

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 9, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: <https://youtu.be/OfEj0EIL7JU>

Committee Members Present:

Chair Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Second Vice Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Matthew Lehane, Stafford County
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Amy Garbarini, DRPT
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect

Committee Members Present (remotely):

Bob Schneider, PRTC
Christine Hoeffner, VRE

Committee Members Absent:

Nick Minor, King George County
Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County
Kimberly Wilson, King George County
Mike Finchum, Caroline County
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Steven Minor, FHWA
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Joe Stainsby, PRTC
Jim Ponticello, VDOT
Dan Grinnell, VDOT
Craig Reed, FXBGO
Sharon Sullivan, FXBGO
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Others Present:

Fran Larkins
Kim Jacoby
Roslyn Reeder
Casandra Lord, VDOT
Kimberly Cook (remote attendance)

Staff Present:

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager

John S. Ridout, Transportation Planner

Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner/ Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator

Connor Anderson, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner

Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator

1. Call Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chair Jackson.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Colie Touzel conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the January 9, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion to Approve the January 9, 2023, TAC Agenda.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Matthew Lehane

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the October Policy Committee Meeting

Ian Ollis provided a summary of the Policy Committee's November meeting to attendees, including a synopsis of the New River Crossing research and updates on existing projects. The FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Phase II Transit Report was adopted, and a 60-day public comment period commenced for the FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Phase II Roadway Report.

5. Public Comment

Fran Larkins spoke on behalf of herself as well as two other attendees from the Celebrate by Del Webb community, Kim Jacoby, and Roslyn Reeder. Ms. Larkins summarized that the residents voiced the following opinions about a New River Crossing: some in favor of a direct connection from south Stafford to Central Park for the convenience of local traffic to access shops and amenities; others who consider the improvements to I-95 currently under construction will serve the area without a New River Crossing; and those who feel studying an Outer Connector to get trucks over to Route 3 without needing to utilize I-95 is the best approach.

Ms. Larkins mentioned that there are over 1,000 homes of senior citizens in the Del Webb community, and a New River Crossing that would allow traffic to use Celebrate Virginia Parkway would be devastating. There are five (5) entrances, and each are controlled by an access gate that slows exiting traffic from the Parkway into the neighborhoods, with the potential to back traffic into the Parkway's travel lanes. Concerns with traffic, difficulty exiting neighborhood roads safely and pollution lead to Ms. Larkins' request to find another alternative.

Chair Jackson commended Ms. Larkins, Ms. Jacoby, and Ms. Reeder for attending and providing comments, and assured them that members of TAC are the "ground level staff" that help formulate policies by communicating with localities' leadership for their voice to be heard.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the November 7, 2022, TAC Meeting Minutes
- b. Resolution 23-13 Approving a Modification to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program Adjusting GARVEE Debt Service Funding for UPC 111980 #HB2.FY17 I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing Southbound

Motion to Approve the January 9, 2023, Consent Agenda.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Action/Discussion Items

- a. VRE System Plan Update

Nick Ruiz provided a comprehensive overview of VRE's system performance and results from past surveys, along with strategies to increase ridership. Ian Ollis shared that the Mayor of the District of Columbia recently announced communication with Federal employers to either bring their work force back to in person work or allow the buildings that sit empty to be leased.

VRE's System Plan 2050 Vision: VRE will grow to serve the region as the transportation service of choice by creating meaningful connections and economic opportunities in a safe, sustainable, and equitable manner.

Phase II of the System Plan will include completion of ridership projections, refinement of the baseline scenario, development of several action service scenarios, robust public outreach, and stakeholder and jurisdiction coordination on scenarios.

- b. FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Phase II - Road & Bicycle / Pedestrian Report Survey Results

Colie Touzel summarized results of the responses, and as of the point in time of the presentation, over 650 surveys had been completed. The three roads that respondents consider in most need of upgrade or widening are Plank Road (Primary Route 3 in

Spotsylvania), Warrenton Road (US Route 17 in Stafford) and Garrisonville Road (Secondary Route 610 in Stafford).

