

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 15, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
86 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405
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)
Mr. Darrell English, alternate Stafford County (V)
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Melody Fowler, alternate Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!) (remote attendance)
Mr. Matthew Rowe, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) (remote attendance)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. David Brown, alternate City of Fredericksburg (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
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)
Ms. Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Mr. Steven Minor, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Mr. Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
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):

Jon Gerlach (remote attendance)
Paul Agnello (remote attendance)
Carl Beckett (remote attendance)
Erin D. (remote attendance)
John C. (remote attendance)
Hannah Smith (remote attendance)
Magaly Oatridge (remote attendance)
Jason Towery (remote attendance)
Marsha Sirks (remote attendance)
PD Taylor (remote attendance)
Linda LaSut
Joe Bonds, 22406
Roslyn Reeder, 22406
Dennis Eshman, 22406
Joanie Ong, 2406
Jake Hillis, 22406
Morgan Burch, 22406
John Water, 22406
Rupert Farley, 22407
Pamala Taylor, 22406
Suzanne Willis, 22406
Matthew Shilts, 22406
Emily Shilts, 22406
Joe Brito, 22406
Louise Kugler, 22406
Dan Scatchard, 22406
Kathy Scatchard, 22406
Al Watkins, 22406
William Scaife, 22406
Siobhan Beckett, 22406
Pamela Smith-Johnson, 22406
Kathleen Williams, 22405
Darren Brown, 22406
Kathie Haines, 22406
Gloria Chittum, 22406
Michael Payne, 22406
Kevin Sweeney, 22406
Sara-Lee Caliquiri
Lyndell Jord, 22406
Timothy Welsh, 22408
Michael Flood, 22406
Diane Flood, 22406
Robert Frimes, 22556
Jeff Haimes, 22406
Kristina Server, 22406
Catherine Carter, 22406
Phillip Smith, 22406

Robert Burdsal, 22406
Jacob Shorter, 22406
An additional 38 people did not sign in

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** – Mx. Colie Touzel
Mx. Touzel conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.
4. **Approval of the May 15, 2023, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**
Motion was made to approve the May 15, 2023, Policy Committee agenda.

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

5. **New River Crossing Presentation, Report and Purpose & Need Statement** – Mr. Ian Ollis and Dr. John Ridout
 - a. **Resolution 23-23 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Draft New River Crossing Study Report (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Ollis provided an overview of the River Crossing Study report. The report compares similar MPO areas that have more bridge crosses and road lanes than FAMPO. He noted the results to the survey for the East-West Mobility Study Roadway report to the question “Should the region invest in a new river crossing bridge, west of I-95?” where 78% of over 1,000 participants answered “Yes.” He shared data from StreetLight which gathers location data from cell phones and showed the origins and destinations of locals in the region. He noted the Travel Demand Model which helps staff see the potential impact of the river crossing options. He provided a brief overview of the five options and environmental considerations and easement locations. He reviewed the impact throughout the region to reduce local traffic. He noted public requests to not allow truck traffic and shared the truck volume impact for each option. He noted the volume change distribution throughout the region. He noted the economic development and costs. Some of the next steps include presenting a final report to the Policy Committee in June, hiring a consultant, and proceeding with a NEPA alternatives study and Environmental analysis which will have multiple public hearings and meetings. He added that there is no vote on any river crossing option tonight, but instead the Policy Committee will vote on whether to proceed with the study.

Motion was made to open a public comment period for the Draft River Crossing Research report:

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

6. Public Hearings

a. River Crossing Report

Joe Bonds, a resident of Celebrate VA, spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to Celebrate VA. He noted that this project would impact their community.

Louise Kugler, a resident of England Run, spoke in opposition to Option 2. She asked why not spend money on widening secondary roads instead of building another bridge.

Al Watkins, a resident of England Run, spoke in support of the river crossing connecting to Celebrate VA and in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run. He described the beautiful qualities of the England Run community.

Kathy Scatchard, a resident of England Run, noted a timeline of events about the land near Celebrate VA. She spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run.

Dan Scatchard, a resident of England Run for over 31 years, spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run. He noted the 5 proposed options within the River Crossing Research report and proposed his own option with a combination of options 4 and 5.

Christina Server, a resident of England Run, spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run because of the impact on the environment as well as on the England Run community. She noted that, in the future, the bridge would likely need to be widened.

Catherine Carter, a resident of England Run, spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run. She shared her story of moving to Virginia and her quadriplegic husband.

Philip Smith, a resident of Celebrate VA, spoke in opposition to the river crossing. He noted the beautiful qualities of the Celebrate VA community. He is concerned about the impact on property values and the sense of community in the area.

