

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 4, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org

Committee Members Present:

Chairman Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County, remote attendance
Mr. Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Vice Chair Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Second Vice Chair Alex Owsiak, Stafford County
Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County
Mr. Nick Minor, King George County
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Mr. Nick Ruiz, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
Ms. Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Mr. Aidan Quirke, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Ms. Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect

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

Mr. Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County, remote attendance
Ms. Amy Garbarini, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Bryan Counsell, Stafford County
Ms. Kimberly Wilson, King George County
Mr. Mike Finchum, Caroline County
Mr. Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Mr. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Ms. Ciara Williams, DRPT
Mr. Jim Ponticello, VDOT
Mr. Dan Grinnell, VDOT
Dr. Bob Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, PRTC
Mr. R. Craig Reed, FRED
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Others Present:

Ms. Linda LaSut, VDOT, remote attendance
Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT
Mr. Colin Burch, VPRA
Mr. Devyn Bell

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
Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator
Ms. Lana Bizeau, Transportation Planning Intern

1. Call Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

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

3. Approval of the April 4, 2022 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the April 4, 2022 TAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Owsiak Second: Mr. White

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Approval of the March 7, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the March 7, 2022 TAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Brown Second: Mr. White

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Review of the March 28, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Ollis reviewed the Policy Committee meeting by summarizing the agenda. Mr. Ollis and two Policy Committee members will attend the Spring Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Public Meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022. The 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was endorsed and adopted by the Policy Committee. Resolution 22-30 to amend the 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 Improv, was approved. The Policy Committee appointed a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee at-large member and supported a letter for Stafford County's 2022 RAISE grant application. The committee made no decisions regarding the Policy Committee's bylaws and are expecting advice from the Attorney General via FAMPO's state delegate. Finally, the Policy Committee voted to maintain their meeting schedule so as not to conflict with the GWRC board meeting.

6. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

7. Action/Discussion Items

- a. Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Ridership Trends Before & During COVID – Nick Ruiz

Mr. Ruiz began his presentation by describing the Streetlight methodology used to identify trends in VRE ridership before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. He then described nine noteworthy trends. He especially emphasized three trends:

- Ridership decrease of the VRE Fredericksburg line was 15 percentage points less than that of Manassas line.
- Midday and evening weekend travel demand in both directions is about the same as the morning weekday inbound demand.
- Non-commute trips are driving demand to/from the core during middays and weekends.

Mr. Ruiz then presented a comparison of 2019 and 2020 origin-destination pairs for the Fredericksburg VRE line. Of note, ridership to Core decreased by 10% between 2019 and 2020. Mr. Ruiz speculated that the 2020 origin-destination pairs were indicative of essential travel for Department of Defense employees, with 8% of ridership between the Spotsylvania and Quantico stations and 10% between the Quantico and Union Station stations. Racial and income demographics of riders, as well as their times of ridership, remained largely unchanged between 2019 and 2020. Mr. Ruiz then presented data on the 2019 hourly volumes of riders accessing VRE stations and where the riders are coming from.

Mr. Haynes inquired about the influence of recent federal return to work initiatives on ridership. Ms. Hoeffner responded that Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays continue to be the busiest days as more federal offices return to in-person work.

b. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Project Selection Process Update – Jordan Chandler

1. Draft Allocations & Draft FY23-28 SYIP Budget

Ms. Chandler began by reviewing the progress to date on the draft CMAQ and STBG project selection. Since the last committee meeting, FAMPO staff organized a meeting between localities and VDOT to discuss overfunding issues based on cost estimates. Additional CMAQ and STBG funds were made available with the Draft FY23-28 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) Budget. Ms. Chandler then presented a spreadsheet of the draft SYIP funding impacts and FAMPO's proposals for CMAQ allocations.

Ms. Chandler then presented FAMPO's proposals for STBG allocations given the draft SYIP funding increases. Vice Chair Jackson summarized the discussion noting that the additional funds be allocated to fully fund the remaining needs amounts for: Harrison Rd VCR Trail, Staffordboro Blvd Sidewalk, and Bankside Trail Ph I; and use excess Previous through FY27 funds to fulfill the remaining need for Spotsylvania New Transit and Leased Commuter Parking Spaces. The residual amount was recommended to help reduce the need of \$1.4 Million for three bus replacements. FRED will seek other funding sources for the remaining balance.

Ms. Chandler presented FAMPO's proposals for STBG allocations given the draft SYIP funding increases. Mr. Ollis explained two requests from FAMPO for funds to close out the 2050 LRTP.

