

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, September 11, 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  
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg  
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg  
Adam Derrick, Stafford County  
Melody Fowler, FXBGO!  
Susan Gardner, VDOT  
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect  
Stephen Haynes, VDOT  
Leon Hughes, Caroline County  
Casandra Lord, VDOT  
Craig Pennington, Caroline County  
Nick Ruiz, VRE  
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

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

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

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Nick Minor, King George County  
Khapel Akbari, Stafford County  
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect  
Chelsea Beytas, FTA  
Kimberly Cook, King George County  
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County  
Christine Hoeffner, VRE  
Todd Horsley, DRPT  
Daniel Koenig, FTA  
Steven Minor, FHWA  
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County  
Craig Reed, FXBGO!  
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT  
Joe Stainsby, PRTC

## **Others Present**

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

## **Staff Present:**

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator  
Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner III and Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator  
Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager  
John S. Ridout, Transportation Planner II  
Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair Lehane.

### **2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Colie Touzel conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

### **3. Approval of the September 11, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Chair Lehane requested that item 8.b be amended to include endorsement of the CMAQ / STBG Project Selection Process. Paul Agnello requested that item 6.b. be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under item 8.c.

Motion was made to approve the September 11<sup>th</sup> Agenda as amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Bassam Amin

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

Ian Ollis began by asking if an abbreviated summary of the Policy Committee's prior meeting is desired by TAC members, to highlight items of major importance and items TAC may not have seen. Attendees agreed this was a good idea. The Policy Committee directed staff to prepare materials for a Workshop on Future Funding Options for Transportation Projects to be at their September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Materials include a memorandum prepared by the University of Mary Washington that provides estimated revenue for the Fredericksburg region that could be realized through formation of a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Estimates are provided for four different RTA models: 1) the Richmond/Central Virginia (CVTA) model, 2) The Hampton Roads (HRTAC) model, 3) the Northern Virginia (NVTA) model, and 4) the model proposed by Senator Jeremy McPike in the prior General Assembly session. Mr. Ollis noted that the upcoming legislative session will likely include proposals similar to the McPike bill, and the workshop has two major purposes for the Policy Committee: 1) to be forewarned and prepared to address potential upcoming legislation; and 2) consider all options for funding the region's transportation projects.

## 5. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

## 6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the August 7, 2023, TAC Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve the September 11, 2023, Consent Agenda, as amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

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 (Information Only)
- b. Endorse Resolution 24-05 Approving a Modification to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust the Funding for Maintenance: Traffic and Safety Operations Project Groupings (Action Item)
- c. Endorse Resolution 24-06 Adopt 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)
- d. Endorse Resolution 24-07 Adopt Amendments 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) (Action Item)

Mr. Agnello inquired the reason that UPC 119112 #SMART22 I-95 Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements is listed on both Resolution 24-02 and 24-06; and requested that Item 7.c. be voted on separately from the three TIP Action Items. Dr. Ridout explained that VDOT requested a TIP Modification to adjust funding for UPC 119112 first in the FY21-24 TIP; and a subsequent action to Amend the TIP. Stephen Haynes confirmed the two step Modification and subsequent Amendment was necessary.

Motion to Endorse Resolutions 24-05, 24-07 and 24-06 excluding UPC 123908 River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion to Endorse Resolutions 24-06 UPC 123908 River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study.

Motion: Nick Ruiz; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed.

## 8. Action / Discussion Items

- a. Endorse Resolution 24-08 Approving Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the Community Engagement and Equity Plan (CEEP) (Action Item)

Mr. Ollis explained that the Policy Committee Chair requested consideration of a change to the portion of the CEEP related to reading aloud written comments and described the recommended change: written comments to be attached to emailed agendas and printed agendas; and staff to read a brief summary aloud. The proposed amendments also include adjusting the current 30-day public comment period for TIP amendments and new draft programs to a 20-day public comment period. The reason for the adjustment to the TIP amendment comment period is to ensure that the span of time between Policy Committee meeting dates allows the opening of the comment period to close prior to the next subsequent meeting for adoption.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-08.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

- b. PL Funding Formula Scenarios

Mr. Ollis explained the PL allocation formula comparisons proposed for FY25. As part of the consultative process that VDOT is undertaking, MPO's have been given 30 days to give feedback on the allocation scenarios, including the reasons and impacts to FAMPO and other Virginia MPO's. The VAMPO Board of Directors' draft proposal was handed out that attempts to "smooth" the transition to the reduced amount leading up to FY25. All scenarios provide FAMPO with increased funding.

- c. CMAQ / STBG Project Selection Process & 6.b Opening Call for CMAQ & STBG Projects

Mr. Agnello requested clarification on the call for CMAQ & STBG projects regarding the applicable fiscal year, and the potential for distribution of additional funds outside of the annual cycle. Dr. Ridout, Chair Lehane, Mr. Ollis and Susan Gardner provided explanations that helped support the call for CMAQ & STBG projects to be initiated, including recommended language revisions to both project selection methodologies: *all funds will be applied to existing projects or projects scored in this round.*

Motion to Amend Section 5.2 of the CMAQ & STBG Project Selection Process to add: *all funds will be applied to existing projects or projects scored in this round.*

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Dr. Ridout described the FAMPO web application form and web page. Mr. Agnello pointed out issues with the application form that engaged input from jurisdiction representatives and VDOT, resulting in revisions as follows:

Motion to Add “*Locality’s CIP*” under section 3.0 Planning Considerations Included In:

Motion: Chair Lehane; Second: Paul Agnello

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion to delete the years (FY28, FY29 and FY30) under section 4.0 Project Finance

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Chair Lehane

Abstentions: Jamie Jackson and Nick Ruiz

Motion passed.

