

**Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting Agenda
April 16, 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 March 19, 2026, Policy Board Meeting*
3. Public Comment
4. Title VI Plan Approval (Board Action Form #26-09)*
5. FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Release for Public Comment and Conditional Approval (Board Action Form #26-10)
6. FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Release for Public Comment (Board Action Form #26-11)
7. Agency Updates
 - VDOT
 - DRPT
 - HDPT
 - Localities
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - May 7, 2026 – Technical Advisory Committee Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
 - May 21, 2026 – Policy Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
10. Adjournment

* Action Required

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Minutes March 19, 2026, 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, 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, Shenandoah Valley Alliance
✓	Sallie Wolfe-Garrison	✓	Adam Campbell, VDOT	✓*	Russ Martin
	Casey Armstrong	✓	Don Komara, 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, Chair		Bill Yates, JMU		
	VDOT	✓*	Valerie Kramer, JMU		
	Joel DeNunzio	✓*	Shane McCabe		

*Indicates virtual attendance

Call to Order

The March 19, 2026, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Dennis Driver.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Driver presented the minutes from the February 19, Policy Board meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Dany Fleming; seconded by Ms. Sallie Wolfe-Garrison. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

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

Public Participation Plan Update Approval (Board Action Form #26-07)

Ms. Paula Melester presented the updated Public Participation Plan (PPP) for Board approval. At the January 2026 meeting, the Board approved releasing the updated PPP for the federally required 45-day public comment period. The HRMPO received three comments, and Ms. Melester reviewed each comment and explained the staff recommendation for each comment.

First, a commenter requested that the requirement to publish public notice for the LRTP in a newspaper be maintained as a minimum requirement. Staff recommended adding this requirement back into the PPP and Ms. Melester noted that the HRMPO had intended to continue newspaper publication for the LRTP by practice regardless of whether it was explicitly required. Second, a commenter requested that newspaper publication also be required for the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Staff recommended against this change. The UPWP is largely administratively mandated by federal agencies, and the discretionary content it contains such as small area planning studies is typically drawn from studies already vetted through the LRTP and other small area planning processes. Staff concluded that online-only publication is sufficient for the UPWP and preserves the Board's ability to publish in the newspaper on a case-by-case basis in the future if warranted.

Lastly, a commentor requested that public notices be made more accessible and prominent on the HRMPO website. Ms. Melester explained that staff is currently adding a dedicated public comment tab to the HRMPO website for public notices for the transition to a primarily digital format. Ms. Melester noted that all changes are consistent with the intent of the original PPP update.

A motion to approve the updated HRMPO Public Participation Plan was made by Mr. Fleming; seconded by Mr. Dylan Nicely. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

Title VI Update Summary and Release for Public Comment (Board Action Form #26-08)

Ms. Melester presented the Title VI Program and Implementation Plan update for Board review and requested approval to release the document for a 14-day public comment period. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. As a federally assisted planning organization, the HRMPO is required to maintain and periodically update a Title VI plan. VDOT's Civil Rights Office conducts a review of the HRMPO Title VI plan every three years on behalf of FHWA.

The current update is required in response to that recent review. While the HRMPO was found to be in compliance during the review period, two executive orders previously referenced in the plan were rescinded in early 2025 and must be removed to maintain ongoing compliance. Executive Order 12898 addressed environmental justice by requiring that particular attention be paid to ensuring that transportation planning did not produce disparate impacts on the health and well-being of marginalized and minority communities. Executive Order 13166 required special provisions to ensure equal access to documents, information, and participation in the planning process for individuals with limited English proficiency. FHWA has directed the HRMPO to remove references to both rescinded orders so the plan accurately reflects current federal policy.

Ms. Melester noted that the HRMPO’s commitment to equitable public engagement and non-discriminatory planning practices remains unchanged. Title VI itself independent of the executive orders continues to prohibit discrimination based on national origin, which includes language access. In place of the limited English proficiency terminology, FHWA and VDOT have directed use of the term “individuals with language access barriers.” Staff used this as an opportunity to strengthen the plan’s language access provisions by explicitly including sign language interpretation and Braille translation, in addition to services for individuals who speak languages other than English.

