

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 3, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: <https://youtu.be/3XPaGQ89Gg0>

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
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Melody Fowler, FXBGO!
Amy Garbarini, DRPT
Susan Gardner, VDOT
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Nick Minor, King George County
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

Committee Members Present (remotely):

Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County
Adam Derrick, Stafford County
Daniel Koenig, FTA
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Robert Schneider, PRTC

Committee Members Absent:

Khapel Akbari, Stafford County
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Chelsea Beytas, FTA
Kimberly Cook, King George County
Mike Finchum, Caroline County
Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Steven Minor, FHWA
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Craig Reed, FXBGO!
Joe Stainsby, PRTC

Others Present

Stephen Read, VDOT

Eric Tang, VHB

Sammy Snider, VHB

Anne Marie Salvanera, Stafford County resident

Fran Larkins, Stafford – Celebrate VA

Peggy Mathias, Stafford – Celebrate VA

Roslyn Reeder, Stafford – Celebrate VA

Staff Present:

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager

Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner II, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator (remote attendance)

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

Connor Anderson conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

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

Motion to Approve the April 3, 2023, TAC Agenda.

Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second: Rodney White

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the March Policy Committee Meeting

Ian Ollis provided a summary of the Policy Committee’s February meeting to attendees. Clay Murray was appointed as an At Large member to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Safety Target and Asset Condition & System Performance Management Target letters were approved; a workshop on the linkages between land use and transportation decisions to support the region’s future investment decisions was held to spur questions such as, “what are the impacts on congestion of transit, change of land use or building new roads?” The workshop included an exercise that depicted the effect of land use options and the resultant impact of traffic. The conversations from the workshop will help answer the question, “what does this mean for the region?”. Interim amendments to the CMAQ / STBG selection process were approved, and action for a new river crossing study was held in abeyance for additional information to be provided by staff.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

6. Consent Agenda

- Approval of the March 6, 2023, TAC Meeting Minutes
- Endorse Resolution 23-20 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Draft FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Motion to Approve the April 3, 2023, Consent Agenda.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Bassam Amin

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Action/Discussion Items

a. VDOT / VHB FAMPO Transportation Safety Presentation and Study

Stephen Read, VDOT Traffic Operations Division, opened the presentation noting the large number of agencies in Virginia that were awarded Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants to prepare Safety Action Plans. Eric Tang, VHB, gave an overview of the George Washington Regional Transportation Safety Plan Draft, and requested any comments to be provided by April 24th. The following topics with resultant tables and charts were presented: Crash Emphasis Areas, High Injury Networks (HIN's), Pedestrian and Bicyclist Considerations, Countermeasures and Implementation, and Crash Tree Tools.

Of note: 62% of Fatal (K) and Serious Injury (A) crashes are found on 7% of the GWRC region's roadways; 75% of K, A and Visible Injury (B) crashes are found on 13% of the region's roadways. Mr. Tang advised that the 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) updated the definition of Transportation Disadvantaged census tracts, making all of Caroline County and most of King George County as meeting the "Underserved" definition, an increase over what is shown on the draft regional transportation safety plan. This is important, due to the SS4A grant goal of 41% of implementation funds to be spent on High Injury Networks in underserved areas. Valuable information in the draft plan includes recommended countermeasures, a customized crash tree tool, Virginia Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Emphasis Areas, and tables that rank and list the KA and KAB HIN segments for the GWRC region as a whole and for each of the five jurisdictions.

Mr. Ollis thanked VDOT for their efforts and noted that the report was completed at no cost to FAMPO. It represents about 30% of the GWRC Safety Action Plan to be accomplished through the SS4A grant. He also encouraged localities to examine the HINs in their jurisdictions for future potential implementation grant applications.

b. Rt 610 Operational Study Scope Change

Matthew Lehane explained the difference between the Rt 610 Operational Study and the proposed Garrisonville Road Multimodal study. From the discussions, it appears that the UPC Code for the Rt 610 Operational Study can be used for the Garrisonville Road Multimodal study.

Motion to approve the scope change and project title change for the Garrisonville Road Multimodal study, formerly titled Rt 610 Operational Study.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Chair Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

c. CMAQ / STBG Draft Funding Allocations

Mr. Ollis and Dr. Ridout presented the draft allocations for FY24-29 and shared some challenges with the approved methodology. Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds are new this round; and CRP project eligibility and resultant allocations were explained. Mr. Ollis reached out to other MPO's and asked whether they were going to rely on the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to fund shortfalls of approved SMART SCALE projects using funds outside of the CMAQ / STBG / CRP process. In general, consensus was reached to maintain the current course applied by Dr. Ridout to allocate funds for project requests and not set aside funds for unknown SMART SCALE shortfalls.

Ms. Shropshire shared that the idea for the CTB to fund shortfalls outside of the CMAQ / STBG / CRP process is a staff recommendation at this time. In August, the final CTB allocations and actions will provide FAMPO information to potentially "free up" funds currently recommended for allocations or could create shortfalls that would be brought back to TAC at that time for resolution.

Ms. Gardner emphasized the need to efficiently allocate funds for timely expenditure to obligate funds. Consensus was reached that the CMAQ / STBG / CRP allocations require a public comment period and public hearing.

Attendees discussed the staff-recommended allocations for the new River Crossing study and agreed that the direction of the Policy Committee will determine whether the project will move forward, or whether the allocation can be redistributed. Attendees discussed ways to condense and highlight critical information on the allocation tables to improve the public and Policy Committee's understanding.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 23-18 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Allocation of Fiscal Year 2024-2029 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and Highway Improvement Program (HIP) Funds, and in the August TAC meeting, to review and evaluate projects that were scored in this round of the CMAQ / STBG allocation process.

Motion: Chair Jackson; Second: Melody Fowler
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

d. FY 24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Ollis summarized major elements of the FY24 UPWP, including the need to list projects that staff will be directed to manage by the Policy Committee in upcoming meetings and after public comment periods. The new River Crossing research performed by staff is part of the East-West Mobility study that is included in the FY23 UPWP.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 23-19 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Bryon Counsell
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

e. Discussion Regarding CMAQ / STBG Transit Slot Allocation

Mr. Agnello suggested this item be deferred for a future TAC meeting, and attendees agreed.

8. Correspondence

- The DEQ Public Hearing notice for the Second Maintenance Plan 1997 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards – Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties & Fredericksburg, VA.
- The Policy Committee approved two interim amendments to the CMAQ / STBG Allocation Methodology during their March 20th meeting.

9. Staff Reports

a. FY24 Rural Work Program (RWP)

Mr. Ollis asked VDOT to advise whether the SS4A grant administration needs to be added to the Draft FY24 RWP.

10. Member reports

There were no member reports.

11. Meeting Adjourned 11:55 a.m.