



Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Meeting Agenda November 21, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of the September 19, 2024, Policy Board Meeting*
3. Public Comment
4. FY25 UPWP Administrative Modification (Board Memo #24-10)
5. 2025 Meeting Calendar (Board Action Form #24-09)*
6. Approval of the Travel Demand Model Base Year 2022 Demographic Data Update (Board Action Form #24-10)*
7. Presentation: Harrisonburg Department of Public Transit (HDPT) Transit Strategic Plan Update
8. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. HDPT
 - d. Localities
9. Other Business
10. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. HRMPO TAC Meeting, Thursday, December 5, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
 - b. HRMPO Policy Board Meeting, Thursday, December 19, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
11. Adjournment

* Action needed

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Minutes September 19, 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	✓	Zach Beard
	Deanna Reed	✓	Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater		
	Ande Banks		Robert Taylor, Mt. Crawford		Others
	Rockingham County		Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford		Kim Sandum, Shen. 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 September 19, 2024 Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board meeting 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 and attendees may participate in HRMPO meetings through electronic communication. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Minutes

Chairperson Dent presented the minutes from the August 15, 2024 Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Neal Dillard moved, seconded by Ms. Leila Longcor, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

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

VDOT Functional Classification Resolution of Support (Board Action Form #24-08)

Mr. Zach Beard presented proposed changes to the Federal Highway Administration's federal functional classification system. The classification system designates public roads into classes based on purpose, capacity, speed, and traffic volume. Most changes within the MPO region were from the City of Harrisonburg, including:

- Neff Avenue requested to be upgraded to arterial status
- Several local roads proposed to be designated as minor collectors
- Mason Street/Gay Street downtown loop proposed to change from arterial to major collector

Mr. Beard noted that upon Board approval staff would submit the approval letter to VDOT.

Mr. Neal Dillard moved, seconded by Ms. Leila Longcor, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Travel Demand Model Base Year Update (Board Memo #24-08)

Mr. Beard provided an overview of the HRMPO Long Range Transportation Plan Travel Demand Model base year update process. Mr. Beard explained that the Travel Demand Model is developed by VDOT to estimate future traffic generation over a 25-year period based on population and employment data inputs into the model. The current HRMPO TDM utilizes 2015 as a base year for data, and VDOT is requesting that the MPO update the base year to reflect growth that has occurred in the region since then.

Mr. Beard said that the update process would take about one year, and that MPO staff will be coordinating with locality staff and VDOT to validate model data.

2024-2025 MPO and VDOT Transportation Studies in the HRMPO Region (Board Memo #24-09)

Mr. Beard presented information about three transportation studies beginning this fall in the MPO region. The HRMPO is conducting a study of Port Republic Road and Peach Grove Avenue and Neff Avenue, working with consultant VHB to study improvements near the intersection to accommodate planned and future development in the area. The study aims to provide a comprehensive vision for the transportation network over the next 20 years.

VDOT is conducting two additional studies. The Vine Street corridor study will examine the segment from US 11 to US 33, which is expected to reach capacity by 2045. The study will address high-crash intersections, walking and biking improvements, and operational issues. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for October 1.

The Gravels Road study will examine the corridor from Gravels Road to US 11, conducting a high-level planning assessment to evaluate the effects of two conceptual connector roadways to bypass Gravels

Road. This study aims to minimize the impacts of industrial traffic and is scheduled for completion in January 2025.

Presentation: Rockingham County Urban Development Area (UDA) Transportation Goals, Priorities, and Projects Overview – Dylan Nicely, Rockingham County

Mr. Dylan Nicely presented an update on the recently revised Stone Spring Urban Development Area plan, which was updated as part of the Comprehensive Plan update. The plan maintains the same goals established in 2020 when the UDA was first formed. The UDA, located southeast of the City of Harrisonburg, aims to balance growth pressures with agricultural preservation by designating specific areas for more compact, higher-density development where infrastructure already exists.

Mr. Nicely reviewed the ten guiding principles of the Stone Spring UDA plan, which include compact mixed-use development with buildings placed closer to streets, parking in the rear, and complete streets designed for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The 2024 update included adjustments to UDA boundaries, including the incorporation of an area north of Route 33 that was previously in the county's urban growth area but not included in the UDA. The boundaries generally extend to Cross Keys Road and Route 33, which have historically served as the bounds of the Stone Spring development area.

Transportation aspects of the UDA plan include shared-use paths planned for Port Road, Boyers Road, and Stone Spring Road. The plan emphasizes public streets and interconnectivity to preserve capacity on major arterials like Port Road and Route 33. Several recent developments were highlighted as examples of successfully implementing the UDA principles, including projects that appropriately transition between different density levels and incorporate planned transportation improvements.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Don Komara reported the following:

- The East Market Street project near the interstate is moving forward, with significant work occurring on the railroad bridge.
- The project over the mountain is ahead of schedule, with plans to get most of it under pavement this fall and complete in spring.
- A turn lane project at Cross Keys has been completed by North Construction Company, which included extending the left turn lane and adding a straight/right turn lane.
- The Route 11 widening project near the fairgrounds is still in right-of-way acquisition, with advertisement planned for late fall and construction to begin in spring.
- The I-81 project through Staunton is making significant progress, with substantial earth moving and median work ongoing. Speed cameras will be implemented this fall in the construction zone, with speed limits reduced to 60 mph.
- The Weyers Cave project is currently out for advertisement, with bids opening in October. The I-81 widening project through Harrisonburg is scheduled for advertisement in late fall 2025, with potential mobilization beginning in summer 2026.

