

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org

Committee Members Present: *(V) indicates voting member*

Ms. Meg Bohmke, Chair, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Lori Hayes, First Vice Chair, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, Second Vice Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Matthew Kelly, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Timothy Barody, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Nicolas Kwatnoski, Chair CTAC

Committee Members Present (remotely):

Ms. Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Ms. Melody Fowler, alternate Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Darrell English, Stafford County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. David Brown, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)
Mr. Steven Minor, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Mr. Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Mr. Adam Lynch, Chair BPAC

Others Present (remotely):

Paul Agnello
Colin Burch
Dr. Pamela Yeung
Al Watkins
Gavin Gardon

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Mr. Connor Anderson, Transportation Planner/GIS Technician
Ms. Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner III
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager
Mr. John Ridout, Transportation Planner II
Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator (remote)

1. Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order
Chair Bohmke called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Chair Bohmke led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
Mr. Anderson conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.
4. Approval of the August 21, 2023, Policy Committee Agenda

Motion was made to approve the agenda.
Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch
Motion passed with unanimous consent.
5. Public Involvement
Comments submitted prior to the meeting were included in the meeting packet and read aloud.

No additional comments from members of the public were made.
6. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of June 26, 2023, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
 - b. 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 was made to approve the consent agenda.
Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch
Motion passed with unanimous consent.
7. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and Modifications
 - a. Resolution 24-02 Approving a Modification to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program Adjusting the Funding for Five Projects: UPC 110914 #SMART18 - I-95 Exit 126, Route 1 SB onto Southpoint Pkwy; Maintenance: Preventative Maintenance and System Preservation; Maintenance: Preventative Maintenance for Bridges; #SMART24 Route 1 and Exit 126 SB Improvements; and UPC 119112 #SMART22 I-95 Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve Resolution 24-02.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

b. Resolution 24-01 Directing a Public Comment Period for Amendments to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Three Projects: UPC 123908 River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study; #SMART24 Route 1 and Exit 126 SB Improvements; and UPC 119112 #SMART22 I-95 Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve Resolution 24-01, removing UPC 123908 for a separate vote.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion was made to approve UPC 123908.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed.

8. FAMPO Administrator Report

Mr. Ollis noted that the FAMPO Travel Demand Model must be updated every 5 years instead of every 7 years and that Ms. Golden would provide further details later in the agenda. Mr. Ollis also provided an update on multimodal transportation trends: Highway Congestion, OmniRide, VRE, and Fredericksburg Go! and Amtrak ridership. All show an increase in ridership, with Fredericksburg Go! experiencing higher levels than pre-pandemic.

Chair Bohmke asked which locality had the most increase in Fredericksburg Go! ridership. Ms. Jackson noted that the city has the highest ridership, but all the localities are experiencing an increase in ridership and that Spotsylvania County has the most increase in ridership per new route.

Ms. Hayes requested information about which bus stops have the highest ridership and when the fare free program will end. Ms. Jackson noted that the fare free program is due to end February 2025.

Mr. Ollis continued by discussing the region's increasing population trends. He also shared that the first platform of the train bridge revitalization is complete and construction beside our office is moving onto the next phase. Mr. Ollis identified upcoming projects and funding that FAMPO staff will be working on including the following: a review of the LRTP, funding for CMAQ/STBG, SMART SCALE projects for Round 6, and TIP updates.

9. Action/Discussion Items

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 (ACTION ITEM) – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis shared that the GWRC Board will be voting on this resolution next Monday at the GWRC Board meeting.

Motion was made to endorse GWRC Resolution 24-1.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Hayes

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

b. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Submissions – Ms. Kari Eaves

1. 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 (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Eaves provided a presentation on the submissions to the Transportation Alternatives Program. She explained that there are \$2 million available per district with a 20% local match. Spotsylvania and Stafford counties submitted applications including the following: Smith Station Rd Shared Use Path gap closure, Chancellor Park Dr Sidewalk, Mine Rd / Greenspring Sidewalk, Foreston Woods Sidewalk, and Chatham Heights Rd / Kings Hwy Sidewalk and Crosswalk.

Ms. Eaves noted that locality projects must receive an endorsement from the FAMPO or GWRC Board. Final applications with resolutions and endorsements are due by October 2. As this is a two-year cycle, funding will be available next October.

