

Appendix F: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

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.

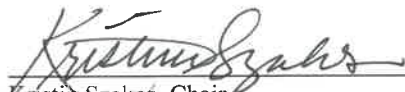
**Article 5
Modification**

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:

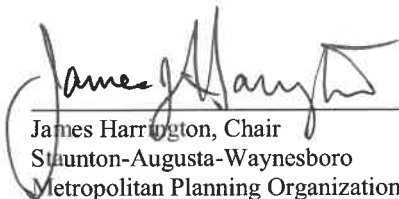
ATTEST:



Kristin Szakoś, Chair
Charlottesville-Albemarle
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