



Minutes
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting by Zoom
February 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: 30

	Augusta County		Rockbridge County		Staff
✓	Butch Wells	✓	Jay Lewis	✓	Zach Beard
✓	Pam Carter	✓	Chris Slaydon	✓	Philippe Bone
✓	Julia Hensley		Rockingham County	✓	Jeremy Crute
	Bath County		Sallie Wolfe-Garrison	✓	Ann Cundy
	Lynn Ellen Black		Joel Hensley	✓	Danielle Gannon
	City of Buena Vista	✓	Rachel Salatin	✓	Elizabeth Goodloe
✓	Tyson Cooper	✓	Kim Sandum	✓	Donnie Kern
	City of Harrisonburg		City of Staunton	✓	Rachel Kinzer
✓	Laura Dent	✓	Brad Arrowood	✓	Paula Melester
✓	Nasser Alsaadun	✓	Sharon Angle	✓	Kimberly Miller
✓	Adam Fletcher		City of Waynesboro	✓	Rich Sagui
	Highland County	✓	Terry Short, Treasurer	✓	Carrie Sensabaugh
✓	Henry Budzinski, Vice Chair	✓	Leslie Tate	✓	Devon Thompson
	City of Lexington				Others
✓	Frank Friedman, Chair			✓	Andy Zipser

Call To Order

The Commission meeting of February 3, 2025, was called to order on Zoom at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Frank Friedman.

Public Comment

Chair Friedman opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments.

Consideration of Minutes

Chair Friedman presented the minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 2024. There being no comments or objections, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

Chair Friedman welcomed new Commissioners, Ms. Sallie Wolfe-Garrison, representing Rockingham County, Mr. Nasser Alsaadun, representing the City of Harrisonburg, and Mr. Brad Arrowood, representing the City of Staunton.

Chair Friedman mentioned that the Executive Committee three-year terms expire at the end of June. As outlined in the Commission Bylaws, an election will be held by mail to elect the members of the Executive Committee from nominees identified by each locality. The newly elected Executive Committee will begin their new three-year term effective on July 1st. Chair Friedman asked Commissioners to watch for the ballot to be mailed in April and return it quickly to ensure a timely

election process. Ms. Cundy affirmed the summary and mentioned the importance of the Executive Committee in managing tasks between the Commission meetings.

Executive Director's Report

Under the Executive Director's Report, Ms. Cundy welcomed new commissioners and reported on the following items:

1. Grant Applications: Staff assisted the Town of Bridgewater and the City of Staunton with BUILD (formerly RAISE) grant applications that would bring \$20,155,445 in infrastructure investments to the region.
2. Transit Grants: The transit team submitted eight grants totaling \$2,506,710 for the BRITE and Afton Express buses for FY26. These funds will cover operating expenses for the system, purchase new bus shelters, fund marketing campaigns for Afton Express, and support staff with the procurement of a new contracted service provider to begin July 1, 2026.
3. Public Engagement: The CSPDC launched a new Social Pinpoint public engagement website for sharing the Regional Housing Study and upcoming implementation opportunities. A unique page for the SAWMPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan will be added soon.
4. SMART SCALE Projects: Ms. Cundy reported that VDOT staff presented a recommended funding scenario to the CTB in January that included four significant projects in the region:
 - SAWMPO:
 - Waynesboro Transit Access Project (City of Waynesboro): \$2.6 million
 - Route 256/I-81 Interchange: Three Lane Bridge (Augusta County): \$19.4 million
 - HRMPO:
 - Mt. Clinton Pike Corridor Safety (City of Harrisonburg): \$12.3 million
 - Port Republic Road at I-81 Exit 245 (Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO): \$10.5 million
5. Federal Grants Freeze: Ms. Cundy reported that staff are monitoring the situation and staying in close contact with state and federal agency staff, as well as staff from Senator Warner's office. She noted that CSPDC has adequate cash reserves to weather a 90-day pause if it were to be reinstated.

Treasurer's Report

Chair Friedman presented for consideration the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer, Mr. Short asked Mr. Kern to provide a report of the Financial Statements as of October 31, 2024. Mr. Kern noted that the CSPDC has had a strong start to the fiscal year. He noted a loss of revenue of \$27,000 that is due to programs to which the PDC has been unable to recognize revenues due to the timing of invoices against grants. Mr. Kern mentioned that the budget amounts were updated to incorporate additional Lewis Street Hub funding, and the PDC will begin working on its FY 26 budget in February.

