



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda January 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Via ZOOM Video Conference Call

Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92314044862?pwd=dDBLVThLRm9YSVp5M1o5Zkg1N0ZjZz09>

Dial In: 1-301-715-8592 (Audio Only)

Meeting ID: 923 1404 4862 ▪ Password: 608183

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2020 TAC Meeting*
4. FY22 5310 Application (TAC Memo #21-01)
5. 2021 MAP-21 Safety and System Performance Targets (TAC Memo #21-02)
6. FY21 Small Area Study (TAC Memo #21-03)
7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - February 3, 2021 – Policy Board Meeting, via videoconference, 10:00 a.m.
 - February 17, 2021 – TAC meeting, via videoconference, 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjournment

* Action Required

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2020, 2:00 p.m.**

Via Zoom Video Conference Call
[Audio Recording of Call Click Here](#)

Present (17):

Voting Members				Others	
	City of Staunton		VDOT	✓	Scott Seaton, Augusta County
✓	Rodney Rhodes		Don Komara	✓	Katie Schwing, OIPI
✓	Jeff Johnston	✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)	✓	Bill Bushman, Hurt & Proffitt
	Tim Hartless (Alt)	✓	Josh Dunlap (Alt)		
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		VA DRPT		Staff (CSPDC)
	Augusta County	✓	Wood Hudson	✓	Ann Cundy
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)	✓	Zach Beard
✓	Doug Wolfe	Non-Voting Members		✓	Devon Thompson
	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		VRT	✓	Kimberly Miller
	Vacant (Alt)		Steve Wilson		
	City of Waynesboro	✓	Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Todd Wood, Chairperson		Federal Highway Admin.		
✓	Luke Juday		Mack Frost		
	Kira Johnson (Alt)		Federal Transit Admin.		
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis		
			VA Dept. of Aviation		
			Rusty Harrington		

Call to Order

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Todd Wood.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Wood presented minutes from the September 16, 2020 TAC Meeting.

Mr. Juday moved, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, to approve the minutes of September 16, 2020 as presented. Motion carried (6-0; Mr. Johnston abstained).

Consideration of the SAWMPO 2021 Meeting Schedule (Action Form #20-05)

Chairperson Wood presented the 2021 Meeting Schedule. Mr. Beard stated that the 2021 Meeting Schedule for the Policy Board and TAC is presented for consideration. He stated that the schedule will be advertised in the local newspapers and posted on the SAWMPO website. Mr. Beard noted that due to ongoing pandemic-related restrictions, meetings will continue virtually until in-person meetings resume.

Ms. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Juday, to approve the 2021 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Consideration of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (Action Form #20-06)

Chairperson Wood presented the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Beard stated that the final draft is ready for adoption; the TAC is asked to approve and recommend the plan to be approved by the Policy Board. He stated that drafts of the document have been reviewed with the Board and TAC and that the Board reviewed a final draft in November and released it to the 21-day public comment period. Mr. Beard stated that introductory pieces have been added, including an Executive Summary and that all comments received during the entire process are included in Appendices D and E. He stated that the public outreach process is described in Chapter 2.

Mr. Beard stated that the most notable feedback during the public comment period was from the Shenandoah Valley Airport and Blue Ridge Community College regarding I-81 Exit 235 congestion. He stated that this has been identified as a high-priority area in the LRTP. Mr. Beard stated that this area may be studied further through the MPO's Small Area Study.

Mr. Beard stated that staff requests the TAC approve the final draft and recommend it to the Policy Board for approval at their December meeting. He stated that the document will be distributed to state (VDOT, DRPT) and federal (FHWA, FTA) agencies, and its completion will ensure that all three of our localities may continue to receive federal funding for their transportation projects.

Mr. Juday moved, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, to approve the 2045 LRTP and recommend it to the Policy Board for approval. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Discussion of the FY 21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FY21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Administrative Modifications (Memo #20-10)

Chairperson Wood presented the TIP and UPWP Administrative Modifications. Ms. Cundy stated that the TIP, the short-range planning document for the MPO, has been updated to reflect compliance with the statewide Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). She stated that PTASP is a federally required plan for smaller transit agencies, which includes BRITE. Ms. Cundy stated that this comprehensive plan requires documentation in the MPO's TIP of the PTASP and its targets. She stated that this administrative modification was made to the TIP in the Appendix.

Ms. Cundy stated that adjustments were also made to the transit portion of the TIP's financial plan to reflect adjusted funding amounts for BRITE (as a result of CARES ACT funds) and Valley Program for Aging Services. Ms. Cundy stated that these administrative modifications to the TIP are documented on pages 24 and 25.

Ms. Cundy stated that the UPWP, the annual budget for the MPO, was also modified. The carryover was estimated prior to the end of the prior fiscal year and needs to now be corrected. Ms. Cundy stated that an administrative modification was submitted to VDOT and DRPT in October to reflect the actual amount of carryover (5303) funds from FY20 to FY21. She stated that an additional \$28,840 over the originally estimated amount was carried over and added to this year's Work Program. Ms. Cundy stated that these funds will be added to the Transit Planning Work Element to begin the BRITE Transit Development Plan update, which is a consultant-led process.

Ms. Cundy stated that these administrative modifications have already been made and submitted and that this update is for the TAC's information.

Presentation: 2045 VTrans Mid-Term Needs Prioritization Update, by Katie Schwing, Program Analyst, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI)

Chairperson Wood presented the VTrans Mid-Term Transportation Needs Presentation by Ms. Schwing. Ms. Schwing stated that she presented an overview of the prioritization process at the TAC meeting in September and would like to give an update on current progress and what the results of the Mid-Term Needs Prioritization process are at this point. She stated that this process fulfills several state and federal requirements.

Ms. Schwing shared a slide presentation (attached to file minutes). She stated that prioritization of the needs will be used to better inform statewide, regional and local decision-making, such as helping to direct studies and planning. She stated that prioritization is completed in four steps. Step 1 is to categorize needs by Corridors of statewide significance (CoSS), Safety on CoSS, and district needs within Regional Networks, Safety and UDA (industrial and economic development areas). Step 2 is to prioritize the projects within each of the above categories using two criteria: severity and magnitude. Step 3 is to weigh and aggregate the needs across the various categories along roadway segments using SMART SCALE as a guide. Step 4 is to adjust based on influencing factors (i.e. co-located bridge and pavement repair and replacement, areas with exposure to other risks).

Ms. Schwing stated that a draft map has been released for review and comment based on the four steps. She stated that she encourages localities to review the map and the needs and locations. Ms. Schwing stated that comments are being accepted through November 30th on the process and results. She stated that the CTB is expected to make a decision on the Mid-Term Needs Prioritization Process in January. Ms. Schwing shared the website link: www.vtrans.org, which contains maps and opportunities for comments. She stated that OIPI staff may also be reached to ask questions.

Ms. Schwing stated that there is a new program for UDA Needs called Growth and Accessibility Planning (GAP) Technical Assistance Program; information is available at vtrans.org/about/GAP-TA. Webinars about the program were held and recordings are available on the VTrans website for those not able to attend.

Presentation: VDOT STARS US 250 Final Survey and Study Summary, by Adam Campbell, Assistant District Planner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Chairperson Wood presented the VDOT STARS Study Summary. Mr. Campbell stated that the US250 STARS study was kicked off in June 2019. He went over the timeline of milestones in the study leading to the final online public survey in October 2020. Mr. Campbell stated that the survey had over 178 total participants, with over 50% who also had completed the initial public survey. He went over the public comments and input.

Discussion ensued regarding notification to the public about the survey and how the feedback may be considered by the locality. Mr. Campbell stated that this concludes the STARS study and action taken based on the study is the role of the County Supervisors and staff.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Campbell gave the following update:

- SMART SCALE applications are in the scoring phase and validation almost complete.
- Downtown Staunton STARS study had a successful kick-off meeting.
- The CTB will be hosting a virtual 6-year Improvement Plan meeting on Tuesday, November 24th, at 9:00 a.m.; invitations will be forthcoming.

Mr. Dunlap gave the following update:

- All of the I-81 corridor improvement projects have design consultants onboard and are moving forward (see Improve81.org for more information).
- Rt 250 Bell Creek bridge project (near Jake's Store) is progressing very well and is on-schedule, expected to finish in Summer 2021.
- Waynesboro Park & Ride lot project received bids; the construction estimate was \$1.8 million; some temporary improvements need to be made to keep the area operational.
- Rt 703 bridge replacement is currently out for advertisement with construction planned for next year.
- Safety improvements on Rt 340 from Crimora to Grottoes to include shoulder widening and rumble strips is out for advertisement.
- I-81 Exit 235 access improvements (SMART SCALE project) right turn lanes from Rt 256 onto the ramps will go out for advertisement in the Spring.
- Rt 262 between Middlebrook Road and Old Greenville Avenue design improvements are beginning, which will include extending 4 lanes continuously and extending the short on-ramps.
- Rt 612 Mill Place Parkway dual left turn lanes project is accepting public comments through December 4th.
- Dr. Seaton mentioned that the Blue Ridge Tunnel will open to the public this Saturday.

DRPT

Mr. Hudson gave the following updates:

- The DRPT Six-Year Improvement Program is available on the website for review and comment; the draft focuses on FY21 projects with high-priority needs, such as operating assistance and critical capital needs; it only includes one year of allocation due to the pandemic and funding uncertainty. This will be considered by the CTB for approval at their December meeting.
- FY22 Transit application cycles open from December 1st through February 1st; workshops will be conducted.
- Virginia Passenger Rail Authority had their kickoff meeting on October 26th; information is available about the Authority on DRPT's website.

Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following updates:

- BRITE continues its COVID operations which include fare-free rides, social distancing on the buses and other safety measures.
- BRITE's four SMART SCALE applications have been screened in.
- Afton Express and the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Phase I were included in the draft SYIP, which Mr. Hudson mentioned is out for public review and comment.
- Update on Afton Express –
 - Grant funding for Afton Express operations has been included in the draft SYIP. The demonstration grant will provide 80 percent of the cost of providing the transit service and will be matched at 20 percent by local funds.
 - Two buses are planned to operate the service Monday through Friday with four morning and four evening trips.
 - Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) will operate the service under contract to the CSPDC. The contract addendum for the delivery of Afton Express service will include the provision of two buses for operations plus a spare bus.
 - Work on the website and marketing have been ongoing. Standalone webpages dedicated to the Afton Express service will be part of the BRITE website. Staff has worked closely with Estland Design, the same company that designed the BRITE website, to develop these informational webpages that are ready and will go live closer to the operation of the service.
 - Branding designs have been created and will be used to brand the buses, bus stop signs, web pages, an advertising campaign and marketing tools.
 - CSPDC staff will work closely with DRPT and the Afton Express Stakeholder group to identify the right time for startup of Afton Express operations. Currently, many commuters are choosing to telework and there continue to be safety concerns related to riding public transportation.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Wood stated that the Policy Board will meet on December 2nd and the next TAC meeting will be held on December 16th, both by videoconference.



Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Wood asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann W. Cundy
Director of Transportation



**Staunton Augusta
Waynesboro**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: January 20, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-01: FY2022 FTA 5310 Heart Havens
Application for Capital Assistance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SAWMPO is required to maintain a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that identifies all federal transportation funding in the MPO region. Every year, the FTA 5310 program provides federal funding for capital and operational transportation assistance for the elderly and persons with disabilities through local non-profit organizations.

In the SAWMPO, there is one non-profit applying for capital assistance under the program in FY22. FTA 5310 applications do not require a financial commitment from the MPO.

CAPITAL ASSISTANCE

Federal dollars approved for FTA 5310 capital assistance require a 20% applicant match. Heart Havens, a non-profit providing transportation support for adults with a developmental disability at their Stuarts Draft facility, is requesting funding to purchase one 9-passenger van with a handicap-accessible lift.

DRPT and the providers request that the MPO include the 5310 projects in the TIP if the applications are funded. The letter requesting 5310 funds is included with this memo.

ATTACHMENT

[Heart Havens 5310 Application Notification Letter](#)



TO: Stanton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: January 20, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-02: 2021 SAWMPO Safety and System Performance Targets**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with MAP-21, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) set National Performance Measures for Safety in 2016, and System Performance and Asset Management in 2017. Safety targets must be updated annually, while System Performance and Asset Management targets must be updated every four years. VDOT has received permission from FHWA to adjust the statewide bridge condition target.

Staff will share the updated targets with the Policy Board at the February meeting. As with targets from previous years, staff recommends concurring with the statewide targets. There is no penalty for not meeting the targets.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

In June 2020, the CTB approved OIPI's recommendation to set statewide targets in accordance with a trendline methodology that uses percent reductions for the number and rate of fatal crashes, serious injury crashes, and bicycle and pedestrian crashes. OIPI combines model baseline predictions with a project's anticipated crash reduction (SMART SCALE & HSIP), and the new legislation banning using a handheld device while driving, to develop the statewide 2021 Safety Performance Targets.

In 2021, OIPI projects 912 fatalities, 7,533 Serious Injuries, and 760 Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries statewide, which are reflected in the following safety target percentages:

- Fatalities: Increase of 3.2%
- Serious Injuries: Decrease of 1.46%
- Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries: Decrease of .08%
- VMT: Increase of 1.07%

SAWMPO Targets and Actual Numbers

The SAWMPO's 2015 – 2019 five-year average fatality and severe injury rate is lower than the statewide targets, with rates for both decreasing since 2017, while the number of non-motorized fatal and severe injuries is slightly higher than the target. The average increase in non-motorize crashes is mostly due to an increase in 2019; previously, the MPO was below the annual targets.

Since the MPO began setting targets in 2018, the MPO has been below each target, with the exception of the non-motorized category, which was slightly higher in 2019, and is projected to again surpass the target in 2020 (see **Table 1**).

Table 1 below compares the annual safety targets and the actual numbers since the MPO began targets in 2018.

