



## **Staunton Augusta Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda September 3, 2025, at 2:00 P.M.**

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

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of the August 6, 2025, Meeting\*
3. Public Comment
4. SAWMPO Internal Process Review Stakeholder Consultation Update and Discussion (TAC Memo #25-07)
5. Presentation: SAWMPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Draft Review
6. Agency Updates
  - a. VDOT
  - b. DRPT
  - c. BRITE
  - d. Localities
7. Other Business
8. Upcoming Meetings
  - a. September 30, 2025 – SAWMPO-CAMPO Joint Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
  - b. October 1, 2025 - SAWMPO TAC Meeting, 2:00 p.m., CSPDC - CANCELED
  - c. October 15, 2025 – SAWMPO Policy Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., CSPDC
9. Adjourn

\* Action needed

## Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Meeting Minutes August 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting held at Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Office at 112 MacTanly Place,  
Staunton, VA 24401 and virtually via Zoom

Voting Members				Others	
City of Staunton		VDOT		Staff (CSPDC)	
✓	Rodney Rhodes (Chair)	✓	Don Komara	✓	Zach Beard
	Meggie Taylor (Alt)	✓	Brad Reed (Alt)	✓	Garreth Bartholomew
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)	✓	Shane McCabe (Alt)	✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Susan Wilson	✓	Cody Huffman	✓	Paula Melester
		VA DRPT		✓	Kayla Dixon
Augusta County		✓*	Grace Stankus		
✓	Doug Wolfe (Vice Chair)				
✓	Julia Hensley (Alt)	Non-Voting Members			
				Other attendees	
		VRT			
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 Chair Rodney Rhodes.

Chair Rhodes welcomed Susan Wilson as Staunton's newest voting member on the TAC. Ms. Wilson is a transportation planner working under the engineering department.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Rhodes presented the minutes from the June 4, 2025, TAC Meeting.

Mr. Doug Wolfe moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Don Komara. The TAC approved the motion by unanimous vote.

## **Public Comment**

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

## **FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification (TAC Memo #25-05)**

Mr. Zach Beard presented an administrative modification to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for informational purposes, noting that no action was required. Mr. Beard explained that the City of Waynesboro received \$950,000 in 2024 from an Eastern Federal Land Act Program (EFLAP) grant for preliminary engineering activities resulting in 60% plans for the Rockfish Valley Gateway Trail Project. The project will establish a pedestrian trail connecting Waynesboro to Shenandoah National Park and adjacent outdoor recreation destinations, providing new sections of trail and sidewalk within the city. Mr. Beard noted that 60% plans are required for the city to authorize right-of-way acquisition.

The project was not initially updated in the regional TIP because it did not meet VDOT's threshold for project groupings based on the amount of new funding added. However, the project is already in the state's TIP, ensuring compliance with federal requirements. Staff administratively modified the FY24-27 TIP on July 30, 2025, to include the project in the document to assist the City with future grant applications that request documentation of the project in the SAWMPO TIP.

## **Resolutions of Support for Transportation Alternative Program Applications (TAC Action Form #25-03)**

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew presented three Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) pre-applications that passed screening and are moving forward to the full application cycle starting August 15. Approved applicants have until September 15 to submit final applications with resolutions if within an MPO area. The TAC was asked to recommend approval of these resolutions to the Policy Board for their official support.

For Augusta County, the Verona Pedestrian Project on Quicks Mill Road will add approximately 1,000 feet of sidewalk and build upon existing sidewalk capacity established through previous TAP projects. The area has experienced safety needs including pedestrian fatalities, with a recent incident on the road, and will provide safe off-street facilities for neighborhood residents to access nearby services.

For the City of Waynesboro, Mr. Bartholomew presented two projects. The Transit Access Project will implement comprehensive pedestrian and ADA improvements at six BRITE bus stop locations throughout the city, upgrading stops currently marked only by signs with bus pads, ADA-compliant ramps, sidewalk tie-ins, and other improvements to ensure both BRITE bus passengers and pedestrians have better access to amenities. The Race Avenue Sidewalk and Streetscape project would construct sidewalks on both sides of Race Avenue to connect downtown infrastructure to

recreational amenities, including landscaping improvements and street trees. However, Ms. Leslie Tate noted the city had received comments questioning the eligibility of certain elements, particularly on-street parking components, and indicated the Race Avenue project might not move forward pending clarification from VDOT and TAP program staff about eligible expenses.

