

**HRMPO Policy Board Minutes**  
**January 18, 2024, 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	
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
✓ Lelia Longcor	Rachel Salatin, Rockingham	✓ Shane McCabe, VDOT*
✓ Stephen King	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓ Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
<b>Town of Mt. Crawford</b>	Meggie Roche, Dayton	✓ Kyle Lawrence, Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition*
✓ Neal Dillard	✓ Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	✓ Brent Finnegan, Harrisonburg*
<b>Town of Dayton</b>	Robert Taylor, Mt. Crawford	
✓ Brian Borne	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 January 18, 2024, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Chairperson Laura Dent. 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.

Chairperson Dent noted there were several new HRMPO Policy Board members, so she ask for everyone to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Dent presented the minutes from the November 16, 2023, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. She stated that under Consideration of HRMPO 2024 Meeting Calendar, the first paragraph should read 2024 Meeting Calendar, instead of 2023 Meeting Calendar. Dr. Dillard moved, seconded by Mr. Stevens, to approve the minutes as presented with the correction. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **MAP-21 Safety and System Performance Targets (PB Memo #24-1)**

Chairperson Dent presented the MAP-21 Safety and System Performance Targets. Ms. Heller noted that in 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established National Performance Measures for Safety Performance for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to assess fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. The FHWA requires that state DOTs and MPOs set statewide annual safety percentage targets for reducing the number and rate of fatalities and serious injuries. She stated that the HRMPO must concur with VDOT's safety targets or set MPO-specific targets by February 29, 2024, and there is no penalty for not meeting the targets. Ms. Heller reviewed the statewide targets and goals, noting that in June 2023, the CTB approved OIPI's proposed methodology and statewide targets for calendar year 2024. She stated that OIPI's methodology establishes targets from statistical models that project future safety performance based on expected crash reductions from completed projects and five-year trends of the annual number of fatalities, serious injuries, and nonmotorized facilities and serious injuries. Ms. Heller reported on the Aspirational Goals and HRMPO Targets and Crash Trends. Ms. Heller reviewed the next steps, noting that the HRMPO staff will submit a letter to VDOT concurring with the statewide safety targets for 2024, and will continue to evaluate opportunities for the MPO, state, and local partners to address the upward trend in fatal and serious injury crashes in the region.

### **Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road Small Area Study Update (PB Memo #24-2)**

Chairperson Dent presented the Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road Corridor Small Area Study Update. Ms. Cundy reviewed the Study, noting 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. She noted that with

anticipated commercial, institutional, and residential growth over the next 15 years in the corridor and in the larger area around I-81 Exit 240, Rockingham County and the Towns of Bridgewater and Mt. Crawford wish to define a series of preferred multi-modal typical sections, intersection, and access management improvements to include in their comprehensive plans to guide future development and redevelopment along the corridor. Ms. Cundy stated that the HRMPO engaged the CSPDC on-call consultant Vanasse, Hangen Brustlin (VHB) to lead the study. She presented the Scope of Work and reviewed the Study Process, noting that VHB has collected and analyzed existing conditions data, begun development of future scenarios, and drafted a Metroquest public engagement survey. Ms. Cundy reviewed the next steps, noting that the Study Team plans to launch the Metroquest survey in mid-January.

### **FY25 FTA 5310 Applications from The ARC of Harrisonburg and Rockingham, Valley Program for Aging Services, and Pleasant View, Inc. (PB Memo #24-3)**

Chairperson Dent presented the FTA Section 5310 applications. Ms. Cundy reviewed the applications, noting that the HRMPO is required to maintain a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that identifies all federal transportation funding in the MPO region. She stated that every year, the FTA 5310 program provides federal funding for capital and operational transportation assistance for the elderly and persons with disabilities through local non-profit organizations. Ms. Cundy noted that in the HRMPO, there are three non-profit organizations applying for assistance under the program and gave a review on each project as follows:

- Pleasant View Inc., for a total funding of \$78,000 to purchase one modified minivan with wheelchair ramp as a replacement vehicle;
- Valley Program for Aging (VPAS) for a total funding of \$77,000 to purchase a five-passenger modified minivan with wheelchair ramp as a replacement vehicle; and
- The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham, for a total funding of \$150,000 to purchase two five-passenger modified minivans with wheelchair ramps.

Ms. Cundy stated that FTA 5310 applications do not require a financial commitment from the HRMPO. She noted that DRPT and the providers request that the HRMPO include the 5310 projects in the HRMPO TIP if the applications are funded.

