

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting Agenda
July 17, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted virtually

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of the May 22, 2025, Policy Board Meeting*
3. Public Comment
4. SAWMPO Internal Process Review (Board Memo #25-05)
5. Shenandoah Rail Trail Update – Brad Reed, Staunton District Planning, VDOT
6. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. HDPT
 - d. Localities
7. Other Business
8. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. August 7, 2025 – HRMPO TAC Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
 - b. August 21, 2025 – HRMPO Policy Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
9. Adjournment

* Action needed

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Minutes May 22, 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	✓	Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg	✓	Zach Beard
✓*	Nasser Alsaadun	✓	Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	✓	Kayla Dixon
	Ande Banks		Robert Taylor, Mt. Crawford		
		✓*	Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford		Others
	Rockingham County	✓	Gary Corder, Dayton	✓*	Shane McCabe, VDOT
	Sallie Wolfe-Garrison		Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓*	Chuck Conrad, VHB
✓	Casey Armstrong	✓	Adam Campbell, VDOT		
	Town of Bridgewater	✓	Don Komara, VDOT		
	Jay Litten	✓	Burgess Lindsay		
		✓	Jeremy Mason, VDOT		
	Town of Dayton		Non-Voting Members		
✓	Brian Borne		Kevin Jones, FHWA		
	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 May 22, 2025, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Neal Dillard. The regularly scheduled meeting was scheduled for May 15; however, the May meeting was rescheduled for May 22 to accommodate MPO members attending the May 15 VDOT Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairperson Dillard presented the minutes from the April 17, 2025, Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Dany Fleming moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Cheryl Spain. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Vice Chair Dillard opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

HRMPO Policy Board Election of Officers (Board Action Form #25-05)

Ms. Paula Melester reported that the current chair and vice chair terms expire on June 30, 2025, requiring election of new officers for terms beginning July 1, 2025. The nominating committee met and put forth nominations of Mayor Dillard as chair and Council member Dent as vice chair. Mr. Fleming noted that Laura Dent was thanked for her service as chair and willingness to continue as vice chair, but was unavailable for the meeting. The three-member nominating committee unanimously agreed on the slate of officers.

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the election of officers as recommended; seconded by Mr. Casy Armstrong. The motion carried unanimously.

FY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Release for Public Comment and Administrative Modification (Board Action Form #25-06)

Mr. Zach Beard presented a TIP amendment requesting Board approval for release for a 21-day public comment period and conditional approval pending no public comments. The amendment includes one VDOT-requested modification for the I-81 northbound and southbound three-lane widening project from mile markers 242 to 248 in Rockingham County, which releases new funds for each phase of the project in FY 25. The total project cost is \$301 million. Mr. Adam Campbell noted the project is ready for FHWA authorization of the construction phase and needs updated numbers for expenditures in the next four years.

Mr. Beard also reported one DRPT administrative modification for Section 5310 human services funding for Pleasant View, adding \$172,000 of new funding for their transit-related expenses under three different allocations for FY 25. This modification also changes contribution for matching funds by human service providers.

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

Presentation: Port Republic Road, Neff Avenue, and Peach Grove Avenue Small Area Study Recommendations

Mr. Chuck Conran from VHB presented the final recommendations from the nine-month Port Republic Road small area study conducted in coordination with the city, county, VDOT, and other partners. The study focused on the Port Republic, Peach Grove, and Neff Avenue intersection with four additional study intersections in the vicinity.

Mr. Conran explained the study goals included holistic transportation planning for the next 20 years of growth, analyzing existing and future transportation constraints rather than relying on individual traffic studies, and informing updates to regional planning documents. The study area was selected due to its

placement on the statewide needs list for pedestrian, bicycle, and safety improvements, representing some of the highest-ranked locations within the VDOT Staunton district.

Study Data and Analysis

The study documented significant development growth in the area, including approximately 800 residential units and a 100-room hotel. Traffic data collection included intersection counts and 48-hour volume and speed data. A speed study of Peach Grove Avenue showed average speeds of 31 mph with 85th percentile speeds of 37 mph, compared to the posted 25 mph limit. The study team decided to maintain the 25 mph posted speed limit due to Stone Spring Elementary School presence, unbuffered bike lanes, and limited sight distance at several intersections.

Crash analysis revealed approximately 150 crashes over five years, with about one-third being rear-end collisions, one-third angle crashes, one-third occurring at night, and about two-thirds involving young drivers aged 15-21. At the Port Republic/Peach Grove/Neff Avenue intersection, 22 crashes occurred between northbound Port Republic through vehicles and southbound left turns onto Neff Avenue, with 14 of those occurring at night.

