Small Area Study: Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road Corridor (Board Memo #23-7)**

Vice Chairman Chandler presented the FY24 Small Area Study: Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road Corridor. Ms. Cundy stated that during FY24, the MPO will work with consultants Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) and a study team consisting of staff from VDOT, Rockingham County, and the towns of Bridgewater and Mt. Crawford, to evaluate operations and safety needs and potential improvements in the Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road corridor. She noted that the purpose of this study is to create a cohesive vision for future development along Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road between I-81 Exit 240 in Rockingham County and Main Street (VA 42) in the Town of Bridgewater. Ms. Cundy reviewed the next steps, noting that HRMPO staff are scheduling a kick-off meeting with the study team in the next two weeks to include a discussion of preferred public engagement strategies for the Study.

#### **FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Administrative Modification (Board Memo #23-8)**

Vice Chairperson Chandler presented FY24 UPWP Administrative Modification. Ms. Cundy stated that HRMPO staff has administratively modified the FY24 UPWP to reflect the final FY23 carryover



amount for FTA 5303 funds. She noted that transit planning expenses in the fourth quarter exceeded the projections when the draft FY24 budget was developed, and thus the carryover amount is \$46,301 rather than \$75,000. Ms. Cundy stated that staff reduced the FTA 5303 allocations to Administration, Long Range Planning, and Short-Range Planning to reflect the reduced carryover revenue.

## **Agency Updates**

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

Mr. Reed reported on the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting that was held on September 20, 2023, as follows: VTrans Objectives, noting that new midterm needs are being developed and will be published in December; gave an overview and status update on the SMART SCALE process review recommendations, noting that final recommendations will be presented to the CTB at their October meeting, and final action anticipated at their December meeting; and gave an overview on the proposed new Economic Development Performance Measures.

Mr. Komara reported on the following:

- Reported on the status of the Smithland Road bridge project, noting that it was behind schedule but moving along;
- Reported on the Route 33 project, I-81 Exit 247 in Harrisonburg, noting that the project was going well;
- Reported on the Route 259 bridge replacement project in the Town of Broadway, noting that it was anticipated to be completed in October 2023;
- Reported on the Route 11 project widening of two lanes to a four-lane divided highway near the Rockingham County Fairgrounds;
- Reported on the status of the widening of Route 33 west towards West Virginia;
- Reported on the presentation regarding sound wall barriers that was provided the Harrisonburg City Council;
- Reported on the Interstate 81 Staunton-area widening project between mile marker 221 and 225 in Augusta County near the City of Staunton. He encouraged everyone to explore [Improve81.org](https://www.improve81.org) for current updates on upcoming and ongoing projects on Interstate 81.

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

Ms. Stankus announced DRPT is seeking FY24 Mid-Cycle applications for all four Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) project categories: Regional Connectivity, Zero and Reduced Fare, Public



Safety, and Passenger Amenities, beginning September 25, 2023. She stated that the program provides funding to transit agencies and governing bodies for the purpose of creating more accessible, safe, and regional significant transit networks. Ms. Stankus also announced that DRPT is launching a new grant application software, Webgrants, for the FY25 Grant Cycle. She stated that Webgrants will replace DRPT's current software OLGA. Ms. Stankus noted that additional information and training materials regarding the new software will be forthcoming. She reported that there will be a freeze on reimbursements from November 15 through December 1, 2023.

### **Localities**

#### **City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works**

Mr. Hartman announced that the City's Mt. Clinton Pike Shared Use Path project has been awarded to GB Foltz Contracting, Inc. from Mt. Jackson. He stated that the City hopes to start construction on the project in October. Mr. Hartman reported on the Federal Street Shared Use Path Phase II project, noting that the City is in the final stages of VDOT authorization and is expected to go out to bid for the project in October.

Mr. Fleming reported on sound barriers, noting that as major I-81 construction nears, people who live and work closest can weigh in whether they want a sound barrier. He stated that in October VDOT will mail surveys to both the owners and tenants of buildings most affected by the highway as to whether they want a barrier constructed on the portion of I-81 closest to them. Mr. Fleming stated that a second round of balloting will be submitted if less than 50% of relevant parties respond the first time. Mr. Fleming also reported on the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County's liaison meeting regarding the SMART SCALE project scoring process and how the proposed changes will affect the area, and other university cities across the state. He noted that JMU President Alger was alerted of the possible impact on JMU, and President Alger has asked his staff to look into this and alert other universities of the potential impact of the proposed changes.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Vice Chairperson Chandler announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on October 5, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on October 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.



## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the HRMPO Policy Board, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 3:35 p.m. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ann W. Cundy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Cundy  
Director of Transportation



**TO:** Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board  
**FROM:** Bonne Riedesel, HRMPO Secretary/Treasurer  
**MEETING DATE:** November 16, 2023  
**RE:** **Policy Board Action Form #23-18-HRMPO 2024 Meeting Calendar**

#### RECOMMENDATION

Recommend approval of the HRMPO 2024 Meeting Calendar.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff developed the 2024 HRMPO Policy Board and TAC meeting schedules to provide the public, board members, and staff with advance planning for meeting dates. Staff will publish a public notice for the 2024 meeting schedules in local newspapers and post them on [www.hrvampo.org](http://www.hrvampo.org) in accordance with the HRMPO Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Changes to the date, time or location of all meetings will be posted on the website and publicly noticed in local papers as required by the PPP. TAC and Policy Board members will be notified of meeting cancellations via email at least one week in advance of the scheduled meeting date.

#### 2024 HRMPO MEETING SCHEDULE

The proposed meeting schedules for the Policy Board and TAC are attached.

Based on the 2022 amendment to Virginia's FOIA law, the HRMPO is eligible to hold up to three virtual meetings each year. Staff recommends scheduling an all-virtual meeting in February 2024, and using the other two if the need arises. The Board or TAC Chair would make the decision to hold an all-virtual meeting and direct staff to publicly notice the change at least one week prior to the meeting.

HRMPO will continue to provide a virtual participation option for the in-person meetings, following the requirements of the State's FOIA law.





2024 HRMPO Policy Board Meeting Schedule	
Thursday, January 18, 2024	Thursday, July 18, 2024
Thursday, February 15, 2024 (All-Virtual via Zoom)	Thursday, August 15, 2024
Thursday, March 21, 2024	Thursday, September 19, 2024
Thursday, April 18, 2024	Thursday, October 17, 2024
Thursday, May 16, 2024	Thursday, November 21, 2024
Thursday, June 20, 2024	Thursday, December 19, 2024
Meeting Time: 3:00 p.m. **** Location: Rockingham County Administration Center, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, unless otherwise noted.	

2024 HRMPO TAC Meeting Schedule	
Thursday, January 4, 2024	Thursday, August 1, 2024
Thursday, February 1, 2024 (All-Virtual via Zoom)	Thursday, September 5, 2024
Thursday, March 7, 2024	Thursday, October 3, 2024
Thursday, April 4, 2024	Thursday, November 7, 2024
Thursday, May 2, 2024	Thursday, December 5, 2024
Thursday, June 6, 2024	
Meeting Time: 2:00 p.m. **** Location: Rockingham County Administration Center, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, unless otherwise noted.	



**TO:** Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board

**FROM:** Ansley Heller, Transportation Planner

**MEETING DATE:** November 16, 2023

**RE:** **Policy Board Action Form #23-19 – FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Release for Public Comment**

## RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Policy Board approve the FY 2024-2027 TIP amendment pending no public comments received during the comment period.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The TIP must include all funded construction projects in an urbanized area. VDOT and MPO staff identified an ungrouped project in the current FY 2024- 2027 TIP for which additional funds need to be added to the project.

The following reallocation of funds is listed on page 32 of the attached draft TIP Amendment:

- UPC 108810 - US 11 Valley Pike Road Improvements

## NEXT STEPS

Staff will release the FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment for a 21-day public comment period and will provide any received comments to the Policy Board, and transmit the TIP Amendment to VDOT for inclusion in the STIP.

## ATTACHMENT

[FY24-27 TIP Amendment](#)



**TO:** Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation

**MEETING DATE:** November 16, 2023

**RE:** **Board Memo #23-9 – Proposed SMART SCALE Policy Changes Update**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is considering changes to the SMART SCALE project scoring process that will affect project eligibility in the HRMPO region. VDOT Staunton District and MPO staff summarized the proposed SMART SCALE policy changes to the Policy Board at the August 17, 2023 meeting. The Board expressed concerns regarding several of the changes and directed staff to draft a letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) outlining the MPO's concerns. HRMPO Board Chair Laura Dent signed the letter on August 17, 2023.

During the October 20, 2023, CTB meeting, staff from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) presented updates on the policy changes, including proposed revisions to the Economic Development performance measure.

### PROPOSED SMART SCALE CHANGES AS OF OCTOBER CTB MEETING (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)

*Reducing the application cap:* OIPI staff presented a modified recommendation to include three Tiers instead of two, and increase the new application cap from two to three applications for Tier 1 applicants like HRMPO and its member jurisdictions.