Support is strong for a New River Crossing, as well as an additional interchange to access I-95. Support is also strong for a new pedestrian and bicycle path to connect Fall Hill Avenue / Central Park to the Spotsylvania Towne Centre, and between Kings Highway and Chatham Heights Road.

Bryon Counsell advised attendees that their Transportation Master Plan Update process for Stafford County supports new I-95 interchanges at Truslow Road and / or American Legion Road.

c. CMAQ/STBG Prioritization Process Update

Ian Ollis advised attendees that the cost estimate validation process by VDOT is complex, with questions to be addressed about whether specific items were included and so forth. Transit projects initial screening process is the same as road projects; an example that may lead to potential changes or adjustments to the scoring methodology. John Ridout and Connor Anderson applied criteria and scoring in strict accordance with the text as written.

John Ridout presented the initial scoring results. As results were presented, Mr. Ollis and John Ridout both noted anomalies associated with the scoring system. Staff will be working on a list of items of concern, and the working group that developed the current CMAQ/STBG Project Selection Process and scoring criteria is suggested to reconvene to consider potential revisions. Applicants were requested to provide written comments to staff with input about their project scores, and identify representatives to serve on the working group, by close of business Tuesday, January 17th.

d. VDOT State Trails Office Update

Kari Eaves briefed attendees about a new State Trails Office. The General Assembly has identified five High Priority Trails: Shenandoah Valley Trail, Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail, Peaks to Creeks Trail, Tobacco Heritage Trail, and an Eastern Shore Trail. This year begins an application cycle for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program and Ms. Eaves shared details and experiences from the past, as well as the total funding. The pre-application deadline is July 1st with final applications due by October 1st.

Ian Ollis, Paul Agnello, and Chair Jackson discussed strategies to bring the region's high priority trail projects to the attention of our Commonwealth Transportation Board representative's attention. Michelle Shropshire shared details that must be addressed for trail projects to move forward.

e. OIPI Review of VTRANS needs in 2023

Ian Ollis shared that the development of 2023 VTrans mid-term and priority locations will include work related to comments from regional workshops held in 2019. Additional regional workshops will be held in 2023, and the process will update truck commodity flows, cumulative truck delay, truck safety, and other freight related measures. Mr. Ollis credited the inclusion of the truck and freight measures to FAMPO's recent Freight Summit.

f. Problems with Economic Development Site Eligibility in SMART SCALE Applications

Ian Ollis and Paul Agnello advised attendees of ambiguous language in the technical guide regarding the eligible economic development projects within a distance from proposed projects, as well as a recent request for additional information with very short turnaround time. Stephen Haynes and Michelle Shropshire shared that the short turnaround time request was statewide, and out of the district's control. Mr. Ollis gave credit to Kari Eaves for their hard work to make the deadline that resulted in all applications being validated.

8. Correspondence

Chair Jackson summarized the items that had been circulated in the agenda packet:

- Process Guide for MPO's to Share Performance Targets with OIPI
- Virginia Transit Obligated Funds FFY22
- Federal Certification of the National Capital Region MPO Planning Process

9. Staff Reports - None

10. Member reports

Ian Ollis advised attendees that recent staff changes in Stafford requires TAC to elect a 1st Vice Chair. Motion to elect Matthew Lehane as TAC 1st Vice Chair.

Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second: Paul Agnello

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Michelle Shropshire advised attendees of an upcoming public meeting on the Lee Hill School Road roundabout project in Spotsylvania. Mr. Lehane complimented the public outreach for the public meeting.

Stephen Haynes introduced attendees to Cassie Lord, a recent hire that will be working with TAC members.

Kate Gibson advised attendees about an open position, and that GWRideConnect is starting their strategic plan update process that will include outreach to TAC members and localities.

Chair Jackson announced the name of FBXGO's new Deputy Director, Melanie Fowler.

11. Meeting Adjourned 11:50 am.