

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

**April 15, 2026, 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>	
✓	Leslie Beauregard	✓	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)	✓*	Stephen Smiley	<b>Others</b>	
✓	Todd Wood	<b>FHWA and FTA</b>		✓	Jonathan Marquise, VDOT
	Michael Hamp (Alt)		Kevin Jones		
<b>VDOT</b>			Ivan Rucker		
✓	Joel DeNunzio				
	Brad Reed (Alt)				
✓	Don Komara (Alt)				

\*Virtual attendance

## Call to Order

The April 15, 2026, Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) Policy Board meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair Brad Arrowood.

## Approval of Minutes

Chair Arrowood presented the minutes from the March 18, 2026, Policy Board meeting.

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Carolyn Bragg; seconded by Mr. Todd Wood. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.*

## **Public Comment**

Chair Arrowood opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

## **Approval of Title VI Program and Implementation Plan (Board Action Form #26-08)**

Ms. Melester presented the Title VI Program and Implementation Plan for Board approval. At the March 2026 meeting, the Board voted to release the plan for a 14-day public comment period. The plan was shared with all Board members prior to its release on April 1. No public comments were received.

Ms. Melester confirmed that all required changes had been completed prior to the public comment period. The update removes references to two executive orders rescinded in early 2025 and consolidates three previously separate Title VI plans—for the HRMPO, SAWMPO, and CSPDC rural transportation program—into a single document. Mr. Arrowood asked whether the changes directed by VDOT's Civil Rights Office had been incorporated. Ms. Melester confirmed they had and noted that any additional VDOT feedback received after Board approval can be addressed through a future amendment. Staff noted that approval was needed to meet the April 24 deadline for submission to VDOT.

*A motion to approve the Title VI Program and Implementation Plan was made by Ms. Leslie Beauregard; seconded by Ms. Bragg. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.*

## **Release of FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program for Public Comment and Conditional Approval (Board Action Form #26-09)**

Mr. Zach Beard presented the FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Board action. Staff requested that the Board release the document for a 14-day public comment period and grant conditional approval pending no substantial public comments.

The TIP is a four-year planning document updated on a three-year cycle. It documents all capital highway and transportation projects in the region scheduled to receive federal transportation funds, as well as non-capital projects such as pedestrian improvements, projects requiring federal action, and regionally significant projects that affect arterial roadway capacity. Federal regulations require the TIP to document how the region meets state and federal transportation performance targets related to safety and congestion. MPO staff coordinates the update directly with VDOT, DRPT, and BRITE. The current TIP covers FY24–27 and expires September 30, 2026. The new TIP will officially begin October 1, 2026, but VDOT and DRPT requested that it be finalized by the end of April. Once adopted, the SAWMPO TIP is incorporated into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which FHWA and FTA review for acceptance.

For this cycle, staff restructured the document to address versioning and tracking problems that had created confusion for VDOT, DRPT, and BRITE. The new structure divides the document into three components: a main narrative document and two separate appendices, one for highway projects and one for transit projects. The current version of each appendix will be available on the SAWMPO website. Mr. Beard noted that the delayed receipt of finalized highway project data from VDOT created a compressed timeline, necessitating the conditional approval request.

BRITE Transit projects are amended more frequently than highway projects because transit funding is allocated on an annual basis. Highway projects funded through grant programs such as Smart Scale are typically funded once and may remain unchanged for several years. Transit project funding amounts in the

TIP are expressed in thousands, consistent with DRPT's standard format. The TAC reviewed the document at its April 1 meeting and recommended release for public comment.

*A motion to release the FY27-30 TIP for a 14-day public comment period and grant conditional approval pending no substantial public comments was made by Mr. Todd Wood; seconded by Ms. Bragg. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.*

### **Release of FY27 Unified Planning Work Program for Public Comment (Board Action Form #26-10)**

Ms. Melester presented the draft FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Board action. The UPWP is a federally required document outlining the planning activities the MPO will undertake during the fiscal year and how funds will be allocated.

