



Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda September 2, 2026, 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 June 3, 2026, Meeting*
- 3.** Public Comment
- 4.** Statewide Rail Plan Public Comment on Railroad Crossings (TAC Memo #26-04)
- 5.** Frontier Drive Safety, Operations, and Multimodal Corridor Study Update – Garreth Bartholomew, Transportation Planner
- 6.** 2026 Central Shenandoah Bike Walk Summit Planning – Garreth Bartholomew, Transportation Planner
- 7.** SAWMPO Virtual Meeting Process Update – Zach Beard, Program Manager
- 8.** Agency Updates
 - a. VDOT
 - b. DRPT
 - c. BRITE
 - d. Localities
- 9.** Other Business
- 10.** Upcoming Meetings
 - a. September 16, 2026 – SAWMPO Policy Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., CSPDC
 - b. October 7, 2026 – SAWMPO TAC Meeting, 2:00 p.m., CSPDC
- 11.** Adjourn

* Action needed

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Meeting Minutes June 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

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

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 (Alt)	✓	Paula Melester
		VA DRPT			
	Augusta County		Grace Stankus		
✓	Doug Wolfe (Vice Chair)				
✓	Julia Hensley	Non-Voting Members			
	Garret Shultz (Alt)			Other attendees	
		VRT			
	City of Waynesboro	✓*	Steve Wilson		
	Leslie Tate	✓*	Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Alisande Tombarge	Federal Highway Admin.			
	Scott Kesecker (Alt)		Kevin Jones		
	Jeff Oswald (Alt)	Federal Transit Admin.			
			Laura Keeley		
		VA Dept. of Aviation			
			Stephen Smiley		

*Virtual attendance

Call to Order

Chair Rodney Rhodes called the meeting of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Rhodes presented the minutes from the April 1, 2026, TAC meeting for approval.

Ms. Julia Hensley 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.

Election of SAWMPO Technical Advisory Committee Officers (TAC AF #26-04)

Mr. Zach Beard presented TAC Action Form #26-04 regarding the election of TAC officers. Under the SAWMPO Policy Board Bylaws, the TAC Chair and Vice Chair serve two-year terms, with elections held prior to June 30 of even-numbered years and new officers assuming duties on July 1. The current officers, Chair Rodney Rhodes of the City of Staunton and Vice Chair Doug Wolfe of Augusta County, were elected at the July 17, 2024, TAC meeting. Consistent with the established practice of rotating officer roles among the member localities, staff proposed electing Mr. Wolfe as Chair and Ms. Alisande Tombarge of the City of Waynesboro as Vice Chair for the 2026-2028 term. Both indicated their willingness to serve.

Ms. Julia Hensley moved to approve the slate of officers, electing Mr. Doug Wolfe as Chair and Ms. Alisande Tombarge as Vice Chair; seconded by Mr. Don Komara. The motion carried unanimously.

FY27 Frontier Drive Small Area Study Scope of Work (TAC Memo #26-03)

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew presented the draft Scope of Work for the FY27 Frontier Drive Safety, Operations, and Multimodal Corridor Study. No TAC action was required.

Mr. Bartholomew explained that Frontier Drive has not had a comprehensive corridor-level study since 2008. Two subsequent studies addressed key intersections along the corridor, the 2019 SAWMPO Richmond Road Multimodal Corridor Study and the VDOT STARS US-11 Study, but both relied on pre-COVID traffic volumes and a 2030 planning horizon that did not anticipate current development. Given changing conditions, the recommendations for Frontier Drive have not been implemented. The corridor carries VDOT Potential for Safety Improvement (PSI) designations at the Richmond Avenue/Frontier Drive intersection, the US-11/Frontier Drive intersection, and at least one corridor segment. The 2025 VTrans needs assessment identifies the Richmond Avenue/Frontier Drive intersection as a District Priority 2 need.

Significant development is underway or approved on both sides of the city-county line. In Augusta County, the Valley Mall redevelopment proposes 700-plus residential units and commercial space with primary access on Frontier Drive, Vista Ridge comprises approximately 745 units, and Manchester Apartments includes 200-plus townhomes. In the City of Staunton, active projects include Panorama Ridge and the Frontier Downs and Red Oaks complexes, with potential future redevelopment of the former DeJarnette Sanitarium site. Pedestrian connectivity along the corridor is extremely limited. BRITE's 250 Connector route serves the corridor.