Table 1: Projected Safety Targets and Actual Numbers, 2018 – 2021

	2018 Target	2018 Actual	2019 Target	2019 Actual	2020 Target	2020* Actual	2021 Target
Fatalities	9	4	9	6	10	3	8
Rate of Fatalities per 100M VMT	.88	.40	.90	.59	.93	.33	.77
Serious Injuries	121	111	120	81	119	66	117
Rate Serious Injury Per 100M VMT	12.12	11.16	11.85	7.81	11.58	6.42	11.11
Non-Motorized Fatalities/Serious Inj.	10	6	10	11	10	9	10

*Data from January 1 - September 30, 2020

BRIDGE CONDITION TARGET

On September 16, 2020, the CTB approved an adjustment to Virginia’s 4-year target for one federal performance measure: percentage of deck area of bridges in good condition (National Bridge Inventory (NBI) on the National Highway System (NHS). The adjustment changes the previously established statewide target from 33% to 30.5% of deck area of bridges in good condition.

ATTACHMENT

[SAWMPO letter of concurrence with State safety targets](#)

[SAWMPO letter of concurrence with adjustment of State bridge condition target](#)





TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: January 20, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-03: FY 2021 Small Area Study Statement of Need**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SAWMPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Augusta County Comprehensive Plan identify capacity and safety needs along VA 256 (Weyers Cave Road) in the vicinity of I-81 Exit 235 between US 11 and VA 276 (Keezletown Road) in Weyers Cave. This Small Area Study will identify and evaluate moderate-cost, mid-term solutions to periodic congestion at the Exit 235 Interchange, and anticipate long-term corridor needs and intersection configurations to accommodate future growth in the vicinity of the interchange.

A Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) On-Call Consultant will develop a Scope of Work detailing the study tasks, and develop a final deliverable with recommendations including planning level sketches and cost estimates. The study is anticipated to start in Spring 2021 and be complete in Fall 2021.

STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the existing and anticipated future conditions near the I-81 Exit 235 interchange on VA 256 from US 11 to VA 276. The study will develop a set of mid- and long-term recommendations for improvements to address multi-modal operational issues in the study area.

The mid-term recommendations will focus on effective solutions to improve operational conditions by examining signal timing adjustments, modification of intersection geometry, innovative intersections, and access management improvements.

The long-term analysis will consider adding capacity to the existing two-lane interstate bridge, including bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and design alternatives such as innovative intersections, for operational improvements at the Exit 235 interchange. The future scenario will consider where additional growth occurs as anticipated by the County's Comprehensive Plan to inform a future Interchange Modification Report (IMR).

STUDY NEED

Weyers Cave is a Designated Growth Area in Augusta County, and VA 256 is a two-lane minor arterial serving regional destinations such as Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) and the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport. During current AM and PM peaks, VA 256 from US 11 to VA 276 experiences eastbound and westbound queues on the interstate bridge, making it difficult to turn left onto the Exit 235 southbound ramp, and to access US 11.

The Study area is projected to experience modest growth, and there is potential for new commercial and industrial development to accelerate due to an adjacent 514-acre tract of zoned industrial land, and also the continued growth of BRCC and the Airport. In June 2020, the Airport announced approximately \$5 million in planned investment to construct nearly 25,000 square feet of new hangar and office space and create up to 75 jobs. The study area is expected to experience an unacceptable Level of Service (LOS) by 2035, according to the 2015 Augusta County Comprehensive Plan.

Previous Plans and Projects

The SAMWPO 2045 LRTP and the 2015 Augusta County Comprehensive Plan identify operational and safety needs in the study area, and the need for long-term improvements along VA 256, such as increasing the capacity of the two-lane road and bridge. VTrans 2045 highlights Capacity Preservation needs on US 11 and Route 256.

Augusta County has submitted four Smart Scale applications addressing congestion in the study area (see **Table 1**). Of those, the FY21 Round 4 application is in the scoring phase, and the FY18 project was approved for funding; the other two projects were not approved. The approved I-81 Exit 235 Access Improvements Construction application addresses some of the needs in the study area, and will construct approximately 250' of right turn lane on Rt. 256 extending to Rt. 11 and the I-81 Southbound ramp, and also approximately 300' of right turn lane with taper on Rt. 256 to the northbound ramp. The funded turn lane improvements will be included in the Study analysis.

Table 1: Smart Scale Applications

Application	Description	Fiscal Year	Funding Status
Weyers Cave Road (Rt. 256) Turn Lane Project	Improve Weyers Cave Road (Rt. 256) from the northbound I-81 ramps to Triangle Drive by adding a median, turn lanes and a shared use path. Project includes the construction of a new park and ride facility (50 spaces).	2020, 2022	No, pending
Weyers Cave Road (Rt. 256) Widening Project	Widen Weyers Cave Road (Rt. 256) to a four-lane divided roadway section with a 10' wide shared use path from the eastern Interstate 81 ramps to just west of Houff Lane. This project includes approximately 0.8 of a mile of road improvements, as well as the construction of a park and ride lot at the interstate interchange.	2018	No
Interstate 81 Exit 235 Access Improvements	Construction of turn lanes on to Interstate 81 at Exit 235 Northbound and Southbound from Weyers Cave Road (Rt. 256)	2018	Yes

Mid- and Long-Term Needs

The area may require major long-term improvements such as expanding the number of lanes on Route 256, reconstructing the Route 256 bridge over the interstate, and ramp connection improvements to Route 256. Changes to interstate intersection configuration, such as bridge replacement, require that an Interchange Modification Report (IMR) be submitted to VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine the most appropriate improvement strategy.

Bridge replacement is based on bridge condition and obsolescence. VDOT assesses bridges from 0 (failed condition) to 9 (excellent). Currently, the Route 256 bridge condition rating is 7 for deck, 5 for superstructure, and 6 for substructure, with an overall sufficiency rating of 62.7. Based on these

ratings it is anticipated that a replacement or major rehabilitation project will be necessary in 5 - 20 years.

As a result of the uncertainty of the bridge replacement timeline, the Study will identify both mid-term and long-term improvements. Mid-term improvements, such as signal operations, are cost-effective and can be implemented without an IMR, while the long-term intersection and road improvements can anticipate improvements that will be identified in the IMR.

3. TASKS AND DELIVERABLES

The consultant, selected from the CSPDC's on-call list, will be responsible for developing the Scope of Work, tasks, and deliverables, to include existing conditions analysis, modeling and data analysis, recommendations, and cost estimates.

The deliverable will be a technical document highlighting both mid- and long-term improvements that Augusta County and VDOT can use to evaluate operation improvements within the corridor to reduce vehicle delays, increase throughput, and identify funding opportunities. A one-page summary for each recommendation will include a detailed project sketch with aerial image, planning level cost estimate, and final takeaways.

4. NEXT STEPS

SAWMPO Staff is requesting that the TAC review the proposed components of the FY21 Small Area Study. The Study, and any TAC input, will be reviewed with the Policy Board at the February 3, 2020 meeting.



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda March 17, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Via ZOOM Video Conference Call

Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92314044862?pwd=dDBLVThLRm9YSVp5M1o5Zkg1N0ZjZz09>

Dial In: 1-301-715-8592 (Audio Only)

Meeting ID: 923 1404 4862 ▪ Password: 608183

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 20, 2021 TAC Meeting*
4. Title VI Amendment (TAC Memo #21-04)
5. FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Overview (TAC Memo #21-05)
6. MAP-21 Quarterly Planning and Programming Updates
7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - April 7, 2021 – Policy Board Meeting, via videoconference, 10:00 a.m.
 - April 21, 2021 – TAC meeting, via videoconference, 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjournment

* Action Required



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Meeting Minutes January 20, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

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Present (17):

Voting Members				Others	
	City of Staunton		VDOT	✓	Bill Bushman, Hurt & Proffitt
✓	Rodney Rhodes	✓	Don Komara	✓	Sam Styers, McCormick Taylor
✓	Jeff Johnston	✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)		Staff (CSPDC)
	Tim Hartless (Alt)		Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓	Ann Cundy
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		VA DRPT	✓	Zach Beard
	Augusta County	✓	Wood Hudson	✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)	✓	Kimberly Miller
	Doug Wolfe	Non-Voting Members			
✓	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		VRT		
	Vacant (Alt)	✓	Steve Wilson		
	City of Waynesboro		Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Todd Wood, Chairperson		Federal Highway Admin.		
✓	Luke Juday		Mack Frost		
✓	Kira Johnson (Alt)		Federal Transit Admin.		
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis		
			VA Dept. of Aviation		
			Rusty Harrington		

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. In light of this emergency, the February 3rd, 2021, SAWMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Todd Wood.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Wood presented minutes from the November 18, 2020 TAC Meeting.

Ms. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Discussion of the FY22 5310 Application (TAC Memo #21-01)

Chairperson Wood presented the 5310 Application. Ms. Cundy stated that each year Human Services agencies make application to DRPT for capital items. She stated that they must notify the MPO that they are applying for funds by a letter, and if funded, the funds are added to the SAWMPO TIP. Ms. Cundy stated that the only notification the MPO has received is from Heart Havens, a provider of transportation for adults with disabilities, who has requested funds from DRPT (letter attached to Memo). She stated that this is an 80/20 match program with no financial obligation from the MPO.

Discussion of the 2021 MAP-21 Safety and System Performance Targets (TAC Memo #21-02)

Chairperson Wood presented the MAP-21 Safety and System Performance Targets. Mr. Beard stated that the MPO is required to periodically review performance and outcome targets for the MAP-21 performance-based planning process. He stated that the safety targets (number and rate of fatalities, serious injuries and non-motorized crashes) are reviewed annually and the system performance target (bridge deck condition) is reviewed every four years.

Mr. Beard stated that the SAWMPO's 2015-2019 five-year rolling average fatality and severe injury rate is lower than the statewide targets, with rates for both decreasing since 2017, while the number of non-motorized fatal and severe injuries is slightly higher than the target. He stated that since the MPO began setting targets in 2018, the MPO has been below each target, with the exception of the non-motorized category, which was slightly higher in 2019, and is projected to again surpass the target in 2020 (see Table 1 in Memo).

Mr. Beard stated that in September the CTB approved an adjustment to Virginia's 4-year target for one federal performance measure: percentage of deck area of bridges in good condition (National Bridge Inventory (NBI) on the National Highway System (NHS). He stated that the adjustment changes the previously established statewide target from 33% to 30.5% of deck area of bridges in good condition.

Mr. Beard stated that the MPO has the option to set its own targets, but as in the previous years, staff plans to recommend that the Policy Board concur with the statewide targets at their February meeting. He stated that there is no penalty for not meeting the targets.

Discussion of the FY21 Small Area Study (TAC Memo #21-03)

Chairperson Wood presented the 5310 Application. Mr. Beard stated that when not involved in Long-Range Transportation planning, the MPO conducts small area studies annually throughout the region. He stated

that the first small area study was completed at the WWRC entrance and corridor (2017), the second was the Rosser Avenue corridor in Waynesboro and third was the Richmond Road area in Staunton.

Mr. Beard stated that this year (FY21), due to capacity and safety needs, staff is proposing to study the VA 256 (Weyers Cave Road) in the vicinity of I-81 Exit 235 between US 11 and VA 276 (Keezletown Road) in Weyers Cave. He stated that the regional significance and designated growth of this area plus the potential projects in this area provide the basis of the need for this study.

Mr. Beard stated that a draft statement of need and purpose, which was developed in conjunction with VDOT and Augusta County, is included in the TAC memo. He stated that a consultant from the on-call consultant program will be hired to conduct the bulk of the study including scope, tasks and deliverables. Mr. Beard showed a map of the proposed study area and discussed the various issues the study will seek to address. He stated that the deliverable will be a technical document highlighting both mid- and long-term improvements that Augusta County and VDOT can use to evaluate operational improvements within the corridor to reduce vehicle delays, increase throughput, and identify funding opportunities. Discussion ensued about the bridge and possible improvements or replacement; Mr. Beard stated that it will be included in the analysis.

Mr. Beard stated that SAWMPO Staff is requesting that the TAC review the proposed components of the FY21 Small Area Study. He stated that the Study, and any TAC input, will be reviewed with the Policy Board at the February 3, 2020 meeting.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Campbell gave the following update:

- Downtown Staunton STARS study had a successful site field review last week of all 10 intersections.
- The January CTB meeting was held yesterday. A VTrans update was provided by OIPI that addressed all the public comments made in the fall, including that of the SAWMPO and the CSPDC. The update included how the comments were addressed or resolved. VDOT will provide an update next month to the MPO. The CTB is scheduled to take action on VTrans Needs Prioritization at next month's meeting.
- Transportation Revenues are expected to be very good due to the new taxation plan. The resulting SMART SCALE Round 4 revenue forecast is significantly higher than expected and the Staunton District's expected funding has doubled.
 - High Priority funding for the Staunton District is \$27 million.
 - In the draft funding scenario, the Staunton District had 20 applications, 10 of which were from the SAWMPO.
 - A more detailed update on funding will be provided next month.

Mr. Komara gave the following update:

- Rt 250 Bell Creek bridge project (near Jake's Store) is progressing very well and is on-schedule, expected to finish in Summer 2021.

- Waynesboro Park & Ride lot project was awarded to Plecker Construction; construction to begin next month.
- Rt 703 bridge replacement has been awarded to Kanawha Stone.
- Safety improvements on Rt 340 from Crimora to Grottoes to include shoulder widening and rumble strips bids have been received; B&S was read low.
- I-81 Exit 235 access improvements (SMART SCALE project) right turn lanes from Rt 256 onto the ramps will go out for advertisement in the Spring.

DRPT

Mr. Hudson gave the following updates:

- The DRPT FY22 application window closes on February 1st.
- Virginia Passenger Rail Authority has a meeting scheduled for January 25th; information is available about the Authority on DRPT's website.
- FTA is expected to provide final apportioning of the Federal COVID relief bill funds.

Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following updates:

- The CTB met in December and approved the FY21 Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP), which included funding for Afton Express, ITS Phase I, and transit and transportation demand management operating funds.
- Current plans call for the startup of Afton Express service in July 2021.
- FY22 DRPT Grant Application process has started and staff is working on completing grants prior to the February 1 deadline. Grant applications are being submitted for Urban (5307), Rural (5311) and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Funds, and for Technical Assistance to complete the Transit Development Plan (TDP).
- The CSPDC, in cooperation with the University of Virginia and TJPDC, is conducting a public survey to determine the need for a Coworking Space located at the BRITE Transit Facility. The survey is pending approval from UVA and will remain open until early-to-mid February. Once the survey is approved, the link will be distributed to the TAC.

