

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 - 6:00pm
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg
<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/>

A video recording of the meeting will be posted to the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) web page: <https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/citizens-transportation-advisory-committee/>

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Henry “Hank” Scharpenberg, Stafford County – Chair
Mr. Matthew Rowe, City of Fredericksburg – Vice Chair
Mr. Morgan Burch, Stafford County (remote attendance)
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County (remote attendance)
Mr. James Powell, Stafford County
Mr. David Swan, Stafford County
Mr. Jacob Clay, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Neil Holloran Spotsylvania County (remote attendance)
Mr. John Castellarin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. David McLaughlin, City of Fredericksburg
Ms. TaMara Banks, At-Large
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large
Ms. Jane Leeds, At-Large (remote attendance)
Mr. Dustin Savage, At-Large
Mr. Rodney Thomas, At-Large (remote attendance)

Committee Members Present but Unable to Fully Participate as Members:

N/A

Committee Members Absent:

Ms. Tara Durant, Stafford County
Mr. Micah Cunningham, Spotsylvania
Ms. Jeron Hayes, King George County
Mr. Joshua Brock, City of Fredericksburg
Ms. Patricia Encarnacion, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Justin Chenault, Caroline
Mr. Michael Hoyt, Caroline
Mr. Ken Pogue, Caroline
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large

Others Present:

Abbi Forshier, Remote Captioner

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner
Ms. Lana Bizeau, Transportation Planning Intern

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Scharpenberg at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the January 12, 2022 Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the agenda as presented
Motion: Mr. Rupert Farley; Second: Mr. Matthew Rowe
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

3. Approval of January 12, 2022 CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

David Swan pointed out an error on the Draft January 12, 2022 minutes, Item 4.a. *CTAC Member Comments on Mission, Priorities, Structure and Roles and Responsibilities*. CTAC members developing a mission statement for the February 9, 2022 meeting are David McLaughlin, John Castellarin and David Swan. The Draft minutes listed Joshua Brock instead of David Swan.

Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.
Motion: Mr. Rupert Farley; Second: Mr. David Swan
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Old Business

a. CTAC Mission Statement

A handout was provided from the three (3) members requested to develop a CTAC Mission Statement with two (2) Mission Statement options. A motion was made to adopt Option 2, which has a focus on Active Engagement of Committee Members: *The mission of CTAC is achieved through members' individual and collaborative efforts to engage the public to assess transportation needs and concerns, synthesize information garnered from the public, promote dialogue with elected officials, and advocate for improvements to the viability and accessibility of public transportation, safety for vehicular and pedestrian transit, and mitigation strategies for traffic congestion in our region.* After discussion, it was concluded that adoption of the mission statement did not alter the CTAC's Purpose contained in the current bylaws, and that it is not necessary for it to be formally added to the bylaws.

Motion was made to approve the Option 2 Mission Statement.
Motion: Mr. David McLaughlin; Second: Mr. Matthew Rowe
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

b. Status on Member Interest in focus groups: congestion mitigation, mass transit advocacy, or regional safety to include pedestrians and bicycles

Chair Scharpenberg provided a handout with Standard Operating Procedures for focus groups and discussed three (3) focus areas included in the new CTAC Mission Statement: Mass Transit, Regional Safety (motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians), and Congestion Mitigation. The following points were discussed:

- Focus area members may collaborate without gathering more than two (2) members at any time, to stay within the parameters of Virginia’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- The duration of the groups is indefinite, and members shared that the time demand is not unreasonable.
- Media presentations like videos that raise awareness and awaken people’s interest in these issues are part of the outreach efforts anticipated.

c. FAMPO’s use of Facebook

Mr. Farley explained his concerns with FAMPO’s use of Facebook in light of the news about Facebook's algorithms being used to spread misinformation and hate.

Chair Scharpenberg shared that what CTAC should be concerned about is whether FAMPO’s messages are modified or altered.

Mr. Ollis advised attendees that FAMPO uses Facebook, Twitter and Linked In. To his knowledge, no one has distorted any of FAMPO’s current messaging.

Mr. Burch asked attendees to consider what CTAC’s purpose is as an advisory committee for transportation. FAMPO communicates to the public and utilizes publicly accessible platforms.

Mr. Holloran reminded CTAC of a presentation made to the Policy Committee during their November 2021 meeting that provided statistics for Facebook.

Excerpts from the November 15, 2021 Policy Committee meeting, Agenda item 8.d. *Public Involvement Activity Summary*: Between January 2021 and October 2021, FAMPO placed 41 ads at a cost of \$353, and reached 14,136 people in the region. Staff posted 325 messages, livestreamed 14 videos and covered 41 events. FAMPO followers totaled 1,087, with an increase of 239 over a two-year period.

Motion for CTAC to recommend the Policy Committee investigate continued use of Facebook due to their hate-oriented algorithms.

Motion: Mr. Rupert Farley; Second Mr. Rodney Thomas

Motion votes after roll call: Yes Votes Three (3); No Votes Eight (8); Abstain Votes Two (2)

d. Congestion Pricing

Mr. Farley explained that Federal Regulations currently prohibit congestion pricing. The weather event of January 3, 2022 is an additional incentive to add to the benefits of congestion pricing.

Ms. Golden provided an explanation of Congestion Pricing that is a method to mitigate congestion using a portable and temporary detection system that could charge for road use on existing roads.