Ms. Melester also noted that this update consolidates three previously separate Title VI plans for the HRMPO, SAWMPO, and the CSPDC rural transportation program into a single document, consistent with direction from VDOT’s Civil Rights Office and the approach taken by peer MPOs and planning district commissions across Virginia. Once the HRMPO Policy Board and SAWMPO Policy Board each independently approve the plan, the CSPDC Board of Commissioners will take final action.

Ms. Melester explained that the Title VI approval process timeline is compressed due to receiving feedback from VDOT’s Civil Rights Office one week prior to the meeting, and the fully approved plan must be returned to VDOT by April 24. The document was not yet finalized for Board review at the time of the meeting. Staff requested that the Board vote to release the plan for a 14-day public comment period. Ms. Melester explained that the Board will be able to provide comments during the public comment period and that any Board member feedback will be considered for the final draft. Staff will then request that the Policy Board to formally adopt the plan at the April 2026 Policy Board meeting.

Board members expressed concern about approving release of a document they had not yet reviewed. Discussion resulted in an amended approach: staff agreed to send the completed draft to Board members by March 24. A note will be included in the released document indicating that public review is occurring concurrently with the Board's final review. Board members will have until April 1 to communicate any concerns to staff by email; if no objections are received by that date, staff will release the document for a public comment period. This timeline is the latest possible release date that still allows for adoption at the April 16 Policy Board meeting before the April 24 VDOT deadline.

A motion to approve the tentative release of the 2026 CSPDC Title VI Program and Plan for public comment, pending the Board's preliminary review and opportunity to provide written comments to staff by April 1 was made by Mr. Fleming; seconded by Ms. Wolfe-Garrison. The motion carried unanimously.

Smart Scale Round 7 Pre-Application Update

Mr. Zach Beard provided an update on Smart Scale Round 7 pre-applications in the HRMPO region. The pre-application window opened March 1 and closes April 1. The full application cycle runs from June through August 1, 2026. The pre-application requires only basic project information; full applications require complete project concepts, design cost estimates, and resolutions of support from the relevant governing bodies. Each MPO and locality may submit up to five pre-applications, with a limit of four applications in the final round. The HRMPO is submitting three pre-applications on behalf of the City of Harrisonburg:

- *Vine Street Corridor Safety Improvements*: This application reflects the preferred alternative of the Vine Street STARS Study. The project will construct a single lane roundabout at Washington



Street, and add left turn lanes on Old Furnace Road at Vine Street. At the Washington Street roundabout, the bicycle lanes on Vine Street will have ramps to the adjacent sidewalks to provide routing options and continuity. The project will construct segments of sidewalk along Vine Street which will result in continuous pedestrian infrastructure along the corridor.

- *Route 42 Corridor Improvements:* This application reflects the preferred alternative of the Virginia Avenue Project Pipeline Study. The project will make multiple safety upgrades along the Route 42 corridor from Gay Street to the City and County line. The project will install approximately 50 feet of median along Route 42 at the existing intersection with 5th street and convert the intersection to a right in/right out. In addition, the project will install 300 feet of median along Route 42 from just north of the VMRC entrance to just south of Acorn Drive. The project will also install median along Mt. Clinton Pike just west of the signalized Virginia Avenue intersection. At Edom Road and at Mount Clinton Pike intersections the project will address intersection issues through striping and lane reassignments.
- *Port Republic Road/Peach Grove Avenue/Neff Avenue Area Improvements:* This application is based on an MPO study completed in 2025. The primary improvements include widening Port Republic Road at the Port Republic/Neff/Peach Grove intersection to add left turn lanes for the southbound approach, extending the right turn lane on Neff Avenue, and constructing a shared use path on the north side of Port Republic Road from Peach Grove Avenue west. Staff noted this corridor includes the area's single highest-frequency traffic accident location.

