



## **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda April 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

Via ZOOM Video Conference Call

Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92314044862?pwd=dDBLVThLRm9YSVp5M1o5Zkg1N0ZjZz09>

Dial In: 1-301-715-8592 (Audio Only)

Meeting ID: 923 1404 4862 ▪ Password: 608183

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 17, 2021 TAC Meeting\*
4. Draft FY22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (TAC Action Form #21-01)\*
5. FY21 Small Area Study Exit 235 & Route 256 Update (TAC Memo #21-06)
6. FY22 Study Options (TAC Memo #21-07)
7. Agency Updates
  - a. VDOT
  - b. DRPT
  - c. BRITE
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
  - May 5, 2021 – Policy Board Meeting, via videoconference, 10:00 a.m.
  - May 19, 2021 – TAC meeting, via videoconference, 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjournment

\* Action Required



**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2021, 2:00 p.m.**

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

**Present (16):**

Voting Members			Others		
	<b>City of Staunton</b>		<b>VDOT</b>	✓	Caroline Stoerker, Augusta County
✓	Rodney Rhodes	✓	Don Komara	✓	Sam Styers, McCormick Taylor
	Jeff Johnston	✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)		<b>Staff (CSPDC)</b>
	Tim Hartless (Alt)	✓	Josh Dunlap (Alt)	✓	Ann Cundy
	Lyle Hartt (Alt)		<b>VA DRPT</b>	✓	Zach Beard
	<b>Augusta County</b>		Wood Hudson	✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Leslie Tate, Vice Chair		Grant Sparks (Alt)	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓	Doug Wolfe	<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		✓	Manas Ranjan
	Jeff VanFossen (Alt)		<b>VRT</b>		
	Vacant (Alt)	✓	Steve Wilson		
	<b>City of Waynesboro</b>		Phil Thompson (Alt)		
✓	Todd Wood, Chairperson		<b>Federal Highway Admin.</b>		
✓	Luke Juday		Mack Frost		
	Kira Johnson (Alt)		<b>Federal Transit Admin.</b>		
	Brian McReynolds (Alt)		Michele DeAngelis		
			<b>VA Dept. of Aviation</b>		
			Rusty Harrington		

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 March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, SAWMPO TAC meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom.

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Todd Wood.

## **Public Comment**

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

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Wood presented minutes from the January 20, 2021 TAC Meeting.

***Ms. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Juday, to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).***

## **Discussion of the Title VI Amendment (TAC Memo #21-04)**

Chairperson Wood presented the Title VI Amendment. Ms. Cundy stated that the SAWMPO has a Title VI Plan (Title VI is part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) that lays out a plan for non-discrimination in MPO activities. She stated that every three years VDOT reviews the MPO Title VI plans and programs to ensure compliance. Ms. Cundy noted that the MPO has had a Title VI plan from the beginning, and that no complaints have been made. Upon a VDOT review of the plan in the fall of 2020, she stated that some updates to the plan were identified. Ms. Cundy stated that none of the findings were substantive and mostly had to do with procurement. She stated that the documented process for a member of the public to make a complaint outlined in the plan will be changed. Ms. Cundy stated that the current procedure includes complaints being reviewed by the MPO and will be changed to complaints being reviewed by FHWA. She stated that due to VDOT desiring to have the changes made quickly, the amended plan was presented to the Board at their March meeting and was approved to be released to the public review and comment period. After the public comment period, Ms. Cundy stated it will go to Board for approval in April.

## **Discussion of the FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Overview (TAC Memo #21-05)**

Chairperson Wood presented the FY2022 UPWP. Mr. Beard stated that each year the MPO budget and activities for the upcoming fiscal year are reviewed. He stated that this plan, the UPWP, shows funding allocations from two main funding partners – FHWA and VDOT provide Highway funds and FTA and DRPT provide Transit funds. Mr. Beard stated that the fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the FY2022 allocation is pending but the allocations are typically similar year over year. He stated that the carryover varies from year to year depending on expenses during the year. Mr. Beard stated that focus in FY2021 was on long-range planning and the LRTP update; FY2022 will be focused on small area studies, such as the I-81, Exit 235 study.

