

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Meeting Minutes April 1, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting held 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	
✓	Delaney Krasner	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.			
			Lora Grady		
		VA Dept. of Aviation			
			Rusty Harrington		

*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 February 4, 2026, TAC meeting for approval.

Mr. Doug Wolfe moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Susan Wilson. The TAC approved the motion by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

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

FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Release for Public Comment (TAC AF #26-03)

Ms. Paula Melester presented the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and requested TAC recommendation that the Policy Board release the document for a 14-day public comment period. Ms. Melester explained that the current FY2024-2027 TIP expires September 30, 2026, and the new FY2027-2030 TIP must be approved by May 31, 2026, to take effect October 1, 2026.

Ms. Melester noted that the TIP documents all highway and transit projects receiving federal transportation funding, requiring federal action, or designated as regionally significant. The document must be consistent with the SAWMPO LRTP and maintained in alignment with the Statewide TIP (STIP). She explained that staff have revised the document format to address readability and tracking problems that developed under the current structure, in which amendments and modifications were accumulated within a single document over time, making it difficult to determine which funding figures were current.

The revised FY2027-2030 TIP will be structured as three distinct components: a narrative document containing all required federal and state compliance language, and two standalone appendices for highway and transit projects. Each appendix will display only current project funding figures and will be updated as amendments or administrative modifications are approved, with prior versions archived on the SAWMPO website. This structure ensures users can access current project information efficiently without navigating a document with cumulative amendment history. Ms. Melester encouraged TAC members to review the project tables provided in advance and contact staff or VDOT if any projects appear inaccurate or have changed. Corrections are significantly easier to incorporate prior to publication than through formal amendments.

Discussion ensued regarding specific project entries. Mr. Doug Wolfe inquired about EV charging station funding at Exit 91. Ms. Melester and Mr. Garreth Bartholomew indicated that the EV charging station project would be reviewed with VDOT to determine whether it should remain in the document given uncertainty about future implementation. Mr. Zach Beard noted that the TIP is primarily coordinated between MPO staff, VDOT, and DRPT, and that localities need not routinely review the document but should contact staff if a project coming up for federal fund drawdown does not appear to be accurately reflected, as discrepancies between the TIP and STIP can delay project funding.

Ms. Julia Hensley moved to recommend that the Policy Board release the FY2027-2030 TIP for a 14-day public comment period; seconded by Ms. Susan Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

Title VI Plan Update (TAC Memo #26-02)

Ms. Melester provided an update on the CSPDC Title VI Plan and noted that the presentation also fulfills the annual Title VI training requirement for TAC members. No TAC action was required.

Ms. Melester explained that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. MPOs are required to provide reasonable opportunities for public participation, make efforts to engage traditionally underserved populations, and ensure transportation benefits and burdens are distributed equitably across the community. Ms. Melester described the structure of SAWMPO's Title VI program, which consists of a policy statement, an implementation plan, and the Public Participation Plan. She explained that VDOT conducts a triennial compliance review of each MPO's Title VI plan. The most recent review was completed in January 2026, and while the SAWMPO plan was not out of compliance during the review period, corrections must be made by April 24, 2026.

The required changes involve two rescinded Executive Orders. Executive Order 12898, which had required particular attention to disparate impacts on community health and well-being, is being removed from the plan along with associated language referencing environmental justice. Executive Order 13166, which required specific provisions for individuals with limited English proficiency, is also being removed. Ms. Melester noted that national origin discrimination, which is closely linked to language access, remains protected under Title VI itself, and that the SAWMPO's substantive practices will remain unchanged. Ms. Melester noted that SAWMPO staff are using this update as an opportunity to expand the plan's language to include individuals with sensory or communication disabilities, including those who are hard of hearing or have vision impairments, within the language access barrier population, consistent with updates made to the recently adopted Public Participation Plan (PPP). Staff are also consolidating the three previously separate Title VI plans for CSPDC, HRMPO, and SAWMPO into a single agency-wide plan, which will cover the full five-county, five-city, and eleven-town CSPDC region while maintaining distinct program descriptions and demographic analysis for each program area.

