

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, August 7, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

[www.fampo.gwregion.org](http://www.fampo.gwregion.org) Video URL: <https://youtu.be/zLDrheDOO1k>

### **Committee Members Present:**

Chair Matthew Lehane, Stafford County  
First Vice Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County  
Second Vice Chair, Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg  
Khapel Akbari, Stafford County  
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg  
Susan Gardner, VDOT  
Amy Garbarini, DRPT  
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect  
Stephen Haynes, VDOT  
Nick Minor, King George County  
Craig Pennington, Caroline County  
Craig Reed, FXBGO!  
Nick Ruiz, VRE  
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT  
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

### **Committee Members Present (remotely):**

Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County  
Melody Fowler, FXBGO!

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg  
Adam Derrick, Stafford County  
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect  
Chelsea Beytas, FTA  
Kimberly Cook, King George County  
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County  
Mike Finchum, Caroline County  
Christine Hoeffner, VRE  
Todd Horsley, DRPT  
Daniel Koenig, FTA  
Steven Minor, FHWA  
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County  
Robert Schneider, PRTC  
Joe Stainsby, PRTC

## **Others Present**

Christine Fix, VPRA (remote attendance)  
Alan Watkins, Stafford County England Run Road Resident  
Will Montgomery, VRE

## **Staff Present:**

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator  
Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager  
John S. Ridout, Transportation Planner II  
Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator (Remote Attendance)  
Connor Anderson, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner

### **1. Call Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by 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 August 7, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Paul Agnello requested that item 6.b. be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Action / Discussion items. Michelle Shropshire and Susan Gardner advised that the full approval of the TIP block has not yet been received from VDOT Central Office. Item 6.b. was therefore removed from the agenda.

Ian Ollis advised attendees that there is a question as to the TIP year of item 6.c. This item was moved to the end of the agenda for VDOT to query Central Office staff on the correct TIP year.

Motion was made to approve the August 7<sup>th</sup> Agenda as amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

### **4. Review of the June Policy Committee Meeting**

Mr. Ollis provided a summary of the Policy Committee's June meeting. The meeting began with a joint meeting with the GWRC Board to review proposed changes to the SMART SCALE application criteria. FAMPO Policy Committee approved sending a letter to the Secretary of Transportation. The FY24 UPWP, FY24-27 TIP, and the River Crossing Study Report were adopted, and four at-large CTAC members were re-appointed. GWRC zoning and future land use ordinances were collated and merged into one map and shown to attendees. Comments were received on Future Vision Priorities, and the FY24 slate of officers was approved.

## 5. Public Comment

Alan Watkins from the England Run Road community inquired about the status of the River Crossing study, and whether a curved path can be considered perpendicular to a straight line. Mr. Watkins also voiced concern for the frequent gridlock of the northbound to westbound traffic exiting I-95 and turning left to go west on US 17 in Stafford. The permanent traffic signals controlling this movement are either not timed correctly, or traffic is overwhelming the capacity of the closely spaced signals, causing backups onto the northbound I-95 off ramp.

## 6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the June 5, 2023, TAC Meeting Minutes
- d. Endorse Resolution 24-04 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Two New Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Projects: UPC 20299 Virginia State-Supported Amtrak Operations; and Potomac Creek Third Track South (Siding A)

Motion to Approve the August 7, 2023, Consent Agenda, as amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Minor

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

## 7. Action/Discussion Items

- 7.a. Endorse GWRC Resolution 24-1 Authorizing Staff to Execute a Contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc (VHB), for Consulting Services to Develop the Planning District 16 Safe Streets 4 All Safety Plan

Mr. Agnello questioned the grant amount being lower than other MPO's in Virginia who were awarded SS4A funds for their Safety Action Plan. Mr. Ollis and Becky Golden helped explain the process and reason for the amounts awarded that were compared. Credit was given to Linda LaSut, VDOT's Fredericksburg District Assistant Planning Manager, who identified the opportunity for VDOT's HSIP team to prepare the GWRC Transportation Safety Plan in advance of the SS4A Grant application. It is estimated that this work saved about \$30,000 of data analysis that other MPO's likely included as part of their SS4A grant work scope. Chair Lehane advised attendees that implementation grant applications will need consultant-prepared cost estimates, and that a future TAC discussion would be for a small portion of STBG funding to be used for such cost estimating purposes. July of 2024 is the SS4A Implementation Grant application deadline.

Motion to Endorse GWRC Resolution 23-2.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Minor

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

## **7.b. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Submissions**

1. Endorse Resolution 24-03 Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Resolution of Support for the Counties of Stafford and Spotsylvania 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program Funding Project Applications for FY 25-26

Ms. Golden presented the FAMPO TAP project Resolution of Support on behalf of Kari Eaves. After thoughtful discussion, TAC made the following motions.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-03.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Chair Lehane

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

2. Endorse GWRC Resolution 24-2 George Washington Regional Commission Resolution of Support for the King George County Transportation Alternatives Program Funding Project Application for FY 25-26

Motion to Endorse GWRC Resolution 24-2.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Chair Lehane

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

## **7.c. SMART SCALE, Round 6 Update and Timeline**

Ms. Golden presented the SMART SCALE presentation on behalf of Kari Eaves. Mr. Ollis emphasized the importance of starting to identify candidate projects early. The pre-application deadline is March 31, 2024, and the full application deadline is August 1, 2024. Stephen Haynes explained that a pre-scoping form is available on the portal, and that it is required for VDOT assistance to applicants.

