

**HRMPO Policy Board Minutes**  
**March 21, 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	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
Deanna Reed	Chelsea Beytas, FTA	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
✓ Laura Dent, Chairperson	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	
✓ Dany Fleming	✓ Grace Stankus, DRPT*	
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Bill Yates, JMU	
Ande Banks	✓ Valerie Kramer, JMU	<b>Others</b>
<b>Rockingham County</b>	<b>Alternates</b>	✓ Erin Fisher, 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	✓ Brad Reed, VDOT
✓ Neal Dillard, Vice Chairperson	✓ Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	
<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	✓ Adam Campbell, VDOT	
<b>VDOT</b>	✓ Don Komara, VDOT	
✓ Todd Stevens	Matt Dana, VDOT	

**Call to Order**

The March 21, 2024, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board was called to order at 3:00 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.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Dent presented the minutes from the January 18, 2024, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. Mr. Dany Fleming moved, seconded by Mr. Stephen King, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with Ms. Cooper abstaining due to be absent from the meeting.

## **Public Comment**

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

## **Special Election of HRMPO Vice Chairperson**

Chairperson Dent presented Special Election of HRMPO Vice Chairperson. Ms. Ann Cundy stated that Mr. Rick Chandler was the former Vice Chairperson but no longer serves on the HRMPO Board, thus leaving the Vice Chairperson position vacant. Mr. Stephen King moved, seconded by Mr. Dany Fleming, for Mr. Neal Dillard to serve as Vice Chairperson, term expiring June 2025. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

## **SMART SCALE Round 6 Pre-Applications (Policy Board Action Form #24-1)**

Chairperson Dent presented for consideration SMART SCALE Round 6 Pre-Applications. Ms. Ann Cundy gave a review on the SMART SCALE Round 6 Pre-Applications, noting that HRMPO staff is working with the City of Harrisonburg to submit two SMART SCALE Round 6 pre-applications by the April 1, 2024, deadline as follows:

- 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 – Construct southbound and westbound right turn lanes at the Port Republic Road and Forest Hill Road intersection. If this cannot be achieved through maintenance-level efforts, there is a possibility of widening the I-81 southbound off-ramp to two lanes.

Ms. Cundy noted that the SMART SCALE full application cycle is from June 1 to August 3, 2024. She reported on the next steps, noting that pending Board approval, staff will submit the pre-applications in coordination with VDOT Staunton District Planning and the City. Mr. Dany Fleming moved, seconded by Mr. Stephen King, to approve the submission of up to two HRMPO SMART SCALE Round 6 pre-applications on behalf of the City of Harrisonburg. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

## **HRMPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Discussion and FY 2025 Small Area Study Proposal (Policy Board Memo #24-4)**

Chairperson Dent presented for discussion the HRMPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and FY 2025 Small Area Study Proposal. Ms. Cundy stated that the HRMPO is developing the FY 2025 UPWP, which is the annual work program and budget for the HRMPO. She noted that the UPWP details the administrative and planning activities to be undertaken during the fiscal year, and the federal, state and local funds used for these activities. Ms. Cundy provided a comparison of the FY 2024 UPWP with the Draft FY 2025 UPWP. She reviewed the next steps, noting that once the UPWP is developed, it will be presented to the Board for release for public comment and approval.

Ms. Cundy presented the FY 2025 Small Area Study Proposal. She noted that HRMPO staff works collaboratively with member jurisdictions to identify needed transportation studies in the region, and to equitably allocate study funding across the region. Ms. Cundy noted that following a FY 2024 study in the vicinity of Mt. Crawford and Bridgewater in Rockingham County, the City of Harrisonburg proposes a Small Area Study in FY 2025 at the intersection of Port Republic Road and Peach Grove/Neff Avenue. Ms. Erin Fisher gave a review on the study, noting that the goal of the study would be to create a holistic plan for accommodating traffic in the area under short- and long-term build-out scenarios. She stated that the study would include operational and safety analyses for multiple intersections, and development of alternative concepts for managing the expected growth, and reviewed the benefits of the Study. Ms. Fisher noted that the plan would be adopted by the City of Harrisonburg and referenced in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Cundy noted that staff will document the HRMPO's intent to fund a Small Area Study in the City of Harrisonburg in the FY 2025 UPWP.

