

Staunton Augusta Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda November 20, 2024, at 2:00 P.M.

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

1. Call to Order
 2. Public Comment
 3. Approval of the October 16, 2024 SAWMPO TAC Meeting Minutes*
 4. Approval of the 2025 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule (TAC Action Form #24-04)*
 5. FY 24-27 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Administrative Modification (TAC Memo #24-07)
 6. 2050 LRTP Goals and Project Identification Review
 7. Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE & Afton Express
 - d. Localities
 8. Other Business
 9. Upcoming Meetings
 - December 4, 2024 – SAWMPO Policy Board, 10:00 a.m. at the CSPDC
 - December 18, 2024 – SAWMPO TAC, 2:00 p.m. at the CSPDC
 10. Adjournment
- *Action Required

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Meeting Minutes October 16, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Held at Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Office

Voting Members				Others	
City of Staunton		VDOT		Staff (CSPDC)	
	Rodney Rhodes (Chair)	✓	Don Komara	✓	Zach Beard
	Tim Hartless (Alt)	✓	Brad Reed (Alt)	✓	Garreth Bartholomew
✓	Lyle Hartt (Alt)	✓	Shane McCabe (Alt)	✓	Devon Thompson
		VA DRPT		✓	Danielle Gannon
	Augusta County	✓*	Grace Stankus		Ann Cundy
✓	Doug Wolfe (Vice Chair)				Paula Melester
	Julia Hensley (Alt)	Non-Voting Members			
		VRT			Other attendees
	City of Waynesboro	✓*	Steve Wilson		
✓	Leslie Tate	✓*	Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Alisande Tombarge	Federal Highway Admin.			
✓*	Scott Kesecker (Alt)		Kevin Jones		
	Chad Rambo (Alt)	Federal Transit Admin.			
			Michele DeAngelis		
		VA Dept. of Aviation			
			Rusty Harrington		

*Virtual attendance

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 Mr. Doug Wolfe, Vice Chair, in the absence of Chair Rodney Rhodes.

Public Comment

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

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Wolfe presented the minutes from the August 21, 2024 TAC Meeting. Mr. Don Komara moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Alisande Tombarge. The TAC approved the motion by unanimous vote.

FY25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Administrative Modification (TAC Memo #24-05)

Mr. Zach Beard presented the UPWP administrative modification, detailing changes to reflect the final FY25 carryover balance of FTA 5303 funds. The overall budget increased by \$39,675, with changes exclusively affecting Transit category funding. Notable increases included \$20,000 for Long Range Transportation Planning and \$10,000 for Program Administration and Public Outreach, while Highway funding remained stable. This administrative modification required no formal action from the TAC.

2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Phase I Public Engagement Summary

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew provided an overview of the public engagement survey conducted between August 12 and September 30, 2024. The outreach included two community consultation sessions with 20 organizations, multiple pop-up events at local markets, and targeted community events. The survey garnered 284 responses, with 52% of responses from Staunton, 26% from Waynesboro, and 22% from Augusta County. The respondent demographics showed balanced gender representation (54% female, 45% male) with an older respondent population with an average age of 53 years.

Transportation patterns among respondents demonstrated reliance on personal vehicles, with 90% of respondents noting that driving a personal vehicle was the main form of transportation in the region, although some respondents demonstrated interest in alternative transportation modes such as increased transit use and a desire to bike and walk safely to daily activities. The average commute time of respondents was 20 minutes, below state averages, with 60% of respondents reporting commutes under 30 minutes. However, some respondents noted challenges to transportation for daily activities including access to medical facilities and basic errands.

Each jurisdiction showed relatively similar priorities with walking and crossing safety emerging as a leading concern across the region. Staunton respondents emphasized pedestrian safety (39%) and general safety improvements (20%), while Waynesboro highlighted a mix of walking safety (30%) and bicycle infrastructure needs (20%). Augusta County's responses diverged a bit with prioritizing bus route expansion (24%) and congestion management (21%).

Across all respondents, the highest ranked transportation priority was on missing and needed sidewalks and crosswalks, followed by general safety concerns and then distracted driving. Traditional congestion issues ranked lower in priority, with missing road connections receiving the lowest priority ranking across all localities.

Mr. Bartholomew noted that he looks forward to how the committee will use these findings to inform the goal prioritization and project identification as the LRTP update process continues through its subsequent phases.

