



**Staunton Augusta  
Waynesboro**  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organization

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Staunton, VA 24401

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## **Policy Board Meeting Agenda January 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**

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

OR

Zoom Video Conference

Dial In (Audio Only): 1-301-715-8592 • Meeting ID: 849 8242 3114 • Passcode: 976960

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes of the November 1, 2023, Policy Board Meeting\*
4. Afton Mountain Small Area Study Update (Board Memo #24-01)
5. SAWMPO 2024 Safety Targets (Board Memo #24-02)
6. SMART SCALE Policy Changes Update – Brad Reed, VDOT Staunton District Planning
7. Agency Updates
  - VDOT
  - DRPT
  - BRITE & Afton Express
  - Localities
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
  - January 17, 2024 – Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, CSPDC Office, 2:00 p.m.
  - February 7, 2024 – Policy Board Meeting, Via Zoom 10:00 a.m.
10. Adjournment

\*Action Required

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**Policy Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 1, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**

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

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members		Others	
	<b>City of Staunton</b>	✓	Shane McCabe (Alt)		<b>Staff (CSPDC)</b>
✓	Brad Arrowood, Vice Chair		Cody Huffman (Alt)		Bonnie Riedesel
✓	Amanda Kaufman		<b>VA DRPT</b>	✓	Ann Cundy
	<b>Augusta County</b>	✓*	Grace Stankus	✓	Zach Beard
✓	Tim Fitzgerald		<b>VRT</b>	✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Carolyn Bragg (Chair)	✓*	Steve Wilson		Paula Melester
	Jennifer Whetzel (Alt)		Phil Thompson (Alt)		Ansley Heller
	Pam Carter (Alt)		Kevin Jones	✓	Allyson Finchum
	<b>City of Waynesboro</b>		<b>FTA</b>		
	Jim Wood		Chelsea Beytas		
✓	Todd Wood		<b>VA DOA</b>		
	Michael Hamp (Alt)		Rusty Harrington		
	<b>VDOT</b>		<b>CTB</b>		
✓	Todd Stevens		Mark Merrill		
✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)		<b>Others</b>		
✓	Don Komara (Alt)		Brad Reed, VDOT		
	Matt Dana (Alt)				
	✓* Indicates Zoom Participants				

### Call to Order

The SAWMPO Policy Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Carolyn Bragg, Chair. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, SAWMPO Policy Board members may participate in meetings of the SAWMPO or its committees through electronic communication means. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

### Public Comment

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

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## Approval of Minutes

Chair Bragg presented the minutes from the September 6, 2023, Policy Board meeting. Mr. Todd Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Tim Fitzgerald, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

## Presentation: I-81 Project Improvements Update - Dave Covington, I-81 Program Delivery Director, VDOT

Dave Covington presented information on the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program. Benefits of the program are to enhance safety, reduce congestion, and ensure goods and services move safely and efficiently through and within the region by a variety of road improvement projects along the 325-mile, I-81 corridor. There are two categories of projects: Operational and Capital. Completed Operational Projects include improved incident clearance, safety service patrol expansion, 51 additional cameras, 30 additional digital message signs and 43 VDOT signals. Additional signal and arterial upgrades are underway. Thirty-four capital projects are complete, seven active projects are underway, and 23 projects are upcoming.

Projects located in SAWMPO:

Minor Projects - Planned:

- Extend southbound deceleration lane at Mt Sidney Rest Area CN Winter 2026 \$4-\$5 million.
- Extend southbound acceleration lane at Mt Sidney Rest Area CN Winter 2026 \$1-\$8 million.
- Extend northbound acceleration lane at Mt Sidney Rest Area CN Winter 2026 \$4-\$9 million.
- Extend northbound acceleration lane at Exit 188 CN Winter 2024 \$2-\$3 million.
- Shoulder improvements in both directions CN Fall 2026 \$84-\$121 million.

Minor Projects - Complete:

- Extend southbound acceleration lane at Exit 205 CN Spring 2021 \$1.7 million.
- Extend northbound acceleration lane at Exit 205 CN Spring 2021 \$1.5 million.

Major Projects - Planned:

- Add southbound truck climbing lane at Weyers Cave CN Summer 2024 \$64 million.
- Add northbound truck climbing lane at Weyers Cave CN Summer 2024 \$63 million.

Major Projects – Under Construction:

- Road widening to three lanes in both directions between Exit 221 and Exit 225 CN Summer 2023 \$140.5 million.
- Add southbound auxiliary lane between Exit 221 and Exit 220 CN Summer 2023 \$15.9 million.
- Note-The Barterbrook Road bridge over I-81 will be closed for re-construction from March 2024 until July 2025.

