

**Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting Agenda
January 16, 2025, 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 November 21, 2024, Policy Board Meeting*
3. Public Comment
4. 2025 Safety Targets (Board Action Form #25-01)*
5. FY25 5310 Application (Board Memo #25-01)
6. Port Republic/Peach Grove/Neff Avenue Study Update (Board Memo #25-02)
7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. HDPT
 - d. Localities
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. February 6, 2025 – HRMPO TAC Meeting, at 2:00 p.m., virtual
 - b. February 20, 2025 – HRMPO Policy Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m., virtual
10. Adjournment

* Action needed

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Minutes November 21, 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		
	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 November 21, 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 September 19, 2024 Policy Board meeting.

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

Public Comment

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

FY25 UPWP Administrative Modification (Board Memo #24-10)

Mr. Paula Melester provided an overview of the FY25 UPWP budget modification and highlighted that the original FTA 5303 carryover balance in the FY25 UPWP approved in May 2024 was an estimate, and did not include the final numbers after the close of the fiscal year. Ms. Melester explained that the transit category carryover funds decreased from the estimated \$45,000 to \$16,000. The decrease in part is due to increasing consultant costs and HDPT utilizing allocated transit funds for HDPT's transit strategic plan update. Ms. Melester noted that the adjusted funding amounts are distributed across multiple work activity categories to minimize impact on any single work program area.

2025 Meeting Calendar (Board Action Form #24-09)

Staff presented the 2025 Policy Board meeting schedule. One meeting in June will not be held as it conflicts with the Juneteenth holiday. The February meetings will be held virtually via Zoom. The Board approved the meeting schedule, which will be published in local newspapers and on the website.

Mr. Dany Fleming moved to approve the calendar; seconded by Mr. Brian Borne. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Travel Demand Model Base Year 2022 Demographic Data Update (Board Action Form #24-10)

Mr. Beard presented the HRMPO Travel Demand Model base year update, which VDOT uses to estimate future traffic generation over a 25-year period. The current model's 2015 base year data is being updated to 2022 using U.S. Census data, Weldon Cooper data, Woods & Poole data, and locality input.

Key changes from 2015 to 2022 include population growth of approximately 5,000 residents, an increase of 700 dwelling units, growth of 4,200 jobs (with minimal retail growth reflecting COVID-19 impacts), an increase of 1,400 public school students, and growth of 600 university students across Bridgewater, EMU, and JMU.

Mr. Beard explained that the data is assigned to Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) boundaries within the model which are based on the roadway network and land use patterns. Mr. Beard noted that staff is also working with VDOT District Planning to adjust TAZ boundaries to better reflect current development and roadway changes since 2015.

Board members expressed concerns about the modest housing unit increase. Staff agreed to review building permit data for verification. Following the TAC recommendation for approval of the demographic data from the November 7 TAC meeting, the Board approved the base year data sets pending staff review of the housing numbers.

Mr. Stephen King moved to approve the model data with additional staff review; seconded by Mr. Fleming. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation: Harrisonburg Department of Public Transit (HDPT) Transit Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew and Mr. Gerald Gatobu presented HDPT's Transit Strategic Plan (TSP), which updates the 2017 Transit Development Plan and incorporates JMU's enrollment growth and new city development plans. The presentation highlighted ongoing challenges with driver shortages affecting service delivery and the need to extend service hours and improve frequency.

Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. Gatobu summarized the implementation strategy, which includes three phases:

- Short-term goals focus on extended hours trials, testing bidirectional service on one route, and increasing frequency on high-ridership routes.
- Mid-term plans include splitting the blue and purple lines, extending hours beyond Route 5, and adding weekend service for Routes 2, 3, and 4.
- Long-term objectives aim to implement 20-minute frequency across routes and include plans for 46 replacement vehicles, all within projected revenue constraints.

