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## HEPMPO LRTP Update Kick-off Meeting

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Wednesday, January 27, 2021

10:00am – 12:00pm

### Attendees:

Jill Baker, Washington County  
Rebecca Bankard, MBI  
Elaine Bartoldson, EPTA  
Ian Beam, MDOT TSO  
Jim Bender, City of Hagerstown  
Daniel Boberek, MBI  
Jennie Brockman, Jefferson County  
Tyson Byrne, MDOT TSO  
Brian Carr, WV DOT  
Ken Clohan, WV DOT  
Kevin Donohue, HEPMPO  
Edward Erfurt, City of Ranson  
Megan Flick, City of Hagerstown  
Jim Frazier, MBI  
Daryl Hennessy, City of Charles Town  
Scott Hobbs, Washington County  
Dana Keith, City of Martinsburg

Chris Kinsey, WV DOT  
Kenana Korkutovic, Franklin County MPO  
Jaime McKay, MDOT MTA  
Pam Mohn, Washington County  
Matt Mullenax, HEPMPO  
Elwood Penn- WV DOT  
David Schlie, MDOT SHA  
Amanda Sink, EPTA  
Karlie Shannon, MDOT MTA  
Kevin Sullivan, WV DOT  
Dan Szekeres, MBI  
Michelle Tarquino, PennDOT District 8  
Steve Thomas, Franklin County MPO  
Sean Varsolona, MDOT SHA  
Heather Williams, Berkeley County

### Introduction & Welcome

Matt Mullenax welcomed attendees to the Kick-off Meeting for the LRTP update, called “Direction 2050”, and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. He invited attendees to introduce themselves.

### Project Team

Jim Frazier introduced the project team for the LRTP update.

- Project Manager – Jim Frazier
- Deputy Project Manager – Dan Szekeres
- Deep bench of MBI Staff will provide expertise in which ever specialty is needed.
- Four Subcontractors – Two are new for this LRTP update:
  - Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning will provide transit support.
  - Fehr & Peers DC (new) will provide active transportation and safety support

- EBP (new) will provide freight planning support.
- Integrated Designs, Inc. specializes in public involvement.

### Role of Technical Advisory Committee

Jim described the role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and stressed how important their participation and insights are in the formation of the LRTP. The TAC will help form future planning decisions and ensure that the LRTP is consistent with Maryland and West Virginia plans and priorities.

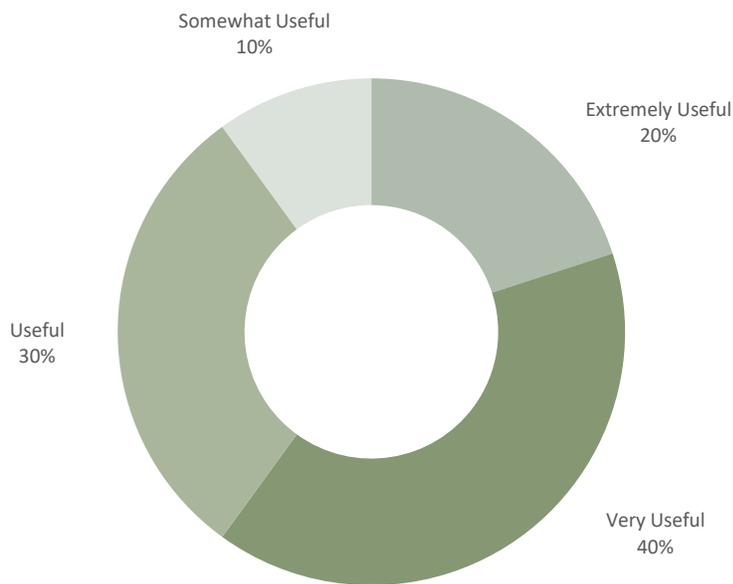
### What is the LRTP?