Unfunded I-81 CIP Projects in Augusta County (Identified as need in 2018 I-81 CIP Study)

- Exit 225 Southbound Acceleration Lane Extension
- Exit 221 to Exit 217 Southbound Widening to three lanes (I-64 to Mint Spring)

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## **SMART SCALE Policy Changes Update (Board Memo #23-06)**

Ms. Ann Cundy updated the board on the latest changes to the SMART Scale program. Originally, recommendations included reducing the number of applications for all entities, redefining eligibility for the statewide High Priority Program (HPP), calculating congestion benefits for ten years, changing the land use scoring factor, and measuring economic benefit.

Following review of these recommendations at the August 2, 2023, SAWMPO meeting, staff submitted a letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) outlining concerns expressed by the Policy Board. At the October 20, 2023, CTB meeting, the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) presented modified recommendations to include 1) a change in cap on project submittals, 2) addition of eligible project types, and 3) revision of methodology for scoring projects based on their economic development benefit.

- 1) Revisions to the original changes to the program include adding a third tier for calculating the total number of allowable applications for mid-size communities in Virginia. Also, every tier would receive an increase to allow one additional application. Under this revised scenario SAWMPO and its member jurisdictions would each be allowed four pre-applications and three applications.
- 2) The previously proposed change in policy limits the program to specific project types on Corridors of Statewide Significance and Regional Network Roadways. Proposed project types include New Capacity Highway, Managed Lanes, New or Improved Interchanges, New or Improved Passenger Rail Stations or Service, Freight Rail Improvements, High-Capacity/Fixed Guideway Transit, and New Bridge. A modified recommendation adds Transit Transfer Stations as a proposed project type. Additional eligible types are also being considered.
- 3) A revised methodology for scoring projects based on their economic development benefit was recently formulated and proposed by OIPI and VEDP staff. Metrics have been altered to determine eligible sites, calculate estimated jobs, capital investment, funding, site visits, and site readiness factors.

There is no recent change to the original proposal to eliminate the Land Use scoring factor and reallocate the ten percentage points to other scoring areas. Typology Area C, which is SAWMPO, would reallocate five percentage points to Congestion and five percentage points to Safety.

OIPI staff evaluated the SAWMPO region projects from Round 5 of SMART SCALE and found no change in outcomes of projects. They remain funded or unfunded based on proposed criteria.

Ms. Cundy reported that any comments must be in writing prior to the next scheduled CTB on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **SAWMPO Walk-Bike Summit Update and Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Study Briefing (Board Memo #23-07)**

Mr. Zach Beard presented a summary of the Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro Walk-Bike Summit held October 20<sup>th</sup> in Waynesboro. The event was sponsored by SAWMPO, Augusta Health, and the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition. The event highlighted the positive economic and health benefits of regional multi-modal projects. Participants showed interest in bicycle and pedestrian connection between each MPO locality.

Mr. Beard also provided information on the Bike-Pedestrian Connectivity Study completed in 2022. The study focused on identifying connectivity gaps, preferred routes, and potential facility types for the routes.



When conducting the study, the connectivity gaps were divided into two categories: system gaps greater than four miles and corridor gaps less than four miles. Based on gap connectivity, the Study Team identified preferred routes including the North Route: New Hope – Saint James; Central Route: U.S. 250 between the Stanton and Waynesboro City limits; and South Route: Barterbrook-Ramsey-Tinkling Springs-Ladd-Lyndhurst).

Recommendations from the study include establishing a continuous east-to-west bicycle & pedestrian connection between Stanton, Augusta County, and Waynesboro; integrating regional bicycle-pedestrian connectivity in local plans and findings into project prioritization; considering an off-road connection from Goose Creek Road to Lifecore Drive; coordinating pavement and shoulder widening schedules; and evaluating region-wide wayfinding and safety signage options.

The MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian website page provides a link to the study and a companion online mapping tool.

## **Agency Updates**

### ***Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)***

Mr. Don Komara began the VDOT updates and provided the following:

- The Waynesboro Southern Corridor project is underway with the trees removed and the road roughed in.
- Stanton Crossing project is underway with dirt moved. Completion is on schedule.
- I-81 from milepost 221 to 225 should start in the winter and progress rapidly in Spring 2024 beginning with widening on the inside and an addition of barriers.
- The Barterbrook Rd project has a pre-construction meeting within the next few weeks. Bids submitted range from \$7.7 to \$10.2 million. Road closure possibly before 2024.
- Exit 235 at Weyers Cave, both southbound and northbound off ramps are scheduled for completion in Spring/Summer 2024 but possible finish in 2023.
- Exit 262 widening project laying asphalt.
- VDOT is beginning to prepare for the snow removal season.

Mr. Campbell provided the following information:

- Outreach to localities starting November/December 2023 for Round 6 of Smart Scale projects as pre-app submission deadline is in five months.