James Powell pointed out the impact of Congestion Pricing on local roads, with local drivers being severely impacted by the diversion of traffic from major roadways.

Chair Scharpenberg explained that Congestion Pricing is an economic burden on people who don't have an option to travel in a non-congested period of time.

Mr. Burch asked attendees two things. One, to not draw parallels between the hot lane congestion pricing that is completely controlled by a private entity. The second is to amend the original motion to send two (2) letters. He suggested one letter be sent to Congressman Rob Wittman and one to Delegate Tara Durant asking them to form Legislative Committees to review congestion pricing, make a decision on its implementation, and inform the public accordingly.

Mr. Powell and Mr. Clay both agreed that there are only two (2) routes that go north and south: I-95 and Route 1. Many choose not to use the Express Lanes for the high cost, and if motorists can't use I-95, they divert to Route 1. Congestion pricing would bog down local residents and businesses, as well as commuters who drive to Northern Virginia and Southern Virginia.

Friendly Amendment to the Motion: Direct FAMPO staff to send two (2) letters: One to Congressman Rob Wittman and one to Delegate Tara Durant asking them to form Legislative Committees to review congestion pricing, make a decision on its implementation, and inform the public accordingly.

Friendly Amendment Motion: Mr. Morgan Burch; Second Mr. Dustin Savage

Friendly Amendment Motion does not pass with three (3) Yes Votes and all others Voting No

Motion to send a letter to the Policy Committee for them to advocate congestion pricing to the state for adoption.

Motion: Mr. Rupert Farley; Second Mr. Jacob Clay

Motion does not pass with two (2) Yes Votes and all others Voting No

6. Review of January 24, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Ollis provided summaries of the following items:

- Update from VDOT on the I-95 Northbound variable speed limit project.
- The Policy Committee approved new project selection processes for the two (2) major project funding sources: CMAQ funding, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding and STGB, Surface Transportation Block Grant funding.
- Staff issued a “call for projects” for each jurisdiction to send FAMPO one new active transportation project each.
- Staff briefed the Policy Committee on two (2) regional studies. The Policy Committee approved funding through Resolution 22-17 Approving Additional Funding Allocations for the FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study and Preliminary Engineering for the Virginia Central Railway Trail Tunnel/Bridge Crossing Study.
- The 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan was authorized to be opened for public comment.
- Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for funding of several projects was authorized to be open for public comment.
- The Policy Committee elected a new Vice Chair, Ms. Meg Bohmke representing Stafford County.
- The Policy Committee approved a letter to the Attorney General of Virginia regarding their bylaws.

7. Public Comment

The Chair asked if there were any public comments, and there were none.

8. Member Discussion

a. Congestion Management Process 2021 Update

Ms. Golden introduced Lana Bizeau, FAMPO's Transportation Planning Intern who was instrumental in completing the Congestion Management Process (CMP) update. This is an appendix in the Draft 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan. The CMP includes maps that show congestion and safety measures on the region's interstate, principal arterials, and minor arterials. Strategies and projects programmed for CMP corridors are also included.

b. Requesting 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Comments No Later than February 28, 2022

Mr. McLaughlin pointed out that all items under agenda item 8. were discussion items and none are Action items as shown on the Draft Agenda. He also explained the differences between Resolution 22-25 and 22-26.

c. Staff Seeking Public Comments:

i. Fiscal Years 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Resolution 22-25 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add UPC 120524, New Park & Ride Lot near I-95 Exit 133 and UPC 120644; Rt 1 STARS - Rt. 3 Off-Ramp / Spotsylvania Ave Improvements

Resolution 22-26 Approving amendments to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to add UPC T-26254, FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study – Phase II, UPC 111682, Preliminary Engineering For the Virginia Central Railway Trail Tunnel/Bridge Crossing Study, And Five New Fredericksburg Regional Transit Projects

ii. FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Ollis explained that Resolution 22-26 closes a public comment period and 22-25 opens a new public comment period. Agenda item 8. c. ii., FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program, is Resolution 22-24 and closes a public comment period.

Mr. Burch asked if the Park and Ride Lot in Resolution 22-25, UPC 120524, is the same commuter lot at Old Forge. Mr. Lehane confirmed it is the same project recommended through the STARS process identified in 2018.

7. Public Comment

The Chair asked if there were any public comments, and there were none.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Lehane advised attendees he is taking a new position effective February 14, 2022.

10. Member Reports

Chair Scharpenberg encouraged feedback on the Draft Standard Operating Procedures for focus groups that was handed out during agenda item 4. b.

11. Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting March 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
Motion: Mr. Matthew Row; Second Mr. David Swan.
Motion passes by unanimous consent.

FAMPO committee meetings are open to the public. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact FAMPO at 540-642-1235 or fampo@gwregion.org at least two days prior to the meeting. If hearing-impaired, telephone 1-800-273- 7545 (TDD).

Las reuniones del comité FAMPO están abiertas al público. La participación pública es solicitada sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o su estado familiar. Las personas que requieren alojamiento especial de acuerdo con el Americans with Disabilities Act, o personas que requieren servicios de traducción (libre de cargo) deben comunicarse con la FAMPO al 540-642-1235 o fampo@gwregion.org al menos dos días antes de la reunión. Personas con problemas auditivos, llamen al 800-273-7545 (TDD).