

POLICY COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 28, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.fampo.gwregion.org

A video recording of the meeting is posted on the Policy Committee web page:
<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/policy-committee/>

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

Mr. Jason Graham, Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Matthew Kelly, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. David Brown, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Meg Bohmke, First Vice-Chair, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Monica Gary, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford County (V)
Dr. Pamela Yeung, alternate Stafford County (V)
Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Second Vice-Chair, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Lori Hayes, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Jamie Jackson, FREdericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Mr. Brian Geouge, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
Mr. Matthew Rowe, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Timothy Baroody, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Darrell English, alternate Stafford County (V)
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)
Mr. Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Mr. Craig Reed, alternate FREdericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County

Others Present (remotely or in person):

Mr. Chris Daily, VHB
Mr. Drew Morrison, VHB
Mr. Nat Grier, VHB
Mr. Darrell Smith, VHB
Mr. Chip Boyles, GWRC Executive Director (remote attendance)
Mr. Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County (remote attendance)
Ms. Amy Garbarini (remote attendance)
Mr. Alex Owsiak (remote attendance)
Mr. Gavin Gardon, citizen
Mr. Alan Mindlin, Celebrate VA
Mr. Joe Bonds, Celebrate VA
Ms. Kim Jacobs, Celebrate VA
Ms. Fran Larkins, Celebrate VA

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner II/Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager
Dr. John Ridout, Transportation Planner II
Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator

- 1. Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order** – Chair Jason Graham
Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:42pm.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
Chair Graham led the pledge of allegiance.
- 3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum** – Mx. Colie Touzel
Mx. Touzel conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.
- 4. Approval of the November 28, 2022, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**
Motion was made to approve the November 28, 2022 Policy Committee agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Bohmke
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Public Involvement

Comments and questions from members of the public are welcome at this time. Staff will also read comments submitted by the public prior to the meeting.

Fran Larkins, a resident of Celebrate Virginia, asked Policy Committee members to consider an alternative for a river crossing, and not utilize Celebrate Parkway. Ms. Larkins submitted an alternative river crossing to FAMPO.

Joe Bonds, also a resident of Celebrate Virginia, asked Policy Committee members to delay a river crossing study for a year or two in consideration of changes in traffic data from road work near the I-95/Warrenton interchange. Mr. Bonds also noted that on and off ramps from I-95 to a

river crossing could potentially become a truck-thruway, and thus an issue for congestion if a new river crossing was built.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of October 17, 2022, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)
- b. Resolution 23-10 FY22 Annual Listing of Transportation Project Obligations (ACTION ITEM)
- c. TIP Administrative Modification: UPC 111980 #HB2.FY17 I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing Southbound – GARVEE Debt Service

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Bohmke
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. FAMPO Administrator Report – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis provided information on congestion policy, FAMPO project selection, and the potential for a new river crossing. Mr. Ollis explained that the list of alternatives to largescale roadway capacity increases will only address congestion issues if utilized in a combined effort with some of the following options: a network grid of roads to spread traffic, high-density development near existing transportation, operational improvements (e.g. bottleneck removal), more accessibility to reliable transit options, and increased Travel Demand Management strategies (e.g. vanpools, carpools, slugging, bicycling, walking, and teleworking). Mr. Ollis noted that none of these options will work on their own, but will need to be used together. He clarified that FAMPO has put together a working group to discuss the potential of a new river crossing and that we are considering multiple options, not just one. Mr. Ollis noted that the train station construction should start in January. He mentioned that CTB meetings in the fall were removed, and thus will meet again in the Spring. He also mentioned that he attended the Governor’s Transportation Conference.

8. Action/Discussion Items

- a. Transit Report Public Comment Summary

Mr. Ollis noted that the Public Comment Summary was provided in the agenda packet and therefore, members can read it at any time. Chair Graham officially closed the public comment period.

- b. CMAQ/STBG Call for Projects Update – Mr. John Ridout

Mr. Ridout explained that the call for projects ended earlier in November, with 27 total applications received. Some of the money from 5307 was moved from a previous fiscal year, and therefore extra money is available. Over two and a half million dollars for FY28 CMAQ funding, and just over \$2 million for FY28 STBG funding. We will know the FY29 funding in March 2023. Mr. Ridout provided a summary of the projects each jurisdiction submitted. Mr. Ollis explained that some of the applications from FAMPO localities/agencies will need to be reduced, but the projects will first be screened and then the localities/agencies can choose which projects they want for CMAQ and/or STBG.

c. Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study Roadway Report

Mr. Chris Daily introduced the VHB team who worked on the East-West Mobility Study: Mr. Drew Morrison, Mr. Darrell Smith, and Mr. Nat Grier. Mr. Daily noted that this is a planning process, meaning that this study is the first piece of that process and is theoretical for modeling purposes. The thirteen corridors identified in Phase I of the study were analyzed by VHB and narrowed down through their modeling process for the next phase of the study which would include engineering details.

