

HRMPO Policy Board Minutes August 15, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

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

	Voting Member		Alternates		Staff
	City of Harrisonburg		Dylan Nicely, Rockingham	✓	Ann Cundy*
✓	Laura Dent, Chair	✓	Rachel Salatin, Rockingham	✓	Paula Melester
✓	Dany Fleming	✓	Cheryl Spain, Harrisonburg	✓	Garreth Bartholomew
	Gerald Gatobu		Meggie Roche, Dayton		Kimberly Miller
	Deanna Reed	✓	Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	✓	Zach Beard
	Ande Banks		Robert Taylor, Mt. Crawford		Others
	Rockingham County		Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford	✓	Kim Sandum, Shenandoah Alliance
	Leila Longcor		Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓	Jeremy Mason, VDOT
	Stephen King	✓	Adam Campbell, VDOT*	✓	Shane McCabe, VDOT*
✓	Casey Armstrong		Don Komara, VDOT	✓	Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg
	Town of Bridgewater		Matt Dana, VDOT		
	Jay Litten		Non-Voting Members		
	Town of Dayton		Kevin Jones, FHWA		
✓	Brian Borne		Chelsea Beytas, FTA		
	Town of Mt. Crawford		Rusty Harrington, Aviation		
✓	Neal Dillard, Vice Chair		Grace Stankus, DRPT		
	VDOT		Bill Yates, JMU		
	Todd Stevens		Valerie Kramer, JMU		

*Indicates virtual attendance

Call to Order

The August 15, 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 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.

Minutes

Chairperson Dent presented the minutes from the Jun 20, 2024, Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Dany Fleming moved, seconded by Mr. Neal Dillard, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Introductions

Due to new faces and staffing changes, all attendees introduced themselves. Paula Melester explained that the CSPDC is cross-training staff to serve both the Harrisonburg and Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPOs. Zach Beard will be taking the lead on the Policy Board, while Garreth will lead the Technical Advisory Committee.

Public Comment

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

Release to Public Comment and Conditional Approval of FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments (Board Action Form #24-07)

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew presented three TIP amendments: 1) Operating assistance for Harrisonburg Bus Service, 2) a new program for expansion rolling stock for paratransit, and 3) a new program for bus shelters and fixtures. Two additional administrative modifications were noted for paratransit vehicles for the Arc of Harrisonburg-Rockingham and Pleasant View Incorporated. Cheryl Spain provided additional details on the paratransit expansion (3 new vehicles) and bus shelter improvements. Mr. Bartholomew requested that the Board approve the amendments pending no further public comments after releasing the document for a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Fleming moved, seconded by Mr. Casey Armstrong, to conditionally approve the TIP amendments based on no further public comment after the 21-day public comment period. Motion carried unanimously.

SMART SCALE Round 6 Applications (Board Memo #24-07)

Mr. Beard provided an update on the SMART SCALE Round 6 submissions, and noted that five projects from the region advanced to the final round due on August 1. Overall, there were 27 full applications submitted from the Staunton Construction District region. The five HRMPO projects submitted were:

- Port Republic Road at I-81 Exit 245 Interchange (submitted by MPO)
- South Main Street Median and Sidewalk (submitted by MPO)
- Mount Clinton Pike Corridor Safety Improvements (submitted by City)
- Reservoir Street Median (submitted by City)
- Bluestone Trail Extension (submitted by City)

A brief discussion was held regarding the Bluestone Trail Extension project, including its route and estimated cost of \$15 million, primarily due to a bridge over the railroad and Blacks Run.

Presentation: VDOT NEVI Program - Bringing Electric Vehicle Infrastructure to Virginia's Rural Corridors and Communities; Erin Belt, VDOT Decarbonization Program Manager

Ms. Paula Melester introduced Ms. Erin Belt, VDOT Decarbonization Program Manager, to present on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program. Ms. Belt provided an overview of the NEVI

program, which aims to deploy fast electric vehicle charging stations along alternative fuel corridors in Virginia. Key points of her presentation included:

- The program has over \$106 million allocated over a five-year period for Virginia.
- Charging stations must meet specific requirements, including a minimum of four ports with 150-kilowatt power rating per port.
- Stations must be located within specific distance requirements from corridor termini and exits.
- The program requires a 20% minimum non-federal match from applicants.
- VDOT has capped awards at \$1 million per station.
- The program has already completed one round of funding (Phase 1A) and is currently evaluating applications for Phase 1B.
- Two charging stations have been established in the Harrisonburg area: one at a Super 8 motel and another at a Pilot station.

Ms. Belt also discussed lessons learned from the first phase of funding, including the need for more explicit criteria for amenities and limitations on the number of applications per target area.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Jeremy Mason reported the following:

- Several projects along Route 33 are ahead of schedule.
- Bridge projects in the city are progressing, with west bound bridge demolition complete.
- The project at Route 33 and Route 276 is nearly finished.
- The Route 11 project is still in the right-of-way acquisition phase.
- Speed enforcement cameras will be implemented on the I-81 widening project this fall.
- The Weyers Cave project advertisement is out, with bids opening in October.
- Routine maintenance activities continue, including mowing and patching.

City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Ms. Spain reported the following:

- Preparing for the return of students for both school and transit.
- Implementing route changes from the Transit Strategic Plan.
- 15 electric buses are on schedule for delivery in September.

Localities

Rockingham County

- Ms. Rachel Salatin noted that the County submitted two SMART SCALE applications for Island Ford and Resort Drive following the work of the Route 33 Arterial Management Plan.

Harrisonburg

Mr. Tom Hartman reported the following:

- University Boulevard Extension: Final design stages, utility relocation to start in fall.
- Improvements at Bradley and Bluestone on Port Republic Road: Approaching right-of-way phase.
- University Boulevard and Evelyn Byrd Avenue reconfiguration: Progressing towards right-of-way phase.
- South Main Street projects: Various stages of design and right-of-way acquisition.
- Country Club Road sidewalks: In right-of-way phase.
- North End Greenway extension: In right-of-way phase.
- ARPA-funded projects in the northeast neighborhood: Two sidewalk segments and a shared-use path connection.

Dayton

Mr. Brian Borne reported the following:

- Moving forward with the Silver Lake Nature Trail project. Easements are in place, and trash cans and a dog station have been installed. Waiting on signage delivery, which is causing delays. Planning to add pollinator gardens at all sign locations.
- Reported on a recent fire that destroyed the Mini Mart downtown. Plans for rebuilding are underway. Dayton Tavern sustained water damage but is being renovated.

Other Business

Mr. Bartholomew provided a brief update on the FY2025 HRMPO Small Area Study for the City of Harrisonburg, and noted that MPO and City staff are viewing two proposals. Staff intends on providing a more in-depth update on the study at the September Board meeting.

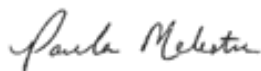
Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Dent announced that the HRMPO Policy Board will hold a meeting on September 19, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., and the next TAC meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Melester, Director of Transportation