

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE **DRAFT** MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 1, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: <https://youtu.be/s9DLUiGjU3o>

Committee Members Present:

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!
Susan Gardner, VDOT
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Nick Minor, King George County
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT

Committee Members Present (remotely):

Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County
Amy Garbarini, DRPT
Robert Schneider, PRTC

Committee Members Absent:

Chair Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Khapel Akbari, Stafford County
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Chelsea Beytas, FTA
Kimberly Cook, King George County
Adam Derrick, Stafford County
Mike Finchum, Caroline County
Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Daniel Koenig, FTA
Steven Minor, FHWA
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Craig Reed, FXBGO!
Joe Stainsby, PRTC
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

Others Present

Fran Larkins, 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 Vice Chair Lehane.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

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

3. Approval of the May 1, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis advised attendees that VDOT requested a resolution be added to the agenda: Opening Public Comments on Amendments to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Additional Funds to Maintenance Project Groupings for FY23 and to Add Additional Funds for UPC 117026, #SMART22 Shelton Shop Road Improvements with Reconstruction Without Added Capacity.

Vice Chair Lehane suggested adding the TIP amendment as item 7.a and amend the subsequent items' lettering accordingly.

Motion: Nick Minor; Second: Mike Craig

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the April Policy Committee Meeting

Ian Ollis provided a summary of the Policy Committee's April meeting to attendees. Three items were approved to commence public comment: Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Draft FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and 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. The Policy Committee approved the FY24-27 Air Quality Conformity Analysis (AQCA) Report. Clark Construction provided a presentation on the schedule, status, and scope of the Fredericksburg Train Station Platform and Bridge Rehabilitation Project. Finally, staff provided updates on the FAMPO Vision Plan and New River Crossing Study.

5. Public Comment

Public comments were received. One in support of a new river crossing; one that supports the eastern bridge option and voiced concern for the slip lane from southbound I-95 into Central Park; and one from a family that resides on Greenbank Road with serious concerns for the option that would connect to and widen their road.

Fran Larkins spoke and pointed out that the river crossing report includes a photo of an existing sign located at the end of Celebrate Virginia Parkway that reads “THIS STREET IS PLANNED FOR FUTURE EXTENSION – STAFFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING (540) 658-8668”. Ms. Larkins advised attendees that the sign is referring to the parkway being extended to serve future residential development and not the intention for the road to be extended across the Rappahannock River.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the April 3, 2023, TAC Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve the May 1, 2023, Consent Agenda.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Bryon Counsel

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Action/Discussion Items

a. Endorse Resolution 23-29 Opening Public Comments on Amendments to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Additional Funds to Maintenance Project Groupings for FY23 and to Add Additional Funds for UPC 117026, #SMART22 Shelton Shop Road Improvements with Reconstruction Without Added Capacity

Motion to endorse Resolution 23-29.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Bryon Counsel

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

b. FAMPO Vision

Ian Ollis gave attendees the history and processes used to develop the Vision Statement, Purpose and Objectives with potential projects that could help mitigate congestion and improve mobility for the region. Mr. Ollis shared comments and input from Policy Committee members and emphasized that this is a starting point for a larger conversation. Bassam Amin questioned the long range year of the Vision (2075), and Nick Ruiz suggested that potential projects may not be appropriate to list for each objective. Vice Chair Lehane proffered the idea to set goals for travel time index or congestion and asked how the Vision’s objectives line up with adopted comprehensive plans. The Policy Committee has asked for staff to combine the FAMPO jurisdiction’s land use plans and growth areas, including the location and number of housing units approved. Mr. Ruiz shared experiences with similar mapping efforts including a housing “countdown clock” to estimate when developable land would be built out. Nick Minor was supportive of the Vision process as it represents a proactive cooperation effort lacking at the state level.

c. New River Crossing Presentation and Report

Mr. Ollis began the presentation with answers to “Why do we need to do this?”: reduce regional congestion, improve the roadway grid network, and improve the long-term reliability of I-95. Origin and destination graphics were shown that demonstrate the need for an additional river crossing between Stafford and the City, west of I-95. Environmental constraints and easement restrictions were explained, and the impact of five options were compared considering vehicle to capacity ratio, truck traffic, and traffic volumes throughout the day, the week, and season of the year. Focused examinations of Route 3 and Salem Church Road in Spotsylvania County were presented.