Motion was made to endorse Resolution 24-03.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

c. SMART SCALE, Round 6 Update and Timeline – Ms. Kari Eaves

Ms. Eaves provided an update for the SMART SCALE Round 6 timeline which includes: August – Pre-scoping process with the TAC, September – develop list of projects with the TAC and work with VDOT to see what is needed for those projects, October – submit project concepts to VDOT, November – project concepts due to VDOT, December through April – work with VDOT to create supporting work for preapplications, and March is when the pre-applications are due to VDOT.

Ms. Eaves noted that there were many proposed modifications by the CTB, but regardless of the unknowns, it is important to develop a preliminary list of regional projects for submission to the pre-scoping portal in November.

1. Update on CTB discussions – Ms. Laura Sellers

Ms. Sellers provided an update on CTB discussions. She thanked those who submitted comments and attended the CTB meeting at Fred Nats Park. During the CTB tour of Fredericksburg, Ms. Sellers noted that CTB members visited I-95 and an overview of the trail network in Fredericksburg.

Chair Bohmke asked Ms. Sellers to share the CTB conversation about SMART SCALE.

Ms. Sellers noted that since FAMPO only qualifies for high priority projects (HPP), that those are the projects FAMPO needs to be aware of and apply for. She noted the issue CTB is trying to solve is that smaller projects have been awarded funding through HPP that did not meet what was envisioned for that funding, and therefore the CTB is trying to weed out smaller projects that should have been submitted by the locality instead of the MPO or PDC. She noted that the mid-level conversation still needs to be discussed.

Second Vice Chair Graham asked a clarifying question about what qualifies for smaller projects and if the locality should submit smaller projects even if they are cross-jurisdictional projects.

Ms. Sellers noted that it seems that throughout the state, localities are submitting rural projects through the MPO or PDC. The CTB wants HPP to be a bigger category. She also noted that there are some concerns about the land use category and that the land use discussion FAMPO has been having is a great example for other areas in the state.

d. Transportation Demand Model (TDM) Update – Ms. Becky Golden

Ms. Golden provided an update on the TDM and shared work accomplished by FAMPO staff. She shared that the TDM predicts impacts of transportation policy and infrastructure improvements as well as helps transportation professionals assess the pros and cons of options to meet the needs of communities.

e. FAMPO Vision Plan

1. GWRC Zoning & Future Land Use 3-Dimensional Map with Traffic Volume – Mr. Connor Anderson

While viewing the zoning and traffic congestion map created by Mr. Anderson using VDOT P4P data, Mr. Anderson pointed out that the 3D lines in the map showcase the amount of congestion using height: the higher and darker the line (in shades of pink and purple), the more congestion there is. Mr. Ollis noted that all the areas of severe congestion are west of I-95 including: Garrisonville Rd, US 17, and Route 3. The data is an average of congestion and not at any specific time.

2. Future Funding Options for Transportation Projects – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis noted that there is an increased emphasis on local match for funding. He suggested that committee members have a workshop to discuss how to tackle future funding and where to secure local matches. Committee members agreed to hold this workshop after a shorter Policy Committee meeting in September.

f. CMAQ / STBG Call for Projects – Dr. John Ridout

1. CMAQ / STBG Project Selection Process Draft Revisions (For information only)

Dr. Ridout noted the changes for CMAQ/STBG methodology developed with the TAC.

10. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis shared correspondence about the following: VDOT -- new express lanes open on I-95, USDOT -- notification of approval for the FY2024 UPWP, and NCR Transportation Planning Board -- certifying the planning process TMA Federal Certification Review conducted in March 2023.

11. Staff Reports

Dr. Schneider mentioned PRTC had a successful service change. No other staff reports were made.

12. Board Member and Chair Comments

Mr. Kelly requested the FAMPO Administrator to facilitate a meeting with PRTC and FXBGO!, about where the region is with transit and what the future of transit could look like so that the Policy Committee can have a serious conversation about the future of the region's transit.

Committee members agreed to have that discussion.

Ms. Hayes thanked Chair Bohmke for speaking at the CTB meeting.

Chair Bohmke noted that the next meeting will be one hour long, with a future funding conversation taking place at 7:00pm.

13. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting September 18, 2023, at 6:00pm.

Chair Bohmke adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.