



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda March 7, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of the February 1, 2024 Meeting*
3. Public Comment
4. SMART SCALE Round 6 Pre-Applications (TAC Action Form #24-1)
5. HRMPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Discussion & FY 2025 Small Area Study Proposal (TAC Memo #24-4)
6. HRMPO and VDOT Transportation Study Updates (TAC Memo #24-5)
7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. HDPT
 - d. Localities
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. HRMPO Policy Board Meeting, Thursday, March 21, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
 - b. HRMPO TAC Meeting, Thursday, April 4, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjournment

* Action needed



HRMPO TAC Minutes February 1, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

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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	✓ Ansley Heller
✓ Bill Blessing, Chair	✓ Jakob zumFelde, Harrisonburg	✓ Rita Whitfield
✓ Thanh Dang	Elliot Menge, Harrisonburg	
✓ Erin Yancey	Dan Rublee, Harrisonburg	Others
✓ Cheryl Spain	Gerald Gatobu, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
Rockingham County	Kayla Yankey, Rockingham	✓ Shane McCabe, VDOT
✓ Rhonda Cooper, Vice Chair	Rachel Salatin, Rockingham	✓ Avery Daugherty, DRPT
Casey Armstrong	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT	
✓ Dylan Nicely	✓ Jeremy Mason, VDOT	
Town of Bridgewater	✓ Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	
✓ Alex Wilmer	Tiffany Dubinsky, DRPT	
Town of Dayton		
Meggie Roche		
Town of Mt. Crawford	Non-Voting Members	
✓ Bobby Taylor	Kevin Jones, FHWA	
VDOT	Chelsea Beytas, FTA	
✓ Adam Campbell	Bill Yates, JMU	
✓ Don Komara	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
DRPT	✓ Valerie Kramer	
✓ Grace Stankus		

Call to Order

The February 1, 2024, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Bill Blessing. 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 February 1, 2024, meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom.

Minutes

Chairperson Blessing presented the minutes from the January 4, 2024, TAC meeting. Mr. Komara moved, seconded by Ms. Cooper, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairperson Blessing opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Kim Sandum, Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, ask about the Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road Corridor Small Area Study Survey. Ms. Heller responded the HRMPO is seeking community input on the future of the Dinkel Avenue/Freidens Church Road Corridor. She noted that the survey can be found on the hrvampo.org website and is available until February 24th.

Presentation: I-64 Virginia Breeze Feasibility Study

Chairperson Blessing presented I-64 Virginia Breeze Feasibility Study. Ms. Heller introduced and welcomed Mr. Avery Daugherty, Statewide Programs Manager, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), who gave a presentation on Virginia Breeze I-64 East-West Connection Needs Assessment. Mr. Daugherty gave an overview on the Virginia Breeze Study and Needs Assessment, and the intercity needs and issues. He stated that Virginia Breeze was launched in 2017 to connect underserved rural communities to national bus network and other transportation modes and reviewed the existing Virginia Breeze service area. Mr. Daugherty noted that DRPT is currently studying the creation of an east-west Virginia Breeze route that would connect the Staunton/Harrisonburg area and Virginia Beach area along the Interstate 64 corridor. Mr. Daugherty noted that the study is focused on determining if there are unmet intercity bus needs in the areas of Virginia between Virginia Beach and Harrisonburg/Staunton. He stated that DRPT has implemented rural intercity bus service under the Virginia Breeze brand (see <https://virginiabreeze.org/> for more information) and is interested in knowing if there are additional needs for additional connections to offer east-west bus service across the Commonwealth. Mr. Daugherty reviewed the project timeline, noting that the draft and final reports would be available in February 2024.

HRMPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development (TAC Memo #24-3)

Chairperson Blessing presented the HRMPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development. Ms. Heller gave a brief review on the FY 2025 UPWP, noting that the HRMPO is



beginning the process of developing the FY 2025 UPWP, which provides the annual scope of work and budget for the MPO. She stated that the UPWP identifies all activities to be undertaken by the HRMPO within the Metropolitan Planning Area for the fiscal year and is required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as a basis and condition for all Federal funding assistance for transportation planning. Ms. Heller noted that once the UPWP is approved, it will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and Federal Transit Administration for review and approval. She requested if anyone had any ideas regarding any small area studies or planning topics that the HRMPO should focus on in FY 2025, to let the HRMPO staff know.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Campbell gave an update on SMART SCALE preapplications, noting they are open on March 1, 2024, and will close on April 1, 2024. He noted that there is a SMART SCALE Round 6 preapplication training session webinar scheduled on February 28, 2024. Mr. Campbell noted that during this training session, one can gain a comprehensive understanding of the Round 6 changes, updates to the SMART Portal, and essential project readiness requirements.

Mr. Komara reported on the following:

- Reported that the Route 33 west project in the City of Harrisonburg is progressing;
- Reported on the Route 33 west project through Rawley Springs, noting it was moving along, with a summer of 2025 completion date;
- Reported that the Route 11 four-lane project south of the City of Harrisonburg near the Rockingham County Fairgrounds is scheduled to be advertised this spring;
- Reported on the groundbreaking ceremony for the future Buc-ee's location in Rockingham County; and
- Reported on projects in the Stanton-Augusta County and Lexington-Rockbridge County areas and encouraged everyone to check out www.improve81-org for updated information on upcoming and ongoing projects.



Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Ms. Grace Stankus announced that DRPT launched the DRPT Connects Business Marketing Campaign, set to run until the end of February. She stated that the goal of the campaign is to help Virginia-based businesses discover the benefits of providing a variety of community options for their employees and learn more about the services that DRPT's commuter assistance programs can provide.

City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Ms. Cheryl Spain announced that DRPT submitted their FY25 grant applications for operating, capital, and a demonstration project for microtransit. She reported on the FTA triennial review session she had attending regarding the upcoming triennial review for 2025; and reported on the rebranding kickoff meeting with Pulsar Advertising that was held on January 26, 2024.

Localities

City of Harrisonburg

Mr. Hartman announced a public meeting for the South Main Street Safety Improvement Project will be held on February 22, 2024, at the Sentara RMH Wellness Center, Harrisonburg.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Blessing announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on February 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.; and the next HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on March 7, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy
Director of Transportation



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation

MEETING DATE: March 7, 2024

RE: **TAC Action Form #24-1 – HRMPO SMART SCALE Round 6 Pre-Applications**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the HRMPO TAC approve the submission of up to two HRMPO SMART SCALE Round 6 pre-applications on behalf of the City of Harrisonburg.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HRMPO staff is working with the City of Harrisonburg to submit two SMART SCALE Round 6 pre-applications by the April 1, 2024 deadline.

- South Main Street Pipeline Project
 - Construct a median between Southgate Court and Baxter Drive. Construct sidewalks to fill in gaps between Mosby Road and Pleasant Valley Road.
- I-81 Exit 245 Pipeline Project
 - Realign the I-81 Exit 245 northbound off ramp to intersect Port Republic Road directly across from the Forest Hill Road intersection.

The SMART SCALE pre-application period is open from March 1 to April 1, 2024, and the full application cycle is from June 1 to August 3, 2024.

NEXT STEPS

HRMPO staff will provide a summary of the pre-applications at the March Policy Board meeting. Pending Board approval, staff will submit the pre-applications in coordination with VDOT Staunton District Planning and the City.

ATTACHMENT

- [SMART SCALE Round 6 Technical Guide – Revised January 2024](#)
- [SMART SCALE Pre-Application User Guide](#)



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO TAC

FROM: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation

MEETING DATE: March 7, 2024

RE: **TAC Memo #24-4: FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Discussion & FY 2025 Small Area Study Proposal**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The HRMPO is developing the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). MPO staff has received financial data from VDOT and DRPT to inform the FY 2025 UPWP, and we asked the TAC for ideas for a Small Area Study in FY 2025.