The study is organized around eight Corridor Profiles, geographic segments labeled A through H, each analyzed at a depth calibrated to the decisions and changes expected within it. Profiles A (US-11/Frontier intersection and Valley Mall access) and G (the Richmond Avenue approach) are primary analytical focuses. Profile H, the Frontier Drive/Richmond Avenue intersection, will not receive independent alternatives analysis, as VDOT is separately pursuing a Project Pipeline study on the Richmond Avenue corridor that will conduct detailed operations and alternatives analysis at that intersection. The Frontier Drive study includes an explicit coordination subtask to align traffic volume and growth assumptions with the Project Pipeline team, documented in a technical memorandum.

CSPDC solicitation is targeted for July 2026, with a notice to proceed and kickoff in August 2026 and study completion anticipated in spring 2027, in time to support TAP and HSIP grant applications and SMART SCALE Round 8 in 2028.

TAC members and staff discussed the corridor's development context and study approach, including the importance of pedestrian connectivity between proximate residential developments and access management for large undeveloped parcels. Following discussion, TAC members agreed to include a conceptual roadway and pedestrian connectivity network element for key undeveloped areas along the corridor in the Scope of Work. Staff also noted that property-specific references in the scope document will be made more formal in the final version. Feedback submitted by locality staff in advance of the meeting will be incorporated before the scope is presented to the Policy Board.

Agency Updates

VDOT

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

- SMART SCALE Round 7 full applications opened June 1, 2026, and are due August 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Application training was held June 3; recordings and materials are available on the SMART SCALE website.
- Localities submitting SMART SCALE applications requiring an MPO letter of support should coordinate with CSPDC staff promptly.

Mr. Don Komara provided the following construction updates:

- Route 254 shoulder widening and intersection improvements from New Hope Road to Waynesboro: Construction is complete. Three intersection improvements were finished, with minor pavement remediation required at one location.
- Mill Place project: Utility, drainage, and median work continues. The park-and-ride lot and Mill Place entrance are targeted for completion by August 1, 2026.
- I-81 Weyers Cave project: Approximately 45-50% complete. Rock excavation is underway; two controlled blasting events were completed without traffic impact. Project completion is anticipated in fall 2027.
- I-81 Staunton widening project: Approximately 65% complete, with a fall 2027 completion target. Speed enforcement cameras are operational. Citations issued beginning in early May are reaching recipients; localities should communicate awareness of the cameras to staff traveling the corridor.



- I-81 Harrisonburg widening project: Night work is underway to strengthen shoulders and prepare for median barrier installation. Daytime lane closures will follow. The project has a six-year construction timeline.
- Gravel and rustic road maintenance: Potholes have been repaired following the spring wet season. Dust complaints from fresh stone application should be directed to VDOT.
- Mowing operations are underway.

DRPT

Mr. Bartholomew provided the following updates on behalf of Ms. Grace Stankus, who was not in attendance:

- MPOs are reminded to submit final FY27 UPWPs to DRPT and FTA.
- The FY27 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) is scheduled for a vote at the June 17, 2026, CTB meeting. Federal funding amounts will be available on DRPT's interactive SYIP dashboard on that date.

BRITE and Afton Express

Ms. Devon Thompson provided the following updates:

- Following a federally compliant competitive procurement, the new BRITE turnkey contract for management, operations, and maintenance has been awarded to Resource Management Systems (RMS). CSPDC and RMS staff have initiated the transition process, with full transition targeted for July 1, 2026.
- Transit staff are working on the three-year update of the BRITE Title VI Plan, which must be adopted by the CSPDC Board of Commissioners at their June 2026 meeting to maintain federal compliance.
- BRITE served the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic at Augusta Expo on March 21, 2026, with two special shuttles from Staunton and Waynesboro via Fishersville and Stuarts Draft.
- BRITE and CSPDC staff recognized BRITE bus drivers on Transit Operator Appreciation Day on March 18, 2026.
- The Afton Express marketing grant is active, with television and streaming advertisements airing on NBC29.

Locality Updates

Augusta County

Mr. Doug Wolfe provided the following updates:

- The Augusta County Judicial Center ribbon cutting was held the evening of June 3, 2026. The facility's official name is the Augusta County Government and Judicial Center (ACGJC).
- The Dick Huff Lane project, which adds an incoming access lane to the ACGJC, is under contract with a notice to proceed issued in June. By separating the roadway improvement from the courthouse construction timeline, the County secured an additional \$1.5 million in revenue sharing funds. Coordination with VDOT on signal work for the adjacent BRITE bus stop project is ongoing; the County and VDOT are working to advance signal arm procurement independently given procurement delays on the associated contract.