Mr. Beard stated that the final numbers will be presented to the TAC in April, the draft will be reviewed with the Board and released to public comment in May, then approved in June. The TAC is asked to review the document and provide comments and input.

Ms. Cundy stated that the FTA 5303 carryover is significantly more than in years past due to carrying over Transit Planning funds for the Transit Development Plan 5-year update; the technical assistance grant requires a 50% match.

## MAP-21 Quarterly Planning and Programming Updates

Chairperson Wood presented the MAP-21 Updates. Ms. Cundy stated that each quarter, VDOT Central Office, DRPT and the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) host a meeting for PDC staff to provide updates on programs and MAP-21 targets, including the data that is tracked for the targets. She stated that a quarterly meeting was held last Wednesday where the “Multimodal Project Pipeline” was discussed. Ms. Cundy explained the Multimodal Project Pipeline, stating that OIPI was directed by the CTB to take all of the mid-term needs and prioritize them by priority 1-4 locations. She stated they used large statewide datasets to determine whether a need should be categorized as 1, 2, 3, or 4, focusing on Corridors of Statewide Significance and Regional Networks. Ms. Cundy stated that UDA needs were not included, which are determined by local governments and reflect local priorities. She stated that the prioritized list will help guide decisions on where VDOT should focus its planning study dollars, calling it the Multimodal Project Pipeline. As chair of VAMPO, Ms. Cundy made a formal comment at the meeting expressing concerns that were noted and echoed, but no change in policy resulted. She stated that for us and VDOT, studies like STARS and Arterial Management, etc., will be limited to Priority 1 locations, which are limited in number. Ms. Cundy stated that the slightly mitigating factor is that each of the CTB members have the opportunity to choose one project per year per non-priority 1 location. She stated that for the Staunton district, which is a huge district and includes three MPOs, the desire is to expand the eligibility to Priority 2 areas. With this new policy now adopted, Ms. Cundy stated that MPO planning dollars will be very important to use for studies, as it will be harder to get money for larger, costly studies.

Mr. Beard stated that VDOT has a new tool available called Pathways for Planning ([vdotp4p.com](http://vdotp4p.com)), a GIS-based database to consolidate transportation data from many sources into one location and give planners at the local level access to multiple agencies and departments. He stated that access must be requested. Mr. Beard showed the various capabilities of the system and include searching for data, exporting data, data analytics and visualization, and completed studies and recommendations from studies. He stated that this tool is a resource, not required. Mr. Beard stated that anyone interested should contact the project manager, Geraldine Jones at [Geraldine.Jones@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:Geraldine.Jones@vdot.virginia.gov). Slides attached to file minutes.

## Agency Updates

### VDOT

Mr. Komara gave the following update:

- Improve81.org is a source for improvement projects along the interstate.
- The auxiliary lanes from Exit 220 to 221 require the Barterbrook Road bridge to be replaced; plans are in process.
- Variable message boards are being added along I-81.
- Rt 250 Bell Creek bridge project (near Jake’s Store) is progressing very well and is on-schedule, expected to finish in summer 2021.
- Waynesboro Park & Ride lot project pre-construction meeting held in February; construction to begin in spring/summer.
- Rt 703 bridge replacement has been awarded to Kanawha Stone and construction will begin this summer.
- Safety improvements on 6 miles of Rt 340 from Crimora to Grottoes to include shoulder widening and rumble strips bids have been received; B&S will begin in the summer.

- I-81 Exit 235 access improvements (SMART SCALE project) right turn lanes from Rt 256 onto the ramps will go out for advertisement in the Spring.
- Mill Place dual left turn lanes are scheduled for next summer.
- TAP and Revenue Sharing application time is near; projects that may be too small for SMART SCALE may be good for one of these programs.

