

**Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting Agenda
March 19, 2026, 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 February 19, 2026, Policy Board Meeting*
 3. Public Comment
 4. Public Participation Plan Update Approval (Board Action Form #26-07)*
 5. Title VI Update Summary and Release for Public Comment (Board Action Form #26-08)*
 6. Smart Scale Round 7 Pre-application Update – MPO Staff
 7. Agency Updates
 - VDOT
 - DRPT
 - HDPT
 - Localities
 8. Other Business
 9. Upcoming Meetings
 - April 2, 2026 – Technical Advisory Committee Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
 - April 16, 2026 – Policy Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
 10. Adjournment
- * Action Required

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Minutes February 19, 2026, 3:00 p.m. Meeting conducted virtually via MS Teams

	Voting Members		Alternates		Staff
	City of Harrisonburg	✓*	Dylan Nicely, Rockingham	✓*	Ann Cundy
✓*	Laura Dent, Vice 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		
			Gary Corder, Dayton		Others
	Rockingham County		Jeff Lineberry, VDOT	✓*	Kim Sandum, Shen Valley Alliance
✓*	Sallie Wolfe-Garrison	✓*	Adam Campbell, VDOT	✓*	Kyle Lawrence, SVBC
	Casey Armstrong	✓*	Don Komara, VDOT	✓*	Brad Reed, VDOT
	Town of Bridgewater	✓*	Jeremy Mason, VDOT		
	Jay Litten				
	Town of Dayton		Non-Voting Members		
✓*	Brian Borne		Rusty Harrington, Aviation		
	Town of Mt. Crawford		Grace Stankus, DRPT		
✓*	Dennis Driver		Bill Yates, JMU		
	VDOT	✓*	Valerie Kramer, JMU		
	Joel DeNunzio	✓*	Shane McCabe		

*Indicates virtual attendance

Call to Order

The February 19, 2026, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Dennis Driver.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Driver presented the minutes from the January 22, 2026, Policy Board meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Brian Borne; seconded by Mr. Gerald Gatobu. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chair Driver opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Kim Sandum with the Alliance of the Shenandoah Valley asked whether a redline version of the updated Public Participation Plan (PPP) was

available, noting that the website currently shows the existing plan, the draft plan, and a comparison table. Ms. Paula Melester responded that a redline document was not produced. Extensive formatting changes between the two versions made a one-to-one sentence comparison impractical. Staff produced a summary table capturing the major changes and noted that no further redline document is available. Ms. Sandum thanked staff for the response.

Approval of Travel Demand Model 2050 Projections (Board Action Form #26-05)

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew presented the 2050 demographic projections for the HRMPO Travel Demand Model update for Board approval. This is the final step before the modeling team can complete calibration, validation, and release of the updated model.

Background and Process

The model update began in fall 2024. As part of the update, Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) were expanded from approximately 250 to 349, providing finer-grained analysis units than a census block. Staff received updated projections for 2050 in January 2026 and held individual coordination meetings with City staff (public works, community development, and economic development) and County staff (planning, GIS, and economic development), and coordinated with the towns. Staff maintained a corrections tracker to incorporate changes in development, employment sector projections, and TAZ boundaries relative to the previous 2015 model.

Key Adjustments

Population: Rockingham County's growth rate was revised upward to 1.25% per year based on county input projecting higher growth within the HRMPO area. Route 42 corridor TAZs were reviewed and updated. The distribution of zero-vehicle households was revised to more logically place that growth primarily in the City rather than the County.

Employment: Retail employment projections were revised to reflect limited growth in the City and stronger growth in the County, incorporating recently opened destinations such as Buc-ee's and a new Kroger.

Education: K-12 and private school TAZ location corrections were made. University growth rates were individualized to reflect differences in market demand across JMU, Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), and Bridgewater College. Parking TAZ locations were also adjusted.

Summary of 2050 Projections

HRMPO area : The HRMPO area is projected to grow at 0.84% annually, reaching approximately 110,000 residents by 2050. Household unit growth is outpacing total population growth, consistent with approved development activity. Employment is growing at approximately the same rate as population. University enrollment growth is primarily driven by JMU. Automobile growth is projected at approximately the same rate as population growth.

City of Harrisonburg: Population growth is projected at 0.57% annually. Household unit growth exceeds population growth. On-campus student housing is assumed to remain primarily within the City; off-

campus student housing growth is projected at 80% in the County and 20% in the City. Automobile growth is projected slightly below population growth to account for increased multimodal transportation use.

