

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 6, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: <https://youtu.be/m-vg5bwjGal>

Committee Members Present:

Chair Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
First Vice Chair Matthew Lehane, Stafford County
Second Vice Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Kimberly Wilson, King George County
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Melody Fowler, FBXGO!
Amy Garbarini, DRPT
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Jim Ponticello, VDOT
Dan Grinnell, VDOT
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect

Committee Members Present (remotely):

Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County
Joe Stainsby, PRTC
Robert Schneider, PRTC

Committee Members Absent:

Khapel Akbari, Stafford County
Susan Gardner, VDOT
Nick Minor, King George County
Mike Finchum, Caroline County
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Steven Minor, FHWA
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Craig Reed, FXBGO!
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Others Present

Gavin Gardon, Spotsylvania Citizen

Staff Present:

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager

John S. Ridout, Transportation Planner II

Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator

Connor Anderson, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner

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 March 6, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion to Approve the March 6, 2023, TAC Agenda.

Motion: Mike Craig; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the February Policy Committee Meeting

Ian Ollis provided a summary of the Policy Committee's February meeting to attendees. There were no changes made to the current GWRC / FAMPO MOU, Resolution 23-16 was adopted that added transit projects to the FY24-27 TIP Project List for Air Conformity Analysis, and the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant award was discussed. Two presentations were given by OmniRide and DRPT discussing transit options for the region to help address growing congestion. The March Policy Committee meeting will include a workshop with an outside facilitator on the linkages between land use, transit, roadway improvements, funding options and compromises that are needed to reduce congestion and improve livability and safety. The FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Study, Phase II Road and Bicycle / Pedestrian report was adopted with an amendment to emphasize that the road termini shown on the graphic for the new River Crossing option were conceptual locations.

Although Virginia Senate Bill 1137 did not pass during the recent session of the General Assembly (GA), the idea of a Fredericksburg Transportation Authority should be discussed with FAMPO leadership in the upcoming months to prepare for the next GA session. The Freight Summit Report was completed, and positive communications with OIPI were shared, that are expected to lead to future projects in VTrans Needs to address freight delays and safety for the first time.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

6. Consent Agenda

- Approval of the February 6, 2023, TAC Meeting Minutes
- Endorse the FAMPO Highway Safety Target Setting Letter
- Endorse the FAMPO Asset Condition and System Performance Management Targets Letter
- Approval to Advertise the Draft FAMPO FY 24-27 TIP and 2050 LRTP Regional Conformity Assessment (RCA), as amended, for 30 days Public Comment

Motion to Approve the March 6, 2023, Consent Agenda.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Mike Craig

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Action/Discussion Items

a. Interim amendments to CMAQ/STBG Project Selection Process

John Ridout provided the TAC Subcommittee recommendations to be used in this scoring cycle to clarify two areas of the current methodology: 1) refinement of the interpretation for a currently undefined “10%” for cost overruns; and 2) situations that occur whereby funding categories have no eligible applications. Valuable and robust discussion brought together ideas for additional information to be provided by staff to TAC members, as well as points to be discussed at the next TAC Subcommittee.

Motion to Approve the TAC Subcommittee Interim Amendments to the CMAQ/STBG Project Selection Process.

Motion: Robert Schneider; Second: Nick Ruiz

Motion passed.

b. CMAQ / STBG Scoring Recommendations

John Ridout made a presentation on the CMAQ / STBG scoring outcomes, including the thought processes used to arrive at fair and equitable scoring across transportation modes and varying project sizes and costs.

Stephen Haynes asked about the River Crossing Study, and the presentation statement that funding is requested but is not scored by FAMPO staff. Nick Ruiz pointed out that FHWA requires scoring for projects to be funded. Michelle Shropshire noted that FHWA requires that STBG follows the established process, not specifically requiring scoring. Mr. Ollis replied on these points as follows: the current methodology does not require a FAMPO requested study to be scored as it can be requested to the TAC like in previous rounds. If the TAC is uncomfortable with this approach, it can be amended in the subcommittee review process. Staff has been requested to study a new river crossing from two member jurisdictions, funding for FAMPO to conduct studies has been removed until FY 27, that it is not fair to the jurisdictions for staff to score their own project, and the NEPA analysis and development of costs, benefits and alternatives need to be conducted by a consultant, thereby requiring STBG funding.

Chair Jackson and Mr. Ollis agreed that the prioritization of regional studies from FAMPO should be discussed by the TAC Subcommittee.

c. CMAQ / STBG Budgets

Mr. Ollis discussed the schedule of the Project Selection Process, pointing out critical points at which funding allocations are needed to meet the June CTB meeting deadline.

8. Correspondence

Two items were provided: 1) letter from eight residents from the Celebrate by Del Webb community's Transportation Connections Team regarding the East-West Mobility Study Phase II Road and Bicycle / Pedestrian report; and 2) message from Jane Leeds with a link to a presentation on audible signals.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis advised attendees that he is in communication with the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) about potential impacts to the TPB Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). If the TPB MPA were revised, that would impact the FAMPO MPA. He believes both MPA's will remain unchanged but is actively involved in the process with the TPB.

Mr. Ollis additionally advised that amendments to the LRTP and the CLRP will be brought forward for public comment in the fall of 2023. Amendments to the Goals to improve project scopes that support the disabled community, SMART SCALE projects, TAP project awards and new studies are examples of the amendments currently contemplated.

10. Member reports

Nick Ruiz advised attendees that new VRE projects will likely come to FAMPO to add to the LRTP and CLRP in early 2024 from their System Plan Update process that is currently underway.

11. Meeting Adjourned 11:25 pm.