

## Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Meeting Minutes April 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

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

**Present (14 ):**

Voting Members				Others	
City of Staunton		VDOT		Staff (CSPDC)	
✓	Rodney Rhodes	✓	Don Komara		Ann Cundy
✓	Jeff Johnston	✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)	✓	Zach Beard
	Tim Hartless (Alt)		Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓	Devon Thompson
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)	<b>VA DRPT</b>		✓	Paula Melester
<b>Augusta County</b>		✓	Grace Stankus	✓	Ansley Heller
✓	Doug Wolfe		Wood Hudson		
	Alidia Vane	<b>Non-Voting Members</b>			
	Elizabeth Goodloe (Alt)			<b>Other attendees</b>	
	Vacant (Alt)	<b>VRT</b>			
<b>City of Waynesboro</b>		✓*	Steve Wilson		
✓	Leslie Tate, Chairperson		Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Alisande Tombarge	<b>Federal Highway Admin.</b>			
	Scott Kesecker (Alt)		Kevin Jones		
✓	Chad Rambo (Alt)	<b>Federal Transit Admin.</b>			
			Michele DeAngelis		
		<b>VA Dept. of Aviation</b>			
			Rusty Harrington		

\*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.

\*\*A voting member who participated by Zoom per the SAWMPO Resolution outlining electronic participation for voting members; whose home is greater than 60 miles from the meeting location. Participation location is recorded in the file minutes.

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## 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 Ms. Leslie Tate, Chairperson.

## Public Comment

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

## Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Tate presented minutes from the March TAC Meeting.

***Mr. Doug Wolfe moved, seconded by Ms. Alisande Tombarge, to approve the minutes of March 15, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.***

## FY 21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment (TAC AF #23-01)

Mr. Zach Beard gave an update on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), reminding the TAC that the TIP is a federally required document that documents all transportation and transit projects receiving federal transportation funds, requiring federal action, or are deemed “regionally significant.” Mr. Beard informed the TAC that SAWMPO staff received direction from VDOT to amend three maintenance groupings in the FY 21-24 TIP. These three groupings are considered “high level groupings.”

Mr. Adam Campbell explained that the three maintenance groupings should be thought of as a district wide holding reserve for the three maintenance operations. Mr. Campbell explained that the reserve is updated every year based on state revenue forecasts, estimated state of good repair funding for each district. Grouping the project maintenance into one helps meet STIP/TIP requirements. Chairperson Tate opened the floor up for questions. Hearing no questions, Chairperson Tate asked for a motion to release the FY 21-27 TIP Amendment for 21 days of public comment.

***Mr. Jeff Johnston moved to release the FY 21-24 TIP Amendment for public comment, it was seconded by Mr. Don Komara. The motion carried unanimously.***

## Draft FY 24-27 TIP Release for Public Comment FY (TAC AF #23-02)

Mr. Beard explained that two the main updates in the FY 24-27 TIP were the highway TIP, provided by VDOT, and the Transit TIP which is developed in partnership with BRITE and human mobility service providers. Mr. Campbell explained that every MPO has its own TIP for projects happening within their boundaries, and that the state has a statewide TIP (STIP). The STIP combines all of the MPO TIPS into a single document. On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, VDOT will submit the STIP to the Federal Highways Administration for approval. Mr. Campbell reminded the TAC that the TIP was a living document and changes can be made throughout its

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lifetime. Chairperson Tate opened the floor for questions. Hearing no questions, Chairperson Tate asked for a motion to approve the FY 24-27 TIP be released for public comment.