Rockingham County: Population growth is projected at 1.25% annually, concentrated in the Stone Spring UDA and US 11 corridor. Retail growth is driven by the Exit 240 corridor and US 33 area. Bridgewater College enrollment is projected to remain flat. Off-campus student housing in the County is projected to nearly double from its 2022 level to over 4,000 units by 2050. Automobile growth is projected near one-to-one with population.

Staff completed 65 demographic categories for each of the 349 TAZs with assistance from locality staff. Board approval allows the modeling team to complete calibration and validation. The updated model is expected to be released to the Board and locality staff by April 2026.

A motion to approve the Travel Demand Model 2050 Projections was made by Vice Chair Laura Dent; seconded by Mr. Borne. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter of Support for DRPT Technical Assistance Grant (Board Action Form #26-06)

Ms. Melester presented a request for the Board’s formal approval of a letter of support for an FY27 DRPT Technical Assistance Grant application. The letter is required because the MPO proposes to use a portion of its Section 5303 transit planning funds as local match if the grant is awarded.

Background

CSPDC, on behalf of the HRMPO, is seeking DRPT funding to develop a transit service plan for a portion of Rockingham County. The proposed plan builds on a 2024 feasibility study conducted by DRPT and Rockingham County, which found that microtransit operating in small, well-defined zones within higher-density areas would be the most viable model for any county transit service. The area in and around Bridgewater, Dayton, and Mount Crawford meets the population threshold and was identified as a feasible location for a pilot project.

The transit service plan would address key unanswered questions remaining from the feasibility study, including long-term service costs, management structure, and funding mechanisms capable of sustaining service beyond an initial one- to two-year demonstration period. Because the potential service area touches four of the five MPO jurisdictions, CSPDC believes it is well-positioned to lead this planning effort. The plan would be carried out through the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) using a consultant and a TAC working group.

Ms. Melester clarified that approving the letter of support does not commit any locality to implementing transit service. No funding beyond the Section 5303 transit planning funds already programmed in the MPO's budget is required.

Project Cost and Match

Total project cost is \$50,000. If awarded, DRPT would provide 50% (\$25,000); the MPO would contribute approximately \$23,000 from existing 5303 transit planning funds; and CSPDC would cover the remaining local match. The full UPWP will be presented to the Board for review and approval in April/May 2026.

A motion to approve the letter of support for the DRPT Technical Assistance Grant was made by Mr. Borne; seconded by Ms. Sallie Wolfe-Garrison. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation: Central Shenandoah Bike-Walk Summit – Kyle Lawrence, Executive Director, Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition

Mr. Kyle Lawrence, Executive Director of the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC), presented an overview of the fall 2025 Central Shenandoah Bike-Walk Summit. The HRMPO has supported the summit since its inception in 2013. The 2025 summit was the first year the event expanded to include the full Central Shenandoah Valley. The summit was held at Liberty Street Loft in downtown Harrisonburg and drew approximately 80 participants, including citizens and local government staff. The event was facilitated by Dr. Lori Britt and students from JMU's Institute for Constructive Advocacy and Dialogue (ICAD), with small group breakout sessions as a core component.

The three standing goals of the summit are to increase awareness of active transportation infrastructure, share best practices from comparable Virginia regions, and develop actionable local strategies. This year's theme focused on active transportation, placemaking, and public health. Keynote speaker Dr. Miller, a consultant with the Virginia Department of Public Health and the Virginia Walkability Action Institute, presented examples from rural communities including Vermont and highlighted research on the Swamp Rabbit Trail (Prisma Health Trail) in Greenville, SC, where a health system study documented healthcare cost savings attributable to high trail activity.

Local projects featured at the summit included:

- North Mason Street in Harrisonburg
- Shenandoah Rail Trail from Broadway to Front Royal
- Three Notch Trail from Richmond to Charlottesville
- Rockfish Gateway Trail from Waynesboro to the Crozet Tunnel

Board Discussion

Vice Chair Dent noted the value of temporary pilot projects, referencing the North Mason Street demonstration project and inquired about whether the project would be submitted to Smart Scale. Mr. Lawrence confirmed that the City of Harrisonburg led the North Mason Street demonstration in partnership with community groups. Mr. Lawrence noted that a public input meeting for the ongoing HRMPO North Mason Street Study is scheduled for February 24 at Lucy Simms Community Center from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

2026 Meeting Content Poll and Discussion

Mr. Beard presented an online poll conducted via Mentimeter to identify which presentation topics Policy Board members would find most valuable for the 2026 meeting year. Mr. Beard noted that when staff met with locality staff to discuss MPO process improvements, staff expressed interest in more presentations from outside presenters to balance routine administrative agenda items. Staff presented the same poll to the HRMPO TAC.

