



**Policy Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**

Via Zoom Video Conference Call  
[Audio Recording of Call Click Here](#)

**Present (22):**

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members		Others	
	<b>City of Staunton</b>		<b>VA DRPT</b>		<b>Others</b>
✓	Carolyn Dull	✓	Wood Hudson	✓	Stephen Read, VDOT
✓	Steve Rosenberg		Grant Sparks	✓	Brad Reed, VDOT
	Leslie Beauregard (Alt)		<b>VRT</b>	✓	Bill Bushman, Hurt & Proffitt
	<b>Augusta County</b>	✓	Steve Wilson	✓	Philip Koloski, Public
✓	Scott Seaton, Vice Chair		Phil Thompson (Alt)	✓	Joel Javier, Public
✓	Tim Fitzgerald		<b>FHWA</b>	✓	Unidentified Caller
	Pam Carter (Alt)		Mack Frost		<b>Staff (CSPDC)</b>
	<b>City of Waynesboro</b>		<b>FTA</b>	✓	Bonnie Riedesel
✓	Bobby Henderson, Chair		Michele DeAngelis	✓	Ann Cundy
✓	Jim Shaw		<b>VA DOA</b>	✓	Zach Beard
	Michael Hamp (Alt)		Rusty Harrington	✓	Devon Thompson
	<b>VDOT</b>		<b>CTB</b>	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓	Randy Kiser		Mark Merrill		
✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)				
	Don Komara (Alt)				
✓	Matt Dana (Alt)				

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. In light of this emergency, the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, SAWMPO Policy Board meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom.

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Policy Board of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Bobby Henderson, Chairperson.



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## **Public Comment**

Chairperson Henderson opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Henderson presented the minutes from the March 3, 2021 Policy Board meeting.

***Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).***

## **Consideration of the Title VI Amendment (Board Action Form #21-04)**

Chairperson Henderson presented the Title VI Amendment. Ms. Cundy stated that last month the Board approved releasing the amended Title VI Plan to the public for 21 days for review and comment; no public comments were received. She stated that the Plan was amended to rewrite the complaint procedures to forward complaints directly to FHWA. Ms. Cundy stated that upon approval of the Plan by the Board, response will be made to VDOT and FHWA documenting how the MPO has addressed the findings identified.

***Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, to approve the Title VI Amendment. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).***

## **FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Update (Board Memo #21-05)**

Chairperson Henderson presented the UPWP Budget Update. Ms. Riedesel stated that the memo summarizes spending activities as compared to budget for the fiscal year 2021 as of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. She stated that approximately 68% of the budget remains unspent and that any unspent monies at the end of the fiscal year will be carried over to the next fiscal year.

## **Presentation: Safety Performance Planning and Programing - Stephen Read, Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Manager, VDOT**

Chairperson Henderson presented the Safety Performance Presentation. Ms. Cundy welcomed Mr. Stephen Read, from VDOT Central Office, who oversees the traffic safety target development each year. She stated that each year the statewide targets are brought to the MPO and Mr. Read will provide a broader understanding of the targets.

Mr. Read discussed the data-driven safety targets and opportunities to partner with local and regional stakeholders. He explained that federal law requires the DOT to submit five safety performance targets each year, three of which overlap with their DMV partners. The process includes coordination with the MPOs and TPOs to get resolutions on those targets. He discussed the performance measures and how the measures tracked are defined and showed the five-year average trends. Although the numbers remain very low, fatalities are increasing and serious injuries are decreasing. Mr. Read discussed the key steps used for 2020, 2021 and 2022 safety targets: external factors analysis, baseline prediction models, assessment of possible new factors, determination of anticipated benefits of soon to be completed infrastructure projects, etc. He stated that the



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baseline predictions are combined with expected project reductions to establish annual targets. Mr. Read answered some questions and Ms. Cundy stated that she will send the slides to the Board members. She stated that this could be an opportunity for the MPO to develop a regional safety plan as part of the Unified Planning Work Program for FY22. Slides attached to file minutes.

## **Agency Updates**

### Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Kiser reported that the virtual public hearing on the Six-Year Plan and SMART SCALE Recommended Funding Scenario is planned for April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m.

Mr. Campbell gave the following update:

- VTRANS 2045 Needs Assessment was completed in January 2020 and includes SMART SCALE eligibility. Since that time, OIPI has been working on prioritizing the Needs into four levels of importance using a set of performance measures. Last month, the CTB adopted by resolution the prioritization process, creating a project pipeline process. VDOT is awaiting policy and direction on how this will influence VDOT planning efforts.
- The current STARS study of the downtown Staunton intersections for potential safety improvements is in progress; the consultant is currently developing and evaluating improvement alternatives to address the identified needs. The study team will review these alternatives at their next meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, after which the initial public input will be solicited.

Mr. Dunlap gave the following update:

- The I-81 Exit 220-222 auxiliary lane project will be ready for public comment soon; whether virtual or in-person is to be determined.
- Bridge construction project at Bell Creek will be finished in May.
- Waynesboro Park & Ride Lot improvements project is underway; completion expected in the fall.
- HSIP (safety improvement) projects are underway.

### Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson gave the following update:

- The four-year Virginia State Rail Plan initiative will be kicked off in May; a rail team consultant will begin to engage stakeholders.
- The Virginia rail investment of \$3.7billion affects the SAWMPO region because of the acquisition of Buckingham Branch railroad; the segment could possibly be made available for passenger rail in the future.
- Spring public hearing is upcoming, and the SYIP will be released soon, which details DRPT grant awards for FY2022.

### BRITE Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following update:



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- American Rescue Plan Act FTA apportionment tables have been released and BRITE received additional operating funds. These funds help public transit agencies continue to provide essential services and cover COVID-19 related expenses. BRITE staff will continue to follow any additional news regarding these funds as it is released.
  - The Afton Express transit service has a planned start date of September 1st. Staff has started and will continue to outline and plan the logistics of starting up the service by that date. In response to a question, Ms. Riedesel stated that a pre-launch campaign is planned and is pending the receipt of the new buses; anticipated launch date is September 1st.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chairperson Henderson mentioned the upcoming TAC meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> and the next Board meeting is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Both meetings will be held via video conference.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Policy Board, Chairperson Henderson adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann W. Cundy".

Ann W. Cundy  
Director of Transportation