Mr. Campbell gave the following update:

- District staff will keep updated with the Multimodal Project Pipeline prioritization policy and how it will affect the district.
- SMART SCALE – There was an error in environmental scoring; the State corrected the error and issued a new funding scenario. This had a positive effect on the Waynesboro Broad Street project which was moved into the recommended funding scenario. SAWMPO received 10 projects for a total of \$51.5 million out of \$80.8 million (62% of the Stanton district funding).
- Draft Six-Year Improvement Plan with those projects and scheduling of the Spring Transportation meetings will be scheduled in the next few weeks.
- Downtown Stanton STARS study had a productive team meeting to go over the existing conditions and safety analysis; an interim meeting is scheduled for next week with City staff to go over some of the recommendations and the third study team meeting will be held in April/May.
- Transportation Alternatives – the pre-application window is scheduled to be open in the portal from May 17<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Pre-application is a requirement. The full application deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Revenue Sharing – there is a workshop webinar for local governments scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10-Noon; a registration link is on the webpage for the program.

Mr. Beard added that there is a TAP workshop scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> from 10-Noon.

#### DRPT

No representative was present to report.

#### Transit

Ms. Thompson gave the following updates:

- FY22 DRPT Grant Applications were submitted on February 1 and are being reviewed by DRPT staff. Grant applications are being submitted for Urban (5307), Rural (5311) and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Funds, and for Technical Assistance to complete the Transit Development Plan (TDP).
- In February, the CSPDC, in cooperation with the University of Virginia and TJPDC, conducted a public survey to determine the need for a Coworking Space located at the BRITE Transit Facility. Out of 359 respondents, 72% said that their work has shifted partially or entirely to telework and that 61% anticipate that this will continue in the future and that they would use a shared workspace 1-4 days per week. Shared workspace amenities that were indicated as desirable are privacy, security, enhanced technology and cleaning services. The Steering Committee will reconvene this month to discuss the survey results and next steps.



- There has been a slight increase in capacity on the buses from 20% to 50%, still allowing for social distancing.
- Tomorrow is Transit Driver Appreciation Day.

### **Other Business**

Chairperson Wood opened the floor for other business. Ms. Cundy stated that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is considering a rule change in the way metropolitan statistical areas are being defined. The proposed change to the MSA definition will not affect our status as an MPO or an urbanized transit provider. It will change the way OMB tracks other statistics. Ms. Cundy stated that she is not aware of any analysis of the effects of this change. PDC staff is tracking this.

The Census Bureau is also considering a change in the way they define urbanized areas. This change could possibly affect our MPO. Staff is tracking this proposed change.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Chairperson Wood stated that the Policy Board will meet on April 7<sup>th</sup> and the TAC on April 21<sup>st</sup>, both by videoconference.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Chairperson Wood asked if there was any additional business to come before the TAC. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann W. Cundy  
Director of Transportation



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**TO:** Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC  
**FROM:** Zach Beard, Transportation Planner  
**MEETING DATE:** April 21, 2021  
**RE:** **TAC Action Form #21-01: FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Release to Public Comment**

### RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the SAWMPO Policy Board release the draft FY 2022 UPWP for a 21-day public comment period.

### BACKGROUND

The UPWP is the annual work program and budget for the MPO. It details the administrative and planning activities to be undertaken during the fiscal year, and the federal, state and local funds used for these activities.

The TAC can make recommendations to MPO staff on the activities and funding levels in the UPWP during the annual update process. The proposed budget for FY 2022, and the FY 2021 budget for comparison, are below.

Revenues	FY 2021	FY 2022
FHWA PL	\$151,973	\$153,635
PL Carryover	\$69,295	\$109,102
FTA 5303	\$94,084	\$91,376
FTA 5303 Carryover	\$28,840	\$65,500
Totals	\$344,192	\$419,613

The FY21 budget focused on allocating funds to the 18-month 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update process, the 2045 VTrans update, and SMART SCALE applications. In FY22, the budget focus will shift to short range planning and developing the Exit 235 Small Area Study.