Eight presentation topics were offered for ranking:

- DRPT transit and funding program updates
- Emergency safety operations on I-81
- Updating Google Maps/Waze (roadway data in online mapping platforms)
- Truck parking in the Valley
- Economic development and transportation
- MPO on-call consultant program
- Innovative intersections
- Federal and state transportation updates

Policy Board results ranked economic development and transportation first, consistent with results from the HRMPO TAC. Emergency safety operations on I-81 ranked second among both the HRMPO TAC and Policy Board. Truck parking ranked last for both the HRMPO TAC and Policy Board. Staff will use these rankings to prioritize presentations throughout the year. Board members were encouraged to submit additional topic ideas to staff by email.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- I-81 Staunton widening (MP 221-225, Weyers Cave): The project is approximately 60% complete and progressing well. Camera speed enforcement is being implemented on the project. A bridge deck repair requiring a lane closure is scheduled for the evening of February 19; the project is expected to reopen the following morning.
- I-81 Weyers Cave widening: The project is approximately 35% complete. Significant earthwork is ongoing.
- I-81 Harrisonburg widening: Triton Construction was selected as the low bidder at \$218 million. A pre-construction conference is being scheduled for March 2026. The project runs from the truck stop south of Route 33 to just north of Route 33 and is a six- to seven-year contract. It includes nine bridges and a new roundabout at Pleasant Valley Road connecting the Walker's and Pleasant Valley School entrances to Route 11. Survey work is expected to begin in spring 2026. Median barriers and traffic shifts are anticipated by winter 2026–2027. Photo speed enforcement will be implemented during construction.
- Route 33 East Market Street bridge project: The final deck pour on the railroad bridge was completed the morning of February 19. Ramps are expected to reopen by the afternoon of

February 20. Remaining work includes railings on the railroad bridge. A traffic switch is planned for approximately late March, after which crews will begin construction on the shared-use path between MLK Way and Linda Lane. Project completion is targeted for late August 2026.

- Route 11 four-lane fairgrounds project: Advertisement is targeted for spring 2026 (March–April). Letters were sent to property owners who had not reached agreement with VDOT after approximately six years of negotiation.
- Route 11 sidewalk (Mount Clinton Pike): Bids are expected to be opened by end of February 2026. The project will install a sidewalk on the west (cemetery) side of Route 11 from the city limits at Mount Clinton Pike to the trailer park, improving pedestrian safety for a high-use corridor.
- Winter weather response: VDOT managed an 8–10 inch snowfall event followed by 3–4 inches of sleet. Primary routes and interstates were maintained throughout. Some secondary routes experienced compaction. Mr. Komara noted that sleet, unlike freezing rain, did not cause significant tree or power line damage. Chair Driver commended VDOT on behalf of the Town of Mount Crawford for their response, noting the community experienced no significant complaints.
- Pothole season: VDOT is entering the seasonal pothole patching period as freeze-thaw cycles increase. The public is encouraged to report pothole locations to VDOT.

Mr. Adam Campbell provided the following updates:

- Smart Scale Round 7: The pre-application training webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, from 2:00–4:00 PM. The pre-application window opens March 2. Training sessions are recorded and available at smartscale.virginia.gov. VDOT staff are actively coordinating with city, county, and MPO applicants on the upcoming pre-application submissions.
- VDOT pothole notification app: VDOT recently launched a new web-based pothole notification application to make it easier for the public to report pothole locations.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following update:

- FY27 grant applications closed February 1. Application review and scoring is underway. The draft FY27 funding scenario is expected to be released in mid-April.
- FY27 Section 5303 transit planning application is open until May 1. FTA apportionments are not yet available; MPOs are encouraged to use prior-year dollar amounts when drafting UPWPs for DRPT review.
- 2026 Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan: DRPT released its updated plan identifying transportation needs, gaps, and opportunities for seniors and individuals with disabilities under the FTA 5310 program. The final plan is available on the DRPT website.
- Staffing: DRPT welcomed two new leaders. Mariia Zimmerman joined as DRPT Director with over 30 years of transportation experience. Allan Fye joined as Chief Deputy Director, coming from the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gerald Gatobu provided the following update:

- HDPT implemented a new intelligent transportation system for paratransit operations through vendor Via, replacing the previous system.

Locality Updates

The Town of Mount Crawford

Chair Driver provided the following update:

- Chair Driver recognized VDOT for its response to the recent winter storm. Chair Driver noted that Mount Crawford experienced no significant complaints following the event despite the severity of conditions.

