

**HRMPO Policy Board Minutes**  
**April 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	✓ Ann Cundy, CSPDC
Deanna Reed	Chelsea Beytas, FTA	✓ Garreth Bartholomew, CSPDC
✓ Laura Dent, Chairperson	Rusty Harrington, Aviation	✓ Kimberly Miller, CSPDC
✓ Dany Fleming	✓ Grace Stankus, DRPT*	✓ Rita Whitfield, CSPDC
✓ Gerald Gatobu	Bill Yates, JMU	✓ Philippe Bone, CSPDC
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	✓ Dylan Nicely, Rockingham County
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 April 18, 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 March 21, 2024, HRMPO Policy Board meeting. Mr. Dany Fleming moved, seconded by Ms. Leila Longcor, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

### **Public Comment**

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

Chairperson Dent announced that Ann Cundy has been selected as the new Executive Director for the CSPDC. Ms. Cundy announced that Rita Whitfield will be retiring from the CSPDC and thanked her for her years of outstanding service to the PDC and HRMPO. She introduced the following new hires for the CSPDC: Kimberly Miller who will be taking Rita Whitfield's position as Office Manager; Philippe Bone as Regional Planner; and Garreth Bartholomew as Transportation Planner.

### **Consideration of HRMPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Release to Public Comment (BAF #24-2)**

Chairperson Dent presented for consideration the HRMPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Release for Public Comment. Ms. Cundy gave a brief review on the Draft FY 2025 UPWP, noting that the UPWP identifies all activities to be undertaken by the HRMPO for FY 2025, and is required for all federal funding assistance. She reviewed the funding allocations for FY 2024 and FY 2025. Mr. Dany Fleming moved, seconded by Ms. Leila Longcor, to release the Draft FY 2025 UPWP for the 21-day public comment period. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

### **Rockingham County Transit Feasibility Study - Dylan Nicely, Rockingham County Planner**

Mr. Nicely reported on the findings of a study completed by Kimley Horn and funded by DRPT to analyze the need for transit in Rockingham County and options for transit services delivery. He stated that the study team created a survey to solicit feedback from the stakeholders and the public and over 1800 public comments were received. A community workshop was held to discuss the study and transit options, which three members of the public attended. Data on where the most likely users of transit are concentrated was analyzed. Based on the data, four proposed zones were identified within the County, as well as various transit options that could address transportation within these zones. The study looked at transportation types from on-demand to shared-ride fixed routes. The costs associated with the various scenarios were reviewed. A proposal for a pilot service located in the zone with the highest estimated ridership was recommended; this zone being the southwestern portion of the County which includes the towns of Dayton, Bridgewater, and Mount Crawford. Mr. Nicely reported that if Rockingham County Board of Supervisors decides to move forward, the next steps

would be to select a demonstration zone, determine the procurement method, apply for DRPT demonstration grant funding (available annually with a February application deadline), procure an operator for the service, and receive DRPT funds (available July 1<sup>st</sup> after award). Discussion ensued regarding funding for the County's portion of the demonstration grant and the status of subsequent funding for the service after the demonstration grant. Ms. Longcor stated that the funding, particularly from private partners, was not secured in time for DRPT's February 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline.

## Agency Updates

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

Mr. Todd Stevens announced that the Fiscal Year 2025-2030 Spring Six-Year Program (FY2025-2030 SYIP) public meeting is scheduled for April 24, from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Laurel Ridge Community College in Middletown. He noted that Mark Merrill, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) member who represents the Staunton District, is nearing the end of his term. For him to remain on the CTB, the governor will have to reappoint him for another term.