Dan Szekeres provided background on LRTPs, including its purpose and role. He described the HEPMPO planning area, which includes:

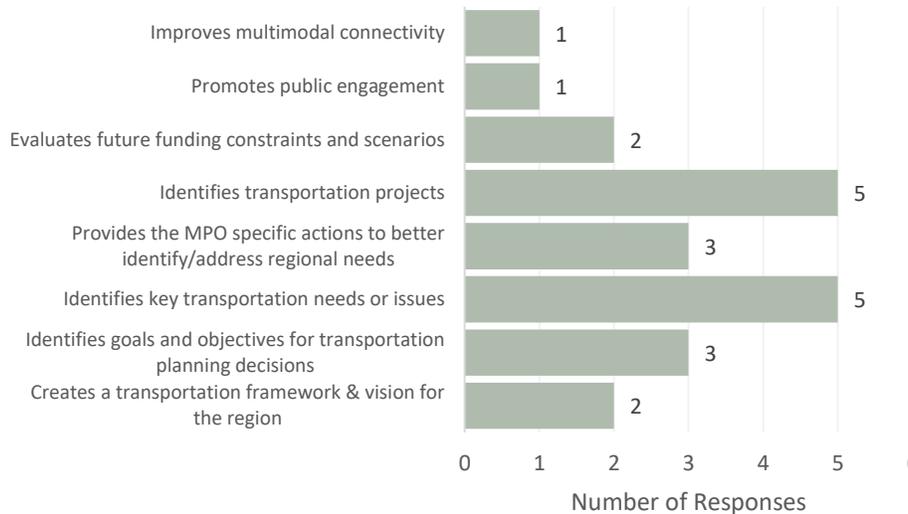
- Washington County, Maryland;
- Jefferson County, West Virginia; and
- Berkeley County, West Virginia.

He also noted that while Franklin County, Pennsylvania is not part of the planning area, the Hagerstown urbanized area extends into Pennsylvania. Because of this, there is a need to coordinate on regional issues and the LRTP planning process.

Attendees were asked how useful the HEPMPO LRTP is to transportation planning.



Attendees were asked what is the most important role of the LRTP.



### Project Work Tasks and Schedule Overview

Dan Szekeres discussed the LRTP Components that will guide the consultant team’s tasks. He stressed that performance measures are one of the biggest areas of emphasis for planning agencies and DOTs across the country. While performance measures were integrated into the last LRTP, he noted that it is important to look for ways to further implement and track projects in the HEPMPO Region.

Dan also discussed the data that will be included in the plan as well as any state and local plans that will be reviewed as part of the LRTP update process. Attendees were asked to provide additional plans, data, or resources that should be considered when updating the LRTP. Attendees identified:

- MDOT’s Consolidated Transportation Plan
- Franklin County’s 2017 LRTP
- Comprehensive Plans
- I-81 Improvement Strategy in South Central Pennsylvania
- Maryland Freight Plan
- Maryland Rail Plan
- Ranson’s Rail Feasibility Study for Commuter and Freight Rail at Jefferson Orchards

