



**Policy Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2020, 10:00 a.m.**

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

Present (19):

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members		Others	
	City of Staunton		VA DRPT		Others
✓	Carolyn Dull	✓	Wood Hudson	✓	Dave Covington, VDOT
✓	Steve Rosenberg		Grant Sparks	✓	Josh Dunlap, VDOT
	Leslie Beauregard (Alt)		VRT	✓	Lyle Hartt, City of Staunton
	Augusta County		Steve Wilson		Staff (CSPDC)
✓	Scott Seaton, Vice Chair		Phil Thompson (Alt)	✓	Bonnie Riedesel
✓	Tim Fitzgerald		FHWA	✓	Ann Cundy
	Pam Carter (Alt)		Mack Frost	✓	Zach Beard
	City of Waynesboro		FTA	✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Bobby Henderson, Chair		Michele DeAngelis	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓	Jim Shaw		VA DOA		
	Michael Hamp (Alt)		Rusty Harrington		
	VDOT				
✓	Randy Kiser				
✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)				
✓	Don Komara (Alt)				
✓	Matt Dana (Alt)				

Call to Order

The meeting of the Policy Board of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Mr. Bobby Henderson, Chairperson.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Henderson presented the minutes from the November 4, 2020 Policy Board meeting.



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

Consideration of the SAWMPO 2021 Meeting Schedule (Action Form #20-09)

Chairperson Henderson presented the 2021 Meeting Schedule. Ms. Cundy stated that each year the schedule of regular meetings of the SAWMPO is considered by the Board and published in December in accordance with the SAWMPO Public Participation Plan. She stated that for the foreseeable future, the meetings will continue to be held virtually by video conference call.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to approve the 2021 Meeting Schedule. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Consideration of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (Action Form #20-10)

Chairperson Henderson presented the 2045 LRTP. Mr. Beard stated that the LRTP process, which began in March of 2019, is near the end. He stated that the document must be updated every five years and is a core requirement of an MPO. Mr. Beard stated that the primary outcome is to assess the region's transportation network over a 25-year period and identify projects for funding and construction over that period. He stated that drafts of the document have been reviewed with the Board and TAC since September. Mr. Beard stated that the TAC reviewed the final draft at their meeting in October, the Board reviewed it in November and released it to the 21-day public comment period. He stated that no comments were received during that time. Mr. Beard stated that all comments received during the entire process are included in Appendices D and E. He stated that the public outreach process is described in Chapter 2.

Mr. Beard stated that this is the first LRTP to be completed in-house. He thanked the LRTP Working Group, made up of the jurisdictions TAC members, VDOT and DRPT, and the VDOT District Planning staff for their assistance developing the region's first Travel Demand Model.

Mr. Beard stated that staff requests the Policy Board approve the final LRTP document. He stated that the document will be distributed to state (VDOT, DRPT) and federal (FHWA, FTA) agencies, and its completion will ensure that all three of our localities may continue to receive federal funding for their transportation projects.

In response to a question by Dr. Seaton, Ms. Cundy stated that BRITE funding reflected in the Plan includes only services within the Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro area, and that the Afton Express service is not included in this document.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to approve the 2045 LRTP. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).



FY2021 UPWP Budget Update (PB Memo #20-25)

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 October 31st. She stated that spending is on-track and approximately \$64,000 has been spent so far.

Presentation: Interstate-81 Corridor Improvement Plan Updates – Dave Covington, P.E., I-81 Program Delivery Director, VDOT

Chairperson Henderson presented the I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan Updates presentation. Mr. Kiser introduced Mr. Dave Covington, I-81 Program Delivery Director for the 325-mile corridor that goes through three VDOT construction districts. He stated that Mr. Covington assumed the leadership role last fall and lives within the SAWMPO, in Stuarts Draft. Mr. Kiser stated that Mr. Covington has design, construction and maintenance experience. He stated that Mr. Covington's most notable project within VDOT was the very complex Route 29 Solution project which he delivered under budget and way ahead of schedule.

Mr. Covington stated that he would discuss both historical and current status of the I-81 Improvement program. He stated that the information is available on the Improve81.org website, which is a resource for localities and the public.

Mr. Covington started by discussing the impact of COVID-19 on the corridor; a full recovery to 2019 traffic volume has not yet been achieved. He discussed the core benefits of the I-81 Improvement program: enhanced safety, reduced congestion and economic development. Mr. Covington stated that there are 56 capital projects; 16 are programmed for 2023 and beyond, 8 projects have been completed, five of which were in the Staunton district, and the remaining 32 projects are in some part of the design phase. He discussed the categories of improvements that the capital projects address. Mr. Covington stated that operational improvements are also planned which are quick to implement with relatively low cost and high return on investment. He stated that there are three planned operational studies with potential future improvements: 1) truck parking, 2) speed enforcement and 3) multimodal improvements. Ms. Riedesel stated that Zach represents the SAWMPO region on the truck parking task force. Mr. Beard stated that he will be sending a request for input to the localities regarding truck parking to share with the task force. Ms. Riedesel noted that the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Frank Friedman, represents the region on the I-81 Advisory Committee.