Attendees discussed the timeframe for candidate regional projects to be submitted into the portal by FAMPO. It was agreed that the September TAC meeting would begin at 9:00 and include those discussions as part of the agenda. Mr. Ollis suggested an amendment to the bylaws to allow certain meetings to be held online, and Chair Lehane requested staff to bring by-law language changes to the September TAC for consideration.

Mr. Haynes emphasized the importance of logging in to the SMART SCALE portal early to ensure that permissions and log in passwords are current and working.

### **7.c.1. VAMPO Member Feedback on Proposed Changes to SMART SCALE**

TAC attendees and FAMPO staff worked together to fill out the VAMPO Member Feedback survey. Nick Ruiz recommended sending the June 26<sup>th</sup> FAMPO Policy Committee letter that was sent to the Secretary of Transportation as supporting documentation to the survey answers. Chair Lehane requested the CTB SMART SCALE Retreat presentation be sent to TAC members.

## **7.d. Transportation Demand Model (TDM) Update**

Ms. Golden provided a report on progress of VDOT's update of the FAMPO Travel Demand Model.

## 7.e. CMAQ / STBG Project Scoring Recommendations & Project Selection Process

Dr. Ridout presented the changes to the project scoring methodologies developed over several months: increased clarity and specificity throughout; improved screening conditions; and reworked scoring criteria and the scoring process. Extensive discussion surrounded the call for projects steps, as well as the idea to change the number of applications from transit service providers. Transit service providers successfully explained the benefits of maintaining the current number of applications; they also agreed to the level of local support and timeframe for providing documentation of same, after thoughtful discussion.

Mr. Agnello suggested that GWRideConnect's set aside amount be indexed for inflation, and it was agreed to use the percent increase that CMAQ allocations increase from the prior year to be used for that index. However, the amount would remain the same if the CMAQ allocation amount goes down compared to the prior year's amount.

Mr. Agnello provided an intake form with details for Bicycle / Pedestrian projects, including the method to develop comparative cost estimates. Basam Amin provided valuable input, and Mr. Ollis suggested that staff route the intake form with staff edits, for TAC input.

After valuable and thoughtful discussion, consensus was reached as follows:

Before adding new projects, fund existing CMAQ projects up to an additional 10% of the existing funding amount as requested by the recipient subject to the following:

- a) The most CMAQ funding any one project can receive is limited to two times the annual average existing CMAQ budget.
- b) Any single project may not be allocated more than 50% of any one year's CMAQ budget.
- c) Single project requests cannot be for more than 10% of the furthest fiscal year (FY) total funding amounts available during a call for projects.

Number of Applications: FAMPO jurisdictions will receive five STBG applications and may divide the five applications by mode as they see fit.

Other eligible agencies will receive three STBG applications and may divide by mode as they see fit. Agencies are to consult the jurisdiction in which the project is located and provide documentation with the application.

FAMPO staff may present a request for STBG Studies funds at any time throughout the fiscal year. The TAC must act on the staff's proposal for consideration by the Policy Committee. FAMPO Staff can submit specific study projects with Policy Committee approval to be scored during the open call for projects.

### 2. Presentation & Timeline for FY28 – 30 CMAQ / STBG Call for Projects

Dr. Ridout lead the discussion regarding the timeline.

**6.c** Endorse Resolution 24-02 Approving a Modification to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program Adjusting the Funding for Three Projects: UPC 110914 #SMART18 - I-95 Exit 126, Route 1 SB onto Southpoint Pkwy; Maintenance: Preventative Maintenance and System Preservation; and Maintenance: Preventative Maintenance for Bridges

Ms. Gardner explained that since the action in the TIP block involves adjustments of FY21-24 funding for the projects, Resolution 24-02 needs to be corrected to match.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-02, as amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Stephen Haynes

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**8. Correspondence**

- FTA's approval of the FY24 UPWP

**9. Staff Reports**

No Staff Reports were presented.

**10. Member Reports**

Ms. Shropshire announced the opening of the TAP application portal, and Nick Ruiz introduced Will Montgomery, a new Transportation Planning Intern with VRE. Chair Lehane presented Jamie Jackson with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as TAC Chair during FY23, with a round of applause from attendees.

- a. Notification of changes to cost estimates on FAMPO projects
- b. Notification of new transportation projects by localities

No notification of changes to cost estimates were provided; and there were no new transportation projects identified by localities.

**11. Meeting Adjourned 11:50 a.m.**