

Fredericksburg City
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County
Caroline County
King George County



Matthew Rowe
Chairman

Ian Ollis
FAMPO Administrator

DRAFT CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 - 6:00pm

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg

<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/>

A video recording of the meeting is posted on the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) web page: <https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/citizens-transportation-advisory-committee/> and on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkQOGPQVd6k>

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Matthew Rowe, City of Fredericksburg – Chair
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County (remote attendance)
Mr. Neil Holloran, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Nicolas Kwatnoski, Stafford County
Mr. David McLaughlin, City of Fredericksburg
Ms. Ann Palbalkar, Stafford County
Mr. James Powell, Stafford County
Mr. Rodney Thomas, At-Large
Ms. Jeron Hayes, King George County (remote attendance)

Committee Members Absent:

Ms. TaMara Banks, At-Large
Mr. Morgan Burch, Stafford County
Mr. John Castellarin, City of Fredericksburg
Ms. Tara Durant, Stafford County
Mr. Justin Chenault, Caroline
Mr. Jacob Clay, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Micah Cunningham, Spotsylvania
Ms. Patricia Encarnacion, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Michael Hoyt, Caroline
Mr. Ken Pogue, Caroline
Mr. Dustin Savage, At-Large

Others Present:

Mr. Chip Boyles, GWRC Executive Director
Ms. Jane Leeds, Interested Party (remote attendance)
Ms. Christine Breinz, Remote Captioner
Mr. Henry Scharpenberg

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Mr. John Ridout, Transportation Planner II
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager
Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Ms. Golden conducted roll call and a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the September 14, 2022 Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion: Mr. McLaughlin; Second: Mr. Farley

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Approval of August 10, 2022 CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Gross

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Review of August 15, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting

Ms. Golden provided highlights of the Policy Committee meeting that included a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment for three commuter buses for I-95: one that will run from Spotsylvania (Exit 126) to Caroline County (Exit 110) and then to Washington DC; one that will run from US 17 / Stafford County (Exit 133) to the Pentagon; and one that will run from Courthouse Road / Stafford County (Exit 140) to Capitol Hill. The Policy Committee also approved application for a grant to prepare a Safety Action Plan for GWRC localities through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant program. Policy Committee bylaws were amended to add a non-voting member from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), and staff briefed attendees on the update of the VDOT-FAMPO Travel Demand Model.

6. Public Comment

Ms. Leeds asked if the commuter bus service for I-95 that was discussed during the Policy Committee Meeting review, would accommodate the disabled, including those with service animals. Staff researched this inquiry with OmniRide staff who advised that the buses provide space for disabled individuals with service animals in the areas for wheelchair dependent individuals when there are no wheelchair dependent riders. However, when these areas are in use, there is no additional space for service animals. The OmniRide buses use lifts to meet accessibility requirements.

Additional written comments were received from Ms. Leeds that were included in the agenda packet regarding successful Light Rail Systems (LRS), and from Jennifer Falknor of Healthy Generations Area Agency on Aging regarding the Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study.

7. Old Business

a. VDOT Report a Problem

Ms. Golden asked if members had outstanding work order requests through VDOT's Report a Problem website, and there were none.

8. Member Discussion / Action

a. Status update: Stafford County NE Quadrant Connector and western New River Crossing and Plantation Drive Extension (Stafford County)

Ms. Golden briefed attendees on the concepts, status and chronology of events for the CTAC proposals. Mr. Farley shared the history of the VDOT Outer Connector proposals, and advised attendees that the I-95 projects currently underway are Option 5 from that study. Mr. Farley also clarified that the CTAC Western New River Crossing was proposed by Mr. Ross during the VDOT Outer Connector study, due to heavy impacts on populated areas in Spotsylvania County, with the VDOT options.

1. Stafford County Board of Supervisors' Action – August 16, 2022

Ms. Golden advised attendees that the Stafford County Board voted to remove Mr. Scharpenberg from CTAC. Since Mr. Scharpenberg was CTAC Chair, the action resulted in the CTAC Vice Chair, Matthew Rowe, to become CTAC Chair.

b. FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study

1. Introduction / Progress to Date

Mr. Ollis briefed attendees on the concepts, status and progress to date. The FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study examines the east-west movement of people and goods in the region. The study will reveal problem areas and provide possible solutions for reducing traffic congestion and increasing access to a variety of transportation modes.

2. Phase I Draft Report

Phase I identified multimodal transit options, transportation demand management strategies, and related transportation improvements to improve intraregional east-west mobility. Bike and pedestrian links to transit were also examined.

3. Phase II Transit Report

Mr. Ollis briefed attendees on the Phase II Transit Report that will go through a public comment review if approved by the Policy Committee at their September meeting. Elements of the Phase II Transit Report include: options for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system along Route 3 (Plank Road) in Spotsylvania County, and serve the Spotsylvania Towne Centre, Central Park, Mary Washington Hospital, University of Mary Washington, through the City of Fredericksburg to the Train Station. Pedestrian and Bicycle shared use paths are proposed to connect the Brooke and Spotsylvania VRE stations to destinations such as Germanna Community College, the proposed East Coast Greenway and to the Stafford Courthouse / Hospital areas.

c. VCR Trail – TAC Recommendation of Preferred Alternative

Ms. Golden described alternatives for grade separation options at three locations of the Virginia Central Railway (VCR) trail through Spotsylvania and the City of Fredericksburg: I-95, US Route 1 and Primary Route 3. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendations for the three locations are as follows: a tunnel to cross I-95; a bridge to cross US Route 1 with an alternative intersection to eliminate the existing traffic signal at US Route 1 and Kings Mill Drive; and a bridge to cross PR Route 3. Mr. Ollis provided ridership estimates for attendees of the VCR trail. Mr. Thomas confirmed that ridership numbers on the Washington & Old Dominion Trail (W&OD) are very high and increasing each year. The W&OD is a rail turned to trail that runs from Purcellville to Arlington.

d. FY 24 – 29 CMAQ – STBG Call for Projects

Ms. Golden explained the type of projects eligible for the two programs: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). Mr. Ollis discussed the potential funding amounts to be around \$4.9 Million per year or perhaps more with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) infusion of federal funds. Mr. Rideout explained the ranking and scoring process.

e. October CTAC Election of Vice Chair

Mr. Ollis pointed out that the CTAC bylaws state that the Chair and Vice Chair “...shall not be from the same appointing organization...” Chair Rowe encouraged members from Spotsylvania and Stafford who can attend the majority of meetings in person to make their case for Vice Chair at the October CTAC meeting.

9. Public Comment – Second Round

Mr. Scharpenberg explained the differences between Downtown Stafford and Stafford Town Center. This question arose during the Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study Phase II Transit Report, that is recommending a new Transit Center at the Stafford Courthouse Park and Ride lot.

10. Correspondence

Mx. Touzel summarized the correspondence included in the agenda packet to attendees.

11. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis and Mx. Touzel shared the People’s Choice Award link for the VDOT Chatham Bridge project.

12. Member Reports

The Chair welcomed a new CTAC representative from Stafford County, Ms. Ann Palbalkar. Ms. Palbalkar shared her experiences and background with enthusiasm and interest to better the community through engaging with CTAC.

Chair Rowe encouraged members to bring forward ideas to CTAC for consideration, as well as being open to ideas to amend the bylaws in the future if needed, after the holidays.

13. Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting October 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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

Motion passes by unanimous consent.