

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 26, 2023 – 7:30 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) (remote attendance)

Mr. Darrell English, alternate Stafford County (V) (left early)

Ms. Lori Hayes, Second Vice-Chair Spotsylvania County (V)

Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)

Mr. Jacob Lane, Spotsylvania County (V) (remote attendance)

Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County (remote attendance)

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)

Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

Ms. Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FXBGO!) (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. Tom Coen, 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)

Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)

Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)

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):

Ann Cupka, King George Board of Supervisors
Jon Gerlach, City Council Fredericksburg
Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County (remote)
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County (remote)
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect (remote)
Al Watkins, Stafford resident
Fran Larkins, Stafford resident
Gavin Gardon, Spotsylvania resident
John Walker, Fredericksburg resident

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager
Ms. Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner II/Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator
Mr. Connor Anderson, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner
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 7:30pm.
2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Mr. Connor Anderson
Mr. Anderson conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.
3. Joint Meeting with GWRC Board – Commonwealth Transportation Board proposed Smart Scale Application Criteria – Ian Ollis, GWRC & FAMPO
 - a. Sample Resolution of Concern for Smart Scale Scoring and Application Proposals (ACTION ITEM)
 - b. Sample Letter of Concern for Smart Scale Scoring and Application Proposals (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis provided a brief overview of the May 2023 meeting of the Commonwealth Transportation Board’s (CTB) SMART SCALE Process Review. He explained that there are currently two categories of MPO: large MPOs and small MPOs, where the number of submissions for projects allowed is dependent upon the size of the MPO. FAMPO had previously suggested a middle MPO category with Policy Committee approval. The proposal from the CTB is that all submissions be reduced statewide, with maximum application allowances for large MPOs equal to 3, and small MPOs equal to 2. Therefore, reducing the number of submissions, FAMPO and GWRC would have a difficult time trying to hypothesize which projects could score well and if staff is wrong, then it is likely other MPO and PDCs have a higher probability of funding over FAMPO and GWRC. The thought behind this potential change is to consider VDOT staff time and effort spent on application preparations because some of that time is spent on applications that are ultimately screened out.

Ms. Shropshire confirmed that over 50% of submitted applications are not ready for scoring at the full application submission deadline. She also noted that assistance is provided past the full application deadline for fairness to all.

Ms. Cupka noted that VDOT staff helps the rural localities, King George and Caroline counties, and that assistance improves applications.

Chair Graham shared concern of an inherent bias towards large projects because they will all be surface transportation projects instead of transit, and therefore there may be a bias in submitting projects because of the potential for a larger project being funded.

Ms. Sellers said this will not be the case because of other criteria that will include transit.

Ms. Sellers mentioned that the next CTB meeting will be hosted in Fredericksburg at the FredNats Stadium on July 19 at 8:30am.

Ms. Hayes voiced approval of the letter, but suggested it be sent without Resolution 23-35 as an enclosure.

Motion was made to eliminate Resolution 23-35 as an enclosure and amend the Letter for SMART SCALE Scoring and Application Proposals to include the following: Localities are expected to submit Round 6 SMART SCALE project ideas to VDOT in mid-September, and the CTB is going to make their final decision on the number of applications in October and therefore, the late change will add to difficulty in preparing applications for Round 6.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Bohmke
Motion passed.

4. Adjourn GWRC Meeting

Chair Graham adjourned the GWRC meeting at 8:27pm.

5. Approval of the June 26, 2023, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the June 26, 2023, Policy Committee agenda.

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

6. 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 for displaying name tags for the Policy Committee members.

FAMPO staff read aloud an email received from Jane Leeds who expressed her concern that those with accessibility challenges cannot safely get to and from this meeting and strongly suggested the Policy Committee fund projects for those with accessibility challenges.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of May 15, 2023, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

b. Resolution 23-30 Approving 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)

c. Resolution 23-24 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (ACTION ITEM)

d. Resolution 23-25 Adopting the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (ACTION ITEM)

e. Resolution 23-26 Adopting the River Crossing Study Report (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Hayes requested an amendment to the consent agenda to separate items c. and e. Motion was made to approve the consent agenda as amended.

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

Motion was made to approve items c. and e. on the consent agenda.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Bohmke
Motion passed.

8. FAMPO Administrator Report – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis provided an overview of this fiscal year's accomplishments including transportation studies and workshops, public involvement, federal and state regulatory requirements, Round 5 SMART SCALE application approvals, receipt of SS4A grant award, and the ongoing effort to align policies and funding to develop a FAMPO Vision. Moreover, Mr. Ollis highlighted the upcoming fiscal year and FAMPO's ongoing projects and research. He expressed his gratitude to FAMPO staff, VDOT staff, and CTB members. Lastly, Mr. Ollis announced that per the work on the Capital Region Rail Vision, that Virginia and Maryland are working towards integrating their commuter rail service in order to provide seamless movement between states.

