

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

**August 20, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**

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

## Attendance

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

\*Virtual attendance

## Call to Order

The August 20, 2025, Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) Policy Board meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chair Brad Arrowood.

## Approval of Minutes

Chair Arrowood presented the minutes from the July, 16, 2025, Policy Board meeting.

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Jim Wood; seconded by Ms. Amanda Kaufman. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.*

## **Public Comment**

Chair Arrowood opened the meeting for public comment. Mr. Joe Moore introduced himself as a new employee with the Alliance For the Shenandoah Valley, noting he was attending to learn about the MPO.

## **Resolutions of Support of FY27 Transportation Alternative Program Applications (Board Action Form #25-06)**

Mr. Zach Beard presented resolutions of support for VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications. Mr. Beard noted that the City of Waynesboro withdrew one application since the Policy Board memo was distributed, and only two TAP projects are under consideration for letters of support. Mr. Beard explained that TAP operates on a biannual cycle with an 80/20 match requirement for localities, primarily funding bicycle and pedestrian projects. VDOT requires MPO letters of support for TAP projects within an MPO boundary. The application cycle opened August 15, 2025, and closes September 5, 2025.

### *Augusta County Verona Pedestrian Project Quicks Mill Road Extension*

Mr. Beard summarized the Verona Pedestrian Project, which would extend pedestrian facilities from the Route 11 intersection along Quicks Mill Road approximately 1,000 feet to Charlottes Court. Mr. Tim Fitzgerald provided context about the project location, noting significant pedestrian traffic in the area. The project builds upon a recently completed TAP project that extended pedestrian facilities from Route 11 eastbound along Laurel Hill Road park to the Verona park and ride facility.

*A motion to approve a letter of MPO support for the Augusta County TAP project was made by Mr. Jim Wood; seconded by Ms. Amanda Kaufman. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.*

### *Waynesboro Transit Access Project*

Mr. Beard summarized the Waynesboro Transit Access Project, which would implement pedestrian safety and ADA improvements at six bus stop locations throughout the city. The project upgrades stops currently marked only by signs with sidewalk tie-ins, pedestrian crossings, bus pads, ADA-compliant ramps, and bus shelters for BRITE transit routes. Improvements will be made at stops along the Waynesboro Circulator route, including locations at Mountain View Apartments, DMV, Food Lion, and Kroger. Mr. Beard explained that this project responds to the city's Smart Scale application not being funded, with the city addressing transit access issues through alternative grant funding programs.

*A motion to approve a letter of MPO support for the Waynesboro TAP project was made by Mr. Fitzgerald; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Bragg. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.*

## **2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update (Board Memo #25-07)**

Mr. Beard provided an update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Beard noted that staff drafted Chapters 2 through 5 for public engagement, regional context, existing transportation conditions, and regional transportation needs, and that the remaining chapters will cover LRTP goals and project lists. The first four chapters were presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at the August meeting and are currently under TAC review. The draft document will be presented at the September TAC meeting, and staff will request a 45-day public comment period release at the October Policy Board meeting. The Board will have the opportunity to provide comments on the document between early September and late November for input. The document is scheduled for approval at the December meeting.

Mr. Beard highlighted several changes and updates to the document, including efforts to reduce technical jargon and an expanded needs chapter. Importantly, Mr. Beard explained that the Board and TAC determined at the beginning of the update process to use 2045 travel demand model outputs for the 2050 plan due to marginal differences in projected growth between 2045 and 2050, future land use projections remaining largely unchanged since the last planning period, and the 2045 model showing no roads outside interstates would experience significant congestion or be over capacity by 2045.

Mr. Beard also addressed the MPO boundary expansion to Greenville that the Board approved in April. VDOT approved the expansion, but final approval from the Governor's office is still pending. Because the expansion has not received final acknowledgment, the LRTP update uses the old boundary that does not include Greenville.

### *Chapter Summaries*

Chapter 2 summarizes both phases of public engagement. Phase one focused on a survey asking residents to identify transportation issues in the region. Phase two gathered input on the 23 projects and 15 studies that were eligible for inclusion in the document. The chapter is complemented by a public engagement companion document.