Other Business

Chairperson Wood opened the floor for other business. Ms. Tate introduced Augusta County's new planner, Ms. Caroline Stoerker. She stated that Mr. Wolfe is currently out of the office for military service with the Virginia National Guard.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Wood stated that the Policy Board will meet on February 3rd and the TAC on February 17th, both by videoconference.



Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Wood asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann W. Cundy
Director of Transportation



**Staunton Augusta
Waynesboro**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: March 17, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-04: Draft Title VI Amendment**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

As a recipient of federal funds, the SAWMPO adheres to the law, and documents this in the Title VI Plan, ensuring non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, in all our activities, with a particular focus on public participation, and procurement.

In the fall of 2020, VDOT conducted a triennial review of the MPO’s Title VI Plan and program. VDOT delivered its Letter of Findings on January 19, 2021. Staff is addressing the deficiencies in the letter by amending the MPO’s Title VI Plan. Deficiencies related to consultant procurement will be addressed in our procurement for a new set of CSPDC on-call consultants later this year.

The draft Title VI Plan amendment addresses Findings 1 and 6, adds Title VI Certifications and Assurances in Appendix C, and revises the MPO’s Discrimination Complaint Procedures to ensure compliance with FHWA’s new requirement that all complaints made against a subrecipient of federal funds—i.e. the MPO and its subrecipients—be routed directly to FHWA for review (Appendix D).

NEXT STEPS

The Policy Board released the draft document to a 21-day public comment period at the March 3, 2021 meeting. Staff will incorporate any additional edits and public comment into the amended document, and present the final 2021 Title IV amendment to the Policy Board for approval at the April 7, 2021 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Draft Title VI Plan Amendment](#)
- [VDOT Letter of Findings](#)

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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, SAWMPO Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: March 17, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-05: FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Overview**

BACKGROUND

The UPWP is the annual work program and budget for the MPO. It details the administrative and planning activities during the fiscal year, and the federal, state and local funds used.

The TAC can make recommendations to MPO staff on the activities and funding levels in the UPWP during the annual update process. VDOT and DRPT provide the MPO with annual allocation of planning funds in the spring, and the final numbers are not yet available. Budgets from the previous two fiscal years are below.

Revenues	FY 2021	FY 2022
FHWA PL	\$151,973	\$153,635
PL Carryover	\$69,295	\$109,102
FTA 5303	\$94,084	\$91,376.00
FTA 5303 Carryover	\$28,840	\$50,000*
Totals	\$344,192	\$404,113

*estimate

The FY21 budget focused on the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update process, the 2045 VTrans update, and SMART SCALE applications. In FY22, the MPO's programmatic focus and budget returns to small area studies and other activities requested by our local and state partners.

NEXT STEPS

- April 21 – TAC recommends release of the Draft FY 2022 UPWP to public comment
- May 5 – Policy Board releases the Draft FY 2022 UPWP to public comment
- June 2 – Policy Board approves the FY 2022 UPWP

REFERENCE

[Current \(FY21\) UPWP](#)



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda April 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Via ZOOM Video Conference Call

Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92314044862?pwd=dDBLVThLRm9YSVp5M1o5Zkg1N0ZjZz09>

Dial In: 1-301-715-8592 (Audio Only)

Meeting ID: 923 1404 4862 ▪ Password: 608183

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 17, 2021 TAC Meeting*
4. Draft FY22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (TAC Action Form #21-01)*
5. FY21 Small Area Study Exit 235 & Route 256 Update (TAC Memo #21-06)
6. FY22 Study Options (TAC Memo #21-07)
7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - May 5, 2021 – Policy Board Meeting, via videoconference, 10:00 a.m.
 - May 19, 2021 – TAC meeting, via videoconference, 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjournment

* Action Required



**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021, 2:00 p.m.**

Via Zoom Video Conference Call
[Audio Recording of Call Click Here](#)

Present (16):

Voting Members				Others	
	City of Staunton		VDOT	✓	Caroline Stoerker, Augusta County
✓	Rodney Rhodes	✓	Don Komara	✓	Sam Styers, McCormick Taylor
	Jeff Johnston	✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)		Staff (CSPDC)
	Tim Hartless (Alt)	✓	Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓	Ann Cundy
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		VA DRPT	✓	Zach Beard
	Augusta County		Wood Hudson	✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓	Doug Wolfe	Non-Voting Members		✓	Manas Ranjan
	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		VRT		
	Vacant (Alt)	✓	Steve Wilson		
	City of Waynesboro		Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Todd Wood, Chairperson		Federal Highway Admin.		
✓	Luke Juday		Mack Frost		
	Kira Johnson (Alt)		Federal Transit Admin.		
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis		
			VA Dept. of Aviation		
			Rusty Harrington		

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. In light of this emergency, the March 17th, 2021, SAWMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Todd Wood.

Public Comment

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Wood presented minutes from the January 20, 2021 TAC Meeting.

Ms. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Juday, to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Discussion of the Title VI Amendment (TAC Memo #21-04)

Chairperson Wood presented the Title VI Amendment. Ms. Cundy stated that the SAWMPO has a Title VI Plan (Title VI is part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) that lays out a plan for non-discrimination in MPO activities. She stated that every three years VDOT reviews the MPO Title VI plans and programs to ensure compliance. Ms. Cundy noted that the MPO has had a Title VI plan from the beginning, and that no complaints have been made. Upon a VDOT review of the plan in the fall of 2020, she stated that some updates to the plan were identified. Ms. Cundy stated that none of the findings were substantive and mostly had to do with procurement. She stated that the documented process for a member of the public to make a complaint outlined in the plan will be changed. Ms. Cundy stated that the current procedure includes complaints being reviewed by the MPO and will be changed to complaints being reviewed by FHWA. She stated that due to VDOT desiring to have the changes made quickly, the amended plan was presented to the Board at their March meeting and was approved to be released to the public review and comment period. After the public comment period, Ms. Cundy stated it will go to Board for approval in April.

Discussion of the FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Overview (TAC Memo #21-05)

Chairperson Wood presented the FY2022 UPWP. Mr. Beard stated that each year the MPO budget and activities for the upcoming fiscal year are reviewed. He stated that this plan, the UPWP, shows funding allocations from two main funding partners – FHWA and VDOT provide Highway funds and FTA and DRPT provide Transit funds. Mr. Beard stated that the fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. He stated that the FY2022 allocation is pending but the allocations are typically similar year over year. He stated that the carryover varies from year to year depending on expenses during the year. Mr. Beard stated that focus in FY2021 was on long-range planning and the LRTP update; FY2022 will be focused on small area studies, such as the I-81, Exit 235 study.

Mr. Beard stated that the final numbers will be presented to the TAC in April, the draft will be reviewed with the Board and released to public comment in May, then approved in June. The TAC is asked to review the document and provide comments and input.

Ms. Cundy stated that the FTA 5303 carryover is significantly more than in years past due to carrying over Transit Planning funds for the Transit Development Plan 5-year update; the technical assistance grant requires a 50% match.

MAP-21 Quarterly Planning and Programming Updates

Chairperson Wood presented the MAP-21 Updates. Ms. Cundy stated that each quarter, VDOT Central Office, DRPT and the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) host a meeting for PDC staff to provide updates on programs and MAP-21 targets, including the data that is tracked for the targets. She stated that a quarterly meeting was held last Wednesday where the “Multimodal Project Pipeline” was discussed. Ms. Cundy explained the Multimodal Project Pipeline, stating that OIPI was directed by the CTB to take all of the mid-term needs and prioritize them by priority 1-4 locations. She stated they used large statewide datasets to determine whether a need should be categorized as 1, 2, 3, or 4, focusing on Corridors of Statewide Significance and Regional Networks. Ms. Cundy stated that UDA needs were not included, which are determined by local governments and reflect local priorities. She stated that the prioritized list will help guide decisions on where VDOT should focus its planning study dollars, calling it the Multimodal Project Pipeline. As chair of VAMPO, Ms. Cundy made a formal comment at the meeting expressing concerns that were noted and echoed, but no change in policy resulted. She stated that for us and VDOT, studies like STARS and Arterial Management, etc., will be limited to Priority 1 locations, which are limited in number. Ms. Cundy stated that the slightly mitigating factor is that each of the CTB members have the opportunity to choose one project per year per non-priority 1 location. She stated that for the Staunton district, which is a huge district and includes three MPOs, the desire is to expand the eligibility to Priority 2 areas. With this new policy now adopted, Ms. Cundy stated that MPO planning dollars will be very important to use for studies, as it will be harder to get money for larger, costly studies.

Mr. Beard stated that VDOT has a new tool available called Pathways for Planning (vdotp4p.com), a GIS-based database to consolidate transportation data from many sources into one location and give planners at the local level access to multiple agencies and departments. He stated that access must be requested. Mr. Beard showed the various capabilities of the system and include searching for data, exporting data, data analytics and visualization, and completed studies and recommendations from studies. He stated that this tool is a resource, not required. Mr. Beard stated that anyone interested should contact the project manager, Geraldine Jones at Geraldine.Jones@vdot.virginia.gov. Slides attached to file minutes.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Komara gave the following update:

- Improve81.org is a source for improvement projects along the interstate.
- The auxiliary lanes from Exit 220 to 221 require the Barterbrook Road bridge to be replaced; plans are in process.
- Variable message boards are being added along I-81.
- Rt 250 Bell Creek bridge project (near Jake’s Store) is progressing very well and is on-schedule, expected to finish in summer 2021.
- Waynesboro Park & Ride lot project pre-construction meeting held in February; construction to begin in spring/summer.
- Rt 703 bridge replacement has been awarded to Kanawha Stone and construction will begin this summer.
- Safety improvements on 6 miles of Rt 340 from Crimora to Grottoes to include shoulder widening and rumble strips bids have been received; B&S will begin in the summer.

- I-81 Exit 235 access improvements (SMART SCALE project) right turn lanes from Rt 256 onto the ramps will go out for advertisement in the Spring.
- Mill Place dual left turn lanes are scheduled for next summer.
- TAP and Revenue Sharing application time is near; projects that may be too small for SMART SCALE may be good for one of these programs.

Mr. Campbell gave the following update:

- District staff will keep updated with the Multimodal Project Pipeline prioritization policy and how it will affect the district.
- SMART SCALE – There was an error in environmental scoring; the State corrected the error and issued a new funding scenario. This had a positive effect on the Waynesboro Broad Street project which was moved into the recommended funding scenario. SAWMPO received 10 projects for a total of \$51.5 million out of \$80.8 million (62% of the Stanton district funding).
- Draft Six-Year Improvement Plan with those projects and scheduling of the Spring Transportation meetings will be scheduled in the next few weeks.
- Downtown Stanton STARS study had a productive team meeting to go over the existing conditions and safety analysis; an interim meeting is scheduled for next week with City staff to go over some of the recommendations and the third study team meeting will be held in April/May.
- Transportation Alternatives – the pre-application window is scheduled to be open in the portal from May 17th through July 1st. Pre-application is a requirement. The full application deadline is October 1st.
- Revenue Sharing – there is a workshop webinar for local governments scheduled for April 29th from 10-Noon; a registration link is on the webpage for the program.

Mr. Beard added that there is a TAP workshop scheduled for April 14th from 10-Noon.

DRPT

No representative was present to report.

Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following updates:

- FY22 DRPT Grant Applications were submitted on February 1 and are being reviewed by DRPT staff. Grant applications are being submitted for Urban (5307), Rural (5311) and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Funds, and for Technical Assistance to complete the Transit Development Plan (TDP).
- In February, the CSPDC, in cooperation with the University of Virginia and TJPDC, conducted a public survey to determine the need for a Coworking Space located at the BRITE Transit Facility. Out of 359 respondents, 72% said that their work has shifted partially or entirely to telework and that 61% anticipate that this will continue in the future and that they would use a shared workspace 1-4 days per week. Shared workspace amenities that were indicated as desirable are privacy, security, enhanced technology and cleaning services. The Steering Committee will reconvene this month to discuss the survey results and next steps.

- There has been a slight increase in capacity on the buses from 20% to 50%, still allowing for social distancing.
- Tomorrow is Transit Driver Appreciation Day.

Other Business

Chairperson Wood opened the floor for other business. Ms. Cundy stated that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is considering a rule change in the way metropolitan statistical areas are being defined. The proposed change to the MSA definition will not affect our status as an MPO or an urbanized transit provider. It will change the way OMB tracks other statistics. Ms. Cundy stated that she is not aware of any analysis of the effects of this change. PDC staff is tracking this.

The Census Bureau is also considering a change in the way they define urbanized areas. This change could possibly affect our MPO. Staff is tracking this proposed change.

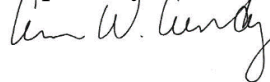
Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Wood stated that the Policy Board will meet on April 7th and the TAC on April 21st, both by videoconference.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Wood asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann W. Cundy
Director of Transportation



TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: April 21, 2021
RE: **TAC Action Form #21-01: FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Release to Public Comment**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the SAWMPO Policy Board release the draft FY 2022 UPWP for a 21-day public comment period.

BACKGROUND

The UPWP is the annual work program and budget for the MPO. It details the administrative and planning activities to be undertaken during the fiscal year, and the federal, state and local funds used for these activities.

The TAC can make recommendations to MPO staff on the activities and funding levels in the UPWP during the annual update process. The proposed budget for FY 2022, and the FY 2021 budget for comparison, are below.

Revenues	FY 2021	FY 2022
FHWA PL	\$151,973	\$153,635
PL Carryover	\$69,295	\$109,102
FTA 5303	\$94,084	\$91,376
FTA 5303 Carryover	\$28,840	\$65,500
Totals	\$344,192	\$419,613

The FY21 budget focused on allocating funds to the 18-month 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update process, the 2045 VTrans update, and SMART SCALE applications. In FY22, the budget focus will shift to short range planning and developing the Exit 235 Small Area Study.

