

**Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
August 7, 2025, 2:00 p.m.**

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

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of the June 5, 2025, Meeting*
3. Public Comment
4. FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification (TAC Memo #25-06)
5. Resolution of Support for Transportation Alternative Program Application (TAC Action Form #25-05)*
6. Approval of Travel Demand Model Transportation Analysis Zone Demographic Data (TAC Action Form #25-06)*
7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. HDPT
 - d. Localities
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. August 21, 2025 - HRMPO Policy Board Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
 - b. September 4, 2025 - HRMPO TAC Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjourn

* Action needed

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Minutes June 5, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting conducted virtually via Zoom

	City of Harrisonburg		VDOT		Staff
✓	Tom Hartman, Chair	✓	Adam Campbell	✓*	Paula Melester
	Kyle Lawrence	✓	Don Komara	✓	Garreth Bartholomew
✓	Thanh Dang	✓	Jeremy Mason	✓	Zach Beard
✓	Cheryl Spain	✓*	Shane McCabe		Others
	Jakob zumFelde		DPRT	✓	Kim Sandum
	James Polhamus	✓*	Grace Stankus	✓	Julia Cottrell
	Rockingham County				
✓	Rachel Salatin		Non-Voting Members		
	Dylan Nicely, Vice Chair		Kevin Jones, FHWA		
	Town of Bridgewater		Chelsea Beytas, FTA		
✓	Alex Wilmer		Bill Yates, JMU		
	Town of Dayton		Rusty Harrington, Aviation		
✓	Gary Corder	✓	Valerie Kramer, JMU		
	Town of Mt. Crawford				
	Bobby Taylor				

***Virtual attendance**

Call to Order

The June 5, 2025, meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tom Hartman. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, HRMPO TAC members may participate in meetings through electronic communication means. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Minutes

Chairperson Tom Hartman presented the minutes from the April 3, 2025, TAC meeting. Staff noted two corrections needed: adding James Polhamus to the attendance list and correcting the meeting chair notation to reflect that Vice Chair Dylan Nicely chaired the April meeting in Mr. Hartman's absence.

Ms. Rachel Salatin motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Cheryl Spain. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

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

HRMPO TAC Election of Officers (TAC Action Form #25-04)

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew presented the need to elect a new chair and vice chair for the TAC, as stated in the action form. The current chair, Tom Hartman, and vice chair, Dylan Nicely, are eligible for reelection and have offered to continue in their roles. Mr. Bartholomew noted that even though Mr. Nicely was not present, he had communicated his willingness to continue serving as vice chair for the next two-year term.

The new term would begin July 1, 2025, and end June 30, 2027. Mr. Komara noted the balance maintained between city and county representation, with the Policy Board having county chair and city vice chair, while the TAC maintains city chair and county vice chair.

Mr. Don Komara nominated Tom Hartman for Chair and Dylan Nicely for Vice Chair, in absentia, for the two-year term; seconded by Ms. Rachel Salatin. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) VDOT Amendment Released for Public Comment (TAC Memo #25-04)

Mr. Beard reported that staff recommended at the May Policy Board meeting to approve the release of a VDOT amendment to the FY 2024-2027 TIP for a 21-day public comment period. The amendment concerns the \$301 million I-81 northbound and southbound 3-lane widening project from Exit 243 on the southern end of Harrisonburg leading to Exit 251 just south of Broadway High School to Exit 247 near the Route 33 East Market Street bridge.

This amendment releases new funds for each phase of the project in FY25, as VDOT indicated they would submit to FHWA for authorization of the construction phase. Mr. Beard noted the current \$301 million estimate represents a decrease from previous estimates of \$350-375 million. No action was needed from the TAC as the amendment was already approved at the Policy Board meeting. The amendment will be finalized on June 17, 2025, assuming no public comments are received.

HRMPO Internal Process Review (TAC Memo #25-05)

Mr. Beard provided an overview of a six-month internal process review that staff will conduct to evaluate the MPO's role in serving federal, state, and local partners and to identify opportunities for streamlining processes. The review comes after approximately one year since the transportation team was formalized with Paula Melester as Director of Transportation and expanded responsibilities for both HRMPO and SAWMPO.

The review is prompted by several factors including the conclusion of major planning efforts (Port Republic Road study for HRMPO and long-range transportation plan update for SAWMPO), changing federal funding landscape, shifting state priorities reflected in recent SMART SCALE methodology changes, and the need to balance federal and state requirements with local needs.