DRPT

Ms. Grace Stankus reported that DRPT will host the Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) meeting on October 8th at 10 AM virtually. The discussion will focus on the operating assistance formula. Meeting information and registration links are available on the DRPT website.

City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gerald Gatobu reported that HDPT is working on EPA grant requirements and has ordered an activity bus for the new high school. The department is expecting delivery of approximately 15 new buses, which will arrive in groups of five. Recent activities have included completing DRPT and drug/alcohol audits.

Localities

Mount Crawford

Mr. Neal Dillard reported that the Sheetz project is progressing well, with road painting completed on Parsons Court. The town's Fall Festival is scheduled for the following day from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dayton

Mr. Brian Borne reported the Town's inaugural 5K and final concert are upcoming on September 21, along with Dayton Days on October 5.

Harrisonburg

Mr. Tom Hartman reported the following:

- Staff reported that downtown traffic cabinets have been wrapped with art in a collaboration between Harrisonburg, HDR, and the Arts Council.
- The Mountain View shared use path is approximately 80% paved with grass growing well. Night paving is scheduled for the following week.
- An Erickson Avenue small area study is being initiated to examine the corridor between Stone Spring and Route 42, and from Moseby to Pleasant Hill, in response to increasing traffic volumes from 8,000 to nearly 20,000 vehicles per day.

Other Business

Chairperson Dent reported on a meeting she attended earlier that day regarding the Community Development Finance Initiative (CDFI) Coalition. The initiative focuses on enabling small private lenders to assist with housing and small business development. While transportation is not the primary focus of CDFI, Ms. Dent noted the potential for larger regional collaboration opportunities between the City and County.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Dent noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3, at 2:00 p.m., and that the next Policy Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17.



**Harrisonburg
Rockingham**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Melester".

Paula Melester, Director of Transportation

—

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Paula Melester, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: November 21, 2024
RE: **Board Memo #24-10: FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Administrative Modification**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff administratively modified the FY 2025 UPWP to reflect the final FY25 carryover balance of FTA 5303 funds. As a result, the overall UPWP budget decreased by \$28,394. Highway funding remains unchanged.

BACKGROUND

The original FTA 5303 carryover balance in the FY25 UPWP was an estimate, and did not include the final numbers after the close of the fiscal year. The FY2025 UPWP Administrative Modification reflects a final FTA 5303 carryover balance decrease of \$28,394, which decreases the transit carryover funds from an estimated \$45,000 to \$16,606. The transit funding reduction is distributed across MPO work tasks (see Table 1). All highway funding allocations remain unchanged.

Table 1: FY25 UPWP Original and Modified Budget Comparison

Work Task	Category	Original Budget	Modified Budget	Difference
1.01 Program Administration and Public Outreach	Highway	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$0
	Transit	\$31,738	\$31,738	\$0
	Total	\$85,738	\$85,738	\$0
2.01 Long-Range Transportation Planning	Highway	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$0
	Transit	\$30,000	\$19,606	(\$10,394)
	Total	\$82,000	\$71,606	(\$10,394)
2.02 Short-Range Transportation Planning	Highway	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0
	Transit	\$49,051	\$49,051	\$0
	Total	\$139,051	\$139,051	\$0
2.03 Local, State and Federal Agency Assistance	Highway	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$0
	Transit	\$25,000	\$20,000	(\$5,000)
	Total	\$96,000	\$91,000	(\$5,000)
2.04 Transit Planning	Highway	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Transit	\$25,000	\$12,000	(\$13,000)
	Total	\$25,000	\$12,000	(\$13,000)
3.0 Contingency - Highway	Highway	\$47,609	\$47,609	\$0
	Transit	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total	\$47,609	\$47,609	\$0
Total	Highway	\$314,609	\$314,609	\$0
	Transit	\$160,789	\$132,395	(\$28,394)
	Total	\$475,398	\$447,004	(\$28,394)

NEXT STEPS

The Board does not need to take action. Staff submitted the modified UPWP to DRPT on October 28 and posted the updated document on the [MPO website UPWP page](#).

ATTACHMENT

[FY25 UPWP Administrative Modification Document](#)

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board
FROM: Paula Melester, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: November 21, 2024
RE: **Policy Board Action Form #24-09: HRMPO 2025 Meeting Calendar**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend approval of the HRMPO 2025 meeting calendar.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff developed the 2025 HRMPO Policy Board and TAC meeting schedules to provide the public, board members, and staff with advance planning for meeting dates. Staff will publish a public notice for the 2025 meeting schedules in local newspapers and on www.hrvampo.org in accordance with the [HRMPO Public Participation Plan \(PPP\)](#).