NEXT STEPS

- May 5 – Policy Board releases the Draft FY 2022 UPWP to 21-day public comment
- June 2 – Policy Board approves the FY 2022 UPWP

ATTACHMENT

[Draft FY 2022 UPWP](#)



TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: April 21, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-06: FY 2021 Small Area Study Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FY21 SAMWPO Area Study at Exit 235 in Weyers Cave will evaluate mid-term solutions to periodic congestion, and anticipate long-term corridor needs and intersection configurations to accommodate future growth along Weyers Cave Road (VA 256) between US 11 and Triangle Drive.

MPO staff selected Michael Baker International as the study consultant, and held a kick-off meeting on March 21, 2021. The study is scheduled to be complete in December 2021.

KICK OFF MEETING

Staff from the MPO, Augusta County, VDOT, BRITE, Blue Ridge Community College, and the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport participated in the kick-off meeting. The consultant reviewed the scope of work, study area characteristics, timeline, and study group input.

NEXT STEPS

Michael Baker will evaluate the interchange for potential innovative intersections and interchange designs, and develop conceptual drawings and cost estimates for select mid-term recommendations. Long-term Improvements will be developed for 2045 AM and PM peak hour traffic, with a focus on adding capacity to the existing bridge over I-81, improving operations of the ramp junctions, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Weyers Cave Road (VA 256).

The next meeting in July 2021 will summarize the existing conditions and review the preliminary concepts for the 2045 build and no-build scenarios.

ATTACHMENTS

- [March 31, 2021 Small Area Study Kick-off Meeting](#)
- [Small Area Study Statement of Need](#)



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Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: April 21, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-07: Potential FY22 Studies**

BACKGROUND

The FY 2021 Small Area Study is scheduled to be complete in December 2021. Staff requests that the TAC review two potential studies that are smaller in scope for the second half of FY22, and recommend one to advance to the Policy Board for inclusion in the FY22 UPWP.

TWO POTENTIAL STUDIES

Regional Transportation Safety Plan

VDOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is working with MPOs to develop region-specific Transportation Safety Plans. The plans are based on the state-level [Virginia 2017 – 2021 Highway Safety Plan](#), and are entirely federally-funded.

The first regional Transportation Safety Plan was completed for the [Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization \(RVTPO\) in 2019](#). The report highlights regional safety trends, crash data, crash locations, and countermeasures and implementation options that address infrastructure and behavioral safety issues. The SAWMPO has an opportunity to develop a similar plan, which could provide further data and analysis on safety issues in the region.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Greenway Connectivity Plan

The City of Staunton, Augusta County, and the City of Waynesboro each have bicycle and pedestrian plans identifying non-motorized infrastructure improvements, and each locality has made progress in identifying and addressing their respective local multi-modal needs. Establishing the key segments to create a continuous multi-modal network between each locality is less understood.

A regional bicycle and pedestrian greenway connectivity plan would identify critical connectivity gaps between existing and funded greenway/shared use path segments in Staunton, the County, and Waynesboro. The report would not be a comprehensive MPO bicycle-pedestrian plan, but a connectivity study showing the existing multi-modal network for each locality, and identifying the most favorable locations for creating a continuous connection between each locality.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will provide an overview of both plans and TAC input to the Policy Board at the May 5, 2021 Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Virginia 2017 – 2021 Highway Safety Plan](#)
- [RVTPO Transportation Safety Plan, 2019](#)



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda June 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Via ZOOM Video Conference Call

Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92314044862?pwd=dDBLVThLRm9YSVp5M1o5Zkg1N0ZjZz09>

Dial In: 1-301-715-8592 (Audio Only)

Meeting ID: 923 1404 4862 ▪ Password: 608183

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2021 TAC Meeting*
4. Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Studies Update (TAC Memo #21-08)
5. 2020 Census Bureau Proposed Criteria for Urban Areas Letters (TAC Memo #21-09)
6. FY21 Small Area Study: Exit 235 and Route 256 Update (TAC Memo #21-10)
7. Presentation: “COVID-19 Impacts on Regional Transportation,” Manas Ranjan, Transportation Planner, CSPDC (TAC Memo #21-11)
8. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE
9. Other Business
 - TAP Resolutions of Support
 - Remote Attendance Policy
10. Upcoming Meetings
 - July 7, 2021 – Policy Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
 - July 21, 2021 – TAC meeting, 2:00 p.m.
11. Adjournment

* Action Required

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2021, 2:00 p.m.**

Via Zoom Video Conference Call
[Audio Recording of Call Click Here](#)

Present (13):

Voting Members				Others	
	City of Staunton		VDOT	✓	Caroline Stoerker, Augusta County
✓	Rodney Rhodes	✓	Don Komara		Staff (CSPDC)
✓	Jeff Johnston	✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)		Ann Cundy
	Tim Hartless (Alt)		Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓	Zach Beard
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		VA DRPT	✓	Devon Thompson
	Augusta County	✓	Wood Hudson	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)		
✓	Doug Wolfe	Non-Voting Members			
	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		VRT		
	Vacant (Alt)	✓	Steve Wilson		
	City of Waynesboro		Phil Thompson (Alt)		
	Todd Wood, Chairperson		Federal Highway Admin.		
✓	Luke Juday		Mack Frost		
	Kira Johnson (Alt)		Federal Transit Admin.		
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis		
			VA Dept. of Aviation		
			Rusty Harrington		

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. In light of this emergency, the April 21, 2021, SAWMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Leslie Tate.

Public Comment

Vice-Chairperson Tate opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairperson Tate presented minutes from the March 17, 2021 TAC Meeting.

Mr. Juday moved, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, to approve the minutes of March 17, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Consideration of the Draft FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (TAC Action Form #21-01)

Vice-Chairperson Tate presented the Draft FY2022 UPWP. Mr. Beard stated that the UPWP outlines the MPO's activities and budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He stated that this plan shows funding allocations from two main funding partners; FHWA and VDOT provide Highway funds and FTA and DRPT provide Transit funds. Mr. Beard stated that the memo shows funding allocations for FY21 and FY22; the allocation does not typically change much year over year. He stated that the carryover amount for FY22 is significantly higher due to a) the MPO not hiring a consultant for the LRTP Update and b) FTA 5303 transit funds were carried over for the BRITE Transit Development Fund (TDP) which is updated every five years. Mr. Beard stated that focus in FY2021 was on long-range planning and the LRTP update; FY2022 will be focused on small area studies, such as the I-81, Exit 235 study.

Mr. Beard stated that the final numbers are presented to the TAC to recommend to the Board for release to public comment at their May meeting. He stated that the UPWP will then be presented to the Board for approval in June.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Komara, to recommend to the Policy Board that the Draft UPWP be released to public comment. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

FY21 Small Area Study Exit 235 and Route 256 Update (TAC Memo #21-06)

Vice-Chairperson Tate presented the FY21 Small Area Studies Update. Mr. Beard stated that the I-81, Exit 235 and Route 256 study team held their kick-off meeting last month looking at mid- and long-term corridor needs. He stated that the consultant, Michael Baker, is looking for mid-term improvements such as signal improvements, potential innovative intersection design; long-term improvements will be focused on a.m. and p.m. peak hour traffic and adding capacity to the bridge over I-81, improving operations of the ramps and any bike/ped improvements on the corridor. Mr. Beard stated that the stakeholder group included representatives from BRCC and the Shenandoah Regional Airport. He stated that the group's focus is on identifying areas that could generate traffic volume. Kick-off meeting slides are linked in the TAC Memo.

Mr. Beard stated that the next steps include a study team meeting in July to summarize the existing conditions and review preliminary concepts. He stated that the study is expected to be completed in December 2021.

FY22 Study Options (TAC Memo #21-07)

Vice-Chairperson Tate presented the FY22 Study Options. Mr. Beard stated that Exit 235 small area study will be wrapping up in December. He stated that staff has identified two possible study options to undertake once that study is complete: 1) VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to develop a transportation safety improvement plan and 2) a Bike/Ped regional connectivity study. He explained both study concepts and benefits of doing each, noting that the HSIP study would be 100% federally funded and would use the Roanoke plan as a template. Mr. Beard asked for feedback from the TAC and stated that the TAC's recommendation will be made to the Policy Board.

Mr. Campbell stated that the Policy Board is always interested in the safety metrics and data and having the study data and recommendations would help the MPO in future grant applications.

Discussion ensued about the resources required for each study, timing and availability of resources and benefits of both projects. Mr. Beard summarized the discussion: there is widespread support for both studies, but there is understanding that the Safety Plan is a unique opportunity that is more time sensitive, dependent on outside resources and has the benefit of providing data that can be used to identify and develop effective projects for future applications. TAC members also expressed a desire to create a Bike/Ped connectivity study and plan within the next year, which could help with TAP applications, although this is not as time-sensitive as the Safety Plan. He stated that he would look into the possibility of conducting both studies in FY22, and will share the feedback with the Policy Board at their next meeting.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Komara gave the following update:

- Staunton District Six Year Plan meeting is next week, April 29th at 6pm (virtual).
- Public hearing on June 23rd on I-81/Exit 220/222 auxiliary lanes.
- Rt 250 Bell Creek bridge project (near Jake's Store) is progressing very well and is on-schedule, expected to finish in June, ahead of schedule.
- Waynesboro Park & Ride lot project work has started.
- Rt 703 Hewitt Road bridge replacement has been awarded to Kanawha Stone and construction will be ongoing throughout this summer.
- Safety improvements on 6 miles of Rt 340 from Crimora to Grottoes to include shoulder widening and rumble strips bids have been received; B&S pre-construction meeting was held this morning.
- I-81 Exit 235 access improvements (SMART SCALE project) right turn lanes from Rt 256 onto the ramps will go out for advertisement in the Fall.

Mr. Campbell gave the following update:

- Virtual Spring meeting information is available on the CTB website and includes a comment form; public comment period will close on May 17th.
- Upcoming Revenue Sharing workshop on April 29th from 10-noon.
- Downtown Staunton STARS Study - ATS is developing the recommendation alternatives and will present at the next team meeting on May 13th at 1:30 pm.

DRPT

Mr. Hudson gave the following updates:

- DRPT Six Year grant program has been posted on the DRPT website and details the grant awards. One of the grant recipients is the BRITE Transit Development Plan and other requests made by BRITE.
- Kick-off of the State Rail Plan which includes an outreach and engagement process is in progress.
- Governor signed an agreement with CSX which will preserve passenger rail in parts of the state.

Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following updates:

- American Rescue Plan Act FTA apportionment tables have been released and BRITE received additional operating funds to help continue to provide essential services and cover COVID-19 related expenses.
- The Afton Express transit service has a planned start date of September 1st. Staff has started and will continue to outline and plan the logistics of starting up the service by that date.
- Summer hours will be implemented beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 28) and will go until further notice: The Downtown Trolley hours will be extended by three hours in the evening; the Saturday Night Trolley hours will be extended by one hour in the evening.
- The Lewis Street Transit Hub has been purchased by the CSPDC. The two-acre property located in downtown Stanton has been the BRITE Transit Hub since 2014. This Hub is essential to public transportation service delivery providing a safe and secure location where four buses and the Downtown Trolley meet each hour. The site contains two bus shelters and off-street access, and anchors the 250 Connector Route, the Blue Ridge Community College Shuttle Route, and the Stanton bus routes. Pre-pandemic rider counts were over 2,000 at this location.

Other Business

Vice-Chairperson Tate opened the floor for other business. There was no other business.

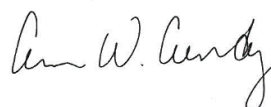
Upcoming Meetings

Vice-Chairperson Tate stated that the Policy Board will meet on May 5th and the TAC on May 19th, both by videoconference.

Meeting Adjourned

Vice-Chairperson Tate asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann W. Cundy
Director of Transportation



112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: June 16, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-08: Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Studies Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The TAC reviewed two potential FY22 studies – a Regional Highway Safety Plan in partnership with the VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and a Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Plan – at the April 2021 TAC meeting.

The TAC expressed support for both studies, and requested clarification on whether the MPO could conduct both studies in the same fiscal year. Ultimately, the TAC recommended that the Policy Board prioritize developing the Safety Plan based on the opportunity of developing an entirely federally-funded study. The Policy Board approved a letter requesting VDOT technical assistance for the plan at the June 2, 2021 Board meeting.

After considering scheduling and staff capacity, MPO staff intend to pursue both studies in FY22, with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Study being staff-led and likely beginning in Fall 2021, and the Safety Plan beginning in January 2022.

FY22 STUDIES

HSIP Regional Transportation Safety Plan

VDOT's Traffic Engineering Division is working with MPOs to develop regional Highway Safety Plans. The plans are based on the statewide [Virginia 2017 – 2021 Highway Safety Plan](#), and are entirely federally-funded. The SAWMPO plan would highlight regional safety trends and improvement strategies addressing both infrastructure and behavioral safety issues.

Staff will coordinate with VDOT to develop a project outline and schedule. A VDOT consultant will develop the Scope of Work detailing the study tasks and deliverables.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Greenway Connectivity Plan

The City of Staunton, Augusta County, and the City of Waynesboro each have individual bicycle and pedestrian plans identifying non-motorized infrastructure improvements. This study would identify and prioritize segments in each locality to create a connected system of non-motorized facilities that generally parallel US 250 and I-64.

Staff will coordinate with each locality and VDOT District Planning to refine the study focus and develop a Scope of Work.

ATTACHMENT

[Request for Assistance Letter – Submitted June 2, 2021](#)



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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC

FROM: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2021

RE: **TAC Memo #21-09: 2020 Census Bureau Proposed Criteria for Urban Areas Letter**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Census Bureau is proposing a new methodology for defining urban areas. The proposed changes would significantly reduce the SAWMPO urban area, and could affect Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding allocations to MPOs and small urban transit systems. Staff reviewed the proposed Census changes and impacts with the TAC in April 2021, and with the Policy Board in May and June 2021.

Staff submitted a letter to the Census Bureau outlining concerns with the proposed urban area methodology on May 18, 2021. Staff submitted a second letter on behalf of the Policy Board to Senators Warner and Kaine, and Congressman Cline outlining concerns over the proposed urban area definition changes on the SAWMPO and BRITE Transit on June 2, 2021.