Ms. Melester noted that the SAWMPO Policy Board approved release of the draft CSPDC Title VI Plan for a 14-day public comment period at the March 18, 2026, Board meeting. The public comment period closes April 14, 2026, with final approval anticipated at the April 15 Policy Board meeting. The plan will then be presented to the CSPDC Board on April 20 for PDC-level approval before submission to VDOT.

Chair Rhodes expressed appreciation for the inclusion of the deaf community within the expanded language access provisions, noting that the City of Staunton had significant engagement with the local deaf community during recent comprehensive plan outreach. Ms. Melester noted that staff are exploring interpreter and translation service contracts to ensure accommodation can be provided within the three-day notice window required by the PPP.

FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Overview

Ms. Paula Melester presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), followed by supplemental presentations from Mr. Bartholomew and Ms. Devon Thompson. No TAC action was required.

Ms. Melester explained that the UPWP is a federally required document that MPOs prepare annually to outline all planning activities and how they will be funded. Funding comes from two primary sources: PL (Planning) funds from the Federal Highway Administration, flowing through VDOT to the MPO, and Section 5303 transit planning funds from the Federal Transit Administration, flowing through DRPT. The MPO may also carry over unspent funds from prior years. Ms. Melester noted that FY27 UPWP preparation this year was informed by one-on-one meetings with each locality to proactively identify specific projects and activities where MPO assistance would be most valuable. The UPWP budget allocates funding across program areas including program administration, long range planning, short range planning, local and state assistance, and transit planning. Ms. Melester noted that the local assistance budget is larger than in past years due to the identification of specific locality projects during UPWP coordination.

Mr. Bartholomew summarized the planned activities for each program area. For long range planning, staff will initiate a Travel Demand Model update for the SAWMPO region in preparation for the next LRTP, support bicycle and pedestrian planning through the Bike the Valley program, and maintain LRTP compliance including any amendments that arise. For short range planning, staff will maintain and administer the FY2027-2030 TIP following adoption. Staff will also develop a small area study for the Frontier Drive corridor, which spans portions of Augusta County and the City of Staunton and has emerged as a regionally significant transportation challenge given significant development activity and pedestrian access needs. For local assistance, staff will continue assisting the City of Staunton with the Beverley Street Walkability Demonstration Project, assist Augusta County with the transportation components of the Greenville Small Area Plan and will be able to support the City of Waynesboro with bicycle and pedestrian planning. General grant support for localities, including Smart Scale, TAP, and HSIP applications, is also included.

Ms. Devon Thompson presented the transit planning activities, which include a route evaluation of the Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) shuttle, which connects the Staunton area to Weyers Cave and continues to Harrisonburg. Staff will evaluate ridership, route alignment, timing, and whether the current loop structure remains optimal, in coordination with localities and stakeholders along the corridor. Ms. Thompson noted that while the route is branded as the BRCC shuttle, it is a public transit route open to all riders, and the evaluation will assess whether the route is effectively communicating and delivering that access.

Smart Scale Round 7 Pre-application Update

Mr. Garreth Bartholomew provided an update on SAWMPO's Smart Scale Round 7 pre-application activities, with Smart Scale Round 7 pre-applications due to the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) by the close of business on April 1, 2026. No TAC action was required.

Mr. Bartholomew announced that CSPDC staff submitted a Smart Scale pre-application on behalf of Augusta County for the Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Second Entrance, which

proposes construction of a secondary access route connecting US-250 to the WWRC campus. The proposal includes an all-way controlled intersection at US-250 and Hornet Road, access management improvements on US-250 including a center median, and a 10-foot shared-use path connecting the campus to existing path infrastructure along Woodrow Wilson Avenue. The project builds on a 2018 MPO study identifying the need, with alignment updates developed by VDOT.

