

Memorandum

To: CA-MPO & SAWMPO Policy Boards
From: Wood Hudson, Planning Manager
Date: September 27, 2017
Reference: SHRP2 Interstate 64 Corridor Study

Purpose: With the SHRP2 Interstate 64 Corridor Study drawing to a close staff are providing the Policy Boards with a project update and requesting the approval of the Inter-Regional transportation planning MOU.

Background: The I-64 Corridor study is a joint study between the CA-MPO and the SAWMPO. The project is being funded by the Federal Highway Administration's Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) Implementation Assistance Program. The project has forced on implementing the PlanWorks toolkit for corridor planning in the I-64 corridor. A key area of focus has been enhancing inter-regional communication among agencies and groups responsible for oversight and planning of transportation facilities.

Summary: Over the course of the past twelve months staff from the respective MPOS and VDOT districts have worked closely to evaluate existing conditions within the I-64 corridor and develop a list of recommended projects that will help address some of the deficiencies in the corridor. The project hosted six working group meetings with each meeting focusing on a specific topic and drawing on experts in that field. Through these meetings MPO staff have developed draft project recommendations that can be included in future LRTPs, Rural Plans, TDM strategies and Smart Scale applications. The project was indicated in September of 2016 and will be wrapping up in December of 2017.

Next Steps: With the project drawing to a close staff are working on completing a draft report by October and will then circulate the report to working group for comments by mid-November. A final draft copy of the report will complete by December.

Action Items: For the September 27th, joint MPO meeting staff are asking the Policy Boards to consider the attached Inter-Regional Transportation Planning MOU which is a key deliverable of the project. If there are any questions or comments, please contact Wood Hudson at whudson@tjpd.org or (434) 979-7310.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE STAUNTON-AUGUSTA-WAYNESBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REGARDING
INTER-REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WITHIN THE I-64 CORRIDOR BETWEEN THE
CITIES OF CHARLOTTESVILLE AND STAUNTON, VIRGINIA**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into as of September 27, 2017, by and between the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization, hereinafter referred to as the CA-MPO, and the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, hereinafter referred to as the SAWMPO.

WHEREAS, the 37 mile east-west segment of Interstate 64 connecting the cities of Charlottesville, Waynesboro and Staunton, Virginia, and the counties of Augusta and Albemarle, Virginia, is the primary multi-modal transportation corridor linking the Piedmont and Shenandoah Valley regions of Virginia, functioning as a critical link within the State's comprehensive transportation network for both inter-regional and interstate commerce; and

WHEREAS, the formal coordination of short- and long-range planning activities among local, regional, state and federal government agencies is instrumental to the improvement of transportation planning activities and the development of new transportation facilities within this corridor to produce an efficient, safe and cost effective transportation network; and

WHEREAS, the CA-MPO and the SAWMPO enter into this MOU to conduct transportation and transit planning and development activities within the I-64 corridor in a mutually beneficial manner to each MPO's unique transportation needs, and to the larger area as a whole; and

WHEREAS, transportation planning activities shall address planning for all transportation modes including, but not limited to, rail, bike and pedestrian planning, transit and travel demand management; and

WHEREAS, this MOU provides the framework for each MPO to review, comment, and provide letters of support for each other's transportation projects, Long Range Transportation Plans, grant applications, Transportation Improvement Programs, and when necessary, for projects and other transportation and transit activities located within, or that may affect, the corridor;

NOW THEREFORE, be it recognized and agreed that the CA-MPO and the SAWMPO will conduct inter-regional transportation planning in a collaborative manner within the I-64 corridor. It is also agreed that the following articles will guide the inter-regional cooperation efforts.

**Article 1
Corridor Boundaries**

The corridor boundary is defined as Interstate 64 from mile marker 124 westward to Interstate 81 south to mile marker 220 and to Interstate 81 north to mile marker 222, and US-250 from the Charlottesville US-29/US-250 bypass westward to the US-250 intersection in Staunton with Frontier Drive and North Frontier Drive. The corridor boundary includes the cities of Charlottesville, Waynesboro and Staunton and the counties of Augusta, Albemarle, and Nelson; and includes major transportation and multi-modal routes and connections that provide important corridor access points located within one-half mile of either I-64 or US-250. These connections include rail facilities serving Buckingham Branch, Norfolk-Southern and Amtrak rail operations.

**Article 2
Planning Activities**

Each MPO's Policy Board shall remain the sole decision making body regarding projects and transportation plans that fall within their respective jurisdictions. However, this MOU recognizes that transportation planning activities and projects within the corridor boundaries, listed in Article 1, should receive special attention if they may have an

impact on the overall function of the corridor. Therefore, as part of this MOU, the MPOs agree to provide each other with an adequate opportunity to review and comment on regionally significant planning efforts and projects, and in particular, MPO Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects within the corridor. Comments made by either MPO are not binding, nor are they considered a required step in the review process. Collaboration of this nature between the prescribed MPOs is highly encouraged; however, delayed comments from either entity should not provide cause to impede the advancement of planning activities or project development.

**Article 3
Letters of Support**

When submitting projects and plans for funding located within the boundaries of the corridor, the sponsoring MPO may request a letter of support from the other MPO for inclusion in the project application. Notices of a request should be accompanied with adequate project and/or scoping information for the reviewing party to develop an informed and reasoned response to the request.

**Article 4
Joint MPO Meetings**

The CA-MPO and the SAWMPO shall jointly host an annual joint MPO Policy Board meeting. This meeting shall alternate annually between each of the MPO's jurisdiction unless other meeting arrangements are mutually agreeable. The joint MPO Policy Board meeting shall include reports from each MPO, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) addressing projects, plans, activities or items of concern that have arisen during the prior year within the I-64 corridor boundaries identified in this MOU. Adequate time shall be allotted for the discussion of inter-jurisdictional or agency transportation priorities, proposed projects, future joint planning activities and current projects within the corridor. The reports shall address recently completed projects or planning activities, and future planned projects or planning activities located within the corridor. Reports may be provided in written form, and may be presented collectively. Agencies providing activity reports and updates are not limited to the parties identified in Article 4 of this MOU.

**Article 5
Modification**

Amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding, as mutually agreed upon, may be made by written agreement between all parties to this MOU.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, all concerned parties have executed this MOU on the day and year first written above.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Kristin Szakos, Chair
Charlottesville-Albemarle
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Charles P. Boyles II, Executive Director
Charlottesville-Albemarle
Metropolitan Planning Organization

James Harrington, Chair
Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Bonnie S. Riedesel, Secretary/Treasurer
Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro
Metropolitan Planning Organization