

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Board Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting conducted virtually via MS Teams

Attendance

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members		Other Attendees	
City of Staunton		VDOT		Staff (CSPDC)	
✓*	Leslie Beauregard	✓*	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)		Stephen Smiley	Others	
✓*	Todd Wood	FHWA and FTA			
	Michael Hamp (Alt)		Kevin Jones		
VDOT			Ivan Rucker		
	Joel DeNunzio				
	Brad Reed (Alt)				
✓*	Don Komara (Alt)				

*Virtual attendance

Call to Order

The June 17, 2026, Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) Policy Board all-virtual meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair Brad Arrowood. The meeting was conducted virtually via MS Teams.

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 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 was no public comment.

Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair (Board Action Form #26-11)

Ms. Melester presented the election of Board Chair and Vice Chair. At the April 2026 meeting, the Board established a three-member nominating committee consisting of Mr. Todd Wood, Mr. Tim Fitzgerald, and Ms. Leslie Beauregard to propose new officers. New SAWMPO officers serve two-year terms beginning July 1, 2026. Mr. Todd Wood presented the committee's recommendation on behalf of the nominating committee: Chair Jim Wood, Vice Chair Carolyn Bragg, and Secretary Ann Cundy.

A motion to approve Mr. Jim Wood for Chair, Ms. Bragg for Vice Chair, and Ms. Cundy for Secretary was made by Mr. Don Komara; seconded by Mr. Tim Fitzgerald. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

FY27 Unified Planning Work Program Approval (Board Action Form #26-12)

Ms. Melester presented the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Board approval. At the April 2026 meeting, the Board voted to release the draft UPWP for a public comment period. No public comments were received. One agency comment was received from VDOT, requesting a more detailed description of professional development, conference attendance, and travel activities. Staff elaborated the description in Section 1.1 under Program Administration. The revision did not change any substantive work program activities.

A motion to approve the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program was made by Ms. Bragg; seconded by Mr. Jim Wood. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

SMART Scale Round 7 Letters of Support (Board Action Form #26-13)

Mr. Zach Beard presented six SMART SCALE Round 7 letters of support for Board action. All six pre-applications submitted within the SAWMPO region by the April 1 pre-application deadline are eligible for the Round 7 full application cycle, which closes August 3, 2026. Per standard practice, staff brought all applications within the SAWMPO boundary before the Board for a resolution of support regardless of Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) status. SMART Scale allows PDCs, MPOs, and localities to submit up to four full applications each. Mr. Beard noted that several applications remain subject to final determination by their respective local governing bodies on whether to advance to the full application.

Mr. Beard provided a brief overview of each eligible application. Two applications are in Augusta County:

- Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Long-Term Access Improvements (submitted by the SAWMPO on behalf of Augusta County): Constructs a new secondary road access connecting Route 250 to the WWRC campus, installs a raised median on Route 250, converts the Hornet Road intersection to an all-way stop, and extends a shared use path from Route 250 and Woodrow Wilson Avenue to the existing WWRC facility.
- Route 256 and Triangle Drive Improvements (submitted by Augusta County): Converts the intersection of Route 256 (Weyers Cave Road) and Triangle Drive to a 2-by-1 hybrid roundabout, realigns Wayside Drive to match an existing commercial entrance on Triangle Drive, and installs a shared use path extension. A 2-by-1 roundabout indicates two entry lanes on the major road (Route 256) and one entry lane on the minor road (Triangle Drive).



Four applications are in the City of Waynesboro:

- Lou DeWitt Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements: Constructs approximately 2,700 linear feet of 5-foot sidewalk along the west side of Lou DeWitt Boulevard from West Main Street to Shepherd Court, with curb ramp upgrades.
- Rosser Avenue and Lew DeWitt Boulevard Intersection Improvements: Converts northbound Rosser Avenue to a single left-turn lane, installs a raised median, closes two driveways on the west side of Windigrove Drive and one driveway at the Exxon station on Rosser Avenue, lengthens northbound left-turn lanes on Rosser, widens left-turn receiving lanes, relocates the stop bar on Lou DeWitt, and installs sidewalk along Rosser Avenue.
- Rosser Avenue Shared Use Path: Constructs a shared use path along the west side of Rosser Avenue from Tiffany Drive to Northgate Avenue.
- Rosser Avenue and Northgate Avenue Roundabout: Constructs a roundabout at the Rosser Avenue/Northgate Avenue intersection to reduce speeds and conflict points, and provides improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity through controlled crossing locations.

Chair Arrowood confirmed with staff that the Board would vote on all six applications as a single action.

A motion to approve letters of support for all six SMART SCALE Round 7 applications was made by Mr. Jim Wood; seconded by Ms. Bragg. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

Overview of the SAWMPO FY27 Frontier Drive Small Area Transportation Study (Board Memo #26-01)

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew presented an overview of the draft scope of work for the FY27 Frontier Drive Small Area Transportation Study and requested Board review and comment prior to consultant solicitation in July. This is a new MPO-led planning study developed in partnership with Augusta County and the City of Staunton.

The study will evaluate the segment between the two prior study areas, use a 2050 design year, and supersede prior recommendations. The corridor includes VDOT Potential for Safety Improvement (PSI) designations at the US 11/Frontier Drive and Richmond Road/Frontier Drive intersections and along one corridor segment, and is identified as a VTrans Priority 2 need at the Staunton District level. Transit service (BRITE) currently operates along the corridor, and pedestrian connectivity is limited despite recent high-density residential development.