Mr. Bartholomew detailed three key deliverables for the review:

- **Bylaws Update:** Last updated in 2008, the bylaws need modernization to address virtual meeting procedures, quorum establishment, and alternates. Staff will examine best practices from other MPOs to ensure current operations align with standards.
- **Title VI Review:** Required on a triennial basis, this review will ensure continued compliance with federal regulations and incorporate any findings from VDOT's review and input from localities.
- **Public Participation Plan Update:** Last updated in 2019 pre-COVID, the plan needs revision to reflect current public engagement practices and lessons learned from recent planning processes.

Staff noted that they will schedule individual meetings with each locality and agency over the coming weeks to discuss transportation priorities and how the MPO can best support local planning efforts. Mr. Beard emphasized this review is not an indictment of current operations but rather an effort to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Adam Campbell provided updates on several ongoing initiatives:

- The Vine Street STARS Study held its future conditions and preliminary alternatives stakeholder meeting in late April. The consultant has been refining alternatives, and a meeting with city staff is being scheduled before the next round of public input later this summer, with a final stakeholder meeting planned for fall.
- The Route 42 Pipeline Study conducted initial public outreach examining safety and operations from Gay Street to the northern city limits. The public survey received 783 responses. The next stakeholder meeting for preliminary screening of alternatives is scheduled for July.
- At the May CTB meeting, members approved the consensus SMART SCALE scenario for the FY26 Six-Year Improvement Program. The Stanton District retains six projects after CTB members elected to drop a \$2.6 million transit improvement project in Waynesboro in favor of an \$8 million safety project at a US 50 intersection in Frederick County. Approximately \$2.7 million remains in the District Grant Program for potential project overages.
- The I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan update is underway with Kimley Horn examining the next phase of approximately \$2 billion in improvements. In-person public meetings are scheduled for next month with two meetings planned for the Stanton District.

Mr. Don Komara began his updates with emphasizing the importance of beginning preparations now for revenue sharing and TAP applications that will open in two years, noting the need to build support and gather information early. He also stressed thinking ahead for the next SMART SCALE round and encouraged localities wanting to add economic development sites to begin coordination now.

Mr. Komara provided updates on construction projects including the Route 33 project's progress toward reopening with the railroad bridge work scheduled for June 16, allowing return to two lanes in each direction. He noted upcoming complications with the northbound to eastbound movements requiring use of a temporary spur. The Route 11 four-laning project continues right-of-way negotiations, the I-81 six-laning in Stanton is progressing well with all bridges under construction, and work has begun at Weyers Cave.

He highlighted workforce concerns with multiple major projects underway, totaling nearly half a billion dollars in the Rockingham-Augusta County area including \$110 million in Stanton, \$70 million at Weyers Cave, and \$300 million for the I-81 widening. Other maintenance activities include mowing operations challenged by recent rain and grass growth, grading gravel roadways, and storm damage repairs. The annual truck rodeo is scheduled for next week, where Stanton District has won the trophy for most event wins for the past four or five years.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Ms. Grace Stankus reported that DRPT is hosting two in-person training courses with the National Transit Institute, both free of charge with travel expenses eligible for reimbursement. The courses are "Public Involvement in Transportation Decision Making" July 8-10 at Reynolds Community College in Richmond, and "State and Metropolitan Transportation Planning" September 15-16 at Plan RVA headquarters in Richmond.

City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Ms. Cheryl Spain reported that microtransit ridership has increased as more people become aware of the service. HDPT is currently hiring and planning to add routes back for the fall schedule.

Localities

Town of Dayton

Mr. Gary Corder introduced himself as the new Community and Economic Development Director hired in April, taking over from Brian Borne as the HRMPO TAC contact. He announced the Silver Lake Nature Trail walking path is complete with a celebration planned for June 26 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Silver Lake Mill featuring educational sites and native gardens.

Town of Bridgewater

Mr. Wilmer noted no updates.

James Madison University

Ms. Valerie Kramer reported on the second year of the Duke's Ride campaign to encourage students to ride buses instead of driving. Despite distributing 2,000 welcome packets to apartment complexes with bus information, challenges remain with low ridership except for the Green Line. New tactics include reaching out to parents to emphasize the free service and inability to receive parking tickets while on the bus. HDPT has provided statistics to track ridership trends.

Rockingham County

Ms. Rachel Salatin, representing Dylan Nicely, reported the county submitted three revenue sharing pre-applications in partnership with VDOT. She introduced Julia Cottrell, the county's new planner who may attend future TAC meetings.