Other Business

Ms. Melester reported that the February 18, 2026, SAWMPO Policy Board meeting included a legislative update from David Blount (Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission and VAPDC) on bills of interest from the current Virginia General Assembly session. Mr. Blount was unable to attend the HRMPO meeting due to legislative commitments in Richmond. Ms. Melester summarized the following:

- Several transit bills that would have provided additional or new funding mechanisms for transit did not advance past crossover. They are expected to be reintroduced in a future session.
- At least one transportation-related bill did advance to the other chamber: a bill directing VDOT to conduct vulnerable roadway user assessments.

Ms. Melester will distribute Mr. Blount's legislative summary document to the Board by email. Board members were directed to contact Ms. Melester with any questions.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Driver noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., and the next Policy Board meeting is March 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in-person.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully,



Paula Melester, Director of Transportation

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TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board
FROM: Zach Beard, Program Manager
MEETING DATE: March 19, 2026
RE: **Board Action Form #26-07: HRMPO Public Participation Plan (PPP)
Approval**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Policy Board approve the Public Participation Plan.

BACKGROUND

Federal regulation [23 CFR 450.316](#) requires that the HRMPO maintain a Public Participation Plan (PPP) that documents how the MPO engages with the public in metropolitan transportation planning activities. The PPP establishes the HRMPO's responsibilities, goals, and strategies for public involvement, including how the public is notified of MPO meetings and activities and updates to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

As part of an internal review of MPO policies and procedures, staff found that the current PPP should be updated to reflect current best practices and align with other peer MPOs in the state. The current PPP includes unrealistic accessibility request timeframes for individuals with disabilities and language barriers, restrictive public-information request and public notice requirements, and unnecessary technical jargon and content. The 2026 draft PPP is a comprehensive rewrite that makes procedures more straightforward and consolidates content while maintaining an emphasis on ensuring MPO information is accessible to all members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Policy Board reviewed the proposed draft changes and approved releasing the PPP update for a 45-day public period at the January 22 Board meeting. The public comment period concluded on March 12, and as of the date of this mailout, staff received no public comments.

NEXT STEPS

Pending Policy Board approval, MPO staff will begin implementing the new PPP requirements immediately.

ATTACHMENTS

- [HRMPO Public Participation Plan 2026 Draft Content Changes Summary Tables](#)
- [HRMPO Public Participation Plan 2026 Draft](#)
- [HRMPO Public Participation Plan 2019](#)

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board
FROM: Paula Melester, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: March 19, 2026
RE: **Board Action Form #26-08: CSPDC Title VI Plan Release for Public Comment**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is requesting that the Policy Board approve releasing the updated Title VI Plan for a 14-day public comment period.

BACKGROUND

The current [HRMPO Title VI Plan](#) describes how the organization ensures nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in its planning processes, public participation activities, consultant contracting, and distribution of federal funds, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The CSPDC administers and staffs the CSPDC's rural transportation program, HRMPO, and SAWMPO, and currently maintains separate Title VI Plans for each program. All three plans are subject to State review every three years. Following the most recent review period, the CSPDC determined that an agency-wide combined Title VI plan could address federal Title VI requirements for each program.

The HRMPO Title VI elements are now addressed within a single Title VI Plan with parallel requirements for the HRMPO and CSPDC programs. The HRMPO's Title VI existing obligations, including public participation requirements and demographic review, remain the same in the new plan. Staff will provide an overview of the new Title VI Plan at the Policy Board meeting.

COMPLIANCE REVIEW

In January 2026, VDOT conducted a HRMPO Title VI compliance review and issued a letter of findings identifying required changes to the HRMPO Title VI Plan. Though the plan was not out of compliance during the review period, the identified corrections must be made by April 20, 2026. Failure to complete the corrections could result in suspension or termination of the MPO's federal funding assistance.

The letter of findings includes two recommendations related to recent federal Executive Orders. The first is the removal of all references to Executive Order 12898, including the term "environmental justice," from the plan. The second is the removal of all references to Executive order 13166, including the term "Limited English Proficiency (LEP)." It should be noted that the underlying requirement to ensure non-discrimination on the basis of language access remains law under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, independent of the rescinded Executive Order.

NEXT STEPS

Pending release of the Title VI document update for a 14-day public comment period, the Board will consider approving the document at the April 16 Board meeting. The Title VI Plan will then be

presented to the CSPDC Commission Board meeting on April 20. Staff will then send the updated document to VDOT.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Current HRMPO Title VI Plan](#)
- [VDOT Letter of Findings](#)