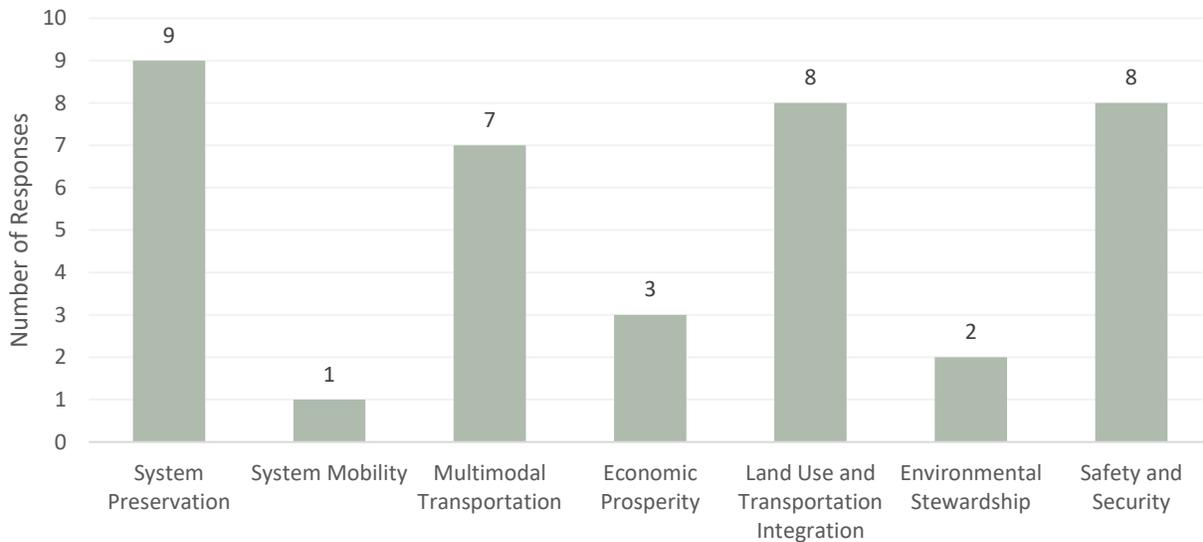
It was noted that some of the plans identified will be updated during the LRTP update process. Dan mentioned that the schedule will allow for plans that are underway to be incorporated. He also noted that the schedule follows the traditional steps and has two major public outreach periods. One early in the process and one towards the end of the process to review the draft and final report. There will be 3 public

meetings during each period – one per county. However, the meetings may be consolidated if the meetings are virtual.

## Evaluate Goals & Objectives

Dan Szekeres mentioned that upfront we would want to decide on goals and objectives for the region and LRTP. It will guide the actions and help to identify and prioritize projects. He noted that national goals and planning factors must be considered when developing the LRTP goals. Once goals are established, objectives will be developed on how to meet these goals. Specific performance measures will be developed to track goals and objectives as well as help to lay out specific actions for the MPO, DOT, and local municipalities to move forward and better meet the goals and objectives. Dan noted that this will be a focus of future meetings.

Dan reviewed the goals identified in Direction 2045 LRTP. He mentioned that efforts need to be made to ensure that the LRTP goals match the goals identified by both Maryland and West Virginia. Attendees were asked to identify their highest priority goals as an agency representative for the LRTP Process and local knowledge of the HEPMPO region.



Dan mentioned that each goal includes specific objectives that layout key strategies. He provided a brief overview of the objectives identified in the Direction 2045 LRTP. Attendees were asked if there should be updates to the HEPMPO goals and objectives. Matt Mullenax mentioned the linkage between land use and transportation. He brought up MDOT SHA’s [Context Driven Guide](#) and that projects should fit into the land use context of the region. Other suggestions included:

- More well integrated public transportation opportunities between adjoining or overlapping systems
- No topical changes to goals, just a greater emphasis on system preservation

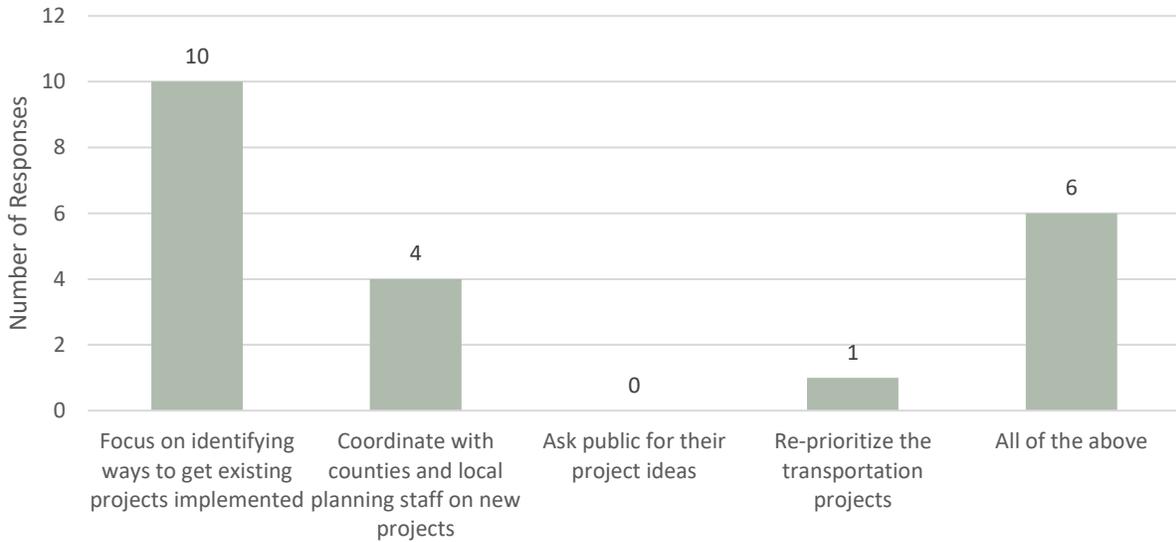
Additional comments and feedback related to the objectives can be provided to Matt Mullenax.