Mr. Short moved, seconded by Mr. Cooper, to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan (BAF #25-01)

Chair Friedman presented the Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan. Ms. Gannon presented information regarding the plan, noting it is a DRPT requirement for agencies to receive funding. The plan was previously presented to the Board of Commissioners in December.

Ms. Tate moved, seconded by Ms. Hensley, to approve the Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of CSPDC Regional Housing Study Acceptance (BAF #25-02)

Chair Friedman presented the Regional Housing Study. Mr. Crute presented the region's first comprehensive housing study, developed with the Virginia Center for Housing Research and Housing for Virginia through a \$100,000 community impact grant. The study includes data profiles for each subregion, actionable housing strategies for local communities, and two reports: a consumer report summarizing key findings and a technical report with detailed analysis.

Mr. Crute announced that a webinar is scheduled for February 26th at 11:00 a.m. to present detailed findings. He offered to present specific findings to individual localities upon request.

Chair Friedman presented the Regional Housing Study. Mr. Crute presented the region's first comprehensive housing study, noting this stemmed from needs expressed by many localities to better quantify housing issues and receive guidance to inform policy decisions. The study was funded through a \$100,000 community impact grant from Virginia Housing, which enabled the CSPDC to engage the Virginia Center for Housing Research and Housing for Virginia as consultants.

Mr. Crute explained that the study was divided into two main phases: the first created data profiles for each subregion by analyzing housing data and engaging with stakeholders to understand housing issues facing localities; the second phase developed actionable housing strategies identifying proactive next steps for both the region and local communities to address identified housing issues. He noted that the findings and recommendations were published in two separate but interrelated reports: 1) a consumer report summarizing key findings and recommended strategies, and 2) a technical report providing more detailed analysis and action steps. Both reports are now available on the new CSPDC Connect website powered by Social Pinpoint.

Mr. Crute announced that a webinar is scheduled for February 26th at 11:00 a.m. to present detailed findings, featuring Mel Jones and Jonathan Knopf from the consultant team and a representative from Virginia Housing. In response to a question from Chair Friedman, Mr. Crute clarified that the webinar would provide an overview of the data and regional housing strategies, though time constraints would prevent detailed discussion of strategies for all 21 localities. He offered to present specific findings to individual localities upon request, including presentations to town councils, boards of supervisors, or other interested groups.

Mr. Crute confirmed that the webinar recording would be made available on the CSPDC Connect website. He expressed hope that the study would serve as a useful resource to empower communities to tackle housing issues, improving residents' lives and strengthening local economies. Staff recommended Commission acceptance of the regional housing study as presented.

Mr. Short moved, seconded by Mr. Arrowood, to accept the Regional Housing Study. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation: Investments in the Region

Chair Friedman presented the Investments in the Region presentation and introduced Ms. Rachel Kinzer. Ms. Kinzer presented the annual Investments in the Region Report, noting that the full report would be linked in the Zoom chat for commissioners to review. She explained that each year the CSPDC compiles this report to assess the Commission's impact on the region and track progress in securing state and federal investments. The report spans the last four fiscal years, accounting for the total amount of external funding the CSPDC has brought to the area, broken down by program area and subregion.

Ms. Kinzer reported that since the beginning of the 2021 fiscal year, the CSPDC has helped bring in more than \$93 million in outside investments, including \$35.5 million in the past year alone. This represents a return of \$98 in state and federal funds for every dollar received in local assessments over the last four years, which is the highest return since the CSPDC began tracking investments in 2010. She highlighted that a significant portion of the increase in funding is due to Smart Scale, which helped fund several large transportation projects in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham area in the 2024 fiscal year. From the programmatic breakdown presented, Ms. Kinzer noted that:

- 74% of the total investments over the past four years have been dedicated to transportation and transit projects
- Nearly 20% of the funding has gone toward economic and community development, including:
 - A \$2 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security for emergency communication equipment in Bath County
 - Close to \$2 million for the renovation of the Virginia Innovation Accelerator in Buena Vista
- The remaining 6% of total investments have been directed toward environmental and disaster mitigation efforts and housing-related projects.

Ms. Kinzer concluded by expressing that the CSPDC is excited to continue serving localities and leveraging more external funding in the years ahead.

Mr. Budzinski noted that the \$2 million communications grant for Bath County is a joint venture with Highland County and includes collaboration with Pendleton and Pocahontas counties in West Virginia.

Other Business

Chair Friedman asked if there was any other business.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the body, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Miller, Commission Clerk