

# Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization

## Policy Board Meeting Minutes

**July 16, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting conducted virtually

### Attendance

| Voting Members     |                       | Non-Voting Members        |                     | Other Attendees |                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| City of Staunton   |                       | VDOT                      |                     | Staff (CSPDC)   |                     |
|                    | Amanda Kaufman        | ✓*                        | Shane McCabe        | ✓*              | Ann Cundy           |
| ✓*                 | Brad Arrowood (Chair) | ✓*                        | Cody Huffman        |                 | Zach Beard          |
| ✓*                 | Rodney Rhodes (Alt)   | DRPT                      |                     | ✓*              | Devon Thompson      |
| Augusta County     |                       |                           | Grace Stankus       | ✓*              | Paula Melester      |
| ✓*                 | Tim Fitzgerald        | Virginia Regional Transit |                     | ✓*              | Garreth Bartholomew |
| ✓*                 | Carolyn Bragg         |                           | Steve Wilson        |                 |                     |
|                    | Pam Carter (Alt)      | ✓*                        | Phil Thompson (Alt) |                 |                     |
| City of Waynesboro |                       | Department of Aviation    |                     |                 |                     |
| ✓*                 | Jim Wood (Vice Chair) | ✓*                        | Rusty Harrington    | Others          |                     |
| ✓*                 | Todd Wood             | FHWA and FTA              |                     | ✓*              | Joe Johnson, VDOT   |
|                    | Michael Hamp (Alt)    |                           | Kevin Jones         |                 |                     |
| VDOT               |                       |                           |                     |                 |                     |
|                    | Todd Stevens          |                           |                     |                 |                     |
| ✓*                 | Brad Reed (Alt)       |                           |                     |                 |                     |
| ✓*                 | Don Komara (Alt)      |                           |                     |                 |                     |

\*Virtual attendance

### Call to Order

The July 16, 2025, Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) Policy Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Brad Arrowood. The meeting was conducted virtually with no in-person option.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew presented corrections to the previous meeting minutes. Under attendance, Amanda Kaufman was shown as present but only Rodney Rhodes was present for the city at the previous meeting. Under locality updates, Staunton's update incorrectly referenced a signal being removed and replaced with stop signs, when it should have referenced turn lanes being removed. The Board was asked for conditional approval of the minutes pending these corrections and any other corrections from members.

*A motion to approve the minutes with pending corrections was made by Mr. Jim Wood; 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.

### **SAWMPO Internal Process Review (Board Memo #25-06)**

Ms. Paula Melester presented information about internal tasks that staff will be working on over the next six to eight months. Ms. Melester explained that SAWMPO staff conducted a staff retreat in April, and one central topic of discussion was how to best navigate changing federal and state funding priorities. In response, the team will be conducting an internal review of processes, procedures, and update governing and planning documents to identify areas for improved efficiency and ensure compliance with changing federal and State requirements while also better serving local and regional transportation needs.

The first step will be meeting with each locality and agency to get feedback on priorities and how staff can best support them. After receiving feedback, staff will examine process and policy documents and update the Title VI Plan, public participation plan, and bylaws, and incorporate new processes and procedures as necessary.

Chair Arrowood asked about which local representatives were invited to the meetings. Ms. Melester explained that invitations were sent to local staff with requests to coordinate internally within each locality to determine participation.

### **Presentation: 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew provided a progress update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). SAWMPO staff are drafting several chapters for TAC review at the August TAC meeting. Mr. Bartholomew then summarized key milestones of the LRTP update since January 2025 for project scoring criteria, LRTP plan goals, and the second round of public engagement.

### *Goals and Project Evaluation*

The Board approved project scoring criteria that translated community priorities into regional goals for each locality. Each locality ranked five different criteria: safety, accessibility, land use, economic development, and environment. The weighted criteria were used to evaluate all projects. The process aligns with Smart Scale. Staff shared the prioritized list of projects with the Board at the May meeting.

### *Public Engagement Phase II*

Phase II of public engagement focused on receiving input on 23 proposed projects and 15 studies through an interactive website and three in-person events, generating 201 contributions with 89% average project support. Safety projects and pedestrian and bicycle projects both scored highly. All proposed projects related to sidewalks, bike lanes, or shared-use paths, along with any project explicitly mentioning safety improvements, received 100% support, and all projects received 89% support overall. Responses for several intersection and roundabout projects were mixed, but overall, these project types also had a high-level of support.

### *Next Steps*

Staff will present the first draft chapters at the August TAC and Policy Board meetings, followed by the complete draft in September. Staff will request that the Board release the document for a 45-day public comment period at the October Board meeting. The document is scheduled to be approved by December 19.