Robert Birdsall, a resident of Greenbank Road, spoke in opposition to the river crossing. He noted that a river crossing would destroy his home and make it impossible to walk along Greenbank Road.

Jacob Shorter, a resident of England Run, spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run. He noted that there is a large human impact and that a couple of the options would destroy his home, or run directly behind his home.

William Scathe, a resident of Greenbank Road, spoke in opposition to the river crossing. He noted that the river crossing would greatly impact human lives.

Emily Shilts, a resident of Warrenton Road, spoke in support of the river crossing. She noted the lack of resources in her area of Stafford and that her and her family are constantly having

to drive south. She noted that we cannot hold onto the past and that the Stafford of now needs a bridge, and the Stafford of the future will likely need a bridge, too.

Shavon Beckett, a resident of England Run, spoke in opposition to the river crossing. She noted that there are continued threats from construction projects on the environment and commented on three endangered plants that are protected by federal and state laws.

Matthew Shilts, a resident of Warrenton Road, spoke in support of the river crossing. He noted that this is not a new problem and that roads will continue being built, especially as the population grows. He said there is urgency to build now so that fewer homes are impacted.

Joe Brito, spoke in support of the river crossing, and noted that he represents over 4,600 people who signed a petition in support of the river crossing, west of I-95. He noted the deficiency of north-south lanes and the economic impact that gridlock creates on the region.

Sara-Lee Caliquiri, a resident of Celebrate VA, spoke in opposition to option 4. She said an extra 50,000 cars would be a detriment to the Celebrate VA community. She suggested looking for another option that does not impact people's homes.

Joseph Jose spoke in opposition to the river crossing and suggested finding another option that does not impact people's homes.

Dennis Eshman, a resident of Celebrate VA, suggested researching the estimates of increased travel of interstate traffic, because of the concern that interstate traffic will disrupt residential neighborhoods.

Joanie Ong, a resident of England Run for seven years, spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run. She spoke about the great qualities of the England Run community and the concern that the river crossing bridge would destroy the community. She suggested looking for another option further west.

Jake Hillis, a resident of Stafford, spoke in support of the river crossing to help relieve congestion.

Justin Murphy, a resident of England Run, spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run.

Morgan Burch, a resident of Celebrate VA, spoke in opposition to the river crossing. He questioned why the proposed river crossing is being considered.

John Walker, a resident of River Road, spoke in opposition to the river crossing because of the impact on his home.

Rupert Farley, a resident of Chancellor Road, spoke in opposition to the river crossing because of environmental concerns. He also noted that building our way out of congestion is like buying our way out of debt. He suggested that congestion pricing be implemented to help alleviate congestion instead of further building.

Carl Beckett, a resident of England Run, spoke in opposition to the river crossing connecting to England Run. He noted that to alleviate traffic, a river crossing needs to be built further west instead.

John Clepner, a resident of Long Point Drive, noted that in option 4, the 55,000 vehicles exceed the design capacity of Celebrate VA Parkway. He suggested two additional options further west be considered: Holly Corner Road and Richard Ferry Road.

FAMPO staff read aloud comments received prior to the meeting.

- b. 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

No comments were made or received regarding FY24-29 CMAQ funds.

- c. Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

No comments were made or received regarding FY24 UPWP.

- d. FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

No comments were made or received regarding FY24-27 TIP.

7. Public Involvement

Joe Brito spoke about a previously proposed FAMPO project, the Western Bypass.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of April 17, 2023, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (**ACTION ITEM**)
- b. 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 (**ACTION ITEM**)

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda:

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

9. Action/Discussion Items

- a. CMAQ/STBG Presentation– Dr. John Ridout and Mr. Ian Ollis
 - 1. Resolution 23-22 Approving 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**)

Dr. Ridout provided a presentation on FY24-29 funding allocations.

Ms. Vanuch asked a clarifying question about the options within the River Crossing Research report.

Ms. Shropshire noted that the NEPA analysis will look at all the proposed options and, additionally, NEPA could propose other alternatives. Ms. Shropshire explained that NEPA will look at right-of-way impact, wetlands, environment, air quality, and noise impact.

Moreover, there will be many public involvement opportunities during the NEPA analysis. Ms. Shropshire shared that the NEPA analysis could take a few years and that the conclusion of NEPA cannot be reached until there is a funded project.

Several committee members expressed their gratitude to the public for their participation and hoped that the public will continue to be passionate about and engage in the transportation planning process in the region.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 23-22.

Motion: Ms. Bohmke; Second: Mr. Kelly

Motion passed.

10. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis noted the letter received from Spotsylvania County noting the Board of Supervisors' opposition to the river crossing report.

11. Staff and Agency Reports

No staff or agency reports.

12. 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.

13. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: June 26, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.