Mr. Covington provided an update on the status of projects by district, Bristol, Salem and Staunton. He stated that in the Staunton district there are 16 projects, a mix of small and large projects. Within the Staunton District, Mr. Covington showed a timeline of expected project construction. He discussed the role of the I-81 Advisory Committee and the members on the committee. Mr. Covington discussed sources of funding which come from truck fees, regional fuels tax, and statewide road and diesel tax. He stated that project status and schedules are on the Improve81.org website, with project details being searchable on an interactive project map. Mr. Covington discussed that next steps and VDOT contacts for the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program. He asked if there were any questions; there were none. Ms. Cundy stated that she would send out the presentation to the Board members. Presentation attached to file minutes.



Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Campbell shared the following updates:

- The SMART SCALE applications are in the process of being scored and validated. Final scores and the funding scenario are expected in January.
- VTRANS Needs Prioritization process – OIPI held a series of webinar workshops and comments were accepted through the end of November. The CSPDC submitted a letter with some valid questions and concerns to OIPI. The CTB is expected to approve the process this month, depending on the amount of comments received across the state.
- STARS study updates – the Staunton Downtown Intersection study is well underway. The study focus is to select intersections in downtown and an additional three intersections on West Beverley Street. Count data has been collected and existing conditions analysis will begin next.

Mr. Komara gave the following updates:

- Bell Creek (at Jake's Store) bridge project is progressing well and is on-schedule; the east bound abutment is complete. The detour will likely end in April-May, 2021.
- Waynesboro Park & Ride Lot was advertised; there were eight bidders, the lowest being Plecker Construction Company in Staunton at just over \$1.02 million. Construction is expected to begin in the spring and completed in the summer of 2021.
- Rt 340 safety improvement project will widen the shoulder similar to the Buffalo Gap project.
- Weyers Cave – right turn lanes will be extended so as not to interfere with Route 11 traffic; will be advertised in spring 2021.
- Mill Place dual left into the industrial park in Verona will go out for advertisement next fall.
- Crozet Tunnel is open to the public.
- Other maintenance in the district is underway; i.e. paving, grading of dirt roads, and snow removal contracts.

Mr. Kiser gave the following updates:

- A virtual six-year plan public hearing was held last week just prior to the November 24 CTB meeting; public comments may be submitted through tomorrow, December 3rd.
- The 2020 spring public hearing was cancelled due to not knowing what the revenue situation would be. The six-year plan is being updated with the biggest change being reallocation of previously provided revenue sharing, close to \$500 million, and using those funds for existing projects to keep them on-schedule and on-budget.
- The CTB announced the appointment of Mr. Mark Merrill, a former CEO and President of Valley Health in Winchester to replace Mr. Dixon Whitworth, who retired.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Mr. Hudson gave the following update:



- FY22 MERIT grant cycle for transit capital operating and special programs opened yesterday with a virtual grantee meeting; the portal is currently open and will remain available through February 1st, 2021.
- The FY21 SYIP will be considered by the CTB at their December meeting.

BRITE Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following update:

- BRITE will begin entering applications on the DRPT portal shortly for FY2021 funding.
- Included in the draft SYIP are the Afton Express service and ITS Phase I funding which the CTB will consider at its December meeting.
- Holiday hours are being implemented for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.
- The inclement weather notification plan is updated and tested annually by the BTAC; the plan has reviewed and updated and a test has been conducted.
- BRITE usually participates in the local Christmas parades, which have been cancelled this year. BRITE will instead participate in Staunton's Festival of Lights with a festively lighted bus stop shelter.

Other Business

Chairperson Henderson presented other business. Ms. Cundy stated that upon reviewing the VTrans methodology for prioritizing the needs and then the actual prioritization, staff decided to submit feedback to OIPI during the comment period. She stated that more information is needed as to how OIPI would make funding available for VDOT-led studies. Ms. Cundy stated that if a VTrans need is not a high priority, it may not be eligible for something like a STARS study, but more clarification is needed on whether the lower priority needs would be eligible for study funding. She stated that the Tier I and II priority needs that OIPI identified are corridors and locations that we have already studied, either with MPO funding or VDOT funding through the STARS program. She stated that requests for clarification were sent by the SAWMPO, Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO, and the Virginia Association of MPOs.

Upcoming Meetings

Chairperson Henderson mentioned the upcoming TAC meeting on December 16th and the next Board meeting scheduled to be held on January 6th at 10:00 a.m. Both meeting 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 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann W. Cundy
Director of Transportation