Changes to the date, time, or location of all meetings will be posted on the website and publicly noticed in local papers as required by the PPP. TAC and Policy Board members will be notified of meeting cancellations via email at least one week in advance of the scheduled meeting date.

2025 HRMPO MEETING SCHEDULE

The proposed meeting schedules for the Policy Board and TAC are on **Page Two** of this memo. The Board meets on every third Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m., and the TAC meets every first Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. The 2022 Virginia FOIA law allows the HRMPO to hold up to two virtual meetings each year. Staff recommends scheduling an all-virtual meeting in February 2025 and using the other virtual meeting as needed. HRMPO will continue to provide a virtual participation option for all in-person meetings.

Note that the HRMPO Board meeting in June is on the Juneteenth holiday, and no meeting is scheduled.

2025 HRMPO Policy Board Meeting Schedule	
January 16, 2025	July 17, 2025
February 20, 2025 (All-Virtual via Zoom)	August 21, 2025
March 20, 2025	September 18, 2025
April 17, 2025	October 16, 2025
May 15, 2025	November 20, 2025
June 19, 2025 (Juneteenth – no meeting)	December 18, 2025
Meeting Time: 3:00 p.m. Location: Rockingham County Administration Center, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg unless otherwise noted.	

2025 HRMPO TAC Meeting Schedule	
January 2, 2025	July 3, 2025
February 6, 2025 (All-Virtual via Zoom)	August 7, 2025
March 6, 2025	September 4, 2025
April 3, 2025	October 2, 2025
May 1, 2025	November 6, 2025
June 5, 2025	December 4, 2025
Meeting Time: 2:00 p.m. Location: Rockingham County Administration Center, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg unless otherwise noted.	



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Zach Beard
MEETING DATE: November 21, 2024
RE: **Board Action Form #24-10: Approval of the Travel Demand Model Base Year 2022 Demographic Data Update**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Policy Board approve the updated 2022 base year numbers for use in the HRMPO Travel Demand Model (TDM) update.

BACKGROUND

The HRMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan was approved by the Policy Board in May 2023 and utilized a Travel Demand Model (TDM) to estimate future traffic generation over a 25-year period. The Model incorporates base year population and employment data to assist with future year traffic generation. The HRMPO used a 2015 base year for the model for the 2045 LRTP update due to COVID-related issues impacting the release and perceived accuracy of 2020 US Census data, and the time of completing a model update in relation to approving the LRTP within the expected timeframe.

VDOT requested that the HRMPO update the TDM base year population and employment data and TAZ boundaries from 2015 to 2022 to better reflect current traffic conditions, and improve the Model’s functionality when projecting future traffic generation for projects outlined in transportation studies.

BASE YEAR DATA UPDATE

HRMPO staff compiled demographic data for 2022 and coordinated with staff from each locality to validate the new data. HRMPO staff presented the draft numbers at the November 7 TAC meeting, and the TAC recommended that the Board approve the data. **Table 1** shows the 2022 draft numbers compared to the previous 2015 base year numbers.

Table 1. Proposed New HRMPO TDM Base Year Data Inputs

TAZ Data Categories	2022 Est. Value	2015 Value
HRMPO Population	86,063	81,411
HRMPO Dwelling Units	29,695	28,953
HRMPO Automobiles	57,864	52,964
HRMPO Retail Employment	7,234	7,211
HRMPO Total Employment	47,628	43,418
HRMPO School Enrollment (K-12)	10,637	9,213
HRMPO University Enrollment	24,979	24,377
Amount of HRMPO University parking	16,396	N/A
Amount of HRMPO student housing	8,014	N/A
HRMPO households without access to automobiles	1,928	N/A

Data Sources and Methodology

HRMPO staff derived the population data from American Community Survey (ACS) Census Tract Data within the MPO boundaries and cross-referenced with 2022 Weldon Cooper data to address a 7.56% undercount for 2022 ACS 5-year Data for Harrisonburg. Employment data was derived from Woods and Poole Metropolitan Area Data for both Total Metropolitan Statistical Area Employment and Retail-specific Employment. Other data sources included the U.S. Census and local public schools and universities.

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS ZONES

VDOT District Planning is working with HRMPO and locality staff to reevaluate and adjust HRMPO Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) boundaries to account for transportation network changes since the last TDM update. The TAZ boundaries are based on the location of roads and traffic generating uses such as residential, commercial, and industrial development. The current HRMPO TDM has over 200 TAZs. TAZ boundaries assist with analyzing and forecasting travel patterns across the region based on similar spatial characteristics related to development within a specific area.

NEXT STEPS

HRMPO and VDOT are working with a consultant to develop the model, and the 2022 base year numbers are a necessary first step for beginning the update process. Pending Policy Board approval, HRMPO staff will assist with incorporating the 2022 numbers into the Travel Demand Model update process, which is expected to take approximately one year to complete.

REFERENCE

[VDOT Travel Demand Model Policy Manual](#)