Chapter 3 provides regional context, profiling population demographics and future growth projections for population and employment between now and 2050. Mr. Beard presented a table showing population projections, highlighting that the difference between the last 25-year projection period and the current projection is marginal. Most population growth will be driven by Augusta County, with stable but incremental growth in both cities. For Augusta County projections, staff used assumptions outlined in the draft county comprehensive plan, which assumes 80% of new growth will occur within designated growth areas, most of which coincide with the MPO boundary. Staff applied an assumption that 75% of all county growth will occur within the MPO boundary to arrive at the county's population projection.

Chapter 4 documents the existing transportation network and includes new sections on truck parking, expanded passenger rail and transit sections, and electric vehicle charging facilities. Chapter 5 covers transportation needs and is the largest chapter. New additions include incorporating data from the 2023 SAWMPO Regional Highway Safety Plan conducted in coordination with VDOT. This plan examines behavioral characteristics involved in crash data, including impaired driving, speeding, young drivers, and old drivers, providing an overview of crash types beyond just locations.

### *Discussion*

Mr. Fitzgerald asked when the Greenville area would be added to the MPO document given it has not received approval from the Governor's Office. Ms. Ann Cundy suggested that after the Governor's Office approves the boundary expansion, staff could amend the LRTP document after approval and include the Greenville information in an Appendix.

Mr. Don Komara raised concerns about Smart Scale overlooking two-lane secondary and primary roads improvements despite their importance. Mr. Komara suggested that paved shoulders on many highways like Route 11, Route 254, Route 612, and Route 608 would provide safety benefits. Mr. Fitzgerald expressed frustration that these safety projects are overlooked in current funding processes despite their importance.

Mr. Komara suggested documenting these needs in the LRTP could help with future funding opportunities and potentially improve Smart Scale scoring.

### **Presentation: Traffic Garden Design and Implementation – Fionnula Quinn, Discover Traffic Gardens**

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew introduced Ms. Fionnuala Quinn from Discover Traffic Gardens, noting her transition from civil engineering to helping children safely explore transportation networks through traffic gardens. Ms. Quinn explained her consulting business covers all aspects of traffic garden planning, design, and installation. A traffic garden is a scaled-down network of streets and traffic elements creating a simplified motor-vehicle free version of the built environment designed for practicing skills, fun, and programming.

#### *Traffic Garden Background*

Ms. Quinn outlined traffic garden history, noting a 60% decline in U.S. child biking over 15 years. Traffic gardens now provide skills children once gained through neighborhood biking. In her work, Ms. Quinn has mapped over 350 traffic gardens in North America and thousands worldwide, finding they cluster in hotspots once implemented. They serve multiple purposes: pedestrian education, railroad safety, bike fitting, helmet education, and active play.

#### *Types of Traffic Gardens*

Ms. Quinn identified two types of traffic gardens: sites with built out small-scale streets and sites with painted streets on hard surfaces. The current preferred approach uses high-grade, vibrant, long-lasting paint on repurposed surfaces like underutilized parking lots, basketball courts, or tennis courts. Examples of traffic gardens in Virginia include:

- Roanoke: Former parking lot beside elementary school, funded through DMV grant
- Alexandria: School playground and recreation center with shared-use gates
- Maryland park: Former basketball court with long-lasting resurfacing products
- Waynesboro Rotary Traffic Playground: Large installation; partners provided bikes, helmets, benches, and amenities

Funding sources extend beyond transportation grants to include AARP community engagement grants, state and national grants like Governor Highway Safety Fund grants, and State Farm funding. Projects are typically completed within one year.

#### *Waynesboro Traffic Garden*

Ms. Quinn explained that planning began in late 2023; by June 2024, the city secured funding after the Rotary Club joined the project. Waynesboro Parks and Recreation Department donated the parking lot. Ms. Quinn conducted a field visit with the Safe Routes coordinator, and the team reviewed conceptual layouts and intended uses. By September 2024, the design was finalized, and the contractor was hired.

