

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Minutes June 18, 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		Alex Wilmer, Bridgewater	✓*	Garreth Bartholomew
	Gerald Gatobu		Robert Taylor, Mt. Crawford	✓*	Zach Beard
	Nasser Alsaadun		Libby Clark, Mt. Crawford		
	Ande Banks	✓*	Gary Corder, Dayton		
			Jeff Lineberry, VDOT		Others
	Rockingham County	✓*	Adam Campbell, VDOT	✓*	Tom Hartman, Harrisonburg
✓*	Sallie Wolfe-Garrison	✓*	Don Komara, VDOT		
	Casey Armstrong	✓*	Jeff Nicely, VDOT		
	Town of Bridgewater				
✓*	Jay Litten				
	Town of Dayton		Non-Voting Members		
	Brian Borne		Stephen Smiley, 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 June 18, 2026, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) Policy Board all-virtual meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Dennis Driver. The meeting was conducted virtually via MS Teams.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Driver presented the minutes from the April 16, Policy Board meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Jay Litten; seconded by Mr. Joel DeNunzio. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

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

Presentation: HRMPO FY26 North Mason Street Study Summary, Chuck Conran, Senior Transportation Engineer - VHB

Mr. Chuck Conran, Senior Transportation Engineer with VHB, presented results of the HRMPO North Mason Street Study. The study followed a one-month demonstration project conducted by the City of Harrisonburg in July and August 2025 that temporarily reconfigured North Mason Street. VHB was engaged to conduct a permanent traffic study with two goals: identify the preferred corridor cross-section and determine appropriate intersection control at the five study intersections from Elizabeth Street to Main Street, with the ultimate objective of developing a Smart Scale Round 7 application.

An in-person public meeting in late February 2026 provided primary public engagement. The public strongly preferred the Open Space option, which consolidates vehicle traffic on the west side of the roadway in the existing southbound lanes and repurposes the northbound lanes as a shared-use path and open community space. The preferred alternative provides 36 feet of vehicular space with one travel lane in each direction with directional left-turn lane at intersections, and the east side is repurposed as a planting strip, a 10-foot shared-use path, and open space. Preferred intersection treatments are:

- *Elizabeth Street:* Signal retained; northbound left-turn lane added for public safety building access and rear-end crash reduction; southbound left-turn lane removed. Two southbound lanes retained at East Market Street for queue storage for the left turn toward I-81.
- *Wolfe Street:* Signal retained with left-turn lanes, reflecting strong public preference for signalized pedestrian crossings. A one-block on-street bike lane on Wolfe Street will connect the Federal Street shared-use path to the proposed Mason Street path.
- *Rock Street:* Two-way stop control retained with left-turn lanes added to minimize delay and rear-end crash risk and to support fire truck access.
- *Gay Street:* Existing signal replaced with a 110-foot single-lane roundabout, which received strong public support. Design coordinates with the City's separate Gay Street reconfiguration project. Nearby driveway modifications, including relocating the 7-Eleven driveway approximately 50 to 60 feet east, address safety spacing standards.
- *Main Street:* Signal removed; two-way stop control implemented. The channelized right-turn lane is removed. A driveway modification addresses sight distance concerns, and the Main Street crosswalk was relocated to eliminate a left-turn conflict. A pedestrian hybrid beacon associated with the City's North End Greenway application will provide a controlled crossing a few hundred feet north.

The total project cost estimate is approximately \$13 million, with VDOT inflation factors expected to bring the estimate to the \$16 million range after SMART Scale submission.

Mr. DeNunzio asked whether the delay concerns raised during the demonstration project were observed or perceived. Mr. Conran confirmed the concerns were largely perceived, driven by side streets operating under stop control rather than signal control, and that the traffic study found future operations acceptable under multiple control types. Ms. Dent thanked the Harrisonburg Public Works team and expressed support for the SMART Scale application.

FY27 Unified Planning Work Program Approval (Board Action Form #26-12)

Ms. Paula Melester presented the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Board approval. The Board released the draft UPWP for public comment at the April 16 meeting. No public comments were received. VDOT submitted one agency remark recommending expanded descriptions for professional development, travel, and training activities; staff incorporated those changes in the final version distributed to the Board. No content changes were made.

A motion to approve the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program was made by Mr. Joel DeNunzio; seconded by Ms. Laura Dent. The motion carried unanimously.