***Mr. Rodney Rhodes moved to release the FY 24-27 TIP Amendment for public comment, it was seconded by Mr. Don Komara. The motion carried unanimously.***

**FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Release for Public Comment (TAC AF #23-03)**

Mr. Beard provided an overview of the UPWP, reminding the TAC that it is the annual budget for the MPO, and that SAWMPO will have approximately \$30,000 more in FY 24 than in FY 23. Mr. Beard explained that the FY 24 UPWP highlights projects the SAWMPO intends to focus on in FY 24. Mr. Beard highlighted that in FY 24 the MPO will focus on completing the small area PSI/intersection study, beginning a new small area study, and beginning the SAWMPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Beard highlighted differences between the FY 23 UPWP and the FY 24 UPWP, indicating that in the FY24 UPWP there are more staff hours dedicated to long range planning. One particular change that Mr. Beard took effort to underscore was the combination of the Public Outreach and Administrative Activities work elements. Mr. Beard informed the TAC that there is additional language in the FY24 UPWP to document that the SAWMPO is meeting requirements of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to dedicate a minimum of 2.5% of the total annual budget to Complete Streets planning activities. Mr. Beard stated that the MPO already plans with Complete Streets activities in mind, and that no major changes will take place because of this change.

Chairperson Tate opened the floor for questions. Hearing no questions, Chairperson Tate asked for a motion to release the FY 24 UPWP for public comment.

***Ms. Alisande Tombarge moved to release the FY 24-27 TIP Amendment for public comment, it was seconded by Mr. Rodney Rhodes. The motion carried unanimously.***

**Presentation: SAWMPO Priority Safety Intersection (PSI) Studies Preferred Concepts – Zach Beard, SAWMPO**

Mr. Beard presented the preferred concepts for the six priority safety intersections being studied in the SAWMPO. Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County each have two intersections being studied. The City of Staunton is studying the intersections of N. Coalter St. at Statler Boulevard and Churchville Avenue at Thornrose Avenue. Augusta County is studying the intersections of Laurel Hill Road at I-81 Exit 227 Northbound Ramps and US-11 at Laurel Hill Road. The City of Waynesboro is studying the S. Delphine Avenue at I-64 Exit 96 Westbound Ramps and S. Delphine Avenue at Windsor Road.

Mr. Beard reviewed the following alternatives for each locality:

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## ***City of Staunton***

### *N. Coalter St. at Statler Boulevard*

#### Short-term improvements

- Primary improvements are the west bound right turning lane on Statler Ave with advanced warning signs and pavement markings to increase visibility for drivers.
- There will also be a reduction in overlap phases with the signal to address west bound, right turn volume in the PM and address issues with the south bound right turn.
- All left turns will be converted to flashing yellow arrows.

#### Mid-term improvements

- Remove channelization on the Eastbound right turn to bring the turn up to the signal.

### *Churchville Avenue at Thornrose Avenue*

#### Short-term improvements

- Remove right turn lane channelizing islands to reduce travel speeds for those making the right-hand turn. This will also improve the crossing distance for pedestrians.

#### Long-term improvements

- Insert a round-a-bout, making Constitution Drive a right in and a right out from the park.

## ***Augusta County***

### *Laurel Hill Road at I-81 Exit 227 Northbound Ramps*

#### Long-term

- Round about at the intersection to reduce travel speeds and crossroad conflict points. There will be dedicated lanes for east bound Laurel Hill Rd and the I-81 NB On ramp.

### *US-11 at Laurel Hill Road*

- Add crosswalks and replace curb ramps at the intersection
- Two options for access control to the shopping center to reduce turning conflicts
  1. Convert the first entrance into the shopping center a right in only and restrict left turns out
  2. Close first entrance and realign access further down US-11

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## **City of Waynesboro**

### *S. Delphine Avenue at I-64 Exit 96 Westbound Ramps*

Provide right turn lane off of the I-64 off ramp and add signage and striping on Delphine to indicate a turn.

### *S. Delphine Avenue at Windsor Road*

- Option 1
  - a) Limit access to Mountain Rd. for a right in/right out turn by adding a concrete island and remove left turn lane on the south bound Delphine, and stripe the left and right turn lanes on Windsor Rd.
  - b) Close Mountain Rd. and convert to a Cul-de-sac and remove left turn lane on the south bound Delphine, and stripe the left and right turn lanes on Windsor Rd.
- Option 2
  - a) Looking at the Delphine corridor more generally, add lane striping on Windsor Rd and convert the Windsor/Delphine Ave. intersection to a modified T intersection. Add an acceleration lane. Add channelization on Western Rd to convert to right-in, right-out, and left in.