Future Projections and Operational Analysis

Using a 2045 horizon year, the study projected 2% annual growth on Port Republic south of the Neff/Peach Grove intersection and on Peach Grove, with 0.75% annually north of the intersection. The Port Republic/Peach Grove/Neff Avenue intersection is projected to deteriorate from Level of Service D to Level of Service F, with three major movements averaging more than 100 seconds of delay per vehicle. Neff Avenue queuing would extend back about 2,000 feet, and southbound Port Republic queuing would extend past shopping center driveway accesses.

Study Recommendations

Mr. Conran presented study recommendations and a preferred alternative for Smart Scale funding consideration:

Study Recommendations (not seeking near-term Smart Scale funding):

- Shared use paths on Neff Avenue (from Port Republic Road to Arboretum Crosswalk) and Peach Grove Avenue (from Stone Spring Elementary to Port Republic Road)
- Expanding the north of Devon Lane bike lane to two-way bike traffic
- Two pedestrian crossings with pedestrian hybrid beacons at Deer Run and Wine Drive/Portland Drive
- Speed management techniques on Peach Grove Avenue using raised medians and pedestrian refuge islands

Preferred Alternative (for Smart Scale Round 7 submittal in summer 2026):

- Shared use path on Port Republic Road between Devon Lane and Peach Grove/Neff Avenue intersection
- Devon Lane intersection improvements: widening the approach to add a second left turn lane and removing channelized right turn

- Port Republic/Peach Grove/Neff Avenue intersection expansion: widening southbound Port Republic to add second left turn lane, extending right turn lane on Neff Avenue, and extending eastbound left turn lane on Peach Grove Avenue

The preferred alternative includes truncating the existing two-way left turn lane south of Devon Lane to provide more width around existing retaining walls and removing one non-structural retaining wall. The planning-level cost estimate is \$12.1 million in 2025 dollars, escalating to approximately \$16-17 million with inflation.

Mr. Conran noted that public engagement showed strong support for the concepts, with shared use paths receiving 91-93% support, the Devon Lane improvements receiving 81% support, and the expanded intersection receiving 87% support.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Adam Campbell provided the following updates:

- Vine Street Small Area Study: Completed future conditions and alternatives stakeholder meeting in April with follow-up meetings scheduled with city staff. Another round of public outreach is planned for later this summer.
- Route 42 Project Pipeline Study: Analyzing Route 42 from Gay Street north to city limits for safety, operational, and multimodal improvements. An online survey received 783 participants; two in-person meetings held with 40-50 attendees at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community and 20-30 at City Hall.
- Transportation Alternatives and Revenue Sharing pre-applications are due May 30.
- The I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan update held an online survey in April and plans first round in-person meetings for mid-summer.
- The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) voted to adopt the consensus scenario for Smart Scale. In the Staunton District, the consensus scenario differed from the staff-recommended scenario by removing the Waynesboro Transit Access project (\$2.6 million) and replacing it with a project in Frederick County (\$8 million) for a reduced conflict intersection on US 50. \$2.7 million remains in the district fund and will be carried over into the district reserve to help cover cost increases on other projects.

Mr. Don Komara provided additional updates:

- Memorial Day weekend expected to be highest travel weekend with 4% increase anticipated over last year.
- I-81 widening project south of Harrisonburg progressing with Jersey barriers installed; 60 mph speed limit enforced through construction zone.
- I-81 improvements from Exit 225 to 221 through Staunton making good progress with significant earthwork and bridge widening.
- Route 33 bridge over East Market Street in Harrisonburg making progress with demolition of final section with completion anticipated in the summer.

- Route 33 mountain project to West Virginia continuing with curve softening work, and the project is expected to be complete in June.
- Route 11 four-lane project by fairgrounds continuing with signal installation at Island Ford intersection.
- The CTB will meet in the Staunton District in July in Winchester at the George Washington Hotel.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following updates:

- DRPT is sponsoring a National Transit Institute public involvement in transportation decision-making course July 8-10 at Reynolds Community College in Richmond. The course is eligible for reimbursement through 5303, RTAP, and small urban training funds
- Reminder that 5303 applications are due June 2.
- Revised master agreement must be sent to DRPT no later than June 20.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Ms. Cheryl Spain provided the following update:

- HDPT has extended service hours through August 16.
- The HDPT microtransit service began on May 19. Ridership data showed zero riders the first day, 12 riders the second day, and four riders on the third day. The service is app-based and operates within a single zone, with some limitations when passengers want to travel outside the designated zone to locations like Food Max.