CENSUS BUREAU PROPOSED URBAN AREAS CRITERIA

On February 19, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau [proposed seven new criteria](#) for defining urban areas based on the 2020 Census results. The Census Bureau revises urban area boundaries after each decennial census based on new data.

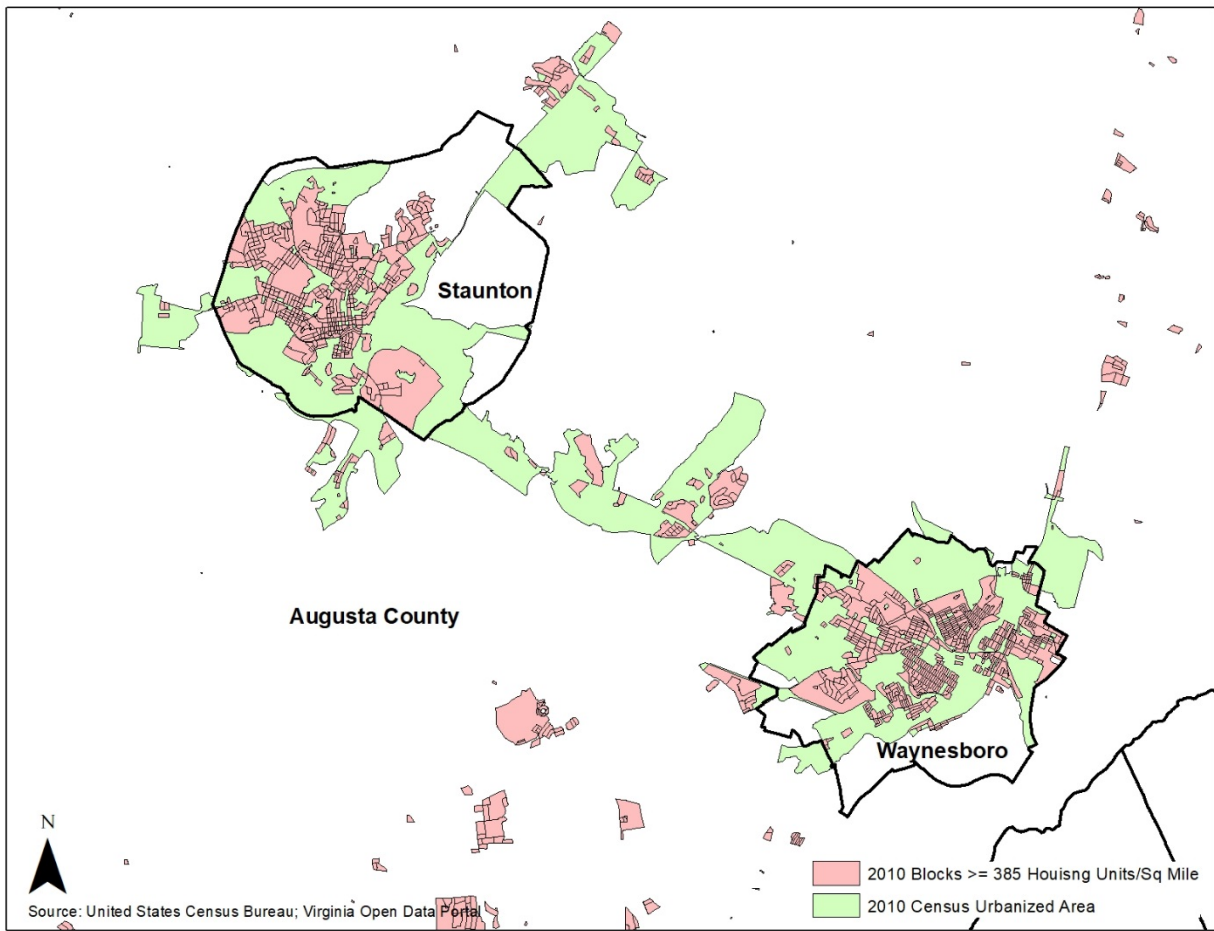
The Census Bureau currently defines urban areas based on population density per Census block. The seven new criteria define an urban area based on housing units per square mile in census blocks, incorporate a measure of soil imperviousness, and reduce the “hop” distance allowed between urban census blocks, which link together to form our urban area.

IMPLICATIONS

The new criteria would significantly reduce the size of the SAWMPO’s urban area (**see Figure 1**). The size reduction could lead to a decrease in the MPO’s apportionment of metropolitan planning funding through the FHWA and FTA, which would limit MPO planning activities.

It could also change BRITE Transit’s status as a direct recipient of FTA 5307 funding for urban transit service. BRITE would become an FTA 5311 (Rural) system.

Figure 1: Preliminary SAWMPO Urban Area Changes based on the Census Bureau's Proposed Criteria using 2010 Census Data



ATTACHMENTS

- [Letter to Congressional Delegation](#)
- [Letter to the U.S. Census Bureau](#)
- [AMPO Joint Letter to the Census](#)





**Staunton Augusta
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Metropolitan Planning
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Staunton, VA 24401

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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: June 16, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-10: FY 2021 Small Area Study Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FY21 SAMWPO Area Study at Interstate 81 Exit 235 in Weyers Cave is evaluating mid-term solutions to periodic congestion, and long-term corridor needs and intersection configurations to accommodate future growth along Weyers Cave Road (VA 256) between US 11 and Triangle Drive.

The consultant Michael Baker International is scheduled to complete the study in December 2021.

SITE VISIT

Michael Baker, the MPO, VDOT, and Augusta County staff met for a site visit on May 10, 2021 to review site conditions and areas for potential development growth. Baker used this information to develop base and future year volumes.

A 1% linear growth rate will be applied for Route 256 and Route 11, and a 2% linear growth rate will be applied for the Interstate 81 interchange ramps.

NEXT STEPS

The next meeting is anticipated to be held in July 2021 after VDOT approval of the identified growth rates. The study group will review existing conditions data, preliminary mid- and long-term concepts, and begin planning the public outreach process.

ATTACHMENTS

- [March 31, 2021 Small Area Study Kick-off Meeting](#)
- [Small Area Study Statement of Need](#)

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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC

FROM: Manas Ranjan, Transportation Planner

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2021

RE: **TAC Memo #21-11: Presentation - COVID Impacts on Transportation**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the nation's transportation network, with major changes observed in traffic volume, traffic speed, and the number of crashes throughout the nation.

National-level studies documented notable trends in decreasing in traffic volume, increasing speed volume, and increasing fatal and severe crash rates.

However, these studies focused on the country's major urban areas, and had limited data points from rural regions. Based on studies conducted nationally and in Northern Virginia, staff conducted a study focused on how more rural regions like the CSPDC and SAWMPO compared to national trends using VDOT crash data and traffic modeling.

STUDY FINDINGS

The effects of COVID-19 on the transportation network in the SAWMPO do not appear to reflect the trends identified in urban areas and Northern Virginia. Overall, there were several key findings:

- Crashes decreased in the region, but there was no change in the number of fatal and major injury crashes as compared to previous years.
- The number of minor crashes and crashes involving property damage declined during the pandemic. This resulted in an increase in the proportion of fatal crashes and crashes involving major injuries even when the actual number of fatal and major injury crashes remained same as the previous year.
- The models analyzing the crash data and the cause of crashes reveal that national trends in more urban areas likely to not reflect the crash rate trends in the SAWMPO region. This illustrates the importance of contextualizing data, and not overestimating the impact of COVID-19 on the proportion of major and fatal crashes in the MPO area.

The study reveals the different ways the pandemic may have impacted urban and rural regions. The research indicates that the presence of location-specific factors responsible for the crashes may require location-specific metrics to be measured.



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda August 18, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
112 MacTanly Place
Stanton, VA 24401

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 16, 2021 TAC Meeting*
4. Consideration of 2021 TAP Resolutions of Support (TAC Action Form #21-02)*
5. Resolution Authorizing Electronic Participation in SAWMPO Meetings (TAC Memo 21-12)
6. FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment (TAC Memo #21-13)
7. Presentation: Afton Express Service Launch - Devon Thompson, Transit Planner
8. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE
9. Other Business
 - VAMPO Training September 15, 2021
10. Upcoming Meetings
 - September 1, 2021 – SAWMPO Policy Board, 10:00 a.m., CSPDC Office
 - September 15, 2021 – SAWMPO TAC, 2:00 p.m., CSPDC Office
11. Adjournment

* Action Required

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2021, 2:00 p.m.**

Via Zoom Video Conference Call
[Audio Recording of Call Click Here](#)

Present (17):

Voting Members				Others	
	City of Staunton		VDOT	✓	William Wentzien, McCormick Taylor
✓	Rodney Rhodes	✓	Don Komara		
✓	Jeff Johnston	✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)		Staff (CSPDC)
	Tim Hartless (Alt)		Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓	Ann Cundy
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		VA DRPT	✓	Zach Beard
	Augusta County		Wood Hudson	✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓	Doug Wolfe	Non-Voting Members		✓	Manas Ranjan
	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		VRT	✓	Olivia Raines
✓	Caroline Stoerker (Alt)		Steve Wilson		
	City of Waynesboro		Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Todd Wood, Chairperson		Federal Highway Admin.		
✓	Luke Juday		Mack Frost		
✓	Alisande Tombarge (Alt)		Federal Transit Admin.		
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis		
			VA Dept. of Aviation		
			Rusty Harrington		

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. In light of this emergency, the June 16, 2021, SAWMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Todd Wood.

Public Comment

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Wood presented minutes from the April 21, 2021 TAC Meeting.

Mr. Wolfe moved, seconded by Ms. Tate, to approve the minutes of April 21, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

FY22 Studies Update (TAC Memo #21-08)

Chairperson Wood presented the FY22 Studies Update. Mr. Beard stated that at the April TAC meeting, two potential FY22 studies were reviewed; 1) a regional highway safety plan in partnership with VDOT and 2) a bike-ped connectivity plan led by MPO staff. He summarized feedback from the TAC in support of both studies and requesting both studies to be done in the fiscal year if possible.

Mr. Beard stated that due to the time sensitivity of the regional highway safety plan and that the cost is totally paid for with federal funds, the TAC recommended that the MPO pursue this opportunity, which the Board approved. He stated that this study will begin in January 2022. Mr. Beard stated that the plan will be done in partnership with VDOT's Traffic Engineering Division and the product will be a plan that addresses safety, infrastructure and behavioral aspects of safety.

Mr. Beard stated that beginning in the fall of 2021, and conducted in-house by MPO and locality staff, the Bike-Ped Regional Connectivity study will prioritize the segments of each locality to create a connected system for non-motorized transportation that will generally parallel I-81 and I-64. He stated that staff has begun collecting existing data from each locality and outlining a rough scope of work.

Introductions

Chairperson Wood requested introductions of new staff members. Ms. Cundy introduced Ms. Olivia Raines, who joined the CSPDC today as a Regional Planner. Mr. Juday introduced Ms. Alisande Tombarge, who is Waynesboro's new Associate Planner.

2020 Census Bureau Proposed Criteria for Urban Areas Letters (TAC Memo #21-09)

Chairperson Wood presented the Census Bureau Proposed Criteria for Urban Areas. Ms. Cundy stated that staff has reviewed a proposal by the Census Bureau to use a new methodology to define urban areas. She stated that this methodology could dramatically shrink the MPO's urbanized area and cause it to fall below the population threshold. Ms. Cundy stated that this could affect transit funding in the region (BRITE bus system).

Ms. Cundy stated that Mr. Ranjan created a map that shows the potential impact of this proposed criteria. She stated that the 2020 census data is not expected to be significantly different than the projections using the 2010 data. Ms. Cundy stated that a letter was sent to the congressional delegation as discussed at last month's meeting.

Mr. Juday asked when the 2020 census data will be released; Ms. Cundy stated that she last heard fall of 2021.

FY21 Small Area Study: Exit 235 and Route 256 Update (TAC Memo #21-10)

Chairperson Wood presented the FY21 Small Area Study at Exit 235 and Route 256. Mr. Beard stated that the study in Weyers Cave is evaluating mid-term and long-term corridor needs and intersection configurations to accommodate current congestion and future growth along Weyers Cave Road (VA 256) between US 11 and Triangle Drive. He stated that mid-term recommendations are expected to include signal improvements and potential interchange design improvements. Mr. Beard stated that the long-term recommendations will focus on adding capacity over the bridge at the interchange. He stated that a site review meeting was held last month to look at future development. Mr. Beard stated that once VDOT has confirmed the growth rates, the next study team meeting will be scheduled. He stated that the study is on-track to be completed by the end of the year.

Presentation: "COVID-19 Impacts on Regional Transportation," Manas Ranjan, Transportation Planner, CSPDC (TAC Memo #21-11)

Chairperson Wood presented Mr. Ranjan who will discuss COVID-19 Impacts on Regional Transportation. Mr. Ranjan noted that staff wanted to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the transportation networks and requirements in the region, and study the findings in comparison to national trends. He stated that the comparative study found interesting variances and region-specific insights that contrast with national trends, and raised valuable questions regarding transportation characteristics and needs particular to the region.

Mr. Ranjan noted that using the same methodology as studies conducted nationally and in Northern Virginia, staff conducted a study focused on the CSPDC region to explore if the region also followed the national trend or, if it differed, in what ways. He stated that the study used crash data from VDOT to develop models to explore the nature of crashes, increase in fatal crashes, and the reason behind the increase specific to the rural nature of our region.

Mr. Ranjan noted that the study found that, unlike the trends noticed in urban areas and Northern Virginia, the region did not face the same effects of COVID-19 pandemic on transportation. He reported on overall crashes in the region, the number of fatal and major injury crashes as compared to previous years, and the different ways the pandemic may have impacted urban and rural regions. (Presentation attached to file minutes.)