Of the three pre-applications, the Port Republic/Peach Grove/Neff Avenue study is complete and deliverables are ready for submission. The Vine Street STARS Study and Route 42 Pipeline Study are still being finalized. Staff confirmed that completed sketches and scopes will be available before the Smart Scale deadline and will be presented to the Board when resolutions of support are requested.

Board members also discussed Rockingham County's Smart Scale pre-applications. Mr. Don Komara provided additional context on several county projects being submitted:

- A double left turn lane at the Stone Spring Road/Reservoir intersection near the hospital to address accidents caused by driver confusion with flashing yellow signals at that location.
- A double left turn lane at the Route 33/Massanutten intersection to address where traffic backs into the travel lane during peak hours.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Adam Campbell provided the following update:

- *FY27 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) Update:* VDOT is actively preparing the FY27 SYIP update, which incorporates revenue sharing and transportation alternative applications submitted in the fall. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is expected to receive a presentation on the draft SYIP at its April meeting. Spring SYIP meeting dates are expected to be confirmed by the end of March or early April.

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- Route 33 East Market Street Bridge Project: The project remains on track for completion in August 2026. Triton Construction is the contractor and is progressing on schedule and on budget.
- Route 11 Sidewalk Project (Mt. Clinton Pike): Bids were opened for the sidewalk installation on the west side of Route 11 from the cemetery north to the mobile home park. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2026. The project includes a bridge widening component. Some lane closures are expected during construction, but the road will not be fully closed.
- I-81 Staunton Widening Project (Exits 221–225): The project is approximately 60% complete. Effective April 1, speed enforcement radar cameras will be activated in the work zone.
- I-81 Weyers Cave Widening Project: The project is approximately 35% complete. Completion is expected in late fall 2027.
- I-81 Harrisonburg Widening Project: A pre-construction meeting was held. Triton Construction with a low bid at \$218 million is ready to begin work. The roundabout at Pleasant Valley School and the entrance at Walker is targeted for completion in May 2027. Significant construction activity at the broader project level is not anticipated until approximately January 2027. Mr. Komara noted that once the Staunton project is complete and Weyers Cave finishes in late 2027, Harrisonburg will be the remaining active I-81 project in the region.
- Route 11 Four-Lane Fairgrounds Project: Right-of-way negotiations are resolved. Construction is scheduled to begin construction in April 2026, with work continuing through the summer.
- Winter Maintenance: VDOT's gravel road network experienced significant wear this season due to repeated freeze-thaw cycles, heavy farm equipment activity, and manure hauling. Crews are actively patching and grading.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Ms. Grace Stankus reported that DRPT had no updates to share at this meeting and noted she was available for any questions from the Board.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

Mr. Gerald Gatobu provided the following updates:

- Via Paratransit Software: HDPT is transitioning to a new paratransit scheduling and booking platform called Via. The system allows riders with disabilities to book paratransit trips via a mobile app, in addition to by phone. The system is expected to be fully operational by the end of March 2026.
- New Intelligent Transportation System (ITS): HDPT is implementing a new ITS that includes Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) tracking. A new public-facing app will accompany the system. HDPT is coordinating with JMU to ensure the application is fully operational and that incoming students are informed prior to the fall 2026 semester.
- Stone Spring/Reservoir Intersection: Mr. Gatobu noted that significant traffic growth at the Stone Spring Road/Reservoir intersection affects HDPT operations. Bus Routes 2 and 6 both serve the hospital area; Route 2 travels through the Stone Spring/Reservoir intersection. The

intersection experiences substantially higher volumes than in prior years due to surrounding development.

Locality Updates

Harrisonburg

Mr. Fleming provided the following update:

- City officials traveled to Washington, DC the prior week for a municipal lobby day. Harrisonburg representatives participated in meetings on infrastructure-focused committees. The City supported the Bridges and Safe Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS Act), a bipartisan federal infrastructure bill currently moving through Congress.
- A bipartisan housing policy focused on directing funding to cities and counties and addressing rural housing needs received 89 Senate votes in support.
- VDOT's Smart Scale program is drawing national attention at the federal level, with USDOT examining it as a potential model for competitive grant distribution.