## **HRMPO and VDOT Transportation Study Updates (Policy Board Memo #24-5)**

Chairperson Dent presented the HRMPO and VDOT Transportation Study Updates. Ms. Cundy noted that HRMPO, VDOT and Rockingham County are currently developing two transportation studies in the HRMPO planning area. She reported on the Dinkel Avenue/Friedens Church Road Corridor Study, noting that the Study Team developed an online survey to understand how travelers use the corridor today, and their concerns about its current and future needs. Ms. Cundy gave a review on the MetroQuest survey, noting that 924 responses were received. She stated that respondents were most concerned with minimizing traffic congestion, followed by improving safety and traffic calming. Ms.

Cundy reported on the next steps, noting that HRMPO staff will present the analysis and draft typical sections at an in-person public meeting in April, and to the Policy Board at the conclusion of the study.

Mr. Brad Reed gave a review on the VDOT Route 704 to 257 Connector Analysis, noting that the purpose of the Connector Analysis is to look at the travel demand effects associated with constructing a new connector roadway between Route 704/Cecil Wampler Road and Route 257/Frieden's Church Road. He stated that the new connection seeks to improve connectivity and travel time between I-81 for the County of Rockingham and the City of Harrisonburg's industrial growth area. Mr. Reed reviewed the 2023 travel time estimates, vehicle and truck travel patterns, future land use, and the users for the new connection.

## **Agency Updates**

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

Mr. Adam Campbell introduced himself, noting that he will be attending the HRMPO meetings in the future, representing VDOT. He reviewed the schedule for Round 6 SMART SCALE, noting that the preapplication deadline is April 1, 2024. He stated that if any locality needs assistance regarding their applications to contact VDOT. Mr. Todd Stevens announced that the Spring Six-Year Program public meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2024, in Winchester. He stated that once arrangements have been finalized, official invitations will be submitted. Mr. Stevens noted that Mark Merrill, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) member who represents the Staunton District, is scheduled to rotate off the Board in June. He noted that the CTB members consists of 17 members appointed by the Governor. Mr. Stevens announced that VDOT will host the CTB meeting in July, to be held in Winchester.

Mr. Don Komara reported on VDOT's activities, including the following:

- Reported on the Route 33 bridge project, I-81 Exit 247 exit, noting that it is moving along;
- Reported on I-81 projects in the City of Staunton area;
- Reported on Route 635 Barterbrook Road bridge replacement project;
- Reported on the purchasing of right-of-ways for the Route 11 four-lane project, with advertisement for construction to begin in late spring of 2024;
- Gave a status update on the Interstate 81 Weyers Cave truck climbing lanes project;



- Reported on the status of the widening of Route 33 west towards West Virginia, noting that the project is moving along; and
- Reminded everyone to visit [www.Improve81.org](http://www.Improve81.org) for upcoming and ongoing projects on I-81.
- Upon a question regarding sound barrier walls on I-81 in Harrisonburg, Mr. Stevens stated that he would provide additional information to the Board regarding the sound walls.

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

Ms. Stankus reported on updated SMART SCALE contact information for Round 6 applications. She noted that Paige Lazar is available for transit questions and can be reached at [paige.lazar@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:paige.lazar@drpt.virginia.gov); and Randy Selleck is available for rail questions and can be reached at [randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov). Ms. Stankus announced that DRPT launched a new and improved Open Data Portal, which provides access to statewide transit, rail, and Virginia Breeze performance measures, SMART SCALE project data, financial information including current and past SYIP/STIP data, and geospatial data.

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

Mr. Gatobu announced that HDPT received two electric school buses in February. He noted that staff is currently receiving training on the new buses before they are put into service. Mr. Gatobu gave an update on HDPT's transit rebranding, noting that HDPT was in the name selection phase.

### **Locality Updates**

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

Mr. Dillard reported on the Town of Mt. Crawford's ongoing and upcoming construction projects, as well as the development of new townhomes in the Mt. Crawford area.

#### **Rockingham County**

Ms. Rhonda Cooper reported on Rockingham County, noting that the County is submitting two SMART SCALE applications for improvements to the U.S. Route 33 Island Ford Road intersection, and U.S. Route 33 Resort Drive intersection.



### **Other Business**

Under Other Business, Ms. Ann Cundy announced that the Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at The Loft at Liberty Street in Harrisonburg. She noted that this year's summit will highlight the potential for economic development when transportation and recreation meet. Ms. Cundy announced that Ryan Hale, Founder and CEO of Laneshift, will be the keynote speaker, lending his expertise in helping to plan and develop the successful trail system in rural Northwest Arkansas.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chairperson Dent announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on April 4, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on April 18, 2024, 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 4:35 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