Ms. Cundy stated that the trends found in this study can be used to guide recommendations in the upcoming regional highway safety plans.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Campbell gave the following update:

- The pre-application deadline for Revenue Sharing and Transportation Alternatives Program is July 1st. Following the pre-application window, the final application deadline is October 1st.
- The June CTB meeting is next week, and it is expected that the CTB will approve the FY22 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). At last month's CTB meeting, our representative, Mr. Merrill, decided to make a change to the recommended scenario to ensure equity across the district. The Waynesboro Broad Street project, which was the last project to get funded, was switched with the next project on the list, a project in Woodstock. The Woodstock project is the only project awarded in that region and is a much-needed safety improvement project. It provides a roundabout at an intersection at the entrance to the Shenandoah Valley Fair Grounds which has the highest PSI location outside the MPO areas.
- The downtown Stanton STARS study team met to review recommendations made by the consultant with City Council. Council asked for more time to evaluate the recommendations before releasing to public comment.
- Mr. Juday asked if Revenue Sharing could be used for paving or maintenance. Mr. Campbell said that those projects are eligible but funding is likely not for the next 2 years. Ms. Cundy stated that the State of Good Repair program may be an option.

Mr. Komara gave the following update:

- Public hearing on June 23rd on I-81/Barterbrook Road project.
- I-81 projects are under design and updates are available on Improve81.org.
- Rt 250 Bell Creek bridge project (near Jake's Store) is complete, six months ahead of schedule.
- Waynesboro Park & Ride lot project work has started; working on drainage basin.
- Rt 703 Hewitt Road bridge replacement; expected to be finished by the end of the summer.
- Safety improvements on Rt 340 from Crimora to Grottoes is almost complete.
- I-81 Exit 235 access improvements (SMART SCALE project) right turn lanes from Rt 256 onto the ramps will go out for advertisement next week.
- Rt 262 improvements are in the design process.

DRPT

Mr. Hudson was not available to provide an update.

Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following update:

- The Afton Express transit service has a planned start date of September 1st. Staff continues to outline and plan the logistics of starting up the service by that date. Two buses have been purchased and one bus has been delivered and has been branded. This bus was used in a photo shoot yesterday; the photos will be used for the marketing materials for promotional campaigns, which will begin in July and August.
- Staff is moving forward with the procurement of ITS Phase I, which involves assistance from Kimley-Horn with the procurement and implementation of the system.
- DRPT approved the Transit Development Plan (TDP) technical assistance grant and that process will kick-off in July. The BRITE Transit Advisory Committee (BTAC) will serve as the advisory committee for developing this plan, and KFH Group will be the consultant leading the process.

- BRITE will resume fare collection on all routes beginning on July 5. Those previously eligible for fare-free rides will continue to be able to ride fare-free.
- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) extended the face mask requirement for individuals across all transportation networks through the US, including public transportation, through September 13. BRITE will continue to adhere to the requirement until lifted.

Other Business

Chairperson Wood opened the floor for other business. Ms. Cundy gave the following updates:

- She requested localities to notify staff of any planned TAP applications so that resolutions of support may be presented to the Policy Board in September. Signed resolutions of support are required to be submitted with TAP applications.
- The Governor will lift the emergency order on July 1st. This will be the last virtual meeting; meetings will be in-person going forward. The July meeting will likely be cancelled.
- Staff is working with an attorney to develop a remote attendance policy which would require an in-person quorum, but allow for virtual attendance for up to two meetings per year. This is in accordance with state law. If anyone has concerns, please let Ms. Cundy know.

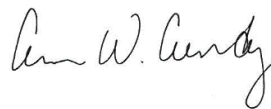
Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Wood stated that the Policy Board is scheduled to meet on July 7th and the TAC on July 21th.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Wood asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann W. Cundy
Director of Transportation



**Staunton Augusta
Waynesboro**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

112 MacTanly Place,
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, SAWMPO Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: August 18, 2021
RE: **TAC Action Form #21-02: Consideration of 2021 TAP Resolutions of Support**

RECOMMENDATION

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

OVERVIEW

TAP applications for projects within the SAWMPO area require a resolution of support from the SAWMPO Policy Board. The TAP pre-application validation phase ended on August 15, 2021, and approved applicants have until October 1, 2021 to submit the resolutions with their final applications.

SAWMPO staff recommends endorsing all project applications submitted by SAWMPO members. SAWMPO members have submitted the following pre-applications:

Augusta County

Augusta County is applying for the remaining construction funding for the final phase of the Verona Pedestrian Improvement Project. The project will install new 5' sidewalks on the eastern side of US 11 from Dick Huff Lane into the City of Staunton to approximately 400' south of the Augusta County/City of Staunton line and along Dick Huff Ln (Rt 940) from US 11 to the Augusta County Government Center. TAP funded the preliminary engineering and ROW phases in FY2019, and the first construction phase in FY2021.

City of Waynesboro

The City of Waynesboro is applying for construction funding for Phase 4 of the South River Greenway. The project will install a 10-foot-wide multi-use path from North Park, the terminus of Greenway Phase 2B, to Basic Park on Genicom Drive. Preliminary engineering and right-of-way were funded in a previous TAP grant. Upon completion, the greenway will extend 4 miles and connect to four parks, the downtown area, and the public library.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Augusta County Verona Pedestrian Improvements TAP Resolution](#)
- [Waynesboro Phase 4 South River Greenway TAP Resolution](#)



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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC

FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2021

RE: **TAC Memo #21-12: FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Transit Amendment**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The MPO must add the cost of rehabilitating the BRITE Transit Hub on Lewis Street in Staunton to the FY21-24 TIP before submitting an application for federal transit funds to cover a portion of the cost. The Policy Board approved the release the FY21-24 TIP Transit Amendment to public comment for the required 21-day comment period at the August 4, 2021 Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

The CSPDC purchased the BRITE Transit Hub in 2021. The two-acre property is essential to public transportation service delivery, and provides a safe and secure location where four buses and the Downtown Trolley meet each hour. The Hub anchors the 250 Connector Route on the western end, the Blue Ridge Community College Shuttle Route on the southern end, and the Staunton bus routes.

Draper Aden and Associates took core samples to assess the depth and quality of the pavement, and provided the PDC with a preliminary cost estimate for rehabilitating the parking lot. The project will include constructing a concrete bus lane to extend the life of the lot where buses pull through and park.

NEXT STEPS

The Policy Board released the draft FY21-24 TIP Transit Amendment on August 10, 2021 for the 21-day public comment period. The Policy Board will review any comments received, and approve the amendment at the September 1, 2021 meeting.

ATTACHMENT

[Draft FY21–24 TIP Transit Amendment](#)



112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: August 18, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-13: Resolution Authorizing Electronic Participation in SAWMPO Meetings**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governor of Virginia's Executive Order allowing public bodies to meet by electronic communications in response to the COVID-19 pandemic expired on June 30, 2021. The SAWMPO resumed in-person Policy Board and TAC meetings at the CSPDC office in August, 2021. The revised Virginia State Code allows for members to participate electronically based on several restrictions and conditions.

The Policy Board approved the resolution at the August 4, 2021 Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. The General Assembly authorized public bodies to meet via electronic means without a physical quorum during the COVID-19 global pandemic, which expired on June 30, 2021.

Absent a declared state of emergency, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act authorizes certain limited electronic participation. The SAWMPO must approve a policy based on Code of Virginia § 2.2-3708.2 to enable its members and committees to participate remotely in meetings.

The Code allows members to participate electronically if a member notifies the Chair or other presiding officer on or before the date of the meeting that the member is unable to attend due to 1) a specified personal matter; 2) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents physical attendance; or 3) the member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location.

Remote participation due to a personal matter is limited to two meetings per year.

ATTACHMENTS

- [SAWMPO Remote Attendance Resolution](#)
- [Code of Virginia: § 2.2-3708.2. Meetings held through electronic communication means](#)



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda October 20, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401

OR

Via ZOOM Video Conference

Web Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92314044862?pwd=dDBLVThLRm9YSVp5M1o5Zkg1N0ZjZz09>
Dial In (Audio Only): 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 923 1404 4862 Password: 608183

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 18, 2021 TAC Meeting*
4. Exit 235 Update (TAC Memo #21-14)
5. Presentation: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Alleyn Harned, Executive Director, Virginia Clean Cities
6. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE
7. Other Business
 - Joint CAMPO-SAWMPO meeting
8. Upcoming Meetings
 - November 3, 2021 – SAWMPO Policy Board, 10:00 a.m., CSPDC Office
 - November 17, 2021 – SAWMPO TAC, 2:00 p.m., CSPDC Office
9. Adjournment

* Action Required

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2021, 2:00 p.m.**

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission*
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401

Present (15):

Voting Members			Others	
	City of Staunton		VDOT	✓ Bill Bushman, Hurt & Proffitt
✓	Rodney Rhodes		Don Komara	Staff (CSPDC)
	Jeff Johnston	✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)	Ann Cundy
	Tim Hartless (Alt)	✓	Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓ Zach Beard
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		VA DRPT	✓ Devon Thompson
	Augusta County	✓*	Wood Hudson	✓ Kimberly Miller
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)	
	Doug Wolfe	Non-Voting Members		
✓	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		VRT	
✓	Caroline Stoerker (Alt)	✓*	Steve Wilson	
	City of Waynesboro		Phil Thompson (Alt)	
✓	Todd Wood, Chairperson		Federal Highway Admin.	
✓	Luke Juday		Mack Frost	
✓	Alisande Tombarge (Alt)		Federal Transit Admin.	
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis	
			VA Dept. of Aviation	
			Rusty Harrington	

*Due to a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the region, a virtual attendance option by Zoom was offered to non-voting members and other attendees. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Todd Wood.

Public Comment

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Wood presented minutes from the June 16, 2021 TAC Meeting.

Ms. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, to approve the minutes of June 16, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Consideration of the 2021 TAP Resolutions of Support (TAC Action Form #21-02)

Chairperson Wood presented the TAP Resolutions of Support. Mr. Beard stated that he will be the lead staff person for the TAC to allow Ms. Cundy to focus on other transportation projects. He stated that the MPO is required to adopt Resolutions of Support for TAP projects within the MPO. He stated that the pre-application window has closed, and the final applications must be submitted by October 1st.

There are two projects this round, Mr. Beard stated. He described the sidewalk project in Augusta County and Ms. Tate added that a BRITE bus stop will be connected to businesses and the government center in the area. Mr. Beard described the greenway project in Waynesboro and Mr. Juday added that this is the last stretch of what will be a 4-mile trail.

Mr. Beard stated that staff requests a motion to recommend these Resolutions of Support to the Policy Board for adoption.

Mr. Juday moved, seconded by Mr. VanFossen, to recommend the TAP Resolutions of Support to the Policy Board. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Resolution Authorizing Electronic Participation in SAWMPO Meetings

Chairperson Wood presented for discussion a Resolution Authorizing Electronic Participation in Meetings of the SAWMPO. Mr. Beard reported that the Governor of Virginia's Executive Order allowing public bodies to meet by electronic means in response to the COVID-19 pandemic expired on June 30, 2021. He stated that the SAWMPO must approve a policy based on Code of Virginia §2.2-3708.2 to enable its members and committees to participate remotely in meetings.

Mr. Beard noted that the Code allows members to participate electronically if a member is unable to attend due to: 1) a specified personal matter (limited to two occurrences per year; 2) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents physical attendance; or 3) the member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location. He stated that the Board adopted this resolution at their August 4th meeting.

FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Transit Amendment Release to Public Comment (TAC Memo #21-13)

Chairperson Wood presented for discussion the TIP Amendment. Mr. Beard stated that the BRITE Transit hub on North Lewis Street in Staunton needs to be improved and it was determined that the existing pavement is inadequate. He explained that the engineering firm, Draper Aden, conducted pavement samples and found that the sub-base is not an adequate depth, such that repaving would be of little benefit. Mr. Beard stated that the asphalt needs to be completely removed and sub-base added before repaving. He explained that any project applying for federal funds must be included in the MPO's TIP and that the first step in the process is to release the proposed Amendment for public comment.

Mr. Beard stated that the Board approved the proposed TIP Amendment to be released for the required 21-day public comment period at their August 4th meeting.

Presentation: *Afton Express Service Launch* by Devon Thompson, Transit Planner, CSPDC

Chairperson Wood presented Ms. Thompson to discuss the Afton Express Service Launch. Ms. Thompson provided an update on the Afton Express Service Launch, beginning by playing video advertisements that have been developed as part of the marketing campaign; three by future riders of the service and one by Mr. Jim Ryan, President of UVA. She discussed the upcoming service, and preparations that are underway for the service launch on September 1st.

Ms. Thompson stated that pre-launch promotion and marketing was developed by a stakeholder committee including representatives from CSPDC, TJPDC, and UVA. She encouraged the audience to engage on social media and help to spread the word of the service.

In response to a question, Ms. Thompson stated that Albemarle County is one of the partners. She stated that funding is also provided by DRPT through a demonstration grant. Discussion followed regarding benchmarking, data tracking, capacity issues, and the extra bus. (Presentation attached to file minutes.)

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Campbell gave the following update:

- As Mr. Beard mentioned, the TAP and Revenue Sharing final application deadline is October 1st.
- The Downtown Staunton STARS Study public comment period ended on Monday. Feedback was solicited through a MetroQuest survey which had a total of 487 participants who generated close to 300 comments; a summary of the feedback will be provided to the study team at their next meeting in September.

Mr. Dunlap gave the following update:

- All of the I-81 projects continue to move forward.
- I-81 Exit 220-222 auxiliary lane project - a public hearing was held in June regarding the Barterbrook Road bridge over I-81. VDOT is working to limit the impact of the project.

- I-81 widening between exits 221-225 - a public hearing will be held on August 24th at the VDOT auditorium from 4-6.
- Rt 340 safety project was wrapped up last week.
- Park and Ride Lot improvements in Waynesboro are progressing well.
- Rt 703 Hewitt Road bridge replacement will continue through the summer into the fall.
- Updates on other safety, maintenance and bridge projects in the region were discussed.

