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For Immediate Release
June 25, 2014

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HDPT Conducts Route Study and Seeks Input

Harrisonburg, VA – For the past several months, the Harrisonburg Department of Transportation (HDPT) has been evaluating its routes and efficiency.

This study was conducted by Renaissance Planning Group on behalf of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization and HDPT in an effort to examine the city's current system to see what, if any, changes need to be made. The existing routes, performance, schedules, accessibility, and efficiency were studied to highlight HDPT's positive performance and identify areas for improvement.

Currently, the city operates transit services year-round and transports nearly 3 million passengers yearly. There are five city routes, 29 routes to and from James Madison University, and a paratransit service that runs consistently with additional trips made for special events.

"This study has taken a very comprehensive look at the services we provide and given suggestions on ways to improve those services," said Avery Daugherty, HDPT Transit Superintendent.

One significant need that was identified by the consultant was to create an additional route, which would divide an existing, longer route (route 2) in half. This new route is proposed to begin at the East Gay Street transfer hub, serve James Madison University, Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital, and the Valley Mall shopping corridor.

Now that the study is complete with suggested recommendations, the public is invited to learn more about the study and provide comments during a public information session on **Thursday, July 10 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.** This will be held at the HDPT Administrative Building, 475 E. Washington St.

Those unable to attend can still review the study online and submit comments to AveryD@HDPT.com or by mail to 475 E. Washington St. Harrisonburg, VA 22802. An online forum has also been created and is available for online comments at www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org.

Transit service to the public information session on July 10 will be available by route 5 from the East Gay Street transfer hub at :28 after the hour through the duration of the event.

A copy of the full report is available by visiting www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org or www.hrvampo.org.

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