Mr. Adam Campbell reviewed the schedule for Round 6 SMART SCALE, noting that the preapplication deadline closed April 1, 2024. Staunton District had 31 pre-applications submitted (6 are within the HRMPO area; 4 from Harrisonburg and 2 from the HRMPO); statewide there were 327 pre-applications. This is a 20% reduction from the final applications that were scored last round. VDOT District and Central Office staff are screening the pre-applications, checking them for eligibility and maintenance requirements. Feedback to applicants will be provided starting next month, then scheduled training in early June, leading up to the final application deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Campbell added that the current project pipeline study on southbound Exit 245 Port Republic Road is in the public input phase. An online survey which presents the study recommendations and collects public input is available through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Information about the study is available online (<https://vaprojectpipeline.virginia.gov/studies/staunton/st-23-06/>), and the survey is also available online (<https://publicinput.com/st-23-06alternatives>).

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 proceeding well;
- Reported on I-81 projects in the City of Staunton area that are underway;
- Reported on Route 635 Barterbrook Road bridge replacement project which is progressing rapidly;
- Gave a status update on the Interstate 81 Weyers Cave truck climbing lanes project;



- Reported on the purchasing rights of way for the Route 11 four-lane project, with advertisement for construction to begin in late spring of 2024;
- Reported on the status of the widening of Route 33 west towards West Virginia, noting that the project is moving along very well; and
- Reminded everyone to visit [www.Improve81.org](http://www.Improve81.org) for upcoming and ongoing projects on I-81.

Reported on maintenance projects; grading dirt roads, mowing season will begin in May, skin patching and surface treatments will be done to prepare for overlay.

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

Ms. Stankus reported that DRPT has released the draft SYIP. It is available for review and public comment. An in-person meeting will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Richmond and NOVA offices, and a virtual attendance option is available. The registration link is <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/d42c3004-ffdb-45cb-a9a9-93e245c38cca@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>. This is the first time DRPT will host a public SYIP meeting separate from VDOT; DRPT representatives plan to attend the VDOT Staunton District public meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>, to provide an opportunity for public comment on DRPT rail and transit projects there, as well as the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Stankus added that the Draft FY25 SYIP can be viewed on DRPT's Data Portal: <https://data.drpt.virginia.gov/pages/fy25-syip>.

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

Mr. Gatobu announced that HDPT is working on Chapters 3, 4, and 5 of the Transit strategic plan. Once the draft document is completed, it will be released for public review and comment, then it will be presented to the City Council for approval. He gave an update on HDPT's transit rebranding, noting that the project is nearing completion. He stated that city routes are under review for the summer to continue to provide service to residents but adjusting for a reduction in student riders. HDPT received two electric school buses in February, which will be tested on the routes before they are put into service.

## **Locality Updates**

### ***Town of Dayton***

Mr. Brian Borne reported that the Town's wayfinding project (signs on Rt. 42) should be completed by mid-May, pending scheduling with the contractor; the permitting is complete.



### **City of Harrisonburg**

Ms. Erin Fisher reported that Harrisonburg paving will begin April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Chicago Avenue/Waterman Drive study has begun; traffic counts currently being conducted, and the Port Republic Road Pipeline study is in the public involvement phase (online survey). Ms. Fisher updated on the progress of the City's feasibility study on the Northend Greenway shared-use path, and noted that during meetings with property owners there were more in favor than not. She added that the Ready Set Go study has commenced. This study will examine ways to extend bicycle/pedestrian facilities from where the shared use path on the Rt. 33 bridges over I-81 and the railroad will end. It will look at Martin Luther King Jr. Way from Rt. 33 to Reservoir Street and Rt. 33 from MLK Jr. Way to Carlton Street.

### **Other Business**

Under Other Business, Mr. Dany Fleming gave an update on the sound barrier walls proposal on I-81 in Harrisonburg, noting that the final draft for public review is currently being drafted. He gave an update on the use of photo speed monitoring devices in highway work and school crossing zones, and the impacts of safety in school and work zones.

Ms. Cundy stated that the Dinkle Avenue Small Area Study Public Input Meeting that was scheduled for Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, has been postponed, allowing the study team to finalize draft study recommendations.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chairperson Dent announced the following upcoming meetings: HRMPO TAC meeting will be held on May 2, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., and the HRMPO Policy Board meeting will be held on May 16, 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 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ann Cundy  
Director of Transportation