DRPT

Mr. Hudson gave the following update:

- Transit Ridership Incentive Program is a new statewide grant program dedicated to reducing barriers to transit use by supporting low income and zero fare programming. The grant application window opened on August 2 and will remain open through September 17.
- DRPT is working on the COVID Recovery Toolkit and Marketing Resources which will be available for transit providers to use.
- The Transit Equity and Modernization Study is underway; the goal of which is an assessment of the current conditions and to provide an action plan to improve equitable delivery of transit within the Commonwealth.

Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following update:

- The Transit Development Plan (TDP) process will kick-off at the BRITE Transit Advisory Committee's September meeting. The BTAC will serve as the advisory committee for developing this plan, and KFH Group will be the consultant leading the process.
- Staff is moving forward with the federal funding application for ITS Phase I. Once completed and approved, staff will work with consultant, Kimley-Horn, on the procurement and implementation of ITS on the BRITE buses.
- On July 5, BRITE resumed fare collection on all routes. Those previously eligible for fare-free rides, i.e. those traveling to Augusta Health or students with a valid ID, will continue to be able to ride fare-free.
- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) extended the face mask requirement for individuals across all transportation networks through the US, including public transportation, through September 13. A new extension has pushed the date to January 2022.

Other Business

Chairperson Wood opened the floor for other business. Mr. Beard reminded attendees that the Virginia Association of MPOs (VAMPO) will hold a webinar on September 15th from 9-12. The speaker will be Charles Brown, professor at Rutgers and founder and principal with Equitable Cities, who will give a keynote address titled "Arrested Mobility: Exploring the Adverse Impacts of Over-policing BIPOC Mobility in the US." The webinar will count as three AICP CM credits.



Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Wood stated that the Policy Board is scheduled to meet on September 1st and the TAC on September 15th.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Wood asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Zach Beard
Transportation Planner



**Staunton Augusta
Waynesboro**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: October 20, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-14: FY 2021 Exit 235 Small Area Study Update**

BACKGROUND

The FY21 Small Area Study at Interstate 81 Exit 235 in Weyers Cave is evaluating mid-term solutions to periodic congestion, and long-term corridor needs and intersection configurations to accommodate future growth along Weyers Cave Road (VA 256) between US 11 and Triangle Drive.

The study team includes consultant Michael Baker and representatives from the MPO, Augusta County, VDOT, BRITE, Blue Ridge Community College, and the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport.

THIRD MEETING AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

On September 21, 2021, the study group reviewed the preliminary mid- and long-term recommendations for addressing concerns identified in the existing conditions and future no-build analyses.

Based on the study group input, the consultant is developing detailed concepts and recommendations for specific improvements, including right-of-way impacts and cost estimates.

The consultant will present the detailed concepts to the Augusta County Board of Supervisors on October 25, 2021. After receiving Board input, MPO staff will develop and release an online survey in early November to collect public input on the proposed alternatives. Staff anticipates holding an in-person public meeting at Blue Ridge Community College to share the final recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Preliminary Concepts](#)
- [Small Area Study Statement of Need](#)



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda December 15, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401

OR

Via ZOOM Video Conference

Web Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92314044862?pwd=dDBLVThLRm9YSVp5M1o5Zkg1N0ZjZz09>
Dial In (Audio Only): 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 923 1404 4862 Password: 608183

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 20, 2021 TAC Meeting*
4. Election of TAC Chair (TAC Action Form #21-03)*
5. 2022 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule (TAC Memo #21-15)
6. I-81 Exit 235 Study Survey Update (TAC Memo #21-16)
7. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Update (TAC Memo #21-17)
8. Presentation: Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study - Wood Hudson, Transit Planner, DRPT
9. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE
10. Other Business
11. Upcoming Meetings
 - January 5, 2022 – SAWMPO Policy Board, 10:00 a.m., CSPDC Office
 - January 19, 2022 – SAWMPO TAC, 2:00 p.m., CSPDC Office
12. Adjournment

* Action Required

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Meeting Minutes October 20, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission*
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401

Present (18):

Voting Members			Others		
	City of Staunton		VDOT	✓*	Alleyn Harned, VCC
	Rodney Rhodes	✓	Don Komara	✓*	Bruce Vlk, VCC
✓	Jeff Johnston	✓*	Adam Campbell (Alt)	✓*	Sam Styers, McCormick Taylor
	Tim Hartless (Alt)	✓*	Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓*	Unknown at 540-248-1738
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		VA DRPT		Staff (CSPDC)
	Augusta County	✓*	Wood Hudson		Ann Cundy
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)	✓	Zach Beard
	Doug Wolfe	Non-Voting Members		✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		VRT	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓*	Caroline Stoerker (Alt)	✓*	Steve Wilson		
	City of Waynesboro		Phil Thompson (Alt)		
	Todd Wood, Chairperson		Federal Highway Admin.		
	Luke Juday		Mack Frost		
✓	Alisande Tombarge		Federal Transit Admin.		
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis		
✓*	Tony Smith (Alt)		VA Dept. of Aviation		
			Rusty Harrington		

*Due to COVID-19, a virtual attendance option by Zoom was offered to non-voting members and other attendees. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Vice Chairperson, Ms. Leslie Tate.

Public Comment

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

Exit 235 Small Area Study Update (TAC Memo #21-14)

Vice Chair Tate presented the Exit 235 Small Area Study Update. Mr. Beard stated that the study area is in Weyers Cave, on Route 256 between Route 11 and Triangle Drive and includes both south and northbound exits from I-81 (the area is known as the Blue Ridge Community College exit). The study will examine possible safety and congestion improvements, in particular, left turn movements on the bridge. At the study group meeting last month, 10 preliminary concepts were reviewed and six were selected to advance for more analysis and for presentation to the County Board of Supervisors. Because the bridge over I-81 will not likely be replaced in the near or mid-term future, the team is looking at ways to improve traffic flow and safety in the near-term.

Mr. Beard reviewed the 10 concepts, each with a general concept and a table that indicates the potential impact on a.m. and p.m. traffic, estimated crash reduction and whether or not the study team selected the project for advancement. Project concepts were presented in a PowerPoint slide show and in a handout, both attached to file minutes.

There was some discussion about details, results and costs of the recommended concepts. Of the six concepts selected to advance for more detailed analysis, four include roundabouts, 1 includes adding an extra turn lane on the bridge, and 1 includes access improvements and reduction of left turn movements on Rt 11. The six concepts will be reviewed with Augusta County BOS on October 25th, an online survey will be developed and released for public comment, and an in-person meeting may be held at BRCC to review the final recommendations of the study.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Tate presented minutes from the August 18, 2021 TAC Meeting. (This item was moved on the agenda until a quorum was reached.)

Mr. VanFossen moved, seconded by Ms. Tombarge, to approve the minutes of August 18, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Presentation: "Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure" – Alleyn Harned, Executive Director, Virginia Clean Cities

Vice Chair Tate presented Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure. Mr. Beard stated that last month he discussed the Infrastructure Bill being considered in Congress that contains \$7 billion in funding for electric vehicle infrastructure. He stated that whether or not the bill passes, electric vehicles will be part of our future transportation landscape. Mr. Beard stated that Mr. Alleyn Harned is the Executive Director of Virginia Clean Cities, a state-wide non-profit in partnership with JMU, and sponsored by the Department of Energy. Mr. Harned joins the Board today to discuss the deployment of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

Mr. Harned stated that our use of energy and emissions will change as we plan for reduced greenhouse gases. He gave examples of several Virginia municipalities who have added electric vehicles (EV) and chargers for their fleet and/or for the public's use. In addition, there are four outlet chargers at the Shenandoah Regional Airport, and 70 workplace chargers at Merck in Elkton.

Mr. Harned showed the levels of chargers and how much charge they provide. Chargers at workplaces, office buildings, and shopping centers will be very important to supplement residential charging. Charging has been increasing in Virginia; with a number of them having been installed on the I-81 and I-64 corridors in the Stanton, Augusta County and Waynesboro region (SAW). Mr. Harned discussed the PlugShare app (plugshare.com) where users can find chargers, see photos of them, and comment on them in a social-media-style format.

Mr. Harned introduced a dashboard at driveelectricva.org that shows EV data by zip code. In the SAW area there are 174 EVs on the road, 39 of which are in the City of Stanton. This data is accessible live at driveelectricva.org. The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (EVI) projection tool estimates that in SAW 10% electrification would equal 7400 vehicles. To support that many vehicles, 1037 workplace L2, 642 public L2, and 85 dc fast charging chargers are needed, plus an additional projected 3,040 single home level 2 charging plugs and 760 Multi-Unit Dwelling and or curbside level 2 charging plugs.

Mr. Harned discussed the length of time it takes to achieve milestones, stating that it depends on how much an area invests in the infrastructure. At this time, EVs are not available for purchase in this area and the infrastructure is not adequate. He stated that it took a decade to get to 1% EV usage. He stated that before people buy EVs, they will need to know there are places to charge.

Mr. Harned showed data about the financial burden of electricity, and discussed equity of access among communities of color and low-income. He closed with comments about funding opportunities and the impact of EVs on CO2 emissions.

Vice Chair Tate asked if the TAC could get a copy of the slides; staff will send them by email. (Presentation attached to file minutes.)

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Komara gave the following update:

- All of the I-81 projects continue to move forward; updates are available on Improve81.org.
- The Waynesboro Park & Ride lot improvements will be substantially complete in the fall; parking ready, grass planted.
- The Weyers Cave access project will be readvertised this fall/winter.
- Rt 262 Old Greenville to Middlebrook widening and acceleration lanes - public hearing will be offered with comments due by November 13th; construction in 2022.
- Dual left turn lanes into Mill Place Parkway will be constructed in 2022.
- Two railroad crossing improvements were made on 611 (Doom's Crossing) and 612 (Crimora).

- Updates on other safety, maintenance and bridge projects in the region were discussed.

Campbell gave the following update:

- CTB October meeting being held today; two items of interest additional \$22.9 million available to the Stanton District. A draft funding scenario was put forward that included the Broad Street project in Waynesboro. As Mr. Beard mentioned, the TAP and Revenue Sharing final application deadline is October 1st.
- Revenue Sharing program is being considered for advancement from FY25-26 and accelerated to FY23-24.
- OIPI made a presentation to the CTB yesterday that proposed scoring changes to SMART SCALE Round 5; a) environmental scoring to be more quantitative approach in the reduction of greenhouse gases, and b) adding the land use measure to all area types. He stated that Mr. Beard will distribute the presentations to TAC members.

DRPT

Mr. Hudson gave the following update:

- The Transit Equity and Modernization Study is underway; the baseline conditions and community assessment are being finalized now and the technical working groups are meeting and the final report is still on-target to be presented to the General Assembly in December.
- The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) brought the Amtrak Train 51 back online; this was the last of the trains to be brought back online after being paused due to the pandemic. The route connects the northeast corridor with Richmond.
- DRPT is gearing up for the next grant cycle at the end of the year; if a transit agency may need technical assistance or a demonstration grant, they are encouraged to reach out to DRPT.

Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following update:

- Transit Equity and Modernization Study – Ms. Thompson stated that she represents the CSPDC/BRITE system on one of the working groups, Assessability and Adequacy of Infrastructure. She has outreach materials from that group in her office if anyone is interested.
- The Afton Express has been operating for a month and a half, and ridership is increasing. There have been over 650 passenger trips (total boardings) for the four morning and four evening runs Monday through Friday. Average daily totals grew as the month progressed, and are around mid-twenties to thirty daily passenger trips. The route was also fare-free for the month of September. We are monitoring passenger counts and route performance to know if any changes to the schedule or route are needed. Currently, a schedule to accommodate the 7-7 shifts at UVA are being evaluated, which could increase ridership.
- The Transit Development Plan (TDP) process kicked-off last month at the BRITE Transit Advisory Committee's meeting with the consultant, KFH Group. The kick-off focused on evaluating the prior mission statement and goals developed in the 2015 TDP, and discussing currently unmet transportation and community mobility needs in the community and service area.
- Like other transit agencies, BRITE has increased bus capacity from 50% to 100%. The federal mask mandate is still in effect through January 2022.

Other Business

Vice Chair Tate opened the floor for other business. Mr. Beard stated that the SAWMPO and the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO (CAMPO) have been meeting together annually for the past five years with the exception of last year. The annual meeting typically happens in the fall and both regions highlight planning efforts that impact both regions. Due to concerns about meeting in-person at this time, the meeting has been postponed and will be reconsidered in the spring.

Mr. Beard stated that Mr. Jim Shaw, the former Waynesboro Deputy City Manager, recently retired. He was a member of the Policy Board. To replace him on the Board, Mr. Wood was selected by Waynesboro. Since he was our TAC Chairperson, the Board needs to elect a replacement. To replace Mr. Wood on the TAC, Waynesboro has appointed Ms. Alisande Tombarge to be a voting member and Mr. Tony Smith to be an alternate.

Upcoming Meetings

Vice Chair Tate stated that the Policy Board is scheduled to meet on November 3rd and the TAC on November 17th.

Meeting Adjourned

Vice Chair Tate asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Zach Beard
Transportation Planner



**Stanton Augusta
Waynesboro**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

112 MacTanly Place
Stanton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

TO: Stanton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: December 15, 2021
RE: **TAC Action Form #21-03: Election of TAC Chair**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend election of Chair for the SAWMPO TAC.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Waynesboro appointed former SAWMPO TAC Chair Todd Wood to the Policy Board. Mr. Wood is replacing Jim Shaw, who retired in October. As a result, the TAC must appoint a new Committee Chair.

The SAWMPO TAC operates under the provisions in the SAWMPO Policy Board Bylaws. TAC officers, the Chair and Vice Chair, serve for three years, or until their successors are elected. The Chair and Vice Chair must be local government representatives, and cannot be from the same locality.

ATTACHMENTS

[SAWMPO Bylaws](#)



TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: December 15, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-15: 2022 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SAWMPO publishes its annual meeting schedule each December, and the Policy Board approved the schedule at the December 1, 2021 Board meeting. A public notice for the 2022 meeting schedules was published in local newspapers and posted on www.sawmpo.org in accordance with the SAWMPO Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Changes to the 2022 meeting schedule or format will be posted on the website, and publicly noticed in local papers as required by the PPP. TAC and Policy Board members will be notified of meeting schedule changes via email at least one week in advance of the scheduled meeting date.