SMART Scale Round 7 Resolutions of Support (Board Action Form #26-13)

Mr. Zach Beard presented nine resolutions of support for Smart Scale Round 7 full applications within the HRMPO region. All nine pre-applications submitted by the April 1 pre-application deadline are eligible for the full application cycle, which closes August 3, 2026. SMART Scale requires MPO resolutions of support for projects within the MPO boundary. Consistent with past practice, the HRMPO provides resolutions for all eligible applications regardless of whether they are already documented in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The SMART Scale program permits PDCs, MPOs, and localities to submit up to four full applications each. PDCs and MPOs may submit applications on behalf of localities, which allows localities to exceed the four-application cap. The City of Harrisonburg has more than four applications this cycle, and the MPO and CSPDC will submit several applications on the City's behalf. Mr. Beard noted that whether any given application proceeds to full submission remains the decision of the local governing body.

The nine anticipated applications within the HRMPO region are:

- *North End Greenway: Monroe Street to Downtown (City of Harrisonburg submission)* – Closes the final one-mile gap in the shared-use path between Monroe Street and downtown, completing a continuous north-south protected bicycle and pedestrian route through the city.
- *Chicago Avenue Corridor Improvements (City of Harrisonburg submission)* – Installs a shared-use path along Chicago Avenue from Mount Clinton Pike to Greystone Street, with sidewalk, crosswalk, and bus stop improvements.
- *Martin Luther King Jr. Way and East Market Street Multimodal Improvements (City of Harrisonburg submission)* – Implements a road diet on MLK Jr. Way with a buffered sidewalk, a shared-use path on East Market Street, signal reconstruction, and ADA improvements.
- *Devon Lane and Neff/Peach Grove Avenue Intersection Improvements (CSPDC submission on behalf of City)* – Constructs turn lanes, access management improvements, and crosswalk upgrades at Devon Lane and Neff/Peach Grove; reconfigures approximately 2,200 feet of the corridor with a curb shift and buffered shared-use path replacing on-street bike lanes; includes bus stop improvements.

- *Vine Street Improvements (MPO submission)* – Includes a single-lane roundabout at Washington Street, turn lane additions at Old Furnace Road, signal replacement, bus stop improvements, and sidewalk along the corridor.
- *Forest Hill Road and Port Republic Road Improvements (MPO submission)* – Includes turn lane improvements at Forest Hill/Port Republic, a median on Port Republic and Hunters Road, a shared-use path, sidewalk improvements, and bus stop improvements.
- *Route 42 Safety Upgrades: Gay Street to Old Windmill Circle (MPO or City submission, to be determined)* – Includes crosswalk improvements, lane reassignments, medians, and sidewalk construction.
- *North Mason Street Corridor Improvements (MPO submission)* – The project presented by VHB, with a primary improvement of a single-lane roundabout at Gay Street and a shared-use path and green space along the corridor.
- *Stone Spring Road Dual Left-Turn Lane at Reservoir Street (Rockingham County submission)* – Constructs a second left-turn lane on Stone Spring Road onto Reservoir Street. Rockingham County has two additional Smart Scale applications outside the MPO boundary.

A motion to approve the resolutions of support for all nine SMART SCALE Round 7 applications was made by Ms. Laura Dent; seconded by Mr. Joel DeNunzio. The motion carried unanimously.

Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- **Route 33 East Market Street Bridge and Multimodal Trail:** The project is progressing toward completion this fall. The multi-use trail in the median is advancing well.
- **Route 11 Sidewalk Project (Mount Clinton Pike to Trailer Park):** Construction has begun. The sidewalk is located on the cemetery side of the road. A bridge widening at the south end of the project will accommodate the crossing. The project addresses a high-demand pedestrian corridor between the trailer park and Mount Clinton Pike.
- **I-81 Staunton Widening (Exits 221–225):** The project is approximately 60 to 65% complete. A weekend detour was conducted to install overhead signs and complete striping. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2027. Speed enforcement cameras are active in the work zone and have contributed to improved driver behavior.
- **I-81 Weyers Cave Widening:** The project is approximately 45% complete. Large quantities of rock in the median are visible from the interstate as blasting and rock removal continue.
- **I-81 Harrisonburg Widening:** Night shoulder-strengthening work is underway at the southern end proceeding northward. Barrier installation will follow. The \$218 million contract covers six miles. The roundabout at Pleasant Valley Road and the Pleasant Valley Elementary School entrance are targeted for completion in May 2027. Significant daytime construction activity is not anticipated until after barriers are installed. Speed cameras will be deployed in this work zone as well.
- **Route 11 Near the Fairground:** The Route 11 four-lane project past the fairgrounds is going to bid the following week; bids will open the Wednesday following the June 18 meeting.