Rockingham County

The County provided no updates.

Town of Bridgewater

The Town provided no updates.

Town of Dayton

The Town provided no updates.

The Town of Mount Crawford

Chair Driver provided the following update:

- VDOT crews recently visited Mount Crawford to evaluate an entrance condition at a local dealership.

Other Business

Ms. Melester thanked the Board for its patience throughout the recent process of reviewing and updating the HRMPO's foundational governing documents and policies. Ms. Melester noted that process is nearing completion and that the April 16 Policy Board agenda is expected to include the following items:

- Final adoption of the 2026 CSPDC Title VI Program and Plan
- The FY2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update.
- The draft FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Ms. Melester noted that staff is still awaiting final federal transit apportionment figures and has built the draft budget using current-year amounts as a placeholder. An amendment may be necessary once final apportionment figures are available.



Upcoming Meetings

Chair Driver noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., and the next Policy Board meeting is April 16, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Both meetings will be all-virtual via Teams.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully,

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

Paula Melester, Director of Transportation

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board
FROM: Paula Melester, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: April 16, 2026
RE: **Board Action Form #26-09: CSPDC Title VI Plan Approval**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff request that the Policy Board approve the CSPDC Title VI Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Policy Board approved releasing the updated CSPDC Title VI Plan for a 14-day public comment period at the March 18 Board meeting. Staff shared the entire draft document with Board members by email on March 24 and requested Board comments by March 31. Staff posted the Plan for public comment on April 1 and also notified VDOT of the public comment release on April 2. Staff have not received any public comments at the time of this mailout.

PLAN SUMMARY

Title VI plans are subject to State review every three years. The updated CSPDC Title VI Plan covers the CSPDC's Rural Transportation Program, HRMPO, and SAWMPO under a single consolidated document, replacing the separate Title VI Plans previously maintained for each program. HRMPO's existing Title VI obligations, including public participation requirements and demographic review, remain unchanged in the new plan.

The plan has been updated to remove references to two rescinded Executive Orders (EO 12898 and EO 13166) as required by the VDOT letter of findings. The language access section has been reframed to reflect the underlying non-discrimination requirement under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, independent of the rescinded Executive Orders, consistent with guidance from VDOT at the 2025 VAMPO Peer Exchange.

NEXT STEPS

After Policy Board approval, the CSPDC Board will consider adopting the plan at the April 20 CSPDC meeting. Staff will submit the approved plan to VDOT to meet the April 29 submission deadline.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Draft 2026 CSPDC Title VI Plan](#)
- [Current HRMPO Title VI Plan](#)
- [VDOT Letter of Findings](#)

TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board
FROM: Zach Beard, Program Manager
MEETING DATE: April 16, 2026
RE: **Board Action Form #26-10: FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Release for Public Comment and Conditional Approval**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff request that the Policy Board release the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for a 14-day public comment period and conditionally approve the document pending no substantive public comments.

BACKGROUND

The HRMPO TIP documents all transportation and transit projects receiving federal transportation funding, requiring federal action, or designated “regionally significant” if a project impacts arterial roadways. Federal regulations require that the HRMPO update the MPO TIP every four years. The current FY24-27 TIP concludes on September 30 and the HRMPO must approve a new FY27-30 TIP by April 30. The FY27-30 TIP will take effect on October 1. The TAC reviewed the TIP projects at the April 2 TAC meeting and recommended that the Board release the document for public comment.

VDOT provides funding information for highway projects, and BRITE and DRPT provide funding information for transit projects. Under Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Titles 23 and 49, all federally funded highway and transit projects and programs in the MPO region must not only be listed in the HRMPO TIP, but also in the Statewide TIP (STIP). The HRMPO must maintain the TIP to comply with federal regulations. Non-compliance may jeopardize funding for projects receiving federal funding in the HRMPO region.