### **Update On Proposed SMART SCALE Policy Changes (Board Memo #23-9)**

Chairperson Dent presented Update on Proposed SMART SCALE Policy Changes. Mr. Reed gave an update on SMART SCALE policy changes noting that earlier this year, the Office of Intermodal



Planning and Investment (OIPI) conducted a full review of the SMART SCALE process in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). Mr. Reed reviewed the proposed changes recommended by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to the SMART SCALE program. He presented a PowerPoint presentation on the problem areas, staff recommendations, and improvements, and reviewed the High-Priority Projects Program (HPP) Eligibility, modification of Land Use Factor and Factor Weightings.

## **Agency Updates**

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

Mr. Reed reviewed the schedule for Round 6 SMART SCALE, noting that preapplications are open March 1, 2024. He stated that if any jurisdiction needs assistance, they should contact VDOT.

Mr. Komara reported on the following:

- Announced that the Smithland Road bridge project has been completed;
- Reported on the Route 33 project, I-81 Exit 247 in Harrisonburg, noting that the project was moving forward;
- Reported on the status of the widening of Route 33 west towards West Virginia, noting that the project is scheduled for completion in June 2025;
- Reported on Route 635 Barterbrook Road bridge project for bridge replacement;
- Gave an update on the Route 11 project widening of two lanes to a four-lane divided highway near the Rockingham County Fairgrounds;
- Gave a status update on the Interstate 81 Weyers Cave truck climbing lanes project;
- Reported on the purchasing of right-of-ways for Route 11 four-lane project, with advertisement for construction to begin in the spring of 2024; and
- Reminded everyone to visit [www.Improve81.org](http://www.Improve81.org) for upcoming and ongoing projects on I-81.

Chairperson Dent noted for the record, Mr. Fleming arrived earlier in the VDOT discussion. Mr. Fleming reported on several citizens' comments regarding the quick response from VDOT staff to their questions regarding the Route 11 widening and acquiring of land right-of-ways. He reported on Photo Speed Enforcement (PSE) legislation and monitoring and the impacts of safety in school and work zones.



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

Ms. Stankus announced that the Fiscal Year 2025 grant applications cycle is now open and are due to DRPT by February 1<sup>st</sup>. She noted that if any jurisdiction has any questions regarding their grant applications, they should contact DRPT.

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

Mr. Gatobu gave an update on HDPT's Transit Strategic Plan (TSP), a comprehensive document that will shape the future of public transportation service in Harrisonburg over the next ten years. He noted that Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., has completed the survey and HDPT is awaiting the results for the service improvements and suggested route changes. Mr. Gatobu noted that HDPT is preparing for the FY25 DRPT grant applications cycle; reported on the rebranding effort for HDPT buses and bus stop shelters; acquisition of new HDPT buses; and gave an update on the Microtransit program.

### **Localities**

#### **Town of Bridgewater**

Mr. Wilmer reported on the Town of Bridgewater's Phase II Riverwalk project, which is the construction of a shared-use permeable paver path starting at the western terminus of Riverwalk, Phase I and running through Bridgeview Park. He noted that Phase II of the project, which was funded through a Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant, will begin in a few weeks.

#### **Town of Dayton**

Mr. Borne reported on the Town of Dayton's wayfinding and signage project, noting that the town is in the process of finalizing the project.

#### **Town of Mt. Crawford**

Mr. Dillard reported on activities for the Town of Mt. Crawford, noting that the Town is in the second stage of becoming a historic district; reported on the preparation for the 1825-2025 Bicentennial Celebration of Mt. Crawford; reported the Town was awarded a grant to establish a public park near Town Hall; reported on the development of townhomes in Mt. Crawford; future development of Buc-ee's Travel Center at Exist 240; and safety concerns on Old Bridgewater Road.



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

Mr. Hartman announced two upcoming public hearings: 1) a public hearing for the South Main Street Safety Improvement Project on February 22, 2024, at the Sentara RMH Wellness Center, Harrisonburg; and 2) a public hearing for the Country Club Road Sidewalk Project on February 27, 2024, at the City Council meeting, City Council Chambers, Harrisonburg.

### **Other Business**

Under Other Business, Chairperson Dent noted that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is interested in knowing if there is a need for additional connections to offer east-west bus service across the Commonwealth. She noted that DRPT has a survey available to determine if there are unmet intercity bus needs in the areas of Virginia between Virginia Beach and Harrisonburg/Staunton and encouraged everyone to take the survey.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chairperson Dent announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on February 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on February 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. She stated that both HRMPO meetings will be held via Zoom.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the HRMPO Policy Board, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 4:40 p.m. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Cundy  
Director of Transportation