

POLICY COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 27, 2023 – 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. Timothy Barody, 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)
Ms. Lori Hayes, Second Vice-Chair Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jacob Lane, Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Ms. Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FXBGo!) (remote attendance)
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County
Mr. Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Matthew Rowe, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. David Brown, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Darrell English, alternate Stafford County (V)
Mr. Tim McLaughlin, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. David Ross, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Mr. Steven Minor, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Ms. Melody Fowler, alternate Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FXBGo!)
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County
Mr. Adam Lynch, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Others Present (remotely or in person):

Mr. Chris Daily, VHB (remote attendance)
Mr. Chris Lamm, Cambridge Systematics (remote attendance)
Mr. Dennis Eshman, Celebrate VA
Mr. Joe Bonds, Celebrate VA

Staff Present:

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

1. **Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order** – Chair Jason Graham
Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Chair Graham led the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum** – Ms. Becky Golden
Ms. Golden conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.
4. **Approval of the February 27, 2023, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**
Motion was made to amend the February 27, 2023 Policy Committee agenda and add two items: 12. Closed Session, and 13. Return to Open Meeting; and revise Adjourn / Next Policy Committee Meeting to be item 14.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended: Ms. Bohmke; Second: Mr. Kelly
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.

Dennis Eshman suggested an alternative road network to I-95 which could help alleviate congestion.

Joe Bonds, a resident of Celebrate Virginia, requested information on the alternatives to a new river crossing.

FAMPO staff read aloud an email received from Jane Leeds, a member of the disabled community. Ms. Leeds' comments included advocating for a light rail system in the Fredericksburg region and provided research as to why light rail would benefit the region.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of January 23, 2023, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)
- b. GWRC / FAMPO Memorandum of Understanding (ACTION ITEM)

- c. Resolution 23-16 Endorsing the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List for Air Quality Conformity Analysis (AQCA) (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis noted the minutes contained an error which staff has corrected. He also noted that every February, the GWRC / FAMPO MOU must be brought to the attention of the Policy Committee and requested Policy members to review and notify GWRC / FAMPO if any modifications are necessary for consideration.

Chair Graham thanked Vice Chair Bohmke for Chairing the January Policy Committee meeting during his illness.

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

7. FAMPO Administrator Report – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis provided information on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant, freight safety, and the FAMPO long-term vision. GWRC was awarded the SS4A grant which will provide FAMPO the opportunity to investigate safety in our region, find dangerous hot spots, and develop a plan to remedy those. The Federal Department of Transportation will provide a small local match to write the Safety Action Plan, which will be utilized by localities to apply to the SS4A grant to construct the improvements.

Mr. Ollis shared 2019-2022 freight safety statistics from the Free-Lance Star article, “Big crashes on the rise,” which showed an increase in crashes and 4-5 crash deaths per year. Mr. Ollis noted the importance of staying aware of this information to work on the problems.

Mr. Ollis noted a three-month timeline for understanding, discussing, and working towards funding congestion issues in the region. In January, the Policy Committee received a presentation from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; February’s agenda includes presentations by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (OmniRide); and in March, the Policy Committee will participate in a congestion workshop led by Scudder Wagg from Jarrett Walker & Associates.

Additionally, Mr. Ollis noted three actions we can do to address accessibility issues: amend the Long-Range Transportation Plan to include accessibility considerations for those with mobility, vision, and hearing impairments, identify key safety interventions in the SS4A Safety Action Plan, and ask localities and state partners to indicate what accommodations are included in each funding application which we support and/or approve.

Lastly, Mr. Ollis discussed upcoming FAMPO funding and finances, including CMAQ and STBG allocations.

8. Action/Discussion Items

- a. Election of Policy Committee Second Vice Chair (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to nominate Lori Hayes to represent Spotsylvania County as the Second Vice Chair for the Policy Committee.

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

b. Transit Options for the FAMPO Region to Address the Growing Congestion Crisis

1. Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation – Mr. Todd Horsley

Mr. Horsley, Director of Northern Virginia Transit Programs, provided an overview of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), which primarily manages funding in the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund and the Commonwealth Rail Fund, comprising 30.5% of the Transportation Trust Fund. Mr. Horsley also discussed state funding for future planned transit.

2. OmniRide – Dr. Robert Schneider

Dr. Schneider provided a mass transit perspective on congestion on I-95. He relayed a personal experience where after getting gas and parking his car at the gas station, he tried to walk to a restaurant but there was a fence built between the two buildings. He noted that this is common in development, where everything is built to be driven to, no matter how little distance there is between places. Dr. Schneider suggested next steps to keep in mind, especially during next month's congestion workshop: "How to Fund Transit Options and How to Integrate Those Options into the Road Network."

c. Resolution 23-09 Adoption of the FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Phase II Road and Bicycle / Pedestrian Report (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis noted the amendments made to the East-West Mobility Study Phase II report, as per the comments received from the Policy Committee and the public. Members discussed adding a sentence on page 19 of the report which states "Any alignment shown in this report is representative for analysis only."

Motion was made to approve Resolution 23-09 with the additional sentence on page 19.

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

d. Senate Bill 1137 (Virginia, 2023) Creation of Fredericksburg Area Transportation Authority – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis noted that the Senate Bill 1137 failed by one vote. Mr. Ollis recommended that when Policy Committee members discuss funding future projects, it would be smart to include a Regional Transportation Authority in that discussion.

e. Adoption of Freight Summit Report and Presentation (ACTION ITEM) – Mr. Ian Ollis And Mr. Chris Lamm

Mr. Chris Lamm provided an overview of the Freight Summit. Some next steps include integrating the findings into FAMPO's planning processes like the LRTP and CMP, developing a Regional Freight Plan, and continuing to maintain and expand freight stakeholder engagement.

Motion was made to adopt the Freight Summit report.

Motion: Ms. Bohmke; Second: Ms. Hayes

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

f. CMAQ/STBG Draft Scores – Mr. John Ridout

Chair Graham proposed a motion to move items F. and G. to a future meeting.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. Kelly

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

g. CMP Performance Monitoring Program (PMP) Update – Ms. Becky Golden

Moved to a future meeting.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis noted the letter from Jane Leeds read aloud during the Public Comment section of the agenda, and the SS4A grant award.

10. Staff and Agency Reports

No staff or agency reports.

11. Board Member and Chair Comments

Mr. Kelly noted that funding future projects is going to take a regional approach; localities cannot fund projects by themselves.

12. Closed Session

Motion was made to enter a closed session.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: TBD. The video recording was stopped before the second motion was captured. Please help staff to identify who seconded the motion.

Policy Committee members held a closed session to discuss the position of FAMPO Administrator, Ian Ollis.

13. Return to Open Session

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

14. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: March 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.