Mr. Scott Kesecker reported that the City of Waynesboro submitted several Smart Scale pre-applications resulting from the Rosser Avenue Project Pipeline Study: safety and operational improvements at the Rosser Avenue and Lew DeWitt Boulevard intersection, which remains the top-ranked PSI intersection in the district; a shared-use path along Rosser Avenue connecting isolated segments toward downtown; a roundabout at Northgate Drive and Rosser Avenue; and pedestrian connectivity improvements along Lew DeWitt Boulevard. Mr. Kesecker noted the roundabout application presents some design and existing conditions challenges but was submitted to evaluate its potential.

City of Staunton Beverley Street Walkability Demonstration Project

Ms. Susan Wilson presented an update on the City of Staunton's Beverley Street Walkability Demonstration Project.

Ms. Wilson explained that the project stems from a Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) study completed in 2022 that analyzed 10 intersections in Staunton, several of which were along Beverley Street. The study recommended curb extensions (bulbouts) at intersections along Beverley Street to accommodate ADA-compliant corner ramps within the constrained right-of-way, with VDOT recommendations also including conversion of the outside travel lane to a loading and unloading zone. Ms. Wilson noted that with Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)-funded signal upgrade and intersection improvement projects along Beverley Street scheduled to be advertised in summer 2027, the City sought a demonstration project to show residents what the corridor could look like with curb extensions, rather than a loading zone, and to build community enthusiasm ahead of the permanent improvements. The City was awarded a \$6,033 grant through the Virginia Walkability Action Institute (VWAI) demonstration project program.

Ms. Wilson described the project elements, which include establishing a loading and unloading zone in the midblock area of two selected blocks, given that the outside travel lane is actively used by delivery vehicles serving Beverley Street businesses, and using the remaining budget for flexible delineators, temporary seating using low-cost constructed benches, and additional elements to create a welcoming pedestrian space. Mr. Bartholomew noted that he identified a delineator product at approximately half the cost of initially estimated units, increasing the budget flexibility available for seating and landscaping elements.

Ms. Wilson noted that the demonstration project is planned for the month of June 2026, including the Shop and Dine Out program weekends, and that the delineators will remain in place throughout the demonstration period. Outreach and data collection will focus on qualitative feedback, including intercept surveys, given that vehicle speeds on Beverley Street are already low and comfort level rather than speed is the primary concern.

Ms. Wilson noted that CSPDC is hosting the project webpage for the demonstration, which will include a public survey and information on both the demonstration project and the longer-term HSIP intersection projects. Ms. Wilson highlighted that two Beverley Street intersections are scheduled to be converted from signalized to all-way stop control as part of the HSIP projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the VWAI grant program more broadly, with Ms. Alisande Tombarge and Ms. Leslie Tate expressing interest in how the program might apply to walkability improvements in Waynesboro. Ms. Wilson encouraged other localities to consider the program, noting its flexibility beyond traditional demonstration formats.

Ms. Devon Thompson asked about the implications for BRITE bus stop access along the demonstration corridor. Ms. Wilson confirmed that bus stops would be accommodated within the loading and unloading zones, and that staff would coordinate with BRITE to ensure service continuity during the demonstration period.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Cody Huffman provided the following updates:

- Route 254 shoulder widening project from New Hope Road to Waynesboro, including intersection improvements at New Hope Road and Old White Bridge Road, is ahead of schedule.
- The Mill Place project contractor is working on utilities and drainage structures in the median. Progress has been slower but is expected to accelerate in the coming weeks.
- I-81 Weyers Cave project: Approximately 40% complete. Base paving and third-lane grading are now underway.
- I-81 Staunton widening project: Speed enforcement cameras are scheduled to be implemented on April 2, with a 30-day warning window before citations are issued. Cameras will be located near mile marker 224 and will capture license plates in both directions.
- I-81 Harrisonburg widening project: A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for April 14 at Rocktown High School, with the Governor and VDOT central office staff anticipated to attend. Construction is expected to begin following the groundbreaking.
- Pothole patching operations continue. Mowing is expected to begin in early May.