City of Harrisonburg

Chair Hartman reported the University Boulevard project kicked off with a pre-construction meeting, with preliminary work beginning in June and ramping up when students return. The Port Republic Road projects are expected to go to construction next summer, creating a two-year construction zone from Bluestone to Devon Lane that may encourage bus ridership.

The Country Club Road sidewalk project was awarded to A&M Contracting as low bidder, coming in 10% under budget - the second consecutive project under budget after University Boulevard. Construction should begin by late June or early July. Paving continues throughout the city, though water line breaks following paving remain an ongoing challenge.

Chair Hartman also shared information about the North Mason Street demonstration project. He explained the city has been working with a Smart Growth America grant called Community Connectors to reconnect the northeast neighborhood to downtown, addressing urban renewal impacts. The project includes creating a small area plan for the northeast neighborhood and a demonstration project to transform North Mason Street. From July 7 through the month of July, the demonstration will remove southbound traffic from southbound lanes, creating two-way traffic in the northbound lanes. Temporary roundabouts will be installed at Gay Street (large) and Elizabeth Street (mini) using parking blocks, with all changes marked by temporary tape and flex posts. A community event on Saturday, July 12 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. will activate the vacant southbound lanes with touch-a-truck, artists, food trucks, and recreational activities including basketball and futsal. The project will monitor traffic volumes, speeds, and pedestrian activity to assess whether reducing the five-lane crossing barrier improves connectivity between neighborhoods. Chair Hartman emphasized the city reserves the right to make immediate adjustments if safety issues arise. Public feedback will be collected through surveys following the demonstration.

Other Business

Mr. Bartholomew reminded members to review the final draft of the Port Republic Road study report and provide comments by the end of next week.

Mr. Campbell announced the July CTB meeting will be held in the Staunton District, likely in Winchester given that two of the three area representatives reside there. Discussion followed about the benefits of having the CTB see local projects and potentially visiting area attractions during their stay.

Upcoming Meetings

The next HRMPO TAC meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

The next HRMPO Policy Board meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Zach Beard, Program Manager

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Zach Beard, Program Manager
MEETING DATE: August 7, 2025
RE: **TAC Memo #25-06: FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modifications for ARA0001 and PLV0001**

BACKGROUND

The HRMPO FY 24-27 TIP documents all transportation and transit projects receiving federal funding or deemed “regionally significant,” and HRMPO staff adjust the document throughout the year to reflect updated projects and funding changes. Amendments are more substantial changes requiring public notice and Board approval. Administrative modifications are smaller document changes made by HRMPO staff not requiring Board approval or public notice.

ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS

DPRT requested HRMPO staff adjust FY25 funding amounts related to paratransit vehicles for human service transportation providers ARC of Harrisonburg/Rockingham for STIP ID ARA0001 and Pleasant View for STIP ID PLV0001. The adjustments are on page 33 of the TIP document and are shown in the tables below in the FY25 columns.

Table 1: PLV0001

	Previous Funding	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Total FY 2024 - 2027	
STIP ID	PLV0001	Title: Paratransit vehicles		Recipient	Pleasant View, Inc		
FTA 5310	88	134	62		138	FTA 5310	334
State	-	-	-		17	State	17
Local	22	33	15		17	Local	65
Total	110	167	77		172	Total	416
Description	This modification adds funding amounts for FY2025 that were not previously included to align with DRPT's FY24 – 27 TIP update. Previously, no funding was identified for FY 2025.						

Table 2: ARA0001

	Previous Funding	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Total FY 2024-2027	
STIP ID:	ARA0001	Title: Paratransit Vehicles		Recipient	ARC of Harrisonburg/Rockingham		
FTA 5310	240	480	124			FTA 5310	604
State	-	-	-			State	-
Local	60	120	31			Local	151
Total	300	600	155			Total	755
Description	This modification adds funding amounts for FY2025 that were not previously included to align with DRPT's FY24 – 27 TIP update. Previously, no funding was identified for FY 2025.						

NEXT STEPS

No TAC action is needed. Staff posted the modified document on the HRMPO website.

ATTACHMENT

FY24-27 TIP Amendment and Administrative Modification Appendices

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Garreth Bartholomew, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: August 7, 2025
RE: **TAC Action Form #25-05: Resolution of Support for FY27
Transportation Alternative Program Applications**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the HRMPO Policy Board endorse the Resolutions of Support for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) projects within the MPO.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TAP applications for projects within the HRMPO area require a resolution of support from the Policy Board. The TAP application window will open August 15, 2025, and applicants have until September 15, 2025, to submit the resolutions with their final applications.