Ms. Tate made a motion to endorse the resolutions of support for the three TAP projects; seconded by Mr. Doug Wolfe. The motion carried unanimously.

### **SAWMPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Review of Chapters 2 through 5 (TAC Memo #25-06)**

Mr. Zach Beard presented drafts of chapters 2 through 5 for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan update and stated he will send them by the end of the week. The chapters cover public engagement, regional context, existing transportation conditions, and transportation needs. Mr. Beard noted that remaining chapters and the overall draft document will be presented at the September TAC meeting, with the Policy Board being asked to release the document for a 45-day public comment period in October and final approval targeted for December.

Key changes from the 2045 plan include efforts to make the document more readable by streamlining or removing federal compliance language, expanding the needs chapter with new sections, and consolidating chapters for better organization. Notably, the travel demand model was not updated for this cycle based on minimal growth changes over the past five years, alignment between locality comprehensive plans and future land use scenarios, and the 2045 model's projection that no roadways would be over capacity through 2045. Mr. Beard also reported that the MPO boundary expansion to Greenville, approved by VDOT four months ago, remains pending at the Governor's office, so the current plan uses the existing boundary.

The regional context chapter profiles population growth projections showing an increase from 87,000 people currently to approximately 100,000 by 2050, with Augusta County driving most growth. Discussion ensued about the assumptions for growth distribution, with 75% of county growth assumed to occur within the MPO area. Mr. Doug Wolfe questioned some population projections, noting discrepancies with recent county comprehensive plan numbers showing 90,664 for 2050. Mr. Beard summarized the other chapters, and mentioned that notable new sections include documenting truck parking and electric vehicle charging facilities and needs.

TAC discussion focused on transportation needs not captured by performance-based metrics. Mr. Don Komara and Mr. Wolfe emphasized the need to address narrow secondary roads that don't qualify for Smart Scale funding but pose safety concerns, particularly for bicyclists and farm vehicles. They noted that roads like Saint James Road at only 17 feet wide create dangerous conditions when meeting oncoming traffic, especially larger vehicles. The group discussed including a table of substandard width roads in Chapter 5, potentially prioritizing them by ADT and heavy vehicle percentage to support future trench widening or shoulder improvement projects. Mr. Beard agreed this was a good suggestion for capturing needs not reflected in conventional performance-based planning metrics.

TAC members were requested to review the draft chapters by August 29, 2025, focusing particularly on content and numbers specific to their localities. Mr. Beard indicated he would send locality-specific emails highlighting areas for focused review.

## **Agency Updates**

### **VDOT**

Mr. Brad Reed provided the following updates:

- The US 340 Rosser Avenue Pipeline Study is examining the district's top-ranked Potential for Safety Improvement corridor, with a study group meeting scheduled for July.
- The I-81 Capital Improvement Program held public meetings presenting needs between Harrisonburg and Staunton, with approximately \$2 billion available for project funding across the entire corridor. The prioritization using Smart Scale-like analysis will be presented in fall public engagement sessions.
- Revenue Sharing and Transportation Alternatives application windows open August 15 with submissions due September 15.

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- The Barterbrook Road bridge project is complete on top with the road open, while work continues underneath widening the interstate to eliminate lane changes and merging issues.
- The I-81 widening project from mile markers 221 to 225 through Staunton is progressing well with significant bridge widening and earthwork activities.
- The I-81 Weyers Cave truck climbing lane project has begun with shoulder strengthening and milling completed; contractors were pleased to discover the median mound was mostly dirt, allowing faster progress.
- The Southern Connector in Waynesboro is nearing completion pending final railroad work, with a ribbon cutting scheduled for August 22.
- Construction safety improvements include new deceleration lanes in the median for construction vehicle access and an additional foot of shoulder on both the median side and shoulder side of barriers.
- Speed enforcement cameras will begin operation this fall/winter on I-81, issuing \$100 tickets to vehicles exceeding 60 mph, with tickets mailed to registered owners (no points assessed).
- Maintenance challenges from numerous storms have caused flooding issues and excessive grass growth; the district continues performing 90% of mowing in-house.
- The district has graded some storm-damaged roads four times in three weeks, prioritizing in-house work over contracting to maintain control over road grading priorities.
- Staunton District crews will compete in the statewide truck rodeo tomorrow, where the district has won the trophy for several consecutive years.

## DRPT

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following update:

- DRPT has a new requirement for Smart Scale Round 7 projects primarily focused on rail or transit. Agencies must schedule engagement meetings with DRPT's Smart Scale point of contact Paige Lazar before October 31 in order to submit pre-applications. Roadway projects with minor transit elements are exempt from this requirement.