The FY27 UPWP budget is approximately \$538,000. Funding is drawn from FHWA planning funds through VDOT, with a one-year carryover (FY25 unspent funds are used for FY27), and FTA planning funds through DRPT, which carry over directly year to year. Staff noted that budget estimates are typically close to actuals; a minor amendment may be brought to the Board in August if the year-end carryover differs significantly from the projection. Funds are allocated first to program administration and compliance, then to projects, with a small contingency reserve.

Ms. Melester, Mr. Garreth Bartholomew, and Ms. Devon Thompson provided updates on the following FY27 MPO activities:

- *Program Administration and Outreach:* This activity includes core administrative and compliance activities required to maintain MPO eligibility for federal transportation funds, estimated at approximately 800 to 900 staff hours annually.
- *Long-Range Planning:* This activity includes maintenance of the 2050 LRTP and initiation of a travel demand model update. The model, which supports traffic projections and planning analysis for the region, has not been updated in several years. Staff will coordinate with VDOT on the update and will engage localities for concurrence on demographic data inputs later in the year.
- *Short-Range Planning:* This activity includes ongoing TIP maintenance and developing a small area study along the Frontier Drive corridor in Augusta County and the City of Staunton. Significant new housing development is anticipated in the corridor, and the study addresses a shared transportation planning priority for both localities.
- *Local, State, and Federal Assistance:* This activity includes continued support for Staunton's Beverly Street walkability demonstration project, bicycle and pedestrian planning assistance for the Waynesboro, and support for the transportation chapter of Augusta County's Greenville small area plan. Remaining funds are available for grant application support and other one-off requests.
- *Transit Planning:* This activity includes transit staff conducting an evaluation of the Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) shuttle route to assess ridership, route alignment, and timing; engage localities and stakeholders along the corridor; and model alternative route scenarios.

Ms. Thompson noted that the transit planning evaluation will be conducted in-house this year rather than through a consultant, a change from prior years.

*A motion to release the FY27 UPWP for public comment was made by Mr. Tim Fitzgerald; seconded by Ms. Beauregard. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.*

## **Agency Updates**

### *VDOT*

Mr. Reed provided the following update:

- Smart Scale Round 7 pre-applications closed April 1.
- The Rosser Avenue/Route 340 corridor study in Waynesboro is advancing into Phase 3, the final phase of the study, which will develop cost estimates and conceptual sketches. A final report is expected by July. Three Smart Scale applications from the City of Waynesboro are anticipated to emerge from the study.
- The Staunton District spring meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Plecker Center at Blue Ridge Community College. Board members were invited to attend.

Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- The I-81 project through Staunton is approximately 60 to 65% complete, with a targeted completion in fall 2027. Speed camera enforcement is fully active. Motorists traveling more than 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit may receive a citation and a \$100 fine.
- The Weyers Cave I-81 project is approximately 40% complete. Upcoming work includes a pipe crossing requiring blasting. A brief detour is scheduled for the following weekend.
- The Harrisonburg I-81 project held a groundbreaking the previous day with the Governor present. Roadway strengthening work begins the following Monday. Three I-81 projects will be active simultaneously in the district.
- Route 254 improvements are progressing well.
- Improvements to the Mount Crawford Park and Ride lot are advancing.
- The Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) project remains on schedule to deliver a third lane, a roundabout, and associated improvements. Construction activity will accelerate this summer.
- Seasonal maintenance activities are underway, including mowing and pothole patching. VDOT is piloting the use of rock asphalt, a natural quarry-sourced material, for pothole repair at select locations. If the pilot is successful, broader use of the material will be considered.

Mr. Joel DeNunzio also noted that the following week is National Work Zone Awareness Week. VDOT will hold its annual vigil on Afton Mountain on Wednesday evening, joined by Virginia State Police and Drive Smart Virginia. Wednesday is also Go Orange Day, a national effort to encourage anyone who supports highway work zone safety to wear orange.