Ms. Cundy added that staff working on list of all project recommendations in MPOs Long Range Plan, recent studies and completed plans to inform TAC and Policy Board on eligible SMART Scale projects for Round 6.

### ***Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)***

Ms. Stankus provided the following: The Department of Rail and Public Transportation is transitioning to new grants software and there is a reimbursement freeze from Nov 15, 2023 to Dec 1, 2023. Beginning December 1, 2023, applications for FY25 will be in the new system. Reminder to submit reimbursements as soon as possible.



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### ***BRITE Transit***

Ms. Devon Thompson gave the following BRITE Transit updates:

- BRITE will again offer free rides on all routes (excluding Afton Express) on Election Day – Tuesday, November 7. BRITE routes serve many of the voting locations in Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County.
- The Report Year 2023 National Transit Database (NTD) Submission was finalized and submitted prior to the October 31 deadline. Data reporting is required, and transit agencies report data on metrics such as Vehicle Revenue Miles, Vehicle Revenue Hours, Unlinked Passenger Trips, and Operating Expenses.
- The design and engineering phase of the Lewis Street Hub rehabilitation project continues to move forward. Currently, design plans are with the City for site plan review, and comments/approval should be ready by Friday this week.
- Implementation for BRITE's mobile data collection system is underway. CSDPC, VRT, and consultant Kimley-Horn are working with Passio Technologies to install and implement MDSCS on BRITE buses – the system will include tablets on the buses and back-end software needed to manage the data collection system. System information has been shared with Passio and they are building the information into their system.
- In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be NO BRITE service on Thursday, November 23 (Afton Express will not operate Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24).

### ***Afton Express***

Ms. Devon Thompson gave the following Afton Express update:

- Afton Express – ridership continues to grow with passenger trips averaging around 70-80 trips per day, with occasional passenger trips getting to 90+.

### ***Locality Updates***

#### ***City of Staunton***

There were no updates from the City of Staunton.

#### ***Augusta County***

Mr. Tim Fitzgerald gave the following update:

- The Comprehensive Plan update has begun. Public input meetings are occurring this month. Scheduled for November 1st at Clymore Elementary School, November 9th at Riverheads Elementary School, November 15th at Stuarts Draft Elementary School, November 16th at Churchville Elementary School and November 27th at Wilson Elementary School. Request citizens to take survey located on the county website.
- The contract for the Verona Bike/Pedestrian project was awarded and activity should begin shortly.

#### ***City of Waynesboro***

There were no updates from the City of Waynesboro.



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## Other Business

Mr. Komara added that VDOT has a public citizens information meeting in Waynesboro on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm at Waynesboro Municipal League management for the West Main Street Improvements project.

## Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Bragg announced that the next scheduled TAC meeting will be held on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., and the next Policy Board meeting is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

## Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Policy Board, Chair Bragg asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Tim Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Brad Arrowood. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann W. Cundy", written in a cursive style.

Ann W. Cundy  
Director of Transportation



**TO:** Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO Policy Board  
**FROM:** Zach Beard, Senior Planner  
**MEETING DATE:** January 3, 2024  
**RE:** **Board Memo #24-01: Afton Mountain Transportation Site Assessment Scope of Work**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FY24 SAWMPO Afton Mountain Transportation Site Assessment is evaluating existing vehicular and bicycle and pedestrian conditions as part of a larger site assessment conducted by Augusta County. Timmons Group is leading the Afton Mountain Site Assessment activities for the MPO, and the study group includes the County, Waynesboro, the SAWMPO, and VDOT.

## BACKGROUND

In 2021, Augusta County developed a Scope of Work to apply for an EDA CARES grant to conduct a comprehensive site assessment at the Inn at Afton Mountain near the I-64 Exit 99 interchange. While the grant was not funded, Augusta County began survey work earlier this year with Virginia Industrial Revitalization (IRF) grant funds. The SAWMPO is working with the County, the City of Waynesboro, and Timmons to develop the transportation sections of the site assessment.

The MPO-funded transportation tasks will 1) evaluate the existing vehicular network along US 250 including the intersections with Howardsville Turnpike and the Skyline Drive; 2) evaluate the bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between the site and nearby outdoor recreation points of interest; and 3) recommend improvements in relation to a future development scenario.

## DRAFT SCENARIOS

The study group met with Timmons on November 21, 2023 and reviewed the existing site conditions and in-field site assessment conducted in October 2023. The data indicated that the site has adequate traffic capacity and minimal crash history.

The study group then identified three potential future development scenarios impacting traffic generation and the recommended transportation improvements. The three scenarios are based on low, medium, and high average daily traffic (ADT) trip generation thresholds. The County identified potential land uses based on the ADT thresholds for each scenario.

## NEXT STEPS

Timmons is developing each scenario and will provide an update in January. The study is anticipated to be complete in spring 2024.

