

SAWMPO Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes August 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

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

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members		Others	
	City of Staunton	✓	Shane McCabe (Alt)		Staff (CSPDC)
✓	Amanda Kaufman		Cody Huffman (Alt)		Ann Cundy
✓	Brad Arrowood (Chair)		VA DRPT	✓	Zach Beard
	John Blair (Alt)	✓*	Grace Stankus	✓	Devon Thompson
	Augusta County		VRT	✓	Paula Melester
✓	Tim Fitzgerald	✓*	Steve Wilson		Others
✓	Carolyn Bragg		Phil Thompson (Alt)	✓	Kaitlyn Savage (Aug County)
	Julia Hensley		Kevin Jones		
	Pam Carter (Alt)		FTA		
	City of Waynesboro		Chelsea Beytas		
✓	Jim Wood (Vice Chair)		VA DOA		
✓	Todd Wood		Rusty Harrington		
	Michael Hamp (Alt)		CTB		
	VDOT		Mark Merrill		
	Todd Stevens				
✓	Brad Reed (Alt)				
	Don Komara (Alt)				
	Cody Huffman				

* Virtual Participants

Call to Order

The SAWMPO Policy Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Brad Arrowood, 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 Arrowood opened the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Arrowood presented the minutes from the June 5, 2024 Policy Board meeting. Mr. Todd Wood noted that on page 4, a comment attributed to him should have been attributed to Mr. Jim Wood.

Mr. Jim Wood moved to approve the minutes based on adjusting the comment attribution; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Bragg. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Release for Public Comment and Conditional Approval (Board Action Form #24-09)*

Mr. Zach Beard presented an amendment to the FY24-27 TIP. The amendment added federal funding for FY25 for Valley Program Aging Services, a human service transportation provider in the region. The funding was for operating expenses and is detailed in Appendix B under “August 2024 Amendment” on page 25 of the document. Mr. Beard requested that the Board conditionally approve the document pending no public comments after a 21-day public comment period.

Ms. Bragg moved to conditionally approve the document pending no public comments after the 21-day public comment period; seconded by Ms. Amanda Kaufman. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

SMART SCALE Round 6 Submissions (Board Memo #24-07)

Mr. Beard provided an update on SMART SCALE Round 6 submissions. Five projects from the SAWMPO region were submitted by the August 1 deadline. In the Staunton Construction District, 27 of 31 pre-applications moved forward to final submission. Statewide, there were approximately 278 applications, a significant reduction from previous rounds. The applications submitted in the MPO were:

- Augusta County projects: WWRC Long-term Access Improvements submitted by the MPO, and I-81 Exit 235 Interchange Bridge Widening.
- Waynesboro projects: Crozet Tunnel shared-use path, Lew Dewitt pedestrian improvements, and transit access improvements.

The draft results for project scoring will be released in January 2025. The CTB will review projects for inclusion in the Six-Year Improvement Program, typically approved in June.

Long Range Transportation Plan Public Engagement Update (Board Memo #24-08)

Mr. Beard provided an update on the 2050 SAWMPO Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan update process began in May and is expected to conclude in December 2025. The first phase of public engagement begins on August 12 with the release of a visioning survey. The survey will allow users to map problem areas, express concerns about transportation, and prioritize top needs for the region. Mr. Beard noted that the first public engagement phase also includes consultation with community stakeholders that work directly with disadvantaged populations, a public webinar to provide an overview of the survey and process on August 28, and pop-up events to promote the survey over the next two months.



Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Brad Reed gave the following update:

- District Planning is assessing locations for Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) studies within the district. Localities are encouraged to suggest areas with high numbers of crashes or operational issues for consideration.

DRPT

Ms. Grace Stankus gave the following update:

- DRPT is hosting a post-award webinar for all public transit, MPO, and commuter assistance grant recipients on Tuesday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m.

BRITE Transit

Ms. Devon Thompson gave the following updates:

- CSPDC was awarded a technical assistance grant to conduct a micro-transit feasibility study.
- Construction at the Lewis Street Hub is progressing and a ribbon cutting is scheduled for Thursday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m.
- Final acceptance testing for the mobile data collection system has been completed.
- BRITE Transit Advisory Committee voted to add Middlebrook Trace as a call stop, requiring adjustments to the Silver/Northwest loops.

Afton Express

Ms. Thompson gave the following updates:

- The new Afton Express stop at Fontaine Research Park for Afton Express continues to be well-received.
- Staunton Crossing is now open to the public. The Park and Ride Lot stop is expected to move there in early September.

Ms. Paula Melester added the following:

- Afton Express received Transit Ridership Incentive Program funding, which will help reduce the local match portion for up to five more years.

Localities

Augusta County

- Mr. Tim Fitzgerald noted that the County Comprehensive Plan update is progressing, with draft chapters expected soon and another round of public meetings planned.

City of Waynesboro

- Mr. Jim Wood noted that the City's Comprehensive Plan update will be starting soon, and Lew Dewitt Boulevard is now open.

City of Staunton

- Ms. Kaufman noted that the City is beginning an update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Other Business

Ms. Melester mentioned that MPO staff is working to align the SAWMPO schedule with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO (HRMPO) schedule and will be coordinating with Board members individually on the possible adjustments.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Arrowood noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for August 21 and the next Board meeting is scheduled for September 4.

Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Arrowood requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Jim Wood motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Bragg. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

Chair Arrowood adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Melester
Director of Transportation