Discussion ensued regarding the Churchville-Thornrose intersection in Staunton with truck traffic/heavy vehicles. The main concern was truck traffic and heavy vehicles making the right turn movement from Thornrose onto Churchville, and the nearby National Guard Armory generating heavy vehicle traffic that would be navigating the intersection. The concern was noted by MPO staff.

## **Agency Updates**

### **VDOT**

Mr. Campbell provided the following update:

- VDOT's Spring public meeting would be Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 p.m to 6:00 p.m. at Blue Ridge Community College.
- Revenue Sharing does not yet have a date for when it will be active.
- The Transportation Alternatives window is set to begin on May 15<sup>th</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Don Komara provided the following update:

- 262 widening from 613 to 252 will begin late spring, early summer
- Exit ramp on 235 is back out for advertisement
- Waynesboro connector project has gone to advertisement
- Industrial access park off of 612 is being advertised for this fall
- The Verona sidewalk projects is waiting on a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of bids

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- Work on Staunton Crossing continues to be underway

### ***DRPT***

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following update:

- FY 24 Draft SYIP has gone live and is available for review on the DRPT Open Data Portal.
- Discover Transit Campaign is back and more information is available on [connectingva.org](https://connectingva.org)
- FHWA Funding opportunity for charging and fueling infrastructure discretionary grant program aimed at deploying publicly accessible EV charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in places where people live and work. The program provides funding in two categories, the Community Program and Corridor Program. Applications are due May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Transit***

Ms. Devon Thompson provided the following BRITE update:

- The FY24 Draft Six-Year Improvement Program has been released and is available for public comment. The CSPDC applications recommended for funding include Urban and Rural Operating and Capital, and Commuter Assistance Operating funds and Technical Assistance for a Strategic Plan.
- The BTAC approved reducing evening hours on the Blue Ridge Community College Shuttles. The decreased hours will be implemented on June 5. Pop-up events were hosted at BRCC, JMU, and Staunton Lewis Street Hub last month to notify riders of the changes and gather their comments and feedback.
- One proposal was received for the ITS-Mobile Data Collection System procurement, and CSPDC staff has been confirming with our lawyer on how to proceed with one submission. CSPDC staff has compiled the necessary documentation for a single bid procurement, and is confirming the proposal meets BRITE's needs.
- Kimley-Horn has been working to develop 30% A&E design plans for the Staunton Lewis Street Hub. CSPDC and VRT staff are reviewing and providing comments.

Ms. Paula Melester provided the following Afton Express update:

- There has been a 6% increase in ridership through the month of February and an 8% increase from February through March.
- Funding was recommended for Afton Express in the SYIP. In FY 24 funding for the Afton Express will fold into the BRITE System.

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## Locality Updates

### ***Staunton***

Mr. Rodney Rhodes explained that the city is receiving funding from State of Good Repair for paving projects. Including nearly all of W. Beverly from Jefferson St. to Pete St. Paving projects will include ADA improvements at 18 intersections. There will also be additions of the city's bike plan along the street.

Mr. Jeff Johnston announced that painting will resume this summer as well as additional paving projects. Mr. Johnston also reminded the TAC that Staunton's Beverly St. Pedestrian Mall is operational for the season.

### ***Augusta County***

Mr. Doug Wolfe noted that the Verona Pedestrian Project was ongoing. Mr. Wolfe noted that this is the third time the project has been bid. In addition to the Verona Pedestrian Project, Mr. Wolfe announced that Augusta County had received four proposals for consulting help updating the county's comprehensive plan.

### ***Waynesboro***

Chairperson Tate mentioned that the City of Waynesboro has an RFP for on call engineering services to prepare for SMART Scale projects.

## Other Business

Chairperson Tate called for any other business; there was none.

## Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Tate stated that the Policy Board is scheduled to meet on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the TAC on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Tate asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Zach Beard  
Senior Planner