## ATTACHMENTS

[Transportation Site Assessment Scope of Work](#)





**TO:** Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO Policy Board  
**FROM:** Zach Beard, Senior Planner  
**MEETING DATE:** January 3, 2024  
**RE:** **Policy Board Memo #24-02: SAWMPO 2024 Safety Performance Targets**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established National Performance Measures for Safety Performance for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to assess fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. The FHWA requires that state DOTs and MPOs set statewide annual safety percentage targets for reducing the number and rate of fatalities and serious injuries.

The SAWMPO must concur with VDOT's safety targets or set MPO-specific targets by February 29, 2024. There is no penalty for not meeting the targets.

## STATEWIDE TARGETS

### Approved Targets

In June 2023, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved OIPI's proposed methodology and statewide targets for calendar year 2024. OIPI's methodology establishes targets from statistical models that project future safety performance based on data variables and expected crash reductions from completed projects. Data variables include five-year trends of the annual number of fatalities, serious injuries, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

In 2024, OIPI projects 1,005 fatalities, 7,137 serious injuries, and 765 non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries statewide. The numbers reflect the following 2024 safety target percentages:

- Fatalities: Increase of 4.01%
- Serious Injuries: Decrease of 0.48%
- Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries: Increase of 2.21%
- Vehicle Miles Traveled: Increase of 0.32%

### Aspirational Goals

In 2023, the CTB determined that the anticipated safety target outcomes were unacceptable. As a result, the CTB established "Aspirational Safety Performance Goals" to be consistent with the State's 2022 – 2026 Strategic Highway Safety Plan, which establishes a goal to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by two percent annually. **Table 1** summarizes both the approved safety targets, and the aspirational goals for 2024.

**Table 1: 2024 Approved Safety Targets and Aspirational Goals**

<b>Safety Measure</b>	<b>Approved Statewide Safety Targets</b>	<b>Aspirational Safety Performance Goals</b>
Number of Fatalities	1,005	908
Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT	1.187	1.072
Number of Serious Injuries	7,137	6,935
Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT	8.429	8.191
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	765	642

### SAWMPO TARGETS AND ACTUAL NUMBERS

The SAWMPO began setting safety targets in 2018 based on Virginia DMV data provided by OIPI. Until 2020, the MPO's actual number of fatalities, serious injuries, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries were below the state targets. However, both motorized and non-motorized fatalities have been increasing in the region since 2021. The MPO recorded 12 fatalities in 2021, which exceeded the annual safety target of 8 fatalities in the region.

Based on unofficial fatal injury data from VDOT's PowerBI database, the SAWMPO had 18 total fatalities in 2022, which is the most fatal injuries in the MPO region since at least 2006. Moreover, unofficial data from January 1 through October 31, 2023 indicates the SAWMPO had 10 total fatalities, which already exceeds the annual target of 8 fatalities. Pedestrian fatalities also continue to increase, with four fatalities occurring in 2022, based on VDOT PowerBI. The increase in pedestrian fatalities follows a statewide trend of record numbers of non-motorized fatalities from 2020 to 2022; however, the Virginia DMV reported in October 2023 that pedestrian fatalities had decreased by 20 percent for the first nine months of 2023.

Despite the increasing trends, the number of fatalities, severe injuries, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries in the SAWMPO region remain near or below state targets. SAWMPO staff recommends concurring with the state targets for 2024.

**Table 2: Safety Targets and Actual Numbers, 2019 – 2023**

	<b>2019 Target</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Target</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Target</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Target</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Target</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>
Fatalities	9	5	10	4	8	12	7	18*	8	10**	8
Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT	.90	.49	.93	.45	.77	.71	.74	NA	.75	NA	.77
Serious Injuries	120	90	119	87	117	80	109	115	108	76	99
Rate Serious Injury Per 100 Million VMT	11.8	8.7	11.5	9.7	11.11	9.1	10.7	NA	10.1	NA	9.7
Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	10	6 (1 fatal)	10	8 (0 fatal)	10	8 (3 fatal)	9	9 (4 fatal*)	9	6 (2 fatal)**	8

\*Unofficial data from VDOT PowerBI

\*\*Unofficial data from VDOT Power BI from January 1 through October 31, 2023

## NEXT STEPS

The SAWMPO must concur with the statewide targets by February 29, 2023 via the attached letter.

Staff will continue to monitor the crash data and work with the TAC to incorporate the data and recommendations from the 2023 SAWMPO Highway Safety Plan into the MPO's 2050 Long Range Plan. The 2050 LRTP update will be an opportunity to focus on MPO's safety goals, and priority projects in an effort to slow or reverse the region's increasing fatality and serious injury trends.

## ATTACHMENTS

- [Draft VDOT Safety Targets Letter](#)
- [CTB Safety Performance Targets Resolution, June 2023](#)

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