9. Action/Discussion Items

a. Reappointing At Large CTAC Members

1. Resolution 23-31 Appointing Larry Gross as an At Large Member to the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (ACTION ITEM)

2. Resolution 23-32 Appointing Rupert Farley as an At Large Member to the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (ACTION ITEM)

3. Resolution 23-33 Appointing Rodney Thomas as an At Large Member to the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (ACTION ITEM)

4. Resolution 23-34 Appointing TaMara Banks as an At Large Member to the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis explained that these CTAC appointments need to be renewed as per the CTAC bylaws and expressed their commitment to the CTAC.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 23-31, 23-32, 23-33, and 23-34.

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

b. FAMPO Vision Plan

1. GWRC Zoning & Future Land Use Compiled Map – Mr. Connor Anderson

Mr. Anderson provided a presentation on zoning and future land use specifications for the region by compiling the individual jurisdictions' GIS files into a regional zoning and future land use map. Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Fredericksburg each have around thirty different classification ordinances which Mr. Anderson collated into eleven zoning classifications, including: commercial, industrial, mixed use, agricultural, rural residential, suburban residential, urban residential, planned development mixed use, planned development commercial, planned development residential, and special overlay (protected areas). Mr. Anderson noted that the US Census Urban Areas and county zoning/future land use plans are different, but seeing the distinctions side by side helps to understand future growth. To review the region's future population growth, the past four decennial census numbers were collected, and using a linear projection, it is calculated that between now and 2060, the population will double to equal about 600,000 people.

2. Vision Priorities – Mr. Ian Ollis and Ms. Colie Touzel

Mr. Ollis provided an update on the FAMPO Vision plan, posing questions including:

- Do we support mobility as a service?
- What transportation projects support regional economic growth?
- To what extent do we prioritize the freight network versus other modes?

3. Future Funding Options for Transportation Projects

Mr. Ollis described the parallel between the FAMPO Vision and Future Funding. He mentioned that SMART SCALE projects with leveraged funding (local match) always score better and that federal grants often require a 20% match. If SMART SCALE does not fund a project, Mr. Ollis noted that the locality must either fund the entire project, cancel it, or change the scope of the project. Therefore, with the future doubling of the population and the resulting traffic increase, we must find more funding for transportation projects. Mr. Ollis suggested that FAMPO create a subcommittee with King George and Caroline counties in order to consider all funding options for the region.

Ms. Hayes requested information on the pros and cons of a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

Ms. Bohmke requested data to show how much revenue an RTA would have generated in the last five to ten years and how it would affect the future, as well. She also mentioned that the public needs to be educated about what the growth looks like now and into the future, because the public will say "stop building houses," but many of the projects have already been approved several years ago by prior Boards.

Mr. Kelly shared concern that we will not be able to provide transportation infrastructure to support the level of development illustrated on the future land use and zoning maps provided by Mr. Anderson.

Chair Graham noted the desire of rural areas in the region to be able to preserve their rural land use and that one of the most cost-effective forms of land use is targeted density in targeted locations so that roads and expansions of roads do not need to be built. He stated that targeted density would help preserve green and rural areas as opposed to the effects of sprawl. Chair Graham also mentioned there is not adequate service to make FXBGo! viable, and therefore, it is an inherent responsibility of the Policy Committee to provide the frequency (15-minute headways) to make transit viable. Therefore, Chair Graham proposed that FAMPO develop sustainable transportation solutions and land use policies to support those solutions in targeted areas for a prioritized transportation network where the most growth is anticipated.

Chair Graham requested that Policy Committee members send FAMPO staff their priority statements for the FAMPO Vision.

c. Resolution 23-27 Approving the Slate of Officers to Serve in the Fiscal Year 2024 (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to elect Meg Bohmke for Chair, Lori Hayes for First Vice Chair, and Jason Graham as Second Vice Chair.

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

d. Resolution 23-28 Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Jason Graham (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Bohmke recognized Chair Graham for his leadership and ability to keep the Policy Committee on track.

Motion was made to approve the Dedicated Service of Jason Graham.

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

10. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis shared correspondence regarding Joint FHWA/FTA Conformity Finding for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard for Fredericksburg, VA.

11. Staff and Agency Reports

No staff or agency reports.

12. Board Member and Chair Comments

Ms. Gary expressed her concern for those with accessibility challenges as per the Public Involvement comment from Jane Leeds.

13. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: August 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.