

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Minutes April 17, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

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

	Voting Members		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	✓	Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	✓	Zach Beard
	Nasser Alsaadun		Robert Taylor, Mt. Crawford		
	Ande Banks	✓	Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford		Others
	Rockingham County		Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓*	Kim Sandum, Shen. Alliance
✓	Sallie Wolfe-Garrison	✓	Adam Campbell, VDOT	✓*	Shane McCabe, VDOT
✓	Casey Armstrong	✓	Don Komara, VDOT		
	Town of Bridgewater	✓	Jeremy Mason, VDOT		
	Jay Litten	✓	Gary Corder, Dayton		
	Town of Dayton		Non-Voting Members		
✓	Brian Borne		Kevin Jones, FHWA		
	Town of Mt. Crawford		Rusty Harrington, Aviation		
	Neal Dillard	✓*	Grace Stankus, DRPT		
	VDOT		Bill Yates, JMU		
	Todd Stevens		Valerie Kramer, JMU		

*Indicates virtual attendance

Call to Order

The April 17, 2025, 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.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Dent presented the minutes from the March 20, 2025, Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Dany Fleming moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Casey Armstrong. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

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

HRMPO Draft FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Release for Public Comment and Conditional Approval (Board Action Form #25-03)

Mr. Zach Beard presented the draft FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for release for public comment and conditional approval. Mr. Beard reminded the Board that the UPWP is the annual work program and budget that details the upcoming fiscal year budget and work activities through administration and public engagement, long-range planning, short-range planning, local assistance, and transit planning assistance.

Mr. Beard noted that staff provided an overview of the budget at the February Board meeting and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that the Board approve the document at the April TAC meeting. Mr. Beard presented a budget comparison between FY 2025 and FY 2026, noting that the FTA 5303 carryover amount was an estimate that would likely not fluctuate significantly once the final number was received. For the upcoming fiscal year, Mr. Beard explained that work would focus on the current small area study, updating the travel demand model, and starting new small area study with Rockingham County.

Mr. Beard informed the Board that between the mail out and the meeting, input was received from the FTA requesting the inclusion of Federal Highways' nationwide transportation planning goals in the document. These goals cover general topics such as safety, congestion, economic development, and environmental issues. Mr. Beard confirmed that these federal goals align with and complement the MPO's existing goals, and that the updated version would be included in the document released for public comment.

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the release of the draft FY 2026 UPWP for a 21-day public comment period and to conditionally approve the document pending no public comments, including the additional Federal Highways' nationwide transportation planning goals; seconded by Ms. Libby Clark. The motion carried unanimously.

FY2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments Release for Public Comment and Conditional Approval (Board Action Form #25-04)

Mr. Beard presented three proposed amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for release for public comment and conditional approval. The three amendments presented were:

- An adjustment to reflect more accurate HDPT FTA 5307 operating expenses through FY 2024-2027
- Moving transit Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) funds from FY 2027 to FY 2026 and increasing the overall fund amount
- Adjusting HDPT transit replacement buses to reflect recent price changes for FY 2026, less than \$50,000

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the public release of the three amendments to the FY 2024-2027 TIP for a 21-day public comment period and to approve the amendments pending no public comments; seconded by Mr. Armstrong. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Officers Nominating Committee (Board Memo #25-04)

Ms. Paula Melester explained that the current chair and vice chair terms expire on June 30, 2025. According to the HRMPO Bylaws, as a result, the Board must form a nominating committee to recommend individuals for the two officer positions, which begin new terms on July 1, 2025. Ms. Melester added that according to the Bylaws the nominating committee should be comprised of at least three voting or non-voting Board members.

Chairperson Dent appointed Mr. Fleming, Ms. Sallie Wolfe-Garrison, and Ms. Clark for the nominating committee. Ms. Melester clarified that the nominating committee would need to communicate between the April and May meetings to determine nominations for chair and vice chair positions. Ms. Melester confirmed that the Bylaws outline that the chair and vice chair positions must be appointed from different localities and must be elected officials from the City of Harrisonburg and from either Rockingham County or one of the three towns.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Adam Campbell provided the following updates:

- The Spring Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) meeting will be held on May 15 at 4:00 p.m. at Blue Ridge Community College's Plecker Center
- The draft FY 2026 SYIP is available on the public-facing SYIP website
- The Smart Portal is open for pre-applications for both Transportation Alternatives and VDOT Revenue Sharing programs, with pre-applications due by May 30 and final applications due in August and September
- VDOT has begun an update to the I-81 Improvement Program study to identify the next phase of projects under the I-81 program, and the study will examine the same performance measures as previously: crash frequency and severity, crash severity rate, total delay, and incident delay for one-mile segments along the entire I-81 corridor; the study is expected to be complete by the end of the year

Mr. Don Komara provided additional updates:

- The I-81 project through Weyers Cave is progressing, with shoulder widening completed and barriers to be installed soon; the speed limit has been reduced to 60 mph through the construction zone
- The bridge work in Harrisonburg is expected to be complete by late fall to spring next year, with plans to widen underneath afterward
- A bridge dedication for a Vietnam veteran is scheduled in Broadway for April 30
- A new TAP sidewalk project in Timberville near the town office has been completed

- Work Zone Safety Week is the week of April 21 and Mr. Komara and urged caution when driving through construction areas

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following updates:

- DRPT released the draft FY 2026 SYIP with recommended rail and transit projects, which is available on DRPT's open data portal
- DRPT representatives will be at the May 15 SYIP meeting with VDOT to field questions and comments on transit and rail projects
- Registration is open for the Virginia Transit Association's Annual Conference and Expo in Richmond on May 28-29

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gerald Gatobu announced that HDPT will be extending service hours beginning May 18 primarily for City routes 1-6 from the current end time of 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Locality Updates

Rockingham County

Mr. Casey Armstrong and Mr. Komara mentioned ongoing discussions regarding the intersection at Cross Keys and Route 33, with plans to limit left-hand turn movements out of Rockingham Park onto Route 33 eastbound. Traffic exiting the park toward Elkton would instead need to turn right toward Harrisonburg and use the next intersection or exit through the rear entrance and use Indian Trail Road to the intersection with a traffic light.

Town of Dayton

Mr. Brian Borne reported that Gary Corder is the Town's new Community and Economic Development Director. Mr. Corder was appointed as the primary representative for TAC and the alternate for the Policy Board. Additionally, signs and pollinator gardens for the Silver Lake Nature Trail have been installed, with a celebration planned for June 26.

Town of Bridgewater

Mr. Alex Wilmer mentioned that the Town is planning to submit at least one pre-application for the Transportation Alternatives program.

Town of Mt. Crawford

Ms. Clark reported that a new traffic light will be operational in about two weeks at the new Sheetz location on Friedens Church Road.

City of Harrisonburg

Mr. Campbell noted that the City installed new flex post delineators on South Main Street at Pointe Drive to create a temporary condition allowing a left-turn acceleration lane for northbound traffic.

Other Business

Ms. Melester discussed the scheduling conflict between the regularly scheduled May HRMPO Policy Board meeting and the May 15 SYIP meeting at Blue Ridge Community College. Ms. Melester recommended rescheduling the May Policy Board meeting to May 22 at 3:00 p.m. After discussion of members' availability, the Board agreed to meet on May 22 at 3:00 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Dent announced that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., and that the next Policy Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully,



Paula Melester, Director of Transportation