2050 LRTP Goal Prioritization and Project Identification (TAC Memo #24-06)

Mr. Beard presented the current 2045 LRTP goals and initiated a discussion on potential modifications for the 2050 update. The committee engaged in detailed discussion about the existing goals and their prioritization, with several key modifications proposed during discussion by the Committee.

Proposed Goal Modifications

1. Connectivity and Accessibility (Goals 5 & 6)

- Committee agreed to combine these into a single goal under “Accessibility”
- This aligns with VTrans' “Accessible and Connected Places” goal

2. Efficient System Management (Goal 2)

- Agreement to rename to "Proactive System Management" to better align with VTrans terminology
- Discussion emphasized need to address incident management, particularly regarding I-81 traffic incidents
- Will include congestion mitigation in goal description

3. Quality of Life (Goal 7)

- Committee agreed to modify focus toward "Environment and Sustainability"
- Will better align with federal and state environmental goals
- Revised to emphasize healthy communities and sustainable transportation options

Economic Development Prioritization Discussion

Mr. Kesecker raised questions about economic growth being the highest-ranked goal, which prompted a note that this previously aligned with SMART SCALE scoring priorities. However, the committee acknowledged changes in SMART SCALE economic development measures and agreed to reconsider ranking given new SMART SCALE criteria focusing on Virginia Economic Development Partnership sites.

Next Steps for Goal Prioritization

Mr. Beard described the next steps for Goal Prioritization. First, SAWMPO Staff will email updated goal descriptions to localities and begin process to rank updated goals. Then, each locality will review internally with colleagues before submitting the final rankings. Results will be presented at next meeting for final discussion and the final prioritized list will be presented to Policy Board for approval.

Project Identification Process

Mr. Beard outlined the process for developing the 2050 project list which will include staff compiling an initial project list from previous LRTP recommendations, studies from past 5 years, comprehensive plans, and survey data pin drop clusters. Then the Draft list will be sent to localities

for review, projects will subsequently be screened against specific transportation needs, and any projects without specific deficiency documentation will move to future studies list.

The committee agreed to review these materials and provide feedback at the November meeting.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

I-81 Projects

- Widening project progressing between Exits 221 and 225 for Rt. 250 and Rt. 262
- The Barterbrook Road bridge ahead of schedule
- New project between mile markers 232-238 out for bid
- Staunton section scheduled for Spring 2025 start
 - Three-year timeline for completion

Safety Initiatives

- Construction zone speed cameras along work zones on I-81 which are launching in late fall
- Virginia State Police are tasked to manage enforcement
- Enhanced focus on construction zone speed compliance

Weather Response

- Mr. Komara noted a comprehensive response to the recent 14-inch rainfall from Hurricane Helene
- VDOT coordinated emergency services for tree removal and bridge crew deployment for emergency repairs across the SAWMPO area and deployed in SWVA

Winter Preparations

- Mr. Komara noted that winter equipment checks are underway with snow removal preparations in progress
- Additionally, winter contractor enrollment open through November

DRPT

Ms. Grace Stankus announced upcoming grant workshops: transit workshop on November 13 at 11:00 a.m. and commuter assistance workshop on November 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Transit (BRITE) and Afton Express

Ms. Thompson provided the following updates:

- For BRITE, The Lewis Street Hub opened successfully on August 30, receiving positive feedback from all users. BRITE is advancing its service planning through a microtransit feasibility study, analyzing on-demand service options for the region.

- For Afton Express, Ms. Thompson noted Afton Express marked its third anniversary, implementing several service enhancements including free rides for UVA-affiliated passengers and strategic stop relocations to Staunton Crossing and Augusta Health facilities.

Locality Updates

Augusta County

Mr. Wolfe reported that preliminary engineering has begun for their revenue sharing project to enhance the government center entrance. The project will add an extra lane with a divided median to improve access to the area's facilities, including the courthouse currently under construction.

Staunton

Mr. Lyle Hartt noted current construction includes the West Beverly Street sidewalk and State of Good Repair paving and ADA ramp improvements. While concrete work has progressed quickly and paving is completed on the New Hope Road section, remaining repaving areas will likely be completed in spring. Public Works is also conducting their annual fall repaving projects throughout the city.

Waynesboro

Ms. Tate reported that Greenway Phase Three construction has begun, primarily involving sidewalk work along 14th Street from the Ridgeview Park area near Magnolia to Wayne Avenue. While concrete pouring has not started, work is expected to begin the following week weather permitting. SNK Excavating secured the contract, with Divine Concrete as their DBE subcontractor.