- The WWRC entrance improvements, including a third incoming lane and a roundabout, are out to bid, with bids opening in July 2026. Roundabout construction is planned for summer 2027, with preliminary work on the third lane proceeding this fall.
- Congressionally Directed Spending applications submitted earlier in the year received the following outcomes: the Exit 213/Greenville interchange study application and the Patton Farm Road low-water bridge application were not included in the current transportation bill; the WWRC Second Entrance application for preliminary engineering and right-of-way funding was included. Mr. Wolfe noted uncertainty about whether the bill will be enacted this year.

Ms. Julia Hensley provided the following update:

- The Greenville Small Area Plan kickoff is on hold pending resolution of a staff vacancy and scheduling considerations around summer public engagement. Staff will provide updates as meeting dates are finalized.

City of Staunton

Chair Rhodes provided the following updates:

- The City was approved for a Ready, Set, Go! program grant through VDOT to assist with design and cost estimates for a shared-use path along Middlebrook Avenue from Lacey B. King Drive to Bridge Street, with pedestrian crossings at each end.
- The City's Comprehensive Plan full draft is being presented to City Council on June 3, 2026.

Ms. Susan Wilson provided the following updates:

- The Richmond Avenue shared-use path project was advertised May 12, 2026, with bids due June 24, 2026. The project is VDOT-administered.
- Thirty percent plans are complete for the HSIP intersection improvements and the Edgewood Road sidewalk project. Both are locally administered.
- The Beverley Street Walkability Demonstration Project launched June 1, 2026. A pre-launch survey generated approximately 426 responses with strongly favorable feedback. The CSPDC-hosted project webpage launched June 2, 2026 with an updated survey. The demonstration is planned to remain in place through the end of June.

City of Waynesboro

Ms. Alisande Tombarge provided the following updates:

- A third comprehensive plan update open house was held in early May with approximately 70-80 attendees. The next round of stakeholder meetings is being scheduled for late June or early July.
- The Rockfish Crozet Tunnel Trail and pedestrian intersection projects continue to advance through preliminary engineering.

Other Business

Ms. Melester provided the following updates:

- Federal surface transportation reauthorization is unlikely to be finalized in 2026. The first House draft has been released and includes provisions favorable to MPOs; however, an



extension of current authorizations is the more likely near-term outcome. CSPDC will monitor progress and can share updates with members on request.

- A new virtual meeting registration process will be implemented beginning in August 2026. Members attending virtually will register through a webinar-style portal rather than using a static meeting link. Advance notice will be provided before the August TAC meeting.
- Staff recommended the July 1, 2026, TAC meeting be cancelled with the next TAC meeting to be held in August 2026.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Rhodes announced the following upcoming meetings:

- June 17, 2026 – SAWMPO Policy Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., virtual
- August 5, 2026 – SAWMPO TAC Meeting

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 text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

Zach Beard, Program Manager



TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC

FROM: Garreth Bartholomew, Transportation Planner

MEETING DATE: September 2, 2026

RE: **TAC Memo #26-04: Statewide Rail Plan Public Comment on Railroad Crossings**

BACKGROUND

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is currently updating the Virginia Statewide Rail Plan, which establishes the Commonwealth's policies, needs, and investment priorities for passenger and freight rail. Mr. Taylor Holden, Rail Planning and Data Manager at DRPT, presented an update on the plan to the SAWMPO Policy Board on August 19, 2026.

Mr. Holden reported that statewide plan public engagement process produced 381 comments identifying railroad crossings of concern. While SAWMPO area regional comments were received regarding new or expanded passenger rail service, including 80 comments referencing Staunton service, 30 referencing the I-81 corridor, and 16 referencing Waynesboro service, but there were no comments regarding rail crossings located within the SAWMPO region. The Policy Board noted the absence of regional comments concerning at-grade railroad crossings in the City of Staunton, the City of Waynesboro, and Augusta County, particularly considering recent crashes at crossings in the region. The Policy Board requested that MPO staff develop a public comment identifying railroad crossings of concern within the region for submission to DRPT during the open Statewide Rail Plan development process.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS OF CONCERN

At-grade railroad crossings in the SAWMPO region present a range of conditions that may warrant identification in the Statewide Rail Plan. Relevant considerations include previous crash and near-miss history, sight distance limitations, the condition and type of warning devices and gates, roadway geometry and approach grades, vehicle queuing across tracks, blocked crossing frequency and duration, effects on emergency response routing, transit and school bus routes, and the presence or absence of pedestrian and bicycle accommodation at or near the crossing.

Because the Statewide Rail Plan informs future state rail policy and funding priorities, documenting these conditions during plan development provides the region an opportunity to establish a record of local crossing safety and operational needs.

PROPOSED REGIONAL COMMENT AND NEXT STEPS

Staff recommends that the region submit a single consolidated public comment on behalf of the SAWMPO, developed with the participation and concurrence of locality staff and VDOT, rather than multiple separate submissions.