#### *Discussion*

Ms. Bragg asked about programming at the Waynesboro traffic garden, and Mr. Jim Wood explained that the Parks and Recreation Department conducts safety programs and bike ride programs. Board members discussed potential locations in their communities and resurfacing options. Mr. Wood confirmed Waynesboro installed new asphalt and used highway-type reflective paint for markings, with the

Shenandoah Valley Arts Center contributing exterior artwork. Mr. Jim Wood also noted that he could provide cost information for the Waynesboro project, noting the Rotary Club handled the majority of funding.

## **Agency Updates**

### *VDOT*

Mr. Shane McCabe provided the following updates:

- I-81 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) survey closed at the end of July.
- VDOT will not conduct Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) applications this year. VDOT is suspending the program for one year to increase grant funds. HSIP applications are expected to resume next year.

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- The Southern Connector ribbon cutting in Waynesboro is scheduled for Friday, August 23 at 10:30 a.m.
- The Barterbrook Road project is “complete on top,” with work wrapping up underneath to connect the I-64 west to I-81 south lane.
- The Route 222 to Route 225 project through Staunton is progressing quickly and is approximately 42% complete after one year of a three-year contract. Speed cameras will be installed likely in October.
- The next I-81 segment construction project in the region will be in Harrisonburg near the Mount Crawford exit and will be advertised for bidding this fall.
- The Mill Street project in Verona was rebid and VDOT awarded B&S the contract for slightly over \$2 million.
- VDOT holds an annual truck rodeo statewide. The Staunton residency had a first place, a second place, and a third place finish in multiple categories.

### *DRPT*

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

- For Smart Scale Round 7, any applicant with a project primarily focused on rail or transit must meet with DRPT by October 31, 2025. Projects that are roadway-based with minor transit elements are exempt from this meeting requirement. Applicants can email Paige Lazar to schedule meetings with DRPT before the October 31 deadline.

### *BRITE Transit and Afton Express*

Mr. Beard provided the following updates on behalf of Ms. Devon Thompson:

- BRITE Transit staff is preparing for Discover Transit Month in September, which marks the fourth anniversary of Afton Express. Staff will conduct several pop-up events at bus stops throughout the region.
- Staff continues work with the consultant WRA to analyze Afton Express ridership data and passenger input to consider possible service changes that would better align with work schedules and passenger needs. Staff is drafting viable schedule scenarios that will be released for public input, and future route modifications may occur.

### **Locality Updates**

#### *City of Waynesboro*

Mr. Jim Wood provided the following updates:

- The city continues working on its comprehensive plan update.
- The Southern Connector ribbon cutting is scheduled for Friday at 10:30 a.m. at the same location where ground was broken, and everyone is invited.

#### *Augusta County*

Mr. Fitzgerald provided the following updates:

- The county is finishing its comprehensive plan update. All public meetings are complete, and the county hopes to finalize the plan in October.

#### *City of Staunton*

Ms. Kaufman and Chair Arrowood provided the following updates:

- The city is working through its comprehensive plan update.
- The city experienced a water line break over the weekend and complimented the City's Public Works staff.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Beard reminded the Board that the joint SAWMPO-Charlottesville MPO biannual meeting will be held September 30, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at a location in Albemarle County. The Charlottesville MPO is finalizing the location. Prior to COVID-19, the joint meetings were held annually, and since COVID they have been held biennially. Presentations scheduled include the Three Notch Trail, Regional Transit Developments, and the Statewide Rail Plan. Mr. Beard indicated SAWMPO will cancel the regularly scheduled September Policy Board meeting given the joint meeting on September 30.

Ms. Bragg asked about community awareness campaigns for the speed cameras. Mr. Komara confirmed that VDOT will publicize the cameras through VDOT's regular communications channels to inform the public.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chair Arrowood noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2025, and the next scheduled Policy Board meeting is October 15, 2025.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Arrowood adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Melester  
Director of Transportation