	Tier	Localities	MPO, PDC, or Transit Agency	Max Pre-Applications	Max Full Applications
Existing	1	< 200,000	< 500,000	5	4
	2	>= 200,000	>= 500,000	12	10
Option 1				4	3
				7	6
				3	2
				6	5
Option 3 (Revised Staff Recommendation)	1	< 100,000	< 250,000	4	3
	2	100,000 - 200,000	250,000 - 500,000	5	4
	3	>= 200,000	>= 500,000	7	6



*Defining eligible project types for High Priority Program (HPP):* OIPI and VDOT Central Office staff have presented concerns to the CTB that the HPP is funding smaller projects (less than \$10 million) that are not of statewide or regional significance. The Code of Virginia §33.2-370 defines the roadway types eligible for the program — Corridors of Statewide Significance and Regional Networks — not project types. The proposed change would limit the HPP Program to the following project types on Corridors of Statewide Significance and Regional Network roadways:

- New Capacity Highway
- Managed Lanes
- New or Improved Interchanges
- New or Improved Passenger Rail Stations or Service
- Freight Rail Improvements
- High-Capacity / Fixed Guideway Transit
- Transit Transfer Stations
- New Bridge

Following the October CTB meeting, OIPI staff is considering an expanded list of eligible project types, but have not yet presented this information.

*Land Use scoring factor changed to a multiplier:* The land use factor would be eliminated as a stand-alone metric and become a multiplier for other project benefits. OIPI staff are concerned that the land use score is disproportionately impacting overall project scoring and selection. The other SMART SCALE scoring factor weights would be adjusted to account for the elimination of land use as a stand-alone factor. The OIPI recommendation is to split the 10% Land Use factor weight between Congestion Mitigation (5%) and Safety (5%) for Typology Area C (the HRMPO, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County within the MPO).

#### *Economic Development Measure ED.1 Changes*

OIPI and VEDP staff presented a revised methodology for scoring projects based on their economic development benefit. For each SMART SCALE application, applicants currently enter parcels or sites that are zoned commercial or industrial, or are in the site development and review process. Transportation projects receive points depending on the size of the parcel, its phase of site development, and how directly the transportation improvement serves the parcel. VEDP presented a revised methodology for scoring projects under the ED.1 Measure:



REVIEW OF QUESTIONS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

## Summary of ED.1 Recommendations

Score Calculation Step (Weight)	Process
1. Determine which sites are eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commonwealth determines buffer based on Transportation Project Tier (Table 10.2 Site Eligibility by Transportation Project Tier in SMART SCALE Technical Guide)</li><li>Pull in VirginiaScan sites based on coordinates and buffer</li></ul>
2. Calculate estimated jobs and capital investment factors (Jobs: 40%, Capital Investment: 25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Input site characteristics (coordinates, acreage) into historical projects model</li><li>Determine estimated job creation and capital investment relative to all projects in the funding round</li></ul>
3. Calculate site funding factor (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sites that have received funding from GO Virginia, Tobacco Commission, or Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) receive the full weight of the funding factor</li></ul>
4. Calculate site visit factor (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determine the number of company and/or site selector visits that occurred on eligible sites for each project in the last three years</li></ul>
5. Calculate site readiness factor (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determine the eligible site with the highest VBRSP Tier<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sites that are VBRSP Tier 4 or 5 receive 5 pts, Tier 3 receive 3 pts, Tier 2 receive 2 pts, Tier 1 receive 1 pt</li></ul></li></ul>
6. Sum for ED.1 Measure (100%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Add the scores from preceding steps</li></ul>

When OIPI staff evaluated the Round 5 projects using this proposed methodology, the HRMPO region saw two projects dropped. This is not necessarily indicative of how projects would score in Round 6, but does represent a shift in how applicants will manage their input of sites and tracking of site visits.

At the October CTB meeting, OIPI staff clarified that Step 3 in the table above can also include private, local, and federal funding sources via manual entry in the application, in addition to the statewide programs listed.

### NEXT STEPS

The CTB's next scheduled meeting is December 4, 2023. This meeting presents a final opportunity to provide comments directly to the CTB and Secretary of Transportation the proposed SMART SCALE changes.

### ATTACHMENTS

[SMART SCALE Process Review Round 5 Staunton Scenario Analysis](#)

[Illustrative HRMPO Project Eligibility for HPP Program in Round 6](#)