Other Business

Mr. Bartholomew noted that an EV readiness study and charging site assessment is underway across rural areas, with some MPO portions included.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Komara made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Tate seconded. Acting Chair Doug Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Zach Beard, Program Manager



TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO Policy Board
FROM: Garreth Bartholomew, Transportation Planner
MEETING DATE: November 20, 2024
RE: **TAC Action Form #24-04: Approval of 2025 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Policy Board approve the Calendar Year 2025 meeting schedule, which includes adjusting the schedule to hold TAC meetings on the first Wednesday of each month prior to Policy Board meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

BACKGROUND

SAWMPO staff develop an annual meeting schedule at the end of each calendar year (see **Page 2** of this memo). In the past, the Policy Board has met before the TAC each month. Beginning in 2025, SAWMPO staff are proposing adjusting the meeting schedule to hold TAC meetings before Policy Board meetings to ensure that TAC recommendations and technical reviews are completed before items are presented to the Policy Board each month.

As a result, the proposed new schedule includes moving TAC meetings to the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., and Policy Board meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

2025 SAWMPO MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2025 schedule reflects the proposed meeting schedule adjustment for the TAC and Policy Board. A 2022 Virginia FOIA law amendment allows the SAWMPO to conduct two virtual meetings annually. The Board and TAC concurred with scheduling one virtual meeting annually in February and having another virtual meeting "floating" to hold as-needed. The full Policy Board and TAC meeting schedules are on **Page 2** of this memo.

A public notice for the 2025 meeting schedules will be published in local newspapers and posted on www.sawmpo.org in accordance with the SAWMPO [Public Participation Plan \(PPP\)](#). Changes to the 2025 meeting schedule or format will be posted on the website, and publicly noticed in local papers as required by the PPP. Policy Board and TAC members will be notified of meeting schedule changes by email at least one week in advance of the scheduled meeting date.

2025 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Schedule	
January 1, 2025 – New Year’s Day (No meeting)	July 2, 2025
February 5, 2025 (virtual)	August 6, 2025
March 5, 2025	September 3, 2025
April 2, 2025	October 1, 2025
May 7, 2025	November 5, 2025
June 4, 2025	December 3, 2025
First Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Location (unless otherwise noted): Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia	

2024 Policy Board Meeting Schedule	
January 15, 2025	July 16, 2025
February 19, 2025 (virtual)	August 20, 2025
March 19, 2025	September 17, 2025
April 16, 2025	October 15, 2025
May 21, 2025	November 19, 2025
June 18, 2025	December 17, 2025
Third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Location (unless otherwise noted): Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia	



TO: SAWMPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Zach Beard, Program Manager
MEETING DATE: November 20, 2024
RE: **TAC Memo #24-07: FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modifications**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SAWMPO staff administratively modified the FY24-27 TIP to reflect updates to FY24 and FY25 transit funding allocations for CSPDC01, CSPDC02, CSPDC04, and CSPDC05 on November 5, and made an additional modification to update funding numbers for a Valley Program for Aging Services project on November 13. Both modifications are in Appendix B: Transit TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications beginning on page 25 of the document.

NOVEMBER 5 MODIFICATION

CSPDC 01- Operating Assistance and CSPDC 02 – Capital Cost of Contracting modifications align the Federal 5311 and state funding amounts with the FY2024 and FY2025 SYIP. Federal 5307 funds have been adjusted to reflect FFY2022 and FFY2023 allocations between capital cost of contracting and operating. Due to the receipt of CARES Act funding during the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of federal 5307 formula funds was delayed. Consequently, FFY2022 funds were utilized in FY2024, and FFY2023 funds will be used in FY2025.

CSPDC 04 – Bike Racks, ITS or Misc Equipment and CSPDC 05 – Bus Shelters modifications address that no funding was requested or awarded in FY25, and as a result funds were advanced forward one year.

NOVEMBER 13 MODIFICATION

This modification adjusts funding amounts for a Valley Program for Aging Services Operating Assistance project added to the FY24-27 TIP as part of an August 2024 document amendment. The modification removes funding amounts included under FY25, and includes new funding amounts for FTA 5310, State, and Local line items under FY24. The Year Total number remains the same.

NEXT STEPS

The TAC does not need to take action. Staff submitted the modified TIP to DRPT and posted the updated document on the MPO website UPWP page on November 5, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

[FY24-27 TIP November 2024 Administrative Modifications Document](#)