1. Phase II - Road & Bicycle / Pedestrian Presentation - Mr. Chris Daily and Mr. Drew Morrison

Mr. Grier explained that VHB took previous information on these corridors into account, as well as data from FAMPO's Constrained Long Range Plan (which includes planned projects within each of FAMPO's jurisdictions), and also how they examined the peak times of congestion westbound and eastbound for each of the thirteen corridors. To identify the average peak volume to capacity (V/C) ratio along the worst congested areas on a macro scale, VHB reviewed the travel demand model which shows the volume of vehicles traveling compared to the total capacity of potential vehicles that could travel throughout the course of a day, over a period of several days. Mr. Grier explained that Butler Road was coded incorrectly in phase I modelling and therefore not as severely congested as they previously thought, and therefore was not included in the project selection process. Furthermore, Mr. Grier noted that east-west traffic is directly linked to north-south traffic because one will have to utilize east-west roads to travel north-south, and vice versa, and therefore one problem cannot necessarily be solved without looking at the other problem. He also stated that widening is not the only solution, but other operations and policies will need to be considered to develop the solutions.

Mr. Morrison highlighted their approach to recommend projects for the study was evaluated by congestion impacts, implementation constraints, cost considerations (which are high-level, and excluded design, property, and environmental costs), regional impact, and targeted impact. Certain projects benefit how people experience congestion in the region overall, and certain projects benefit specific corridors. Some projects are better at the regional impact and some are better at a localized impact. VHB identified three "bundles" of priority projects which include a: "western network," new river crossing and interchange, and arterial widenings/lane conversions.

Ms. Bohmke suggested that Truslow Rd widening in the western network proposal should not be considered. Mr. Ollis noted that the planning staff at Stafford did like the western network proposal.

Policy Committee members voiced a unified concern for the proposed new interchange that was modeled at Gordon W. Shelton Blvd, but generally supported a New River Crossing to southern Stafford County.

Ms. Bohmke and Mr. McLaughlin asked about the level of accuracy with the modeling traffic volumes. Ms. Shropshire advised attendees that traffic volumes for this study are from VDOT's Travel Demand Model; when projects reach the design phase, actual traffic counts and forecasts are utilized.

Mr. Ollis and the VHB consultants fielded questions raised by attendees.

2. Resolution 23-08 Directing a Public Comment Period for Adoption of the FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Phase II Road and Bicycle / Pedestrian Report (ACTION ITEM)

Motion to open a public comment period for the Phase II Roadway report, with an amended time period of 60 days, including a Public Education element: Mr. Kelly;
Second: Ms. Vanuch
Motion passed.

d. FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Transit Report

1. Phase II Amended Transit Report – Mr. Chris Daily and Mr. Drew Morrison

Mr. Smith and Mr. Morrison provided an overview of the changes VHB made to the Transit report based on input received during the public comment period.

Ms. Hayes voiced concern for the Benchmark Road shared use path, due to the impacts on residential properties and a business. Mr. Ollis advised attendees that the next phase of the East-West Transit Report will ensure impacts on homes will be included when deciding which projects will be advanced.

Dr. Yeung emphasized that multi-use / shared bicycle and pedestrian paths need to consider the neighborhoods through which they will course.

Chair Graham and Mr. Ollis clarified that adoption of the Phase II Transit Report in no way obligates expenditure of funding for specific projects.

2. Resolution 23-07 Adoption of the FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Phase II Transit Report (ACTION ITEM)

Motion to adopt the Phase II Transit report: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Gary
Motion passed.

d. Letter to OIPI - Problems with Economic Development Site Eligibility in SMART SCALE Applications (ACTION ITEM)

Item withdrawn by staff.

e. Proposed 2023 Committee Meeting Calendar

Motion to approve the proposed Committee meeting calendar for 2023: Ms. Bohmke; Second: Mr. McLaughlin

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis highlighted a letter from FHWA that was included in the agenda packet. The letter certified FHWA approval of the measures for the National Capital Region MPOs—FAMPO received this letter because of the TMA in northern Stafford.

10. Staff and Agency Reports

No staff or agency reports.

11. Board Member and Chair Comments

No chair or board member comments.

12. Closed Session

Policy Committee members held a closed session to discuss the contents of a FOIA request.

13. Return to Open Session

Policy Committee reopened the meeting to the public and held a roll call vote to determine that FOIA responsibilities were followed.

14. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: January 23rd, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.