Mr. Bartholomew provided the following updates on behalf of VDOT District Planning:

- Smart Scale Round 7 pre-applications were due April 1. Full applications will open in approximately three months. Localities with questions should contact VDOT District Planning staff.
- A proposed change to High Priority Program project eligibility was presented at the February 2026 CTB meeting, which would add innovative intersection features on highway projects as eligible uses for HPP funding.
- The Rosser Avenue Project Pipeline Study is being finalized by ATCS. Preferred alternatives and cost estimates are being developed in preparation for Waynesboro's Smart Scale submissions.

DRPT

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

- The Virginia Breeze Tidewater Current route has been announced and will begin service on April 20, 2026, connecting Harrisonburg to Virginia Beach via the I-64 corridor with intermediate stops, including a stop at the Staunton Park and Ride. Tickets are available for purchase.

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:

- Augusta County submitted one Smart Scale Round 7 pre-application for a roundabout at the intersection of Weyers Cave Road (Route 256) and Triangle Drive. Mr. Wolfe noted that traffic volumes at the intersection have more than doubled in five years and that the location serves as a significant freight movement point where road salt delivered by rail is transferred to trucks. A revenue sharing application for the same intersection is also pending, and the County intends to pursue both to complement each other.
- The County submitted three Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) applications: one for a study of the Exit 213 interchange at Greenville to address the wrong-way truck movement issue; one for the WWRC Second Entrance project; and one for the Patton Farm Road low-water bridge, requesting \$500,000 for preliminary engineering. Mr. Wolfe noted that the low-water bridge project affects approximately 1,400 daily users and does not fit easily into existing VDOT funding mechanisms.
- The Dick Huff Lane project is scheduled for bid opening on April 15. The Government Center vehicle access crossing will be closed beginning April 10 while new crossing infrastructure is



installed, with traffic directed via Greer Road or through the City of Staunton's Technology Drive access. Early voting will remain accessible during the closure.

- The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for the Quick's Mill Road sidewalk is on the staff-recommended funding list. The project will advance the Verona pedestrian improvement effort, extending toward a mid-block crosswalk location that was the site of a previous pedestrian fatality.
- Ms. Hensley introduced Ms. Delaney Krasner, Augusta County's new planner, who will be assisting with the Greenville Small Area Plan and other planning activities.

City of Staunton

Ms. Meggie Taylor provided the following update:

- The Staunton Comprehensive Plan update is progressing. The Advisory Committee completed its first review of a draft plan and will transmit the draft to VDOT for review in the coming weeks. A public comment period is planned for May, with a City Council work session scheduled for June 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Public hearing and adoption are anticipated later in the summer.

Ms. Susan Wilson provided the following updates:

- Two revenue sharing applications remain pending; notification was anticipated in February but has not yet been received.
- The Richmond Avenue shared-use path project is scheduled to be advertised as a VDOT-administered project in May 2026.
- Updated plans were received from VDOT on the Richmond Avenue and Greenville Avenue intersection, which will use a standard intersection design rather than a roundabout to best accommodate bicycle and pedestrian movements within budget. The project is awaiting final direction from the City.

Chair Rhodes also noted that the City is awaiting a response on a Ready Set Go application for a shared-use path along Middlebrook Avenue from Lacey B. King Drive to Bridge Street, which would provide a non-motorized connection from new residential developments to downtown Staunton.

City of Waynesboro

Ms. Alisande Tombarge and Mr. Scott Kesecker provided the following updates:

- The DRPT MERIT grant for bus stop improvements at select BRITE stop locations throughout the City is likely to be on the staff-recommended funding list. Final award notification is expected later in April.
- A comprehensive plan update open house is scheduled for May 6, 2026, at Kate Collins Middle School, with time to be determined.
- Smart Scale pre-application submissions were described under the Smart Scale agenda item.
- Pedestrian intersection projects are advancing through preliminary engineering, and the Rockfish Crozet Tunnel Trail project is also continuing through planning and preliminary engineering.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Rhodes announced the following upcoming meetings:

- April 15, 2026 – SAWMPO Policy Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., CSPDC
- May 6, 2026 – SAWMPO TAC Meeting, 2:00 p.m., CSPDC

Meeting Adjourned

Chair Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Zach Beard, Program Manager