

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

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

Attendance

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Other Attendees
City of Staunton Amanda Kaufman Brad Arrowood (Chair)	VDOT Shane McCabe (Alt)	Staff (CSPDC) Ann Cundy Paula Melester
Augusta County Carolyn Bragg Tim Fitzgerald	DRPT Grace Stankus*	Zach Beard Garreth Bartholomew
City of Waynesboro Jim Wood (Vice Chair) Todd Wood	Virginia Regional Transit Steve Wilson*	Devon Thompson Danielle Gannon
VDOT Todd Stevens Brad Reed (Alt) Don Komara (Alt)		CTB H. Randolph Laird*

* 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.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Arrowood presented the minutes from the December 4, 2024 Policy Board meeting.

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

Public Comment

Chair Arrowood opened the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments.

Approval of the SAWMPO Boundary Adjustment (Board Action Form #25-01)

Mr. Beard presented the proposed SAWMPO boundary adjustments resulting from the 2020 U.S. Census urban area designations. The adjustments would add approximately 1.7 square miles to the existing MPO area, with minimal impacts to population or employment numbers. Five key adjustment areas were presented:

- Three areas along US 340 south of Crimora
- One area north of Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center
- One area along US 11 at the southern boundary
- Two areas along Route 262 on the south side
- One area in the northwest near the Middle River

Mr. Tim Fitzgerald explained that the Greenville area south of the MPO is currently designated as a County urban service area and has transportation needs and challenges particularly at the I-81 Exit 213 interchange. Discussion ensued regarding potentially expanding the boundary further to include the Greenville area. The Board decided to table the boundary adjustment approval until next month to allow staff time to evaluate including the Greenville area in addition to the VDOT recommended boundary adjustments.

Mr. Wood moved to table the boundary adjustment until staff developed a boundary extension including the Greenville area in coordination with Augusta County staff; seconded by Ms. Bragg. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

Approval of the 2025 SAWMPO Safety Targets (Board Action Form #25-02)

Mr. Beard presented the 2025 Safety Performance Targets. Mr. Beard explained that FHWA requires VDOT and MPOs to set annual safety performance targets for reducing fatal and severe injury crashes for motorized and non-motorized users. The MPO must either concur with VDOT's statewide and SAWMPO recommended safety targets or set their own MPO-specific targets by February 28, 2025.

The presentation included historical trends showing that while fatal injuries statewide decreased from 2022 to 2023, the 5-year average showed an 8% increase overall. Serious injuries have remained relatively constant since 2014. The SAWMPO has been setting its own targets since 2018, and while the region was below all targets between 2018-2021, fatalities have exceeded targets every year since 2021. For 2025, the proposed SAWMPO safety targets are:

- 9 fatalities (rate of 0.77 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled)
- 98 serious injuries (rate of 8.76 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled)
- 8 non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries

Mr. Fitzgerald moved to approve the 2025 safety targets; seconded by Mr. Jim Wood. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

Approval of the 2050 LRTP Project Scoring Methodology and Draft 2050 LRTP Project List (Board Action Form #25-03)

Mr. Beard presented the project scoring methodology and draft project list for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The methodology is based on the MPO's prioritized goals, with scoring factors

weighted according to regional priorities. Safety received the highest percentage weight, reflecting its status as the unanimous top priority across localities. The draft project list includes 28 unfunded projects: 15 in Augusta County, 7 in Staunton, and 6 in Waynesboro. Mr. Beard noted that the list may need slight modifications to account for recent Smart Scale funding announcements.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the LRTP could include a possible project at the I-81 Exit 213 interchange. Board discussion concluded that a small modification to the project list, or a future LRTP amendment after the document is approved in December 2025, might be made related to the boundary adjustments and recent SMART SCALE project awards.

Mr. Wood moved to approve the 2050 LRTP project scoring methodology and project list; seconded by Ms. Bragg. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

FY25 5310 VPAS Application (Board Memo #25-01)

Ms. Paula Melester presented information about Valley Program for Aging Services' (VPAS) grant application for about \$53,000 in Federal 5310 funding to acquire new vehicles. While the application does not require MPO action, the Board was notified that if awarded, the project would be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Brad Reed and Mr. Todd Stevens provided the following updates:

- The CTB SMART SCALE draft funded projects scenario includes two projects from the SAWMPO: the Exit 235 three-lane bridge project at \$19.4 and the Waynesboro Transit Access project at \$2.4 million. The CTB can review and modify the list until June when the Six Year Improvement Plan is approved.

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- The Barterbrook Road project remains ahead of schedule at approximately 20% complete.
- The Weyers Cave I-81 widening project had a pre-construction meeting, with work planned in March 2025. Project completion is scheduled for December 2027.
- The Route 220 project through Staunton continues to progress well, with work continuing even during recent winter weather.

DRPT

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following update:

- FY26 applications for all rail and transit programs (except 5303) are due February 1, 2025, with 5303 applications due May 1, 2025.

BRITE Transit and Afton Express

Ms. Devon Thompson provided the following updates:

- DRPT grant applications are being prepared for urban and rural operating and capital contracting. A capital grant application is planned for bus shelters.



- Technical assistance funding is being sought for contract procurement for a new BRITE bus service provider.
- The BRITE micro transit feasibility study continues, and Kimley Horn identified draft opportunity zones in various areas including Fishersville, Greenville, Stuarts Draft, and parts of Waynesboro which are being reviewed by the study group.
- The annual Afton Express rider survey will close on Friday.

Locality Updates

Staunton

- Ms. Amanda Kaufman reported that the city is working with PDC and Timmons on a significant RAISE grant application for Uniontown improvements, including water and sewer infrastructure, street improvements, and a pedestrian bridge. A letter of support from the MPO was requested.

Other Business

Ms. Ann Cundy remarked that senior staff met with the new DRPT Director Tiffany Robinson and Virginia Passenger Rail Authority representatives regarding state of repair and accessibility improvements to the Staunton Amtrack Station. A new funding request was submitted following an unsuccessful first attempt.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Arrowood noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2025 and the next Board meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2025.

Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Arrowood adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Melester".

Paula Melester
Director of Transportation