Ms. Gardner advised there are two projects that currently have shortfalls and questioned the allocation of STBG additional funds recommended by staff: Route 1 Exit 126 Southbound improvements (remaining need of \$1.3 Million), and Garrisonville Road Widening (remaining need of \$28.6 Million). Ms. Gardner identified shortfalls as follows: Onville Rd \$4 Million, and Rt 208 / Courthouse Rd / Hood Drive \$1 Million.

Mr. White advised attendees that Spotsylvania County is unaware of the shortfall for Route 208 / Courthouse Rd / Hood Dr project and asked VDOT for more information.

Mr. Owsiak advised committee members that Stafford County is unaware of the shortfall for Onville Rd.

FAMPO Staff advised the committee that they are unaware of the funding shortfalls mentioned by VDOT.

Ms. Chandler concluded by outlining next steps for Draft FY23-28 CMAQ - STBG - HIP Allocations. In May, the TAC endorsement and Policy Committee approval will pass off the allocations to CTB approval in June. FY24-29 Call for Projects will begin in September. Mr. Ollis reminded the committee to complete cost estimate adjustments so that FAMPO staff may finalize funding allocations. Ms. Chandler advised the committee that she will send out a reminder email. Ms. Jackson concluded by asking jurisdictions to inform FAMPO staff of any modifications based on Ms. Gardner's comment as soon as possible.

2. 2022 Freight Summit Funding Request

Mr. Ollis referred to a request letter included in the agenda packet for funding for a 2022 Freight Summit. He added that the summit is included in the Rural Work Program (RWP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The goal of the summit is to connect the freight data work that has been done with the experiences of freight companies and drivers operating throughout the region.

Mr. Agnello informed the committee that Spotsylvania County is in support of the additional funding for the freight summit. He suggested that HIP funding be used to allow future use of the more flexible STBG funds, and there was general agreement for this to be done.

3. VDOT's Comments on the DRAFT FY23-28 CMAQ - STBG - HIP Allocation

No comments were made.

c. SMART SCALE Round 5 Update – Kari Barber

Ms. Barber informed the committee that all SMART SCALE pre-applications are submitted and are now being screened. She presented the preliminary George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) and FAMPO project list and reminded the committee that one project will need to be removed from each list. She briefly presented the ten pre-applications and then outlined next steps. One project from each list will be proposed for removal during the May or June TAC meeting. The deadline for submission of final applications is August 1, 2022. Ms. Barber informed the committee that FAMPO would like to submit final applications by July 28, 2022.

Ms. Barber concluded by informing the committee that the CTB had selected the Chancellor Park Drive Sidewalk project for full funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

- d. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Performance Monitoring Program (PMP) – Lana Bizeau

Ms. Bizeau briefly presented FAMPO’s CMP Performance Monitoring Program (PMP) tool. The tool allows for long-term monitoring of three measures (speed, congestion percent, and travel time index) along CMP corridors.

Ms. Jackson inquired as to the significance of the tool. Mr. Ollis responded that long-term monitoring of CMP corridors is federally mandated since northern Stafford County is an urbanized area.

- e. FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Ian Ollis and Becky Golden

Mr. Ollis informed the committee that the budget in the UPWP is going to be updated to conform with recent changes. Ms. Golden presented a few key details included in the UPWP: the 2022 Freight Summit, the FRED Transit Strategic Plan (TSP), the FAMPO Vision Plan, the East-West Mobility Study, and the VCR Trail Study.

- f. FY23 Rural Work Program (RWP) – Kari Barber

Ms. Barber informed the committee that the FY23 RWP will be presented to the GWRC next month. Mr. Ollis added that this is not a FAMPO product, as Caroline and King George County have their own RWP.

- g. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) New Programs – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis briefly introduced the three funding programs included in the IIJA/BIL: Mega, INFRA, and Rural. He highlighted the aim of the grants and their scoring criteria.

8. Correspondence

Ms. Chandler informed the committee of a Federal Register announcing the final criteria for Urban Areas for the 2020 Census. Mr. Ollis summarized that Urban Area boundaries will shrink as a result of the proposed changes.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis introduced Mx. Touzel, FAMPO’s new Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator.

10. Member Reports

No member reports were made.

11. Adjourn/Next TAC Meeting: May 2, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Motion: Mr. Owsiak Second: Mr. White

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.