Significant development activity is underway or anticipated on both sides of the city-county line presenting an opportunity to identify potential future connections. The Frontier Drive corridor is organized into eight segments from the US 11 to the Richmond Road intersection. Key elements include access to the former Staunton Mall site, the Barterbrook Road intersection, and the Richmond Road approach. VDOT is simultaneously conducting a project pipeline study along Richmond Road that will incorporate the intersection with Frontier Drive; this study will coordinate with that effort but will not produce independent alternatives for that intersection.

Study tasks include data collection and existing conditions analysis, future conditions scenario development, alternatives development at the priority profiles, multimodal recommendations, and conceptual designs for priority intersections with planning-level concepts for all profiles. Public engagement

will include an online hotspot mapping tool, TAC and Policy Board presentations, and one public open house, with a final study report and implementation matrix as the primary deliverable.

The TAC reviewed the draft scope prior to the June meeting. Staff plan to seek fee proposals from pre-qualified firms on the MPO bench in July, with a target notice to proceed and consultant kickoff no later than the end of August 2026. The study is intended to be complete by April 2027, in time to support SMART Scale Round 8 and other grant applications.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Shane McCabe provided the following update on behalf of VDOT:

- SMART SCALE Round 7 full applications are due August 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. VDOT staff are available to assist applicants with submissions in the interim.

Mr. Don Komara provided the following project and operations updates:

- Knightly Mill Road Project: A pre-construction conference was recently held for the approximately \$2.9 million contract. The road has been closed for approximately one year. The contractor is installing signage this week and will begin construction next week, with an anticipated completion by August 2027.
- I-81 Widening Through Staunton: The project is approximately 65% complete. One additional detour is planned for striping or barrier repositioning. Route 262 is being used as the detour; VDOT is monitoring to reduce traffic cutting through the city. Completion is targeted for fall 2027. Speed camera enforcement is active; warnings were issued from April through May 1. Fines are directed to the State Literary Fund for school construction, not to VDOT, the City of Staunton, or Augusta County.
- I-81 Widening Through Weyers Cave: The project is approximately 45% complete. Significant rock excavation has been required for widening and pipe installation. Completion is targeted for December 2027.
- I-81 Harrisonburg Section: Shoulder strengthening work is underway primarily at night. The project has an anticipated completion date between 2030 and 2032. Work is being phased across three sections.
- Route 254 Improvements: Work is finishing up and is progressing well.
- Laurel Hill Road Park and Ride: Improvements are complete. Work on the double left turn into the adjacent commercial area (Mill Place) is ongoing, with approximately one month of work remaining.
- WWRC Third Lane and Cul-de-Sac (Route 250 / Woodrow Wilson Avenue): The project is out to bid, with bids opening the following Wednesday. Construction is anticipated to begin toward the end of 2026, with intensive cul-de-sac construction planned for summer 2027 while school is not in session.
- Maintenance: Mowing is underway. VDOT has completed pavement overlays and slurry seal work in several subdivisions and is conducting minor shoulder widening on Route 340.

DRPT

Ms. Grace Stankus provided the following updates:

- FY27 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP): The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) was scheduled to approve the FY27 SYIP at its June 17 meeting. Final funding amounts are available on DRPT's open data portal.
- Monthly Director's Report: DRPT has begun publishing its monthly director's report on its public website. The reports include recent events, promotions, ridership data, and agency updates. Ms. Stankus noted she would provide the Board with the link to the report.

BRITE Transit and Afton Express

Ms. Devon Thompson provided the following updates:

- Turnkey Service Transition: CSPDC, Resource Management Systems (RMS), and Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) are working through the transition to the new BRITE turnkey service contract. Most existing BRITE drivers have been onboarded to RMS and the new fleet is being delivered and branded. The full transition will be complete by the end of June 2026. No service changes visible to passengers are anticipated, other than new buses and fare-free service during the first full week of transition. Staff thanked VRT for its long-standing partnership and cooperation through the transition process.
- BRITE Title VI Plan: Staff completed the plan and submitted it for public comment. No public comments were received. The CSPDC Board of Commissioners adopted the plan at its June meeting and staff uploaded it to the FTA portal for review.
- FTA Triennial Review: FTA conducted its triennial review on site this week, covering approximately 21 areas of compliance. The exit conference is scheduled for the following day. Staff noted that FTA was able to conclude its review early.
- Juneteenth Service: BRITE routes will operate on Juneteenth (Friday, June 19), with the exception of Afton Express. Ms. Beauregard noted that Beverly Street in downtown Staunton will be closed on Friday for Juneteenth festivities; staff noted they would pass that information to RMS.

Locality Updates

Augusta County

Mr. Tim Fitzgerald provided the following updates:

- Augusta County Courthouse: The new courthouse in Verona is complete.
- Dick Huff Lane Improvements: Plecker Construction, a Staunton-based firm, was awarded the contract and began work on the project this week. The project improves Dick Huff Lane leading into the Augusta County Government Center. It is a VDOT revenue sharing project. Active flagging and traffic control is in place concurrent with courthouse opening.

City of Waynesboro

Mr. Jim Wood had no transportation-related updates. He thanked outgoing Chair Arrowood for two years of service as Board Chair.

City of Staunton

Ms. Leslie Beauregard provided the following update:

- Downtown Wharf Tunnel and Street Reconstruction: Work on Byers Street is progressing and is expected to wrap up by approximately August 2026. New Street will begin before Johnson Street, and



New Street will maintain a travel lane but no on-street parking during the interim. Johnson Street will begin once Byers Street safely opens.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Melester noted that both the July 1, 2026, Technical Advisory Committee meeting and the July 15, 2026, Policy Board meeting have been canceled. The next scheduled meetings will be in August 2026.

Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Arrowood adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paula Melester", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Paula Melester
Director of Transportation

A red horizontal line with a small, stylized mark in the center, possibly a signature or a decorative element.