BACKGROUND

The UPWP is the annual work program and budget for the MPO. It details the administrative and planning activities to be undertaken during the fiscal year, and the federal, state, and local funds used for these activities.

The TAC is encouraged to make recommendations to MPO staff on the activities in the UPWP during the annual update process. VDOT and DRPT provide the MPO with annual allocations of planning funds in the spring.

Please review the table comparing the FY 2024 UPWP with the Draft FY 2025 UPWP:

	FY 2024	FY 2025
FHWA PL	\$203,608	\$232,062
PL Carryover	\$141,508	\$82,549
FTA 5303	\$110,616	\$111,738
FTA 5303 Carryover	\$75,000	\$45,000
Totals	\$530,732	\$471,349

Our carryover of FY23 PL funds is lower than in years past due to increased expenses related to completing the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan during that fiscal year.

FY 2025 Small Area Study Proposal

HRMPO staff works collaboratively with member jurisdictions to identify needed transportation studies in the region, and to equitably allocate study funding across the region. Following a FY24 study in the vicinity of Mt. Crawford and Bridgewater in Rockingham County, the City of Harrisonburg proposes a Small Area Study in FY25 at the intersection of Port Republic Road and Peach Grove/Neff Avenue. The goal of the study would be to create a holistic plan for accommodating traffic in the area



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under short and long-term build-out scenarios. This plan would be adopted by the City and referenced in the Comprehensive Plan. The study would include operational and safety analyses for multiple intersections, and development of alternative concepts for managing the expected growth, over time. A sensitivity analysis would be performed for the preferred alternative to inform a schedule of milestones that trigger the need for specific study recommendations to be implemented.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps in developing the FY 2025 UPWP include allocating total funding to MPO work program categories, and presenting a draft FY 2025 UPWP to the TAC and Policy Boards for release to public comment and approval. With the TAC's endorsement, we will document our intent to fund a Small Area Study in the City of Harrisonburg in the FY25 UPWP, and request that City staff share the proposal with the Policy Board as well.

ATTACHMENTS

[City of Harrisonburg FY 2025 Small Area Study Proposal](#)



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Ansley Heller, Transportation Planner

MEETING DATE: March 7, 2024

RE: **TAC Memo #24 - 5 – HRMPO and VDOT Transportation Study Updates**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HRMPO, VDOT and Rockingham County are currently developing two transportation studies in the HRMPO planning area, and will provide the TAC with an update at the March 7, 2024 meeting.

Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road Corridor Study

The Study Team developed an online survey to understand how travelers use the corridor today, and their concerns about its current and future needs. The MetroQuest Survey closed on February 23, 2024, with 924 responses. For respondents that answered the demographics questions, most were between 60 and 84 years old, followed by those 45 to 59. An initial review of the priority ranking of concerns suggests that respondents were most concerned with minimizing traffic congestion, followed by improving safety and traffic calming. Respondents overwhelmingly reported using personal vehicles along the corridor, followed by walking and biking.

The study consultant, VHB is analyzing the MetroQuest survey data and finalizing the future land use assumptions to run interim and plan-year scenarios using the Highway Capacity Model (HCM) to project how planned and anticipated future development in the corridor could affect travel demand.

NEXT STEPS

Next steps include developing the HCM scenarios and drafting a set of roadway typical sections for multiple segments of the corridor. Staff will present the analysis and draft typical sections as part of a Rockingham County Comprehensive Plan Open House meeting in April.

VDOT Route 704 to 257 Connector Study

The purpose of the Rockingham 704 to 257 Connector analysis is to look at the travel demand effects associated with constructing a new connector roadway between Rt 704/Cecil Wampler Rd and Rt 257/Frieden's Church Rd. This new connection seeks to improve connectivity to and from I-81 for the County and City's industrial growth area. VDOT Staunton District staff will provide an update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

[Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road Small Area Study Scope of Work](#)
[Rockingham County Route 704 to Route 257 Connector Analysis](#)