



Minutes
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Meeting
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA
June 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Member Jurisdiction Representatives					
	Augusta County		City of Staunton		Staff
	Butch Wells	✓	Carolyn Dull, Vice Chair	✓	Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director
✓	Pam Carter		Sharon Angle		Elizabeth McCarty, Deputy Director
	Vickie Moran		Rockbridge County	✓	Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation
✓	Leslie Tate	✓	Jay Lewis	✓	Jeremy Crute, Regional Planner
	Bath County	✓	Chris Slaydon	✓	Rebecca Joyce, Community Program Manager
✓	Edward Hicklin		Rockingham County	✓	Devon Thompson, Transit Planner*
	City of Buena Vista		Steven Schofield	✓	Hunter Moore, Regional Planner/GIS Coordinator*
	Billy Fitzgerald	✓	Sallie Wolfe-Garrison	✓	Olivia Raines, Housing Program Manager
	City of Harrisonburg	✓	Rhonda Cooper	✓	Gin Chandler, Finance Director
✓	Laura Dent		Vacant	✓	Rita Whitfield, Office Manager
	Richard Baugh		City of Waynesboro	✓	Paula Melester, Regional Planner*
	Adam Fletcher		Terry Short, Treasurer	✓	Grace Blanchard, Regional Planner*
	Highland County		Jim Shaw	✓	Devon Thompson, Transit Planner*
✓	David Blanchard*				
	City of Lexington				
✓	Frank Friedman, Chair				Others
	*Zoom Participants				

Call to Order

The June 21, 2022, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Frank Friedman. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, CSPDC members may participate in meetings of the CSPDC or its committees through electronic communication means. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Public Comment

Chairman Friedman opened the floor to the public for comments. There were no public comments.

Minutes

Chairperson Friedman presented the minutes from the April 18, 2022, CSPDC Commission meeting. There being no corrections or additions, Chairman Friedman declared the minutes approved as presented. Due to absence from the meeting, Ms. Dull abstained.

Chairman's Report

Under Chairman's Report, Chairman Friedman congratulated Ms. Cundy for being re-elected to the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (VAMPO) as Chair for an additional two years. He announced that this was Ms. Tate's last meeting representing Augusta County; and that Mr. Richard Baugh would be the new representative for the City of Harrisonburg, replacing Mr. Hirschmann, who had resigned from the Harrisonburg City Council due to health reasons.

Executive Director's Report

Under Executive Director's Report, Ms. Riedesel welcomed and introduced two new staff members: Kayla Snead, Fiscal Technician; and Ansley Heller, Transportation Planner.

Ms. Riedesel stated that the CSPDC has entered into a five-year lease to lease the second-floor office space at the BRITE Transit Facility in Fishersville to Augusta Health. She noted that as required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), income generated through the lease of the facility will go back into transit operations and programming. Ms. Riedesel stated that the large conference room at the facility was being used that day by Augusta County for their election primaries and will be used again in November for the general election.

Ms. Riedesel announced that the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) will hold its 2022 Summer Conference at the Hotel 24 South in Staunton. She noted that the theme of the Conference is "Leading Change Through Innovation and Technology." Ms. Riedesel stated that Staunton City Council member Carolyn Dull will provide the welcome and is helping with arrangements to bring in students from the Heifetz International Music Institute to perform for the group. She noted that if any Commission members wished to attend, to please let her know.

Ms. Riedesel ask Ms. Cundy to give an update on the Shenandoah Rail Trail project, a proposed 50-mile multiuse rail trail that would run from Broadway to Front Royal. Ms. Cundy gave an update on the status and funding for the project. She noted that the Virginia General Assembly had recently passed a budget for FY22-23 that is expected to include funding for the purchase of the Shenandoah Rail Trail corridor, a major recreation project that has been in the works since 2016. She stated that once the Governor signs the budget, the Rail Trail Partnership will begin negotiating with Norfolk Southern to purchase the corridor. Ms. Cundy noted that after the corridor is secured, construction on the Rail Trail can begin. She reported that they have also submitted a Congressionally directed funding request, or "earmark," for \$6 million to the Senate Appropriations Committee, with the assistance of Sen. Mark Warner's office, to fund the preliminary engineering phase of the project. The Partnership has also created a "Friends of the Trail" nonprofit corporation to assist in private fundraising for the project. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the corridor right-of-way reverting back to rail use if needed by Norfolk Southern.

Consideration of CSPDC Draft FY23 Budget

Chairperson Friedman presented for consideration the CSPDC Draft FY23 Budget. Ms. Chandler reviewed the Budget for FY23 (attached to file minutes). She noted that the Proposed Budget totals \$11 million, an increase of 75% from the revised FY22 Budget. Ms. Chandler stated that the two primary projects impacting this increase are the Bath-Highland Network Authority's Broadband Project, and the PDC's Housing Development Project. She stated that the FY23 Budget includes

an increase in the annual member assessment rate from 80 cents per capita to 81 cents per capita; a 1cent per year rate increase for five years approved by the Commission in 2019. Ms. Chandler noted that the FY23 Budget includes a 5% cost of living adjustment for benefited and non-benefited employees. She reported that employee health benefits are offered though Virginia's Local Choice program for government entities, and plans are administered by Anthem and Delta Dental. Ms. Chandler noted that health insurance premium rates for FY23 increased 8.5%, which is shared by the CSPDC and employee participants. She reviewed the funding and other revenue, noting that the budgeted FY23 revenue mix consists of 28.4% federal funding, 53.9% state funding, 7.3% local funding, and 10.4% other income. Some discussion ensued regarding transit fuel costs; grant funding opportunities for infrastructure; and local funding. Mr. Lewis moved to approve the FY23 Budget, noting that he substantially supports the Commission staff and the 5% COLA increase, but as an elected official in charge of taxpayers' dollars, he feels it is his responsibility to closely examine budget increases. He stated that as a business person, he understands the need for a cost-of-living increase with the rising costs of inflation and gas prices, but he felt the need to state his responsibility as an elected official. Ms. Dull seconded the motion. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Report on Executive Committee Elections