CITY OF HARRISONBURG

Safe Routes to School Program

This project will continue funding for a full-time Safe Routes to School Coordinator position within the City's Public Works Department, serving all 10 public schools in Harrisonburg. The SRTS Coordinator will lead citywide programming and outreach initiatives to encourage and increase active transportation among students, promoting safe walking and biking to school. Working directly from Public Works, the coordinator will expand partnerships and collaboration between city departments, Harrisonburg City Public Schools staff and teachers, and other local stakeholders.

REFERENCE

[Resolution of Support for Harrisonburg SRTS Program](#)

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Garreth Bartholomew, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: August 7, 2025
RE: **TAC Action Form #25-06: Approval of Travel Demand Model
Transportation Analysis Zone Demographic Data**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the TAC review the presented Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) level demographic distributions and recommend conditional approval to the Policy Board, pending any changes and modifications that localities may have to the TAZ allocations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2024, the VDOT Transportation Mobility and Planning Division (TMPD) requested the HRMPO to update the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Travel Demand Model (TDM) base year from 2015 to 2022. The process began in Fall 2024 and is expected to conclude Spring 2026. Following the Policy Board's approval of the 2022 base year total demographics for the TDM update, the HRMPO TDM study group has distributed these demographics across 349 Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) with 65 demographic categories. Staff are requesting TAC review and recommend for conditional approval of these TAZ-level allocations to the Policy Board.

BACKGROUND

The HRMPO 2045 LRTP was approved by the Policy Board in May 2023 and utilized a TDM to estimate future traffic generation over a 25-year period. The TDM 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.

As a result of a VDOT TMPD request, the HRMPO kicked off the TDM update process in Fall 2024 with the baseline HRMPO-wide demographic review to identify high priority demographics including total population, total number of households, and total employment. The HRMPO TAC previously reviewed and the Policy Board previously approved the 2022 base year total demographic values for the TDM update at the November 2024 Policy Board meeting. The next phase requires distributing these regional totals across the MPO's 349 Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) to enable accurate traffic modeling at the local level. This distribution is critical for the model's ability to predict traffic patterns and support transportation planning decisions.

TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS ZONE DEMOGRAPHICS

TAZs are small, geographic areas used in transportation planning models to analyze travel patterns and forecast future transportation needs. TAZs serve as the basic unit of analysis for estimating trip generation, distribution, and assignment within the model. The updated model expands from 263 TAZs to 349 TAZs with 86 new TAZs compared to the previous 2015 model, reflecting growth and development changes creating a need for greater finetuning of these geographic zones throughout the region.

While the TDM modelers have generated 65 demographic categories for finetuning the model with simulations, the key review of the TAZ demographics are on four core priority demographic categories for each TAZ based on 2022 estimates: total population, household population, households, and total employment, along with 10 other high priority categories including educational enrollment, zero car households, and retail and food service worker populations, among others. These core demographics form the foundation for trip generation calculations and for accurate traffic forecasting. The 2022 base year numbers will serve as the starting point for projecting TAZ demographic data through the 2050 planning horizon, enabling the model to forecast future transportation needs and evaluate and simulate potential infrastructure improvements.

NEXT STEPS

Upon TAC recommendation, staff will work with localities to incorporate any necessary modifications and present the TAZ distributions to the Policy Board for approval. Once approved, the HRMPO TDM study group will finalize TAZ demographics for integration into the TDM update and MPO staff will continue coordination with VDOT on the model update process to ensure adherence to the Spring 2026 completion timeline.

REFERENCE

[HRMPO TAZ Demographic Map](#)
[HRMPO TAZ Attribute Spreadsheet](#)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG'S SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) is the designated regional transportation planning organization, and has the responsibility for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a resolution be received from the Metropolitan Planning Organization endorsing the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) establishing a project in the City of Harrisonburg; and

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg intends to submit a Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) application to establish a project for the funding of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program for the City of Harrisonburg

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the HRMPO Policy Board does hereby endorse the City of Harrisonburg's SRTS Program Project application to compete for state and federal funding under the FY 2027 Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Neal Dillard, Vice Chair
Harrisonburg-Rockingham
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Ann Cundy, Administrator
Harrisonburg-Rockingham
Metropolitan Planning Organization