### Review of *Direction 2045* Project Recommendations

Matt Mullenax provided an update on projects that were identified in *Direction 2045* LRTP and are advancing and will likely move to E+C in each of the 3 counties, which included:

- 6 projects in Berkeley County
- 6 projects in Jefferson County
- 4 projects in Washington County

Attendees were asked how much effort should be placed on identifying new transportation projects in the region for the LRTP update.



### New Areas of Emphasis

Dan Szekeres mentioned that this was going to be the main topic of this meeting and wanted this to be an opportunity to brainstorm enhancements and changes to the plan. Dan identified some potential forces that will affect transportation. While there may not be answers to all of these forces, he mentioned that it was opportunity to consider long term needs in the region.

Attendees were asked if there were other national, regional, or local issues that should be addressed in the LRTP. Attendees identified:

- Regional Transit – MARC and other commuting efforts
- Budget cuts due to Covid-19 and prioritization of projects
- Revised schedules and service schedule changes for long commute areas
- Impact of telework

- CAVs and other technology
- Zero Emission Vehicles & Alternative Fuel Infrastructure
- GHG emissions

Elwood Penn mentioned WVDOT is applying for I-81 to be designated by FHWA as an EV Corridor Ready - Alternate Fuel Corridor. Dan gave an overview of areas that will be emphasized during this LRTP process. He indicated that some are slightly different than in the past.

Attendees were asked what other topic areas should be addressed or expanded on in the LRTP. Ideas can be provided to Matt Mullenax.

## New Look for LRTP

Dan Szekeres discussed ways to create a more streamline document that would be easier to maintain and update as well as better ways to convey it online. Dan mentioned using a StoryMap, similar to [I-81 & I-70 TSMO Study](#), that would be more interactive. He also indicated that the document would be more graphic focused and less text heavy than previous plans.

Attendees shared examples of other StoryMaps:

- [Foxcroft Avenue Pedestrian Road Safety Assessment](#)
- [Corridor Types in Lancaster County](#)

## Public Involvement

Jim Frazier discussed strategies for public engagement. The HEPMPO LRTP Website, which will be similar to [I-81 Improvement Strategy](#), will track phases and timelines as well as provide information so the public can stay up to date on the LRTP. MetroQuest and Intercept Surveys will be used again for gathering public input. A draft of the survey will be sent to the TAC for feedback and input.

Dan Szekeres also mentioned that the MetroQuest and Intercept Surveys were both successful in generating public feedback. There were over 340 people who completed the MetroQuest Survey and over 170 who completed the Intercept Survey, resulting in over 500 comments that could be used.

Attendees were asked what information should be asked from the public for this LRTP update. Ideas can be provided to Matt Mullenax.

## Next Steps

Jim Frazier mentioned that the next meeting will focus on the existing condition analysis. He asked that attendees please share any information or data. Goals and objectives will be evaluated based on comments from this meeting.

Matt Mullenax closed out the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and noted that any comments or suggestions could be sent to him. Matt mentioned that he will be reaching out to their federal partners for future TAC Meetings and that a rough timeline of meetings can be found in the scope of work.

