

POLICY COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 17, 2023 – 6:00 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)
Mr. Tom Coen, alternate 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. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (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)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V) (remote attendance)
Ms. Melody Fowler, alternate Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FXBGO!)
Mr. Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) (remote attendance)

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. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Ms. Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FXBGO!)
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Mr. Steven Minor, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County
Mr. Matthew Rowe, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
Mr. Adam Lynch, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Others Present (remotely or in person):

Dallas Richards, VRE
Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County (remote)
Randy Bruce
Joe Bonds
Fran Larkins
Roslyn Reeder
Pamala Taylor
Jon Gerlach
Suzanne Willis
Matthew Shilts
Paul Milde
Joe Brito
Kim Jacoby (remote)
John C. (remote)

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Mr. Connor Anderson, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner
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 6:00pm.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
Chair Graham led the pledge of allegiance.
- 3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum** – Mr. Connor Anderson
Mr. Anderson conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.
- 4. Approval of the April 17, 2023, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**
Motion was made to approve the April 17, 2023, Policy Committee agenda.

Motion: 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.

Fran Larkins, a resident of the Celebrate VA community, expressed her appreciation on the research for more river crossing options, but noted her wish for completely restarting the effort. She noted that constructing a river crossing that would connect to Celebrate VA would divide the Celebrate community. Ms. Larkins suggested that a bridge be built further west. She also requested to not build an interchange at Gordon Shelton Boulevard and I-95, because of the inundation of freight trucks.

Randy Bruce, a resident of Celebrate VA, questioned the cost of constructing a new river crossing, saying that the cost seems low. He also mentioned reexamining the project to get a greater sense of cooperation with Spotsylvania County which could provide more options outside of the current study area.

Pamela Taylor, a resident of Celebrate VA, spoke in support of a river crossing, just not along Celebrate VA Parkway.

Matthew Shilts, a resident of Spotsylvania County, spoke in favor of a river crossing option west of I-95 on Celebrate VA Parkway, but suggested that freight trucks not be allowed to utilize this route. He also mentioned the need for safety as well as bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Joe Brito, a resident of Stafford County, spoke in favor of a river crossing and noted that he represents over 4,600 people who signed petitions for an inner connector. He supports options 2 and 4 and suggests there should be a trail connecting both sides of the river. He pointed out the survey results from the East-West Mobility Study Roadway report: 78% of the 1, 285 people surveyed support a river crossing.

John C., a resident of Celebrate VA, spoke about the traffic data and proposed that the number of vehicles will exceed the design capacity of Celebrate VA Parkway. He also noted the environmental impact for the river crossing options.

Joe Bonds, a resident of Celebrate Virginia, suggested more public engagement efforts be made to inform the public in the surrounding areas where the options for a river crossing are being investigated. Mr. Bonds also noted his wish that the options be reconsidered.

FAMPO staff read aloud an email received from Wilson Greenlaw who shared his support for a new river crossing.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of March 20, 2023, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (**ACTION ITEM**)
- b. Resolution 23-19 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (**ACTION ITEM**)
- c. Resolution 23-20 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Draft FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (**ACTION ITEM**)
- d. Resolution 23-21 Approving the FY24-27 Air Quality Conformity Analysis (AQCA) Report (**ACTION ITEM**)

Chair Graham pointed out a small amendment to Resolution 23-21, noting that the report will need to be submitted to FHWA for approval.

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda as amended:

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Bohmke

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Action/Discussion Items

- a. Fredericksburg Train Station Platform and Bridge Rehabilitation Project Update – Clark Construction

Chief Engineer, Dallas Richards, provided a brief update on the bridge rehabilitation project just outside of the GWRC building. Mr. Richards reviewed the construction underway that will involve extending the train platform for a longer loading and unloading area, a new set of stairs built behind the GWRC building, and improved signage, paint, and canopies. Mr. Richards noted that they are three months into a twenty-four-month calendar of projects.

b. FAMPO Vision Plan & Projects – Mr. Ian Ollis and Mx. Colie Touzel

Mr. Ollis presented an update on the FAMPO Vision plan and requested committee members discuss each objective and their policies and projects to have a regional outlook and consensus for developing a Vision plan.

Upon discussion, committee members suggested the Vision have a focus with specific priorities for the region, noting that a Vision plan needs to have a regional outlook, instead of prioritizing individual jurisdiction's constituents. Additionally, committee members suggested that FAMPO staff create a map that shows the region's comprehensive plans without jurisdiction boundaries, as well as new building rezonings, by-rights, and transportation count data. Then, committee members can view the region's projects in the context of ongoing regional development.

c. New River Crossing Update – Mr. Ian Ollis & Dr. John Ridout

Mr. Ollis provided an overview of five potential options for a new river crossing. Utilizing StreetLight data, maps were created to show vehicle trip origins and destinations. Option 1 would add a slip lane from I-95 to Central Park, using I-95 local lanes for the bridge. Option 2, Option 3, and Option 5 were developed using identified easement restrictions that are expected to yield similar benefits to Option 4, while also minimizing the impact to residential housing areas. Option 2 connects mixed-use, higher density segments of Celebrate VA to Gordon Shelton Blvd with a direct connection to Commerce Parkway. Option 3 connects Commerce Parkway to Greenbank Rd. Option 4 was previously identified within the East-West Mobility Study and connects the terminus of Celebrate VA Parkway to Gordon Shelton Blvd. Option 5 connects Commerce Parkway to an improved Greenbank Rd to Gordon Shelton/Fall Hill Avenue.

d. 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 (**ACTION ITEM**)

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

A motion was made to direct a public comment period for the allocation of FY24-29 CMAQ/STBG funds.

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

8. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis noted that the annual Commonwealth Transportation Board FY24-29 District Spring Six-Year Improvement Program public meeting will be held Monday May 8th at Germanna

Community College starting at 4:00 p.m. He requested one or two committee members attend to represent FAMPO to speak about the proposals in the six-year plan.

9. Staff and Agency Reports

Mr. Ollis noted the change in location for the next Policy Committee meeting, which will be held at the VDOT Auditorium building at 86 Deacon Rd. Fredericksburg, VA 22405. This larger venue will allow more people to attend in-person for the Public Hearing.

10. Board Member and Chair Comments

There were no comments.

11. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: May 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. located at 86 Deacon Rd. Fredericksburg, VA 22405.

DRAFT