In closing, Mr. Gatobu said that a HDPT rebranding ceremony is scheduled for December 9.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- East Market Street bridge project is progressing with three major deck improvements planned after December 12.
- Route 33 mountain project to West Virginia is ahead of schedule, with most pavement and guardrails installed.
- Route 11 project past the fairgrounds is still in right-of-way negotiations, with some condemnations likely necessary.
- The Weyers Cave truck climbing lane project received several bids, with Branch Civil the lowest bid at \$61,385,000. Construction will likely begin in spring.
- Bucky's area development in Mount Crawford continues, and Partner's Excavation is widening the southbound ramps, and plans include a slip lane on northbound exit specifically for Bucky's access. The project will generate significant traffic with an estimated 20,000 trips. The southbound work will conclude before proceeding with northbound improvements.

DPRT

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following updates:

- New DRPT Director Tiffany Robinson started November 10.
- FY26 grant cycle applications open in WebGrants on December 1, and application workshop recordings and materials available upon request

City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gerald Gatobu provided the following updates:



- This spring, HDPT is preparing for spring semester operations, working on DRPT grant applications due February 1, and continuing to address ongoing driver shortage challenges.
- HDPT received \$500,000 for vehicle acquisitions, and the department is also exploring electric vehicle options for smaller vehicles.

Localities

Mount Crawford

Mr. Neal Dillard reported that the Sheetz project along Route 257 (Friedens Church Road) continues to progress.

Dayton

Mr. Brian Borne reported the Town is planning a pavilion, community facilities near the Town Hall, and a new recreation center.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Dent noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, at 2:00 p.m., and that the next Policy Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully,

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

Paula Melester, Director of Transportation

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO (HRMPO) Policy Board
FROM: Zach Beard, Program Manager
MEETING DATE: January 16, 2025
RE: **Board Action Form #25-01: HRMPO 2025 Safety Performance Targets**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Policy Board approve the 2025 Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) safety performance targets. The TAC recommended approval at the December 5, 2025 TAC meeting.

BACKGROUND

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 annual safety percentage targets for reducing the number and rate of fatalities and serious injuries. The HRMPO must concur with VDOT's safety targets or set MPO-specific targets by February 28, 2025.

STATEWIDE TARGETS

Approved Targets

In July 2024, the CTB approved OIPI's proposed methodology and statewide targets for calendar year 2025. 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, non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT)*. **Table 1** summarizes the CTB's 2025 statewide safety targets.

Table 1: 2025 Approved CTB Statewide Safety Targets

Safety Measure	Statewide Safety Targets
Number of Fatalities	819
Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT	0.894
Number of Serious Injuries	6,829
Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT	7.457
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	619

The CTB established no change for the percentage reduction in statewide fatal, serious, and non-motorized injuries, which is the first time that the CTB set percentages that did not project an increase in any category based on five-year averages, with the exception of total statewide VMT, which is projected to increase by 2.4%.

HRMPO TARGETS AND CRASH TRENDS

The HRMPO began setting safety targets in 2018 based on Virginia DMV data provided by OIPI. Until 2020, the number of fatalities, serious injuries, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries in the MPO were below the targets; however, motorized fatalities and serious injuries have been increasing in the region since 2021.

The MPO recorded 7 fatalities in 2021, which for the first time since 2018 exceeded the annual safety target of 4 fatalities. However, unofficial data from January 1 through October 31, 2024, indicates that the HRMPO had only 1 fatality, which is less than the annual target of 6 fatalities.

While fatal and severe injury crashes have been exceeding safety targets, five-year data trends demonstrate that pedestrian and bicycle fatality and severe injuries are not increasing, with only two non-motorized fatalities occurring in 2023.

Table 2: Safety Targets and Actual Numbers, 2021 – 2024

	2021 Target	2021 Actual	2022 Target	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2024 Actual	2025 Target
Fatalities	4	7	4	11	4	8*	6	1**	7
Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT	1.05	1.05	0.59	1.43	0.63	NA	.93	NA	1.013
Serious Injuries	41	50	37	58	38	51	47	44**	51
Rate Serious Injury Per 100 Million VMT	6.18	10.50	6.121	7.53	5.58	NA	7.17	NA	7.232
Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	6	5 (0 fatal)	6	6 (0 fatal)	6	6* (2 fatal)	6	3** (0 fatal)	6

*Unofficial data from VDOT PowerBI

**Unofficial data from VDOT Power BI from January 1 through September 30, 2024

NEXT STEPS

Upon Policy Board approval, HRMPO Staff will send a concurrence letter to VDOT by the February 28, 2025 deadline.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Draft VDOT Safety Targets Letter](#)
- [CTB OIPI Safety Performance Targets Presentation, June 2024](#)
- [CTB Safety Performance Targets Resolution, July 2024](#)



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO (HRMPO) Policy Board
FROM: Paula Melester, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: January 16, 2025
RE: **Board Memo #25-01: FY26 FTA 5310 Pleasant View Application for Capital Assistance**

BACKGROUND

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 and requires organizations to notify MPOs of grant requests.