Locality Updates

Town of Bridgewater

The Town reported no updates.

Town of Dayton

The Town reported no updates.

City of Harrisonburg

Mr. Tom Hartman provided the following updates:

- Reservoir Street and Erickson Avenue/East Market Street traffic signal upgrade from span wire to mast arm: contractor in third week of foundation drilling, project awarded last July with June 30th completion deadline.
- Annual paving program ongoing throughout the city, with some delays due to water line breaks requiring repaving.
- South Main Street south of South Avenue: completing repairs with deep milling, sub-base reestablishment, and geogrid installation.



- University Boulevard extension through JMU: awarded to Partners Excavating at \$2 million under estimate with two bidders; construction signs expected end of June with heavy work in July and work concluding by 2026.
- Country Club Road sidewalk project between Mobile Home Park and Linda Lane: two competitive bids received, with one bid \$80,000 under the estimate.
- Safe Streets for All grant: working through multiple rounds of agreement changes with FHWA to create transportation safety action plan, pedestrian plan update, complete streets guide, and safe routes to school plan.
- Safe routes to school program: over 200 kids participated in bike/walk/roll to school day last week

Town of Mount Crawford

Vice Chair Dillard noted that the signal at the Sheetz on Friedens Church Road is working well.

Rockingham County

The County reported no updates.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Upcoming Meetings

Vice Chair Dillard noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. The regularly scheduled June Policy Board meeting conflicts with the Juneteenth holiday and is cancelled. The next Policy Board meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paula Melester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Melester, Director of Transportation

A small, faint handwritten signature or mark, possibly initials, located at the bottom center of the page.

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board
FROM: Paula Melester
MEETING DATE: July 17, 2025
RE: **Board Memo #25-05: HRMPO Internal Process Review**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HRMPO staff will be conducting a comprehensive internal review of long- and short-range MPO processes from July to December 2025 to better serve MPO members and streamline transportation planning efforts. The internal review will include updates to core governing documents - the Bylaws, Title VI Plan, and Public Participation Plan - along with individual meetings with each locality and agency to better understand local, regional, and state transportation needs and priorities.

BACKGROUND

In response to the multiple, multi-year planning considerations, staff identified the need for a comprehensive internal review of MPO long- and short-range transportation planning functions and processes in the first half of FY26 from July to December 2025 to strengthen the MPO's ability to support regional transportation priorities. The review will include:

- *Updating core MPO documents.* Staff will update the MPO's Bylaws, Title VI Plan, and Public Participation Plan (PPP) to reflect current federal, state, and local requirements and priorities, rewrite the documents in clear, plain language, and ensure content is consistent across each document.
- *Meeting with MPO members.* Staff will schedule individual meetings with each MPO locality and agency to discuss how MPO long- and short-range planning processes can best align with state, regional, and local transportation priorities while meeting federal requirements, and how the MPO can best facilitate transportation planning efforts that maximize the time and capacity of each MPO member.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS UPDATE

The internal review will include comprehensive updates to three core MPO documents:

HRMPO Bylaws

The Bylaws were last amended in 2008 to revise and extend officer terms from one year to two years. The upcoming review will assess the current governance structure and procedures to ensure they support effective MPO operations and include updated language for virtual meetings.

Title VI Plan

The Title VI Plan was last amended in 2021 to address VDOT's triennial review findings, including updates to Title VI Certifications and Assurances and revisions to Discrimination Complaint Procedures to ensure compliance with FHWA requirements. The upcoming update will ensure continued compliance with federal nondiscrimination regulations.

Public Participation Plan (PPP)

The PPP was last amended in 2019 to emphasize compliance with federal nondiscrimination regulations, specifically regarding environmental justice and limited English proficiency populations. This update will include inclusion of public participation practices that meet federal and state requirements but also consider best practices for engagement in a small-urban and rural region like ours.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will schedule meetings with MPO member localities and agencies to gather input on needs and priorities and begin updating the Bylaws, Title VI Plan, and PPP. The MPO will develop a timeline for document updates and process improvements and will provide regular updates to the TAC and the Policy Board on progress to strengthen the HRMPO's effectiveness and better serve the region's transportation planning needs.