### NEXT STEPS

- May 5 – Policy Board releases the Draft FY 2022 UPWP to 21-day public comment
- June 2 – Policy Board approves the FY 2022 UPWP

### ATTACHMENT

[Draft FY 2022 UPWP](#)





**TO:** Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC  
**FROM:** Zach Beard, Transportation Planner  
**MEETING DATE:** April 21, 2021  
**RE:** **TAC Memo #21-06: FY 2021 Small Area Study Update**

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FY21 SAMWPO Area Study at Exit 235 in Weyers Cave will evaluate mid-term solutions to periodic congestion, and anticipate long-term corridor needs and intersection configurations to accommodate future growth along Weyers Cave Road (VA 256) between US 11 and Triangle Drive.

MPO staff selected Michael Baker International as the study consultant, and held a kick-off meeting on March 21, 2021. The study is scheduled to be complete in December 2021.

#### KICK OFF MEETING

Staff from the MPO, Augusta County, VDOT, BRITE, Blue Ridge Community College, and the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport participated in the kick-off meeting. The consultant reviewed the scope of work, study area characteristics, timeline, and study group input.

#### NEXT STEPS

Michael Baker will evaluate the interchange for potential innovative intersections and interchange designs, and develop conceptual drawings and cost estimates for select mid-term recommendations. Long-term Improvements will be developed for 2045 AM and PM peak hour traffic, with a focus on adding capacity to the existing bridge over I-81, improving operations of the ramp junctions, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Weyers Cave Road (VA 256).

The next meeting in July 2021 will summarize the existing conditions and review the preliminary concepts for the 2045 build and no-build scenarios.

#### ATTACHMENTS

- [March 31, 2021 Small Area Study Kick-off Meeting](#)
- [Small Area Study Statement of Need](#)





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**TO:** Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC  
**FROM:** Zach Beard, Transportation Planner  
**MEETING DATE:** April 21, 2021  
**RE:** **TAC Memo #21-07: Potential FY22 Studies**

## BACKGROUND

The FY 2021 Small Area Study is scheduled to be complete in December 2021. Staff requests that the TAC review two potential studies that are smaller in scope for the second half of FY22, and recommend one to advance to the Policy Board for inclusion in the FY22 UPWP.

## TWO POTENTIAL STUDIES

### *Regional Transportation Safety Plan*

VDOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is working with MPOs to develop region-specific Transportation Safety Plans. The plans are based on the state-level [Virginia 2017 – 2021 Highway Safety Plan](#), and are entirely federally-funded.

The first regional Transportation Safety Plan was completed for the [Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization \(RVTPO\) in 2019](#). The report highlights regional safety trends, crash data, crash locations, and countermeasures and implementation options that address infrastructure and behavioral safety issues. The SAWMPO has an opportunity to develop a similar plan, which could provide further data and analysis on safety issues in the region.

### *Bicycle and Pedestrian Greenway Connectivity Plan*

The City of Staunton, Augusta County, and the City of Waynesboro each have bicycle and pedestrian plans identifying non-motorized infrastructure improvements, and each locality has made progress in identifying and addressing their respective local multi-modal needs. Establishing the key segments to create a continuous multi-modal network between each locality is less understood.

A regional bicycle and pedestrian greenway connectivity plan would identify critical connectivity gaps between existing and funded greenway/shared use path segments in Staunton, the County, and Waynesboro. The report would not be a comprehensive MPO bicycle-pedestrian plan, but a connectivity study showing the existing multi-modal network for each locality, and identifying the most favorable locations for creating a continuous connection between each locality.

## NEXT STEPS

Staff will provide an overview of both plans and TAC input to the Policy Board at the May 5, 2021 Board meeting.

## ATTACHMENTS

- [Virginia 2017 – 2021 Highway Safety Plan](#)
- [RVTPO Transportation Safety Plan, 2019](#)