### **Agency Updates**

#### *VDOT*

Mr. Brad Reed provided the following updates:

- I-81 Capital Improvement Program Meetings: VDOT held I-81 capital improvement program meetings over two days at Weyers Cave at Blue Ridge Community College and at Shenandoah University, both with good attendance. A comment period is open until the end of July for the proposed improvements. Notably, the Staunton District has the highest I-81 mileage, needs, and safety/operations issues, resulting in the most recommended improvements with just over 70 miles of widening in both directions. Following public input, a Smart Scale-like process will prioritize projects based on the approximately \$2 billion of available funding, with final CTB adoption expected in December.
- VDOT STARS Route 340 Study in Waynesboro: The next Route 340 Rosser Avenue study group meeting will be Friday at 10:00 a.m. to discuss preliminary ideas on how to address corridor issues, particularly safety-related, and operational issues identified during field review.

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- The Barterbrook Road project is complete with Barterbrook Road open, and work continues on acceleration lanes underneath the new bridge.
- Southern Connector in Waynesboro has minor improvements before the project is complete.
- I-81 through Staunton from mile markers 222 to 225 is progressing well, and automated camera enforcement being is being considered for implementation later this year.
- Weyers Cave area construction by Branch Highways has begun on both sides through mile marker 235, with Jersey barriers on both sides creating a 60-mph zone.
- Fall advertising is planned for improvements in Harrisonburg from the truck stop to Route 33.
- Mill Street in Verona dual left improvements were bid twice, with the second bid receiving two bids.
- Route 250 safety improvement projects for turn lanes had one high bid, so the project is being repackaged for re-advertising.

#### *DRPT*

Mr. Bartholomew provided the following DRPT updates on behalf of Grace Stankus:

- DRPT will host their FY26 post-award webinar for all public transit, MPO, and commuter assistance grant recipients on July 23rd at 11:00 a.m.
- DRPT will host an National Transit Institute (NTI) course on State and metropolitan transportation planning at the Plan RVA offices in Richmond on September 15-16th.

#### *BRITE Transit and Afton Express*

Ms. Devon Thompson provided the following updates:



- Effective July 1, new stop and route changes were implemented on the 250 Connector and Waynesboro Circulator routes. This change has been well received by riders and was recommended by the Transit Development Plan in 2022.
  - Valley Community Services Board will now be a regular fixed stop with hourly service from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the 250 Connector, previously having been on-call service three times daily. The West Main Plaza stop has moved to Bookerdale Road and West Main Street and is now served by the Waynesboro Circulator.
  - The Waynesboro Circulator previously traveled in and out of Waynesboro via Rosser Avenue, and will now travel on Lew Dewitt to Bookerdale Road, and turn onto West Main Street.
- For Afton Express, staff continues to work with consultants to analyze ridership data and customer inputs to consider schedule changes that would better align with employer and commuter needs. Consultants at WRA have been drafting alternative schedule scenarios for review with Virginia Regional Transit. The goal is to improve the schedule to utilize the potential of all three buses, continue serving current ridership, but open opportunities for new riders.

### **Locality Updates**

#### *City of Waynesboro*

Vice Chair Jim Wood provided the following updates:

- The City continues work to update the comprehensive plan; and the City has received favorable input so far from the public on the new BRITE BUS route changes.
- The Southern Connector project is nearly complete, and the City is excited about the road being operational soon.

#### *Augusta County*

Mr. Tim Fitzgerald provided the following updates:

- The County's comprehensive plan draft is available on the county's website for public review. Planning staff will be at the Augusta County Fair next week to discuss the comprehensive plan with attendees, providing opportunities for public comment. Five public meetings are scheduled - one at Blue Ridge Community College and others at county middle schools. Staff will incorporate public input into the final draft, and the County intends to approve the plan by the end of 2025.

#### *City of Staunton*

Mr. Rodney Rhodes provided the following updates:

- The City conducted the second public input meeting on the comprehensive plan update with over one hundred citizens attending.
- Two projects in the City are concluding in July: the West Beverly Street project and Churchville Avenue project. The City is considering adding additional bicycle and buffer markings and symbols to further illustrate the intended use of the improvements.
- The City submitted "preliminary applications" for two sidewalk projects, including one on North Augusta Street.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.



### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chair Arrowood noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2025, and the next Board meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2025.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Arrowood adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Melester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Melester  
Director of Transportation

A short, horizontal red line with a small, dark mark or smudge in the center.