## BRITE and Afton Express

Ms. Devon Thompson provided the following updates:

- Ms. Devon Thompson reported that changes to the Waynesboro Circulator route and 250 Connector have been well-received, with the updated service now serving Valley Community Services Board hourly rather than just three times daily.
- The CSPDC staff is preparing for Discover Transit Month in September with pop-ups and passenger engagement activities planned. Staunton Public Works staff are installing new solar lights at Staunton Crossing.
- The BRITE microtransit feasibility study has been finalized and will be posted on the website.
- Staff continue to work with consultants to identify potential Afton Express schedule changes that would enable more expedited express trips and better serve major employers.

## Augusta County

Mr. Wolfe provided the following updates:

- The county is continuing with two revenue sharing pre-applications. Additional revenue sharing funding is needed for the Dick Huff Lane project near the Augusta County Courthouse Improvements. The county also applied for the Weyers Cave Road and Triangle Drive intersection, with the final phase programmed for 2032.
- Mr. Wolfe also noted that the Weyers Cave Road railroad crossing will be rebuilt in the first or second week of September, requiring road closure and detour planning through the village.

## City of Staunton

Chair Rhodes provided the following updates:

- Chair Rhodes reported the city is pursuing a Ready Set Go grant application this fall to prepare for the next TAP cycle, looking at a shared-use path along Middlebrook Avenue to serve new multifamily developments.
- The city is also applying for a Growth and Accessibility Planning Technical Assistance grant to update their bike and pedestrian plan.
- The city is continuing with three revenue sharing applications for the Edgewood sidewalk cost overruns, North Augusta sidewalk from the post office to Terry Court, and tunnel repairs beneath city streets near the Wharf.



- The comprehensive plan update continues with strong public participation, including 105 sign-ins at their last open house meeting.

City of Waynesboro

Ms. Tate provided the following updates:

- The Southern Connector is wrapping up with the ribbon cutting at month's end.
- The city finalized Greenway Phase 3 and completed the 14th Street sidewalk project.
- The comprehensive plan kickoff open house was held on June 18 which drew approximately 80 participants.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chair Rhodes announced the SAWMPO Policy Board will meet August 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at CSPDC. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at CSPDC.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Beard", is positioned below the "Respectfully submitted," text.

Zach Beard, Program Manager



**TO:** Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC  
**FROM:** Paula Melester, Director of Transportation  
**MEETING DATE:** September 3, 2025  
**RE:** **TAC Memo #25-07: SAWMPO Internal Process Review  
Stakeholder Consultations Update and Discussion**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

SAWMPO staff has completed stakeholder consultation meetings with all MPO member localities and agencies as part of the comprehensive internal review process outlined in June 2025. These meetings gathered input on transportation priorities, regional needs, desired MPO assistance, and administrative improvements.

The feedback will inform updates to core governing documents and guide development of the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to better align MPO services with local and regional transportation needs. Staff will summarize and lead a discussion on the key themes and takeaways from the consultation meetings during the TAC meeting.

## **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The SAWMPO initiated the internal review in response to evolving federal transportation policy, changing state priorities toward performance-based planning, increased competitiveness of statewide and federal grant programs, and shifting transportation needs across the region. Between July and August 2025, staff conducted individual meetings with each MPO locality and agency partners to discuss how MPO long- and short-range planning processes can best align with federal, state, regional, and local transportation priorities, and how the MPO can best facilitate transportation planning efforts that maximize the time and capacity of each MPO member.

### **Consultation Questions**

Staff structured each stakeholder meeting on four question prompts to ensure consistent and comprehensive feedback:

- a) What are your locality's or agency's top transportation priorities in the SAWMPO region?
- b) What are the top regional transportation priorities from your locality or agency's perspective?
- c) What role can the MPO play in assisting your locality or agency with transportation planning and addressing said needs?
- d) How can we improve MPO administration, meeting logistics, and information sharing?

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will provide a broad summary and lead a discussion of the key themes and takeaways from the consultation meetings during the TAC meeting. Staff will incorporate the stakeholder feedback into the ongoing internal review process, including updates to the Bylaws, Title VI Plan, and Public Participation Plan. Staff will present draft document revisions and the proposed FY27 UPWP modifications to the TAC and Policy Board for review and approval at a future meeting, with full implementation of the recommended changes complete in Spring 2026.