

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 18, 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. Monica Gary, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Lori Hayes, First Vice Chair, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, Second Vice Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Timothy Baroody, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, 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)
Ms. Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County

Committee Members Present (remotely):

Ms. Melody Fowler, alternate Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Darrell English, Stafford County (V)
Mr. Jacob Lane, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Matthew Kelly, City of Fredericksburg (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
Mr. Nicolas Kwatnoski, Chair CTAC

Others Present (remotely):

Cathy Coffey
Al Watkins
Chip Boyles

Gavin Gardon
Paul Agnello (online)
Rodney White (online)

Staff Present:

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

1. Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order

Chair Bohmke called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bohmke led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Mx. Touzel conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.

4. Approval of the September 18, 2023, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Agenda was amended to make Item 8a an Action Item, and to break apart Item 8b (Resolution 24-06) into two separate votes, voting on UPC 123908 individually.

Motion was made to approve the September 18, 2023, Policy Committee agenda as amended.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Dr. Schneider
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Public Hearings

Comments and questions from members of the public are welcome at this time related to the following:

- a.** *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*

Alan Watkins, a resident of England Run Lane in Stafford, expressed the collective desire of southern Stafford County residents for increased transparency, communication, and engagement in the face of forthcoming transportation changes. He emphasized the importance of offering input, particularly concerning congestion and rezoning in both his local area and the broader region.

Watkins suggested that prioritizing alternatives for commercial traffic could greatly benefit the region, thereby reducing traffic congestion on Warrenton Road. He advocated for a more community-minded regional approach to find a suitable solution. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to two Stafford supervisors for their efforts in this matter.

- b. *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)*

No comments were made.

No comments were received prior to the meeting.

6. **Public Involvement**

No public comments were made or received.

7. **Consent Agenda**

a. **Approval of August 21, 2023, Policy Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

- b. 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. 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**)

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Ms. Gary; Second: Mr. Yakabouski

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. **Action/Discussion Items**

a. CMAQ / STBG Project Selection Process Final – Dr. John Ridout (**Action Item**)

Dr. Ridout presented the CMAQ/STBG methodology and minor technical updates since the prior PC meeting. Additionally, The TAC unanimously endorsed the new methodology at their last meeting on September 11th.

Motion was made to approve CMAQ / STBG Project Selection Process Final.

Motion: Ms. Gary; Second: Ms. Hayes

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

- b. 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**)

1. Resolution 24-06A: UPC 123908 River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study

Motion was made to approve Resolution 24-06A.

Motion: Ms. Gary; Second: Dr. Schneider

Motion passed.

- 2. Resolution 24-06B: #SMART24 Route 1 and Exit 126 SB Improvements; and UPC 119112 #SMART22 I-95 Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements

Motion was made to approve Resolution 24-06B.

Motion: Ms. Gary; Second: Ms. Hayes

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

c. Recommended Amendments to the Community Engagement and Equity Plan (CEEP) – Mr. Ian Ollis

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

Amendments were made to the CEEP regarding reading public comments aloud at committee meetings as well as reducing the number of days for public comment for TIP amendments. The proposed amendments note that comments received prior to meetings will be summarized by staff rather than staff reading comments for the allotted 3-minute timeframe. Additionally, comments received prior to meetings will be attached to agendas and included in Policy Committee member packets. Proposed amendments regarding the TIP public comment period note that instead of a 30-day comment period, TIP amendments will have a 20-day public comment period.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 24-08.

Motion: Dr. Schneider; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

d. PL Funding Formula Scenarios – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis clarified that the allocation of PL funding, which covers the organization's general expenses, is determined by the state of Virginia. This funding originates from the Department of Transportation (DOT), with an additional contribution of 5303 from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. The state is responsible for determining the distribution of funds among various Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and is legally obligated to seek consultation on this matter.

During the discussion, Mr. Ollis invited the Policy Committee to provide any comments or specific mandates they wished to convey to the state concerning the allocation of PL funding. He pointed out that VDOT had proposed six distinct allocation options, and an additional seventh option was formulated by VAMPO (Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations). Detailed information regarding these options was provided in the meeting materials, and Mr. Ollis proceeded to review these options. The Policy Committee agreed to endorse VAMPO's recommendation.

9. **Workshop:** Future Funding Options for Transportation Projects – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis gave a presentation on future funding options for transportation projects, which committee members asked about while discussing the FAMPO Vision 2075 Plan. In this presentation he discussed: federal and state grants and allocations, an increasing emphasis on matching funds (SMART SCALE changes and emphasis on regional projects), value capture public financing, and an overview of a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

Following Mr. Ollis' presentation, the committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion on future funding options. Key considerations emerged, including the impact of inflation on funding, the necessity of a clear purpose for the allocated funds, and a call to petition the state regarding rising transportation project costs and road improvements. The absence of significant

regional mobility projects, coupled with concerns about compartmentalized county-level initiatives and the lack of a regional master plan, raised questions about project goals and acceptable transit times. The committee explored the idea of setting concrete point-to-point travel time goals and determining the most effective strategies to achieve them, particularly in rural counties with points of interest which affect an analysis' outcome.

Further discussion centered on how a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) might benefit the region. Mr. Ollis shared a PlanRVA presentation detailing CVTA revenues and operating structure, ensuring the validation of revenue collection was a key point, along with the proactive crafting of a regional RTA proposal. There was consideration of utilizing existing taxes, reclaiming them from being used in other regions (as they currently are), and discussions about project selection criteria, drawing insights from other RTA practices. The region's rapid growth, positioned between Richmond and DC, highlight the pressing need for smart development decisions. Finally, the committee emphasized the importance of transparent communication with the public about revenue generation and expenditure plans, with plans to bring the discussion to the GWRC board. A straw poll was conducted with a unanimous agreement showing general support for the concept and the FAMPO Administrator was requested to work on documents outlining the options for a transportation authority for review by the policy committee.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11. Staff and Agency Reports

Marcie Parker notified the committee that Michelle Shropshire is on a temporary assignment for several months so Cathy Coffey will be filling in. Additionally, Ms. Parker noted that the Secretary of Transportation's office will not be conducting the fall meetings.

12. Board Member and Chair Comments

There were no comments.

13. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting October 16, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Chair Bohmke adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.