### *DRPT*

Ms. Stankus provided the following updates:

- DRPT will release its draft Six-Year Improvement Program with funding recommendations for FY27 on Monday, April 20. In addition to the Staunton District spring meeting on April 28, DRPT will host a virtual public comment meeting on recommended rail and transit projects on May 27 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

- The Tidewater Current, the fifth route in the Virginia Breeze intercity bus network, will launch on April 20. The route connects Harrisonburg and Virginia Beach via I-64, with one run in each direction daily. Tickets are currently available for purchase.

#### *BRITE Transit and Afton Express*

Ms. Thompson provided the following updates:

- CSPDC, Resource Management Systems (RMS), and Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) are collaboratively working through the transition to the new BRITE turnkey service contract. Staff thanked VRT for its long-standing partnership and its cooperation during the transition process. RMS is working through its transition checklist, traveling to Virginia to oversee staffing, HR processes, and fleet ordering. The full transition will be complete by June 30, and no service changes visible to riders are expected.
- Transit staff are updating the BRITE Title VI plan. The update will be completed by May for public comment and brought to the CSPDC Board of Commissioners for adoption in June.
- The Afton Express marketing grant is active, with television and streaming advertisements broadcasting on NBC 29.
- BRITE operated two special shuttle runs on March 21 to serve the Remote Area Medical Clinic at the Augusta Expo, originating in Staunton and Waynesboro via Stuarts Draft.
- BRITE summer service hours in Staunton will begin May 1.
- CSPDC transit staff will attend the Virginia Transit Association annual expo and conference in Fredericksburg next month, where staff will present on the Value of Transit project.

#### **Locality Updates**

##### *Augusta County*

Mr. Fitzgerald provided the following updates:

- Bids for the Huff Lane improvements project are opening at 2:00 p.m. on April 15. The project requires revenue sharing funds from VDOT, which are expected to receive Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approval the following week.
- The new Augusta County Courthouse in Verona is on schedule to open in June.
- Augusta County is initiating a Greenville small area plan and will be utilizing MPO local assistance funds for the transportation component of the study.

##### *City of Waynesboro*

Mr. Jim Wood provided the following update:

- The City opened its new West End Fire Station on the morning of April 15. The City had no other transportation-related updates.

##### *City of Staunton*

Ms. Beauregard provided the following updates:

- The Beverly Street walkability demonstration project is advancing. Staff will present to City Council the following week before launching a pilot program to demonstrate potential street design changes.



- Multiple VDOT projects are active in the city, including the Churchville Avenue streetscape and Commerce, Greenville, and Richmond road improvements.
- The city budget will be adopted the following week and includes several capital projects.
- The Gypsy Hill Park pool house is nearly complete, in advance of the summer season at the park.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Melester provided two items of other business:

- A Smart Scale project to deliver pedestrian and transit amenities at the Sanger's Lane, Dick Huff Lane, and Lou DeWitt Boulevard intersections was recently bid. Only one bid was received, and it exceeded the project budget. The project will be re-bid. Staff are coordinating with the VDOT project team to ensure that all pedestrian and transit amenities are maintained in the project scope.
- Second, the terms of the Board Chair and Vice Chair expire on June 30. The Board is required to form a three-member nominating committee to develop recommendations for both positions. Only three voting members are eligible to serve as chair or vice chair: Mr. Arrowood, Ms. Bragg, and Mr. Jim Wood. Nominating committee members may be voting or non-voting members of the Board and may nominate themselves. The Board formed a nominating committee consisting of Mr. Todd Wood, Mr. Fitzgerald, and Ms. Beauregard. ]The election will take place at the June Policy Board meeting.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Ms. Melester noted that both the May TAC and May Policy Board meetings have been canceled due to scheduling conflicts. The next TAC and Policy Board meetings will be held in June.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Arrowood adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Melester  
Director of Transportation