2022 SAWMPO MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting schedules for the Policy Board and TAC are below.

2022 Policy Board Meeting Schedule	
January 5, 2022	July 6, 2022
February 2, 2022	August 3, 2022
March 2, 2022	September 7, 2022
April 6, 2022	October 5, 2022
May 4, 2022	November 2, 2022
June 1, 2022	December 7, 2022
First Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Location (unless otherwise noted): Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia	

2022 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Schedule	
January 19, 2022	July 20, 2022
February 16, 2022	August 17, 2022
March 16, 2022	September 21, 2022
April 20, 2022	October 19, 2022
May 18, 2022	November 16, 2022
June 15, 2022	December 21, 2022
Third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Location (unless otherwise noted): Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia	



**Staunton Augusta
Waynesboro**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: December 15, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-16: I-81 Exit 235 Study Online Public Survey**

BACKGROUND

The FY21 Small Area Study at Interstate 81 Exit 235 in Weyers Cave is evaluating mid-term solutions to periodic congestion, and long-term corridor needs and intersection configurations to accommodate future growth along Weyers Cave Road (VA 256) between US 11 and Triangle Drive.

The study team includes consultant Michael Baker and representatives from the MPO, Augusta County, VDOT, BRITE, Blue Ridge Community College, and the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC SURVEY

Michael Baker reviewed six preliminary concepts with the Augusta County Board of Supervisors at the October 25, 2021 work session meeting. MPO Staff incorporated input from the County Board of Supervisors to develop an online public [survey](#), which closes on December 22, 2021.

The survey provides an overview of the study area, and allows respondents to review and rate each of the proposed concepts. The input will inform the final study recommendations. The study team will meet in January to review the survey results, and discuss which projects to advance for final concept drawings and cost estimates as final study recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

- [I-81 Exit 235 and Route 256 Survey](#)
- [Small Area Study Statement of Need](#)



TO: Stanton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC
FROM: Zach Beard, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: December 15, 2021
RE: **TAC Memo #21-17: Infrastructure Bill Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the \$1.2 trillion [the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#) – also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill – on November 5, 2021, and President Biden signed the bill into law on November 15, 2021. The legislation covers spending from FY22 through FY26, including reauthorization of the FAST Act, the prior five-year transportation spending plan.

Of the \$1.2 trillion from the IIJA, \$550 billion is new spending, and \$284 billion is allocated for transportation. The Commonwealth of Virginia will receive over \$7 billion in formula funding over the five-year period. A majority of the funding is allocated for highway improvements and transit, while new programs address climate impacts, equity, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

The House of Representatives passed the Senate's version of the IIJA passed in August. MPO staff summarized the contents of the bill in an [IIJA memo](#) distributed to the Policy Board and TAC in September.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

IIJA provides across-the-board funding increases in baseline funding for each mode of transportation through formula funding, which is distributed by the federal government over several years to states through formulas using measurable criteria such as population and population density, and through competitive grant programs in which applicants apply for funding on a one-time basis.

- **Roads, Bridges & Highways (\$110 billion)** – Directs new funds to roads, bridges, highways, and related key transportation projects. Includes funding to repair and retrofit related infrastructure, and to invest in connected cars, sensor-based infrastructure, transit integration, commerce delivery and logistics, smart traffic, and smart grids.
- **Rail (\$66 billion)** – Expands Amtrak and addresses Amtrak backlog, modernizes Northeast Corridor rail line, and increases the reach of rail to new areas including cities.
- **Public Transportation (\$39 billion)** – Modernizes bus/rail fleets and replaces many with zero-emission options, expands public transit to areas without available options, and improves supporting transit infrastructure.
- **Airports (\$25 billion)** – Increases the capacity and accessibility of airport terminals, replaces aging airport infrastructure, and improves air traffic control towers and technology

- **Ports & Waterways (\$17 billion)** – Electrifies port infrastructure, bolsters port efficiency, and invests in projects that increase the resilience of ports to rising sea-levels, flooding and weather events
- **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (7.5 billion)** – The bill also appropriates \$5 billion for a new EV Formula Program to provide money for States, and authorizes \$2.5 billion over five years for a new competitive grant program to build EV charging infrastructure.

IIJA includes \$7 billion in formula funding for transportation projects in Virginia, with \$1.5 billion of that total being new spending. Of that total, the Commonwealth will receive about \$1.2 billion for transit, \$537 million for bridge replacement and repairs, an estimated \$386 million for airport infrastructure, and at least \$106 million for electric-vehicle infrastructure.

MPO-Related Planning

Under IIJA, MPOs would be eligible for new pilot programs focused on using data and public engagement innovations in project prioritization and improving travel demand data and modeling. MPOs would also be required to spend at least 2.5 percent of the state Planning Funds on the adoption of Complete Streets principles to reduce vehicle-related crashes and pedestrian risk.

Expanded bicycle and pedestrian funding includes TAP funds increasing by 10%, which includes a new sub-allocation designation enabling small MPOs serving urbanized areas with populations of 200,000 or less to be eligible for funding.

Moreover, MPOs would be encouraged to consider the equitable and proportional representation of the population of the metropolitan area when designating officials or representatives, while states would be encouraged to develop “human capital” workforce development plans through MPOs.

LOOKING AHEAD

Funding through existing formula fund programs will begin within the next six months for highway maintenance and repair, bridges, transit, rail, and airports. New formula and competitive grant initiatives, such as for electric vehicle infrastructure, will likely take more time because federal agencies need to set-up the new programs.

Additional transportation funding could be available if Congress passes the Build Back Better bill, which includes clean energy programs that further promote alternative energy transportation infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

- [National Association of Counties \(NACO\) IIJA Bill Summary](#)
- [September 2021 IIJA Summary Memo](#)



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Meeting Minutes December 15, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission*
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401

Present (13):

Voting Members				Others	
	City of Staunton		VDOT	✓*	Sam Styers, McCormick Taylor
✓	Rodney Rhodes	✓	Don Komara		Staff (CSPDC)
✓	Jeff Johnston		Adam Campbell (Alt)		Ann Cundy
	Tim Hartless (Alt)	✓	Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓	Zach Beard
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		VA DRPT	✓	Devon Thompson
	Augusta County	✓**	Wood Hudson	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)		
	Doug Wolfe	Non-Voting Members			
	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		VRT		
✓	Caroline Vanterve (Alt)		Steve Wilson		
	City of Waynesboro		Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Luke Juday		Federal Highway Admin.		
✓	Alisande Tombarge		Mack Frost		
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Federal Transit Admin.		
	Tony Smith (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis		
			VA Dept. of Aviation		
			Rusty Harrington		

*Due to COVID-19, a virtual attendance option by Zoom was offered to non-voting members and other attendees. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

**Mr. Hudson, a voting member, participated by Zoom per the SAWMPO Resolution outlining electronic participation for voting members; his home is greater than 60 miles from the meeting location. He participated from his work located at 600 East Main Street in Richmond.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Vice Chairperson, Ms. Leslie Tate.

Public Comment

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

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Tate presented minutes from the October 20, 2021 TAC Meeting.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Ms. Tombarge, to approve the minutes of October 20, 2021, as presented. Motion carried (6-0; Mr. Rhodes abstained).

Election of Chairperson (TAC Action Form #21-03)

Vice Chair Tate presented the Election of Chairperson [effective in January 2022]. Mr. Juday nominated Ms. Tate for Chairperson and Ms. Tate was agreeable to serve in the role.

Mr. Juday moved, seconded by Mr. Rhodes to elect Ms. Tate for the position of Chairperson. Motion carried (6-0; Ms. Tate abstained).

Mr. Beard stated that a Vice Chairperson needs to be elected to replace Ms. Tate. He stated that per the SAWMPO Bylaws, the Chair and Vice Chair cannot be from the same locality.

Mr. Rhodes nominated Mr. Juday for Vice Chairperson and Mr. Juday was agreeable to serve in the role.

Mr. Rhodes moved, seconded by Ms. Tombarge to elect Mr. Juday for the position of Vice Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

2022 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule (TAC Memo #21-15)

Vice Chair Tate presented the 2022 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule. Mr. Beard stated that the 2022 meeting schedule was approved by the Board at their December meeting and that the schedule is published on the website and was advertised in the newspapers. He stated that the schedule remains the same with the Board meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and the TAC meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

I-81 Exit 235 Study Survey Update (TAC Memo #21-16)

Vice Chair Tate presented the I-81 Exit 235 Study Update. Mr. Beard stated that the Exit 235 study in Weyers Cave is looking at improvements along Rt 256 from Route 11 to Triangle Drive to address congestion and safety. He stated that the consultant, Michael Baker, presented six preliminary concepts to the Augusta County Board of Supervisors and received feedback from the Board; five of the six concepts were selected for more detailed analysis. These five concepts were included in the online survey which was released on December 3rd. Mr. Beard stated that the survey is available through December 22nd and is on the MetroPlex platform where users can view and rate each of the concepts and provide comments. He said that there have

been 240 respondents to date. Survey results will be compiled and presented to the study group next month, Mr. Beard stated, and the final report is expected by March 2022.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Update (TAC Memo #21-17)

Vice Chair Tate presented the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Mr. Beard stated that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, on November 5, 2021, and the President signed the bill into law on November 15, 2021. The legislation covers spending from FY22 through FY26, including reauthorization of the FAST Act, the prior five-year transportation spending plan. Of the \$1.2 trillion, \$650 billion is reauthorized transportation spending, \$550 billion is new spending, and of that, \$284 billion is allocated specifically for transportation. A majority of the transportation funding is allocated for highway improvements and transit, while new programs address climate impacts, equity, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

Virginia will receive a 32% increase over 2021 funding. Mr. Beard stated that there is funding available for a variety of transportation and transit projects. He stated that there are two types of federal funding – formula funding and competitive grants. Mr. Beard explained the new Bridge Investment Program, which has been allocated a total of \$27.5 billion in formula funding; \$537 million of that is allocated for Virginia.

Discussion included taking care to consider future maintenance costs of the projects that are funded during a “once-in-a-lifetime” funding opportunity. Mr. Beard stated that the desire is to accelerate projects that have already been put into the MPO’s plan. In addition, the current shortage of available engineers, construction firms, and materials was discussed. (Presentation attached to file minutes.)

Presentation: “Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study” by Wood Hudson, Transit Planner, DRPT

Vice Chair Tate presented the Virginia Transit Presentation. Mr. Hudson stated that he will provide an overview of the HJ 542 Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study that DRPT is undertaking. The study was initiated by a joint general assembly resolution directing DRPT to conduct a 2-year needs assessment study focused on modernization and transit equity with emphasis on engagement opportunities for underrepresented communities.

Mr. Hudson stated that the study’s broad topic areas are: 1) transit accessibility, 2) adequacy of infrastructure, 3) transit electrification, 4) emerging tech, 5) transit safety, and 6) system engagement and governance. The products of the study will be to identify transit agency, rider and stakeholder needs, to develop an action plan to address those needs, and to define underrepresented and underserved communities.

Mr. Hudson detailed the plan and study activities which fall into three broader steps; data collection, baseline conditions and action plan. Technical Working Groups made up of DRTP staff, transit agency staff, stakeholders, and industry partners were developed to provide input, feedback, and technical assistance throughout the process. A robust public engagement program is underway using a variety of methods and platforms, including information and feedback made available through the study website at www.vatransitequity.com. A draft interim study report is with the Secretary’s office for review; next steps include action planning and the final study report.

Mr. Hudson encouraged involvement by spreading the word about the website and public engagement activities and getting on the study email list through the study website, www.vatransitequity.com. (Presentation attached to file minutes.)

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Komara gave the following update:

- All of the I-81 projects continue to move forward; updates are available on Improve81.org.
- I-81 Exits 221-225 widening project - a citizens information meeting has been held and a public hearing will be held in summer 2022. This will be a design/build project and is expected to be advertised in 2024.
- Construction is expected in 2024 for the climbing lanes near Weyers Cave.
- The Waynesboro Park & Ride lot improvements are substantially complete; parking is ready and grass is planted.
- The bridge on Rt 703/Hewitt Rd is finished.
- Snow removal preparations are complete and VDOT is ready; additional contractors are being sought for hire.

DRPT

Mr. Hudson gave the following update:

- The DRPT grant cycle opened on September 1st and will remain open until February 1st. Resources are available on the website.

Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following update:

- The Afton Express has been operating for three months. Passengers have taken over 1,600 trips as of early December (total boardings) with daily passenger trips averaging in the mid-to-upper thirties. Passenger counts, route performance and the schedule continue to be monitored and evaluated so that changes may be made if necessary.
- Waynesboro Park & Ride Lot enhancements, including the installation of new permanent shelters, are complete and the lot is being used for the Waynesboro stop.
- Afton Express will begin using a text alert system, TextMarks, to give real time information and alerts to Afton Express riders. Riders will be able to opt-in to receive these alerts which include late bus, traffic detours, and weather alerts. The system is live and will be ready for use by passengers in the coming weeks.
- The Transit Development Plan (TDP) process is underway. Currently, the public opinion survey and onboard rider surveys are open through the end of the day today (12/15/21). Surveys will provide feedback on what public transportation priorities are most important for area residents. The public opinion survey is accessible online and links are available on the BRITE website, and paper copies are available at locations around the region including onboard the buses.
- An FTA discretionary grant (5339 Bus and Bus Facilities) was submitted for the rehabilitation of the Stanton Lewis Street Hub. Proposed enhancements include resurfacing of the lot, additional passenger amenities, improved accessibility, and safety such as bus shelters and lighting, and



reconfiguration of bus lanes and travel within the lot. Municipal parking spaces will still be available, as well as conduits for four EV charging stations. Kimley-Horn assisted the CSPDC in developing the concept plan for the grant application and projected cost estimate of \$1.2 million, including design and construction. This grant program is an 80/20 match, and grant award news should be available in 3-4 months.

Upcoming Meetings

Vice Chair Tate stated that the Policy Board is scheduled to meet on January 5, 2022 and the TAC on January 19, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned

Vice Chair Tate asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Beard".

Zach Beard
Transportation Planner