

POLICY COMMITTEE **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

February 28, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org

Committee Members Present: *(V) indicates voting member*

Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Chair, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Meg Bohmke, Second Vice-Chair, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Monica Gary, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford County (V)
Mr. Matthew Kelly, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. David Brown, alternate Representative City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT
Ms. Jamie Jackson, FRED
Mr. Hank Scharpenberg, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

Committee Members Present (remotely, without virtual participation request):

Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Lori Hayes, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, First Vice-Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Timothy Baroody, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Pamela Yeung, alternate Stafford County (V)
Mr. Darrell English, alternate Stafford County (V)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Mr. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Mr. Cedric Rucker, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Mr. Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Ms. Ciara Williams, alternate DRPT
Mr. Aidan Quirke, alternate FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County
Mr. Matthew Rowe, alternate CTAC

Others Present (remotely):

Mr. Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County
Mr. Alex Owsiak, Stafford County

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager
Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner II
Ms. Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner II

1. Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order

Chair McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair McLaughlin led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Ms. Chandler conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.

Chair McLaughlin asked staff to reduce the list of members for the vocal roll call to only those who are voting members or alternates of voting members. Mr. Ollis agreed to have a sign in roster for non-voting members in the future.

4. Approval of the February 28, 2022 Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the February 28, 2022 Policy Committee agenda.

Motion: Mr. Ross; Second: Ms. Vanuch
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Public Involvement

Mr. Ollis read comments received on February 20, 2022 from Brian Wilkerson.

6. Public Hearing

Comments and questions from members of the public related to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program, FY22 Unified Planning Work Program, and 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Ollis reported that a significant number of detailed technical comments have been received on the 2050 LRTP and that staff is incorporating changes that are relevant. Prior to the next Policy Committee meeting, all public comments will be published, along with the full 2050 LRTP.

Ms. Bohmke asked when the public comments would be available, and Mr. Ollis replied they are compiled and posted on the 2050 LRTP page as [Appendix J – Public Comments](#).

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of January 24, 2022 Policy Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Bohmke
Motion passes with unanimous consent.

8. FAMPO Administrator Report

Mr. Ollis reported that there are a number of bills in the Virginia State Legislature to reduce local and state taxes for various reasons. It is possible that funding for transportation projects may be impacted to make up for shortfalls in tax revenue, resulting from passage of these bills. He noted several key points of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) Fact Sheets from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) including a 2.5% set-aside on specified planning activities to increase safe and accessible options, Travel Demand Data and Modeling, and coordination of housing and transportation planning. He also highlighted Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED) first day of fare free service via a 4-year TRIP Grant from DRPT and CARES Act funding.

Mr. Ollis also reviewed upcoming work activities for staff:

- New Public Engagement and Title VI Coordinator has been hired
- Comment period closed for the 2050 LRTP
- Consultant studies to begin: East-West Mobility Study and VCR Trail Crossings
- Preparing for a 1-day Freight Summit to be held in the fall of 2022 to help address FAMPO's vision toward economic growth

Mr. Ollis then asked the Policy Committee this question: "What is the future transportation and planning vision for FAMPO?" and the board responded with:

- Incorporating new technologies in transportation
- Additional funding for transportation
- Exploring secondary road expansion. Example roads are Potomac Run and Brooke Road.
- Exploring the broader movement of people, instead of focusing on individual roads
- Move the jobs, not the people. Local economic development.

Mr. Kelly wanted to make sure that safety, particularly freight storage, is included as a priority during the Freight Summit. Mr. Ollis acknowledged the issue of storage of chemicals on rail spur lines in the City of Fredericksburg is one of the known concerns.

9. Action/Discussion Items

a. GWRC - FAMPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Mr. Ollis shared the document that renews the current business arrangement between FAMPO and GWRC. The committee had no comments or suggested changes.

- b. A Letter of the Fredericksburg Area MPO to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis summarized elements of the letter, seeking approval for staff to send to the Secretary of Transportation.

Motion to approve: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. Kelly
Motion passes with unanimous consent.

- c. SMART SCALE Round 5 Update

Ms. Barber presented the type of projects eligible for SMART SCALE funding, and the two-year process that includes scoring and approval processes. She presented the Round 4 project sketches and scope of each. The TAC will review the projects that will come to the Policy Committee at their May meeting for action.

- d. Transportation Alternatives Program

- 1. Presentation

- 2. Resolution 22-24 Allocating Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funding for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 within the Transportation Management Area (TMA) of Stafford County (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Barber presented on TMA projects eligible for TA funding. Two projects are allocated funding in Resolution 22-24: Flatford Road Sidewalk and Staffordboro Sidewalk.

Motion to approve Resolution 22-24: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. Ross
Motion passes with unanimous consent.

- e. FAMPO Regional Studies

- 1. Resolution 22-25 Approving the Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis explained the public comment period ended for amendments to the UPWP to add two (2) regional studies: FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study – Phase II, and Virginia Central Railway (VCR) Trail Bridge/Tunnel Crossing Study. No public comments were received.

Motion to approve Resolution 22-25: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Bohmke
Motion passes with unanimous consent.

- f. Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

- 1. Resolution 22-26 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Draft 2022 Congestion Management Process (CMP) (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis explained that Resolution 22-26 opens a 15-day comment period for Appendix H of the LRTP, the Congestion Management Process.

Motion to approve Resolution 22-26: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Gary
Motion passes with unanimous consent.

g. FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program Update

1. Resolution 22-27 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 / Spotsy Ave Improvements (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Chandler explained that Resolution 22-27 seeks Policy Committee approval to open a public comment period for two projects to be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Motion to approve Resolution 22-27: Ms. Bohmke; Second: Mr. Kelly
Motion passes with unanimous consent.

2. Resolution 22-28 Approving an amendment to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add UPC T-26254, FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study – Phase II, UPC 111682, Preliminary Engineering of the Virginia Central Railway Trail Tunnel/Bridge Crossing Study, and Five FREDericksburg Regional Transit Projects (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Chandler explained that Resolution 22-28 closes the public comment period for two projects requested from VDOT and five projects from FRED to be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), seeking Policy Committee approval of the TIP amendment.

Motion to approve Resolution 22-28: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch
Motion passes with unanimous consent.

h. Bylaw Discussion

Mr. Ollis shared the Attorney General's (AG's) response to the Policy Committee which states that MPO's are not able to seek direction from their office on matters such as by-laws. Mr. Kelly recommended that Ms. Tara Durant be the signator of the letter, since she is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from the 28th District, an entity for which the AG's office provides counsel. Chair McLaughlin directed staff to reach out to Ms. Durant, redraft the letter for her signature, and add to the March 28th Policy Committee meeting agenda.

10. Correspondence

11. Staff Reports

The Quarterly Report of the UPWP was included in the Policy Committee's packet.

12. Member Comments

Chair McLaughlin asked for consideration to change Policy Committee meetings to be on the same date as GWRC Board meetings, starting with the upcoming March meeting, to allow members who represent localities on both committees to fulfill their obligations one evening per month instead of two. Mr. Kelly and Ms. Bohmke both agreed this matter should be a formal agenda item to be considered deliberately at a future meeting.

Motion to hold the March meeting of the FAMPO Policy Committee on March 28th at 7:30, and add an agenda item that all future meetings be held on the same dates as the 6:00 pm GWRC Board meeting:

Motion: Mr. Ross; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passes 6 yeah votes / 5 nay votes

13. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: March 28, 2022 at 7:30pm

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. Ross

Motion passes with unanimous consent.