Staff requests that TAC members come prepared to discuss specific crossings regionally and within their jurisdictions at the September 2 meeting. For each crossing identified, staff requests the

crossing location and roadway, a description of the concern, and any available supporting information, including crash or incident history, and any documented complaints.

Following the September 2 TAC discussion, staff will compile the crossings identified by members and circulate a draft comment for review and concurrence by locality staff and VDOT. Staff will submit the comment through the public comment box on the DRPT Statewide Rail Plan webpage and will report the submission to the Policy Board at the September 16 Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT

- [Virginia Statewide Rail Plan August 19 SAWMPO Presentation](#)
- [2026 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan Webpage](#)

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2026 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan

SAWMPO Update

Taylor Holden, Rail Planning and Data Manager

August 19, 2026



Overview

- Purpose of the Rail Plan
- Work So Far
- SAWMPO Relevant Issues
- Next Steps
- How to Stay Engaged

Virginia's Rail Plan Purpose



Records progress and charts path forward.

Data driven and aligns with goals/objectives of VTrans, the Commonwealth's long-range multimodal transportation plan.

Requires close coordination with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA).

Includes 6-year and 20-year horizons.

Data points/metrics can be compared plan to plan and state to state.

Supports applications for federal rail funding for passenger and freight projects.

Engagement Overview

DRPT has been working with the UVA's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation - since January we have conducted:

- 12 high level Stakeholder Interviews
- 2 Surveys
 - 2697 public responses
 - 149 stakeholder responses
- 3 rounds of Stakeholder Workgroups
 - 10 meetings total
 - 423 sticky notes of feedback across first 2 rounds
 - Focus on strategy refinement through “What Needs Strengthening?” and “What’s Missing?”
- 1 Webinar with Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR)
- 1 Virtual Public Meeting (133 participants)



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Institute for Engagement & Negotiation

What We've Heard in SAWMPO

- 381 comments about “crossings of concern” – none in SAWMPO
- “Where would you like to see new or expanded service” – (2407 comments total)
 - Staunton (80)
 - I-81 Corridor (30)
 - Waynesboro (16)
 - Cardinal (11)
- Relevant Potential New Strategies Identified
 - Better integrate Virginia Breeze schedules with Amtrak VA trains
 - Ask General Assembly to increase Shortline Rail Preservation Funding
 - Encourage leveraging existing DRPT TRIP and MERIT programs for localities/transit agencies to connect passenger rail stations to existing transit networks and/or provide thruway bus service to adjacent communities

State and Federal Grants in SAW MPO

- DRPT has included funding in the region through the Shortline Rail Preservation Program

Grantee	Ongoing		New	
	# Projects	State Funding	# Projects	State Funding
Buckingham Branch Railroad	7	\$ 21,315,000	1	\$ 7,000,000
Shenandoah Valley Railroad	5	\$ 2,126,805	1	\$ 4,742,782

- New projects funded in FY27 include:
 - BBRR – Bridge Improvements and Upgrades
 - SVRR – Track Improvements
- VPRA was recently awarded \$15.5M from the FRA for Staunton Station State of Good Repair and ADA Improvements

Next Steps

- Currently integrating Stakeholder Round 3 input on new strategies
- DRPT will host Virtual Public Meeting #2 on Tuesday September 8th at 6:30 PM
- Expect first drafts of chapters in September and October
- Fall – Second Survey
- 3rd Virtual Public Meeting in Late Fall
- Draft presented to CTB in December

How to Stay Engaged

- Participate in upcoming public meetings and survey
- Public Comment box on DRPT SRP webpage

Submit Comments on the 2026 Rail Plan

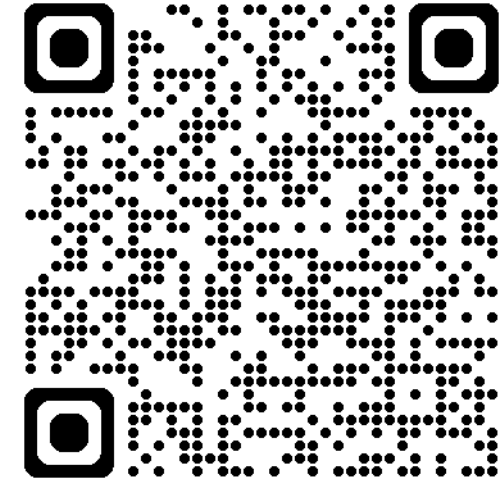
Please use the below form to submit general feedback or questions about the 2026 Rail Plan.

Name *

Email *

Comment or question about the Rail Plan *

SUBMIT



Register for Public Meeting #2
and/or submit comments



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