Paul Agnello shared the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors letter and resolution with attendees. A new river crossing will increase traffic on Route 3, where after a \$5 Million project to remove intersection “bump outs” to add an additional through lane for eastbound and westbound traffic, there is a limit on what can be done to accommodate additional traffic. While Spotsylvania recognizes there is a need to improve north / south capacity, roads like Salem Church Road and Leavells Road were not constructed to take additional vehicles. Mr. Agnello shared that Spotsylvania has a concept for an eastern crossing near the Bowman Center and Lansdowne Road, and the county supports western 2-lane connections between Rt 3 and US Rt 17 west of Gordon Road.

Bryon Counsel commented that with 35 years commuting experience to Washington DC and Rockville MD, that a western bypass from I-66 to Thornburg would allow through traffic from PA and WV to avoid I-95 and US Rt 17 to get to areas south.

Stephen Haynes supports the FAMPO Vision horizon year of 2075, but questions whether the objectives should list specific projects. Mr. Haynes agreed with other speakers that multiple two-lane connections between Rt 3 and US Rt 17, and further away from I-95, provide long-term benefits; and that the benefits shown in the river crossing research will degrade over time.

Mr. Ollis pointed out that crossings between Rt3 and US Rt 17 that are west of Gordon Road would spur urban sprawl, since development would be away from the activity centers of the FAMPO region.

Mike Craig provided that Option 2 aligns with the city’s comprehensive plan. Mr. Craig also advised that their plan includes an access point to I-95 that ties to W Gordon Shelton Blvd. Option 2 could relieve local congestion and preclude the need for the I-95 / W Gordon Shelton access point.

Nick Ruiz asked if the point in time could be projected when I-95 will reach unacceptable levels of congestion. Mr. Ollis advised this is difficult to determine without complex model runs.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 23-23 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Draft New River Crossing Study Report.

Discussion: Mr. Agnello advised attendees that the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in opposition to the River Crossing Study and he will be voting against the motion for this reason. Bassam Amin shared that he has attended FAMPO TAC meetings for 34 years, and all the options discussed today have been presented in the past but never materialized. Mr. Amin's hope is that a solution to this age-old problem will be finally realized.

Motion: Mike Craig; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed.

d. CMAQ / STBG Safety Metrics

Becky Golden explained the safety metrics that will be presented at the May 22nd TAC Subcommittee. The proposed scoring system utilizes a comparative equity system that results in point scores among projects between zero and ten. Three metrics are totaled for road projects: Crash Severity, Total Crashes and Crash Reduction. Three metrics are used for bicycle and pedestrian projects: Project Length, Crash Reduction and VDOT's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Map.

e. Discussion Regarding CMAQ / STBG Funding Allocations

Mr. Ollis explained two options included for TAC's consideration. Option A is the public comment version with a minor funding correction discovered by staff. Option B includes the same mathematical adjustment as Option A and incorporates locality input from Spotsylvania County. John Ridout explained the allocation methodology deployed that utilized the currently adopted process. Several areas of the adopted process allowed for flexibility to keep projects on schedule and Dr. Ridout fully explained the staff's thought process for each area where shifting funds was requested based on jurisdiction staff's request.

Dr. Ridout also explained funding shifts that were imposed to balance Option B and optimize expenditure draw down. Discussion ensued between members regarding the timing of the High-Capacity Transit Study for FXBGO! Paul Agnello explained the need for adjustments to Option B to optimize expenditure draw down, resulting in Modified Option B, and asked that the final version include project phase timelines where available. Vice Chair Lehane asked members to check the schedules and funding totals to advise staff of edits or corrections.

Motion to approve Resolution 23-22 Approving Option B, as amended, and with no study funding for the new river crossing, 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.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Mike Craig

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion to approve Resolution 23-22 Approving Option B, as amended, and with new river crossing study funding, 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.

Motion: Vice Chair Lehane; Second: Mike Craig

Abstentions: None

Motion passed.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis advised attendees that TAC members will receive a Traffic Area Zone (TAZ) map showing updated 2020 census blocks and the current TAZ layers, and requested comments be provided that will assist with VDOT's update to the FAMPO Travel Demand Management (TDM) model. Also requested are names from each FAMPO jurisdiction to attend the monthly meetings on the TDM Model update process.

10. Member reports

Stephen Haynes advised attendees of the VDOT Six Year Improvement Program Commonwealth Transportation Board public hearing to be held at Germanna Community College on May 8th.

11. Meeting Adjourned 11:29 a.m.