Construction is expected to begin after the Rockingham County Fair in September 2026 and will pause during the 2027 fair before completing prior to the 2028 fair.

- **Overheight Vehicle Bridge Strikes:** Several recent overheight vehicle strikes have occurred in the region. A strike on the Port Republic Road bridge was addressed using a contractor that heats and reshapes steel beams to restore structural strength. The Cecil Wampler Bridge and North River Bridge in the Mount Crawford area also sustained strikes that damaged concrete beams containing tensile cables. VDOT plans to close those bridges beginning approximately July 24 to repair the prestressed strands. North River will be repaired first, followed by Cecil Wampler.
- **Maintenance:** Mowing, gravel road grading, and dust suppression with liquid calcium are underway on primary and secondary roads throughout the district. Overlay paving is occurring across the area as the school year ends.

Mr. Adam Campbell provided the following update:

- **SMART Scale Round 7:** The full application period is approximately one-third complete. VDOT is working with applicants to finalize supporting documentation ahead of the August 3 deadline. The Staunton District anticipates approximately 26 to 27 full applications, including several where PDC and locality submissions are being coordinated to avoid duplicates. The full application training held June 3 is available on the SMART Scale resources website, including the recording and presentation materials.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following updates:

- **FY27 Six-Year Improvement Program:** The CTB approved DRPT's FY27 SYIP the day prior to the meeting (June 17). Final funding amounts are available on DRPT's open data portal.
- **Monthly Directors Reports:** DRPT publishes monthly directors reports covering recent events, promotions, ridership data, studies, and other agency activities. These reports, which are also presented to the CTB, are available on the DRPT website.

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT)

No updates were provided.

Locality Updates

City of Harrisonburg

Mr. Tom Hartman provided the following updates:

- **University Boulevard Extension:** Construction is progressing. The new segment and alignment are expected to open to traffic by the end of July 2026. Storm sewer work is ongoing near Carrier Drive.
- **Port Republic Road Projects:** The City awarded contracts to Partners for two projects: a turn lane at Bluestone Drive extension and a new signal at Bradley Road with separated cycle track and sidewalk improvements. Pre-construction meetings are scheduled for July. The

timeline for closing Port Republic Road to through traffic will be confirmed after those meetings.

- Paving: Paving is underway on Stone Spring Road, Neff Avenue, and a portion of University Road, among other corridors, taking advantage of the reduced traffic during the school break.
- SMART Scale Applications: City staff are actively compiling documentation for the SMART Scale applications described under the resolutions of support action item, including right-of-way acquisition on three additional projects being prepared for delivery in 2027.

Rockingham County

Mr. Dylan Nicely provided the following update:

- The County has multiple traffic signal projects under active design on Stone Spring Road at Boyers Road and at the Marketplace. A signal at Stone Port Blvd. completed design and began construction but was struck by a vehicle; replacement poles have been ordered, and the project is awaiting materials. An additional signal is at the warrant study stage.

Town of Bridgewater

Mr. Litten provided the following updates:

- Crosswalk Package: The Town is evaluating bids on a package of crosswalk improvements, including a lighted crossing at Generations Park on Main Street.
- Riverwalk Phase 3: The Town is preparing to bid Phase 3 of the Riverwalk project, extending from Edgebriar Park eastward behind Bridgewater College.
- A multi-use path connector through Oakdale Park around the new lake is expected to go to bid soon.

Town of Dayton

No updates were provided.

Town of Mt. Crawford

Chair Driver noted that Main Street in Mount Crawford was recently paved by Adams Construction and that work at the Parsons Road connection was well executed. He also thanked VDOT and Rockingham County for responding promptly to a Memorial Day weekend sinkhole in the Mount Crawford area under difficult conditions.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Driver announced the following upcoming meetings:

- July 2, 2026 – Technical Advisory Committee Meeting at 2:00 p.m., Cancelled
- July 16, 2026 – Policy Board Meeting: Cancelled



Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Driver adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paula Melester", is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Paula Melester, Director of Transportation

A short, horizontal blue line with a small, stylized mark in the center, possibly a signature or a decorative element.