In the HRMPO there is one non-profit applying for FY26 FTA 5310 capital assistance. Pending project award, the HRMPO will incorporate the project in the FY24 - 27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). FTA 5310 applications do not require a financial commitment from the MPO.

PLEASANT VIEW APPLICATION

Pleasant View is requesting a replacement minivan with ramp and a raised roof van with lift to replace two vehicles used for transporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the organization's residential programs.

DRPT and the provider are requesting that the MPO include the 5310 project in the SAWMPO FY24-27 TIP if the application is funded. Staff will adjust the TIP as necessary pending project award in spring 2025.

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO (HRMPO) Policy Board
FROM: Garreth Bartholomew, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: January 16, 2025
RE: **Board Memo #25-02: Port Republic Road – Peach Grove – Neff Avenue
Small Area Study Update**

BACKGROUND

The FY25 HRMPO Small Area Study at Port Republic Road/Peach Grove Avenue/Neff Avenue is addressing current and future operational and safety issues at the Port Republic Road and Peach Grove Avenue/Neff Avenue intersection and surrounding area, with a particular focus on addressing future transportation issues related to future residential development in the study area.

The study group includes representatives from the HRMPO, the City of Harrisonburg, HDPT, Rockingham County, JMU, VDOT, law enforcement, and the consultant VHB. The study group held a kick-off meeting on October 11, 2024 and an existing conditions analysis meeting on December 17, 2024. The study group will proceed with forecasting traffic conditions through 2045 and intersection improvement proposals before the next study group meeting in late February and a public meeting on March 6. The study is scheduled to be complete in May 2025.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

VHB completed comprehensive data collection including in-field multimodal counts and speed studies, and a safety analysis. Key findings include 148 total crashes (2019-2023) within a five-year period, with 56% involving young drivers (15-21 years old) and four pedestrian crashes. The most significant crash pattern involved 22 crashes at the southbound left turn along Port Republic Road, with 14 crashes occurring at night.

VHB's on-site data collection for travel speed, traffic volume, and multi-modal travel in the study area shows that recorded speed levels on Peach Grove Avenue exceeded the 25 MPH speed limit and averaged 35-38 MPH. Additionally, there is significant congestions along the eastbound Peach Grove approach to Port Republic Road, which operates at Level of Service (LOS) F during the PM peak travel time. VHB 12-hour pedestrian and bicycle counts totaled 17 on-road bicycles and 62 crossing pedestrians. Additionally, Strava heat maps show higher pedestrian activity on the north side sidewalks of both Peach Grove and Neff Avenue.

VHB also highlighted that there has been a significant increase in transit ridership from 2023 – 2024 in the corridor, specifically along Devon Lane.

NEXT STEPS

Concept Development in February

The study team is developing a future traffic forecast methodology to forecast traffic to account for approved development projects and potential remaining development capacity through 2045. The study team will focus on finalizing future conditions analysis using the agreed-upon sensitivity testing methodology and a detailed no-build operations assessment for 2045 conditions. The study

group will then develop and evaluate potential safety and multimodal improvement concepts, with particular emphasis on addressing high-crash movements. These improvement concepts will be evaluated and refined at the next Study Group Meeting in late February 2024.

Public Meeting in March

HRMPO staff coordinated with City of Harrisonburg staff and JMU staff on October 25 and November 19, 2024 on gathering public input in the study area. MPO staff are developing a public survey to gather input on multimodal travel patterns, safety concerns, and improvement preferences. The first public meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2025, at Stone Spring Elementary School from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT

[HRMPO FY25 Port Republic Road – Peach Grove – Neff Avenue Study Scope of Work](#)