FY27-30 TIP Document Formatting Revision

As part of an internal review of MPO policies and procedures, staff revised the FY27-30 TIP format to address readability and versioning problems that developed under the previous format. Because the TIP is a living document requiring continuous amendment to reflect changes to project funding, scope, or phasing, the prior single-document approach resulted in individual projects appearing multiple times with conflicting figures, making it difficult to identify current information and increasingly hard to navigate.

To address this issue, staff restructured the FY27-30 TIP by separating the document into three components. The first component is a narrative document containing all required federal and state language, including performance-based planning compliance. This narrative will remain static throughout the TIP cycle. The second and third components are standalone appendices for highway and transit projects. Each appendix will display only current project funding figures and will be updated as amendments or administrative modifications are approved; prior versions will be archived internally but not published.

All three components will be posted on the HRMPO website under the Short Range Planning tab. Together, they constitute the FY27-30 TIP. This structure allows users to quickly access current project information and allows staff to update funding figures without republishing the full narrative.

NEXT STEPS

Staff request that the Board release the FY27-30 TIP for a 14-day public comment period and conditionally approve the document pending no substantive public comments. Staff will then submit the approved document after the 14-day public comment period to VDOT by April 30 and post the document on the HRMPO website.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Draft FY27-30 TIP Full Document](#)
- [Draft FY27-30 TIP Appendix A: Highway Projects](#)
- [Draft FY27-30 TIP Appendix B: Transit Projects](#)



TO: Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board
FROM: Paula Melester, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: April 16, 2026
RE: **Board Action Form #26-11: Draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Release for Public Comment**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff request that the Policy Board approve releasing the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for a 14-day public comment period.

BACKGROUND

The UPWP is the HRMPO’s annual work plan and budget. The document details the upcoming fiscal year administrative and planning activities, and the federal, state, and local budget funding. VDOT and DRPT provide the MPO with annual planning funding every spring. The HRMPO Policy Board must approve the FY27 UPWP by the end of the current fiscal year. The HRMPO TAC reviewed the draft FY27 budget and work activities and recommended that the Policy Board release the document for public comment at the April 2 TAC meeting.

Table 1 shows the draft FY27 budget by UPWP work activity. Note that the final FY27 FTA 5303 Carryover will be finalized later in the year once the current fiscal year is complete. The draft budget reflects a small increase compared to the draft presented to the April 2 TAC meeting. Following that meeting, staff received the final 5303 allocations from DRPT and have adjusted the budget accordingly. The 5303 carryover funds are still presented as an estimate.

Table 1. Draft HRMPO FY27 Budget

UPWP Work Activity	FHWA PL Funds	FTA 5303 Funds	Total Funds
1. Program Administration and Public Outreach	\$74,200	\$32,347	\$106,547
2. Long-Range Transportation Planning	\$52,500	\$22,500	\$75,000
3. Short-Range Transportation Planning	\$151,225	\$28,775	\$180,000
4. Local, State, and Federal Assistance	\$48,500	\$19,500	\$68,000
5. Transit Planning	\$0	\$64,000	\$64,000
6. Contingency	\$55,237	\$0	\$55,237
Total	\$381,662	\$167,122	\$548,784

FY26 work focused on developing the North Mason Street small area study for the City of Harrisonburg, updating the HRMPO Travel Demand Model (TDM), and conducting the MPO internal review process to update MPO procedures and core documents such as the Bylaws, Title VI Plan,

Public Participation Plan, and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). In FY27, MPO work will focus on developing a small area study in coordination with Rockingham County, comprehensive plan transportation support and multi-modal assessment for the Town of Dayton, sidewalk project development and grant application assistance for the Town of Mount Crawford, a region-wide sidewalk policy and ordinance analysis, and pending a grant award developing a transit service implementation plan for microtransit service in the urbanized portion of Rockingham County to include the towns of Bridgewater, Dayton, and Mt. Crawford.

NEXT STEPS

Staff request that the Policy Board release the Draft FY 2027 UPWP for public comment. Staff will present the final document at the June Policy Board meeting and request approval.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Draft FY27 UPWP](#)