Motion to delete “& Roadway Alternative Fuel” from STBG Section 4.1

Motion: Jamie Jackson; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion to open the call for CMAQ / STBG projects

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Mr. Agnello provided comments on the CMAQ / STBG project selection process that were discussed in detail. Language changes were made upon which were mutually agreed. Section 5.1 (8) ...(between years 2-5)... raised discussion leading to the following:

Motion to retain ...(between years 2-5)...

Motion: Chair Lehane

Amendment to Motion to change to ...(between years 1-5)...

Motion to Amend Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Rodney White

Motion to Amend did not pass.

Second to Motion: Jamie Jackson

Motion to retain ...(between years 2-5)... Passed.

Mr. Agnello pointed out the documents have two sections labeled 5.1 and thoughtful discussion lead to the following: change the second section 5.1 to section 5.2; and edits were made upon which were mutually agreed.

Discussion continued regarding Mr. Agnello’s comments on the CMAQ project selection process. Kate Gibson engaged and educated attendees on potential and past projects for which CMAQ funding can be or has been utilized. The wording in the methodology was agreed to remain as submitted. Further inquiry as to the difference between CMAQ and CR funding also resulted in “or TSP” to be added to CMAQ Project Selection Process, Section 3.3 Project Screening, third bullet: Project is identified in a current adopted...

The CMAQ Supportive Network Infrastructure scoring metric was amended after discussion of the Overcoming Obstacles criteria as follows: Project overcomes a major obstacle: Limited access facility, Railroad, Major Stream, multi-lane roadway, *including turn lane, center turn lane, and at-grade crossings*. The Percent of Leveraged Funding criteria was amended as follows: Calculate total committed funding, *including TAP funding*...

Earlier amendments made to the STBG process will be carried over to the CMAQ process.

Motion to Endorse CMAQ / STBG Selection Process as amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**d. GWRC Zoning & Future Land Use 3-Dimensional Map with Traffic Volumes**

Mr. Ollis described the work of Connor Anderson that includes uniform designation of zoning categories across all GWRC jurisdictions as well as 3-dimensional representation of volume to capacity ratio and average annual daily traffic. Nick Ruiz and Mike Craig noted the benefits of this work effort and complimented staff. Bassam Amin and Mr. Ollis helped describe the historical and current uses for this mapping tool, including the lack of developer contributions for proposals that impact the road network.

**e. TAC Bylaw Amendment for Online Meetings**

Colie Touzel described the changes proposed to the bylaws:

- Updated “Public Participation Plan” to “Community Engagement and Equity Plan” throughout.
- Revised language to match the current Code of Virginia regarding meetings during a declared state of emergency.
- Added language permitted by the Code of Virginia to allow up to three virtual meetings of TAC in a calendar year.

Motion to Approve TAC Bylaw Amendments.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**f. SMART SCALE Regional Project Ideas**

Kari Eaves explained the impacts of proposed changes to the Round 6 SMART SCALE scoring process, using the region’s Round 5 project awards. Had the recommended changes been in place for Round 5, many projects would not have been funded. Ms. Eaves continued with a thorough and concise explanation of the impact of the removal of Step 2 from the current three step process of the Funding Scenario Steps. Mr. Ollis emphasized that with the elimination of Step 2, a greater local funding percentage will be required.

Changes to the Land Use Factor were then discussed, along with the result to Round 5 funded projects had all of the recommendations been in place. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Bus Transit projects were greatly reduced.

#### Key takeaways:

- Local and regional projects are not as “interchangeable” as in the past; we need larger projects that clearly demonstrate a regional scope and consider the Big Picture.
- Any bicycle / pedestrian projects must be coupled with roadway projects and clearly linked to larger regional networks.
- Potentially lower number of applications means regional consensus is even more essential to success.
- Consider implications of Land Use metric being split between Congestion and Safety.

Ms. Eaves provided a list of FAMPO staff regional project suggestions. Nick Ruiz requested input on whether a request of VRE for rolling stock as a regional project would be supported. Mr. Ollis advised attendees that if the proposed reduction of total applications to two each for GWRC and FAMPO, lists of potential projects should be developed and follow the metrics closely to ensure we make sound decisions.

Stephen Haynes was encouraging to develop ideas concurrent with the finalization of SMART SCALE scoring criteria, and this agenda item will be a standing item for the next several meetings. Mr. Ollis is hoping to receive VDOT’s input on the regional SMART SCALE projects since they will know the pulse of those revisions likely to be adopted.

#### 9. Correspondence

- August 28<sup>th</sup> letter from VAMPO to the Secretary of Transportation with input on proposed SMART SCALE Round 6 changes
- Letter and Certification Report by FHWA and FTA for the Washington, DC-VA-MD Transportation Management Area with the finding that the TPB meets Federal metropolitan planning requirements.

#### 10. Staff Reports

No Staff Reports were presented.

#### 11. Member Reports

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

Jamie Jackson thanked TAC members for their congratulatory baby card and well wishes, and she shared that the new baby is healthy and happy.

#### 12. Meeting Adjourned 11:50 a.m.