Chairman Friedman presented Report on Executive Committee Elections. He announced that the votes of the new Executive Committee members had been tabulated and the following seven members were elected to the Executive Committee for three-year terms to serve from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025: Terry Short, City of Waynesboro; Frank Friedman, City of Lexington; Edward Hicklin, Bath County; David Blanchard, Highland County; Carolyn Dull, City of Staunton; Billy Fitzgerald, City of Buena Vista; and Rhonda Cooper, Rockingham County. Chairperson Friedman stated that the newly elected Executive Committee will elect officers at their next meeting.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee Update and Presentation of Pandemic Response and Recovery Plan

Chairman Friedman presented the CEDS Committee Update and Presentation of Pandemic Response and Recovery Plan. Ms. McCarty gave an update on the CSPDC CEDS Strategy, noting that it is the region's five-year plan for economic development and ties into the CSPDC's designation as an Economic Development District under the Economic Development Administration (EDA). She noted that the CSPDC Board serves as the CEDS Committee and is responsible for developing and updating the CEDS on a regular basis. Ms. McCarty noted that one of the activities with the EDA CARES funding is developing a regional Pandemic Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. She stated that the CSPDC staff is in the process of finalizing the Central Shenandoah Pandemic Response and Recovery Plan, which is a companion document to the CEDS. Activities designed to address the EDD's immediate and long-term response to the COVID-19 pandemic including this plan, were funded through the EDA CARES ACT Recovery Assistance grant program. Ms. McCarty introduced the following key staff who served on the Pandemic Response and Recovery Plan Committee: Rebecca Joyce, Olivia Raines, Jeremy Crute, and Grace Blanchard. The Committee reviewed the recommendations, strategies and purpose of the Plan, noting that the Plan provides actionable strategies to the local communities in the region to help them recover from the current COVID-19 pandemic and become more resilient for future disruptions. The Committee noted that in addition to strategies, extensive data research and recommendations by Chmura Economics and Analytics are part of the plan; best management practices developed during the pandemic by businesses and local governments are also included; and the topic of resiliency in the

Plan is examined through the lens of resilient people, places, businesses, and services. Ms. Joyce reviewed the next steps, noting that the completed Plan will be available for viewing on the CSPDC's website later this summer.

SMART SCALE Resolutions of Support

Chairperson Friedman presented SMART SCALE Resolutions of Support for consideration (Resolutions attached to file copy). Ms. Cundy stated that SMART SCALE is a transportation performance evaluation program established by the General Assembly to rank local and regional transportation infrastructure projects and transit needs. She noted that SMART SCALE established a competitive, performance driven evaluation process for transportation and transit projects focusing on the areas of safety improvement, congestion reduction, accessibility, land use, economic development, and the environment. Ms. Cundy reviewed the following applications submitted this year, as follows:

- US 501 and US 60 Pedestrian Improvements in Buena Vista;
- US 11 Pedestrian Improvements in Rockbridge County;
- US 33/Island Ford Road Partial RCUT in Rockingham County; and
- US 33/Rockingham Park Way and Route 276/Route 610 RCUTS in Rockingham County.

She noted that the SMART SCALE application cycle closes on August 1, 2022. Mr. Slayden moved, seconded by Ms. Wolfe-Garrison, to approve the Resolutions of Support for the 2022 SMART SCALE applications from the CSPDC. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Agreement Between CSPDC and Alleghany County

Chairperson Friedman presented the Agreement between the CSPDC and Alleghany County (attached to file minutes). He stated that several months ago, Alleghany County Administrator inquired on behalf of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors about joining the CSPDC as a member jurisdiction. He noted that Alleghany County is a member of the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission and borders the CSPDC region. Chairperson Friedman stated that a meeting with members of the Alleghany Board of Supervisors and three Commission members was held to discuss this request, at which they agreed to the attached proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the CSPDC and Alleghany County, through which Alleghany County could contract with the CSPDC for its planning services on an ad hoc basis. He stated that there was one amendment to the Agreement to include the following sentence: "This Agreement will renew annually unless, one or both parties wish to terminate the Agreement with ample notice." Ms. Dull moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the Agreement between the CSPDC and Alleghany County as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Virginia FOIA Revisions and Virtual Meetings

Chairman Friedman presented for consideration Virginia FOIA Revisions and Virtual Meetings. Ms. Riedesel stated that the General Assembly has passed, and the Governor has signed HB444 into law, which will allow electronic meetings for appointed public bodies like the CSPDC. She noted that these electronic meeting provisions can only be used for two, or 25 percent of the public body's meetings per year, whichever is greater and will take effect September 1, 2022. Ms. Riedesel stated that according to the new law, the CSPDC is eligible to hold up to two meetings

virtually each year. Discussion ensued regarding potential months to hold virtual meetings due to inclement weather and lack of a quorum.

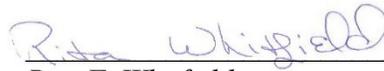
Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRP) (BAF #21-11)

Chairperson Friedman presented for consideration Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRP). Ms. Riedesel presented an application submitted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for Draft SPR Work Program for FY23. VDOT has submitted its annual work program for review and comment for a grand total of \$33,885,414. She stated that the proposed programs comply with state and federal regulations and set forth planning funding for both state and local agencies, such as the Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO, Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO, and annual Rural Transportation Program Grant. Ms. Tate moved, seconded by Ms. Wolfe-Garrison, to endorse the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rita F. Whitfield
Clerk to the Commission