

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 6, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: <https://youtu.be/3TMP6Oj5uis>

Committee Members Present:

Chair Matthew Lehane, Stafford County
First Vice Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Second Vice Chair, Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Adam Derrick, Stafford County
Melody Fowler, FXBGO!
Susan Gardner, VDOT
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Casandra Lord, VDOT
Nick Minor, King George County
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Robert Schneider, PRTC
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

Committee Members Present (remotely):

Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County

Committee Members Absent:

Khapel Akbari, Stafford County
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Chelsea Beytas, FTA
Kimberly Cook, King George County
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Amy Garbarini, DRPT
Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Leon Hughes, Caroline County
Daniel Koenig, FTA
Steven Minor, FHWA
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Craig Reed, FXBGO!
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Joe Stainsby, PRTC

Others Present

Catherine Coffey, PE
Alan Watkins, Stafford County Resident
Gavin Gardon, Spotsylvania County Resident
Will Montgomery, VRE Intern

Staff Present:

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

1. Call Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 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 November 6, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Paul Agnello requested that item 6.c be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under item 8.b.

Motion was made to approve the November 6th Agenda as amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the October Policy Committee Meeting

Ian Ollis covered items that were not also on the November TAC agenda. The FAMPO River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study consultant services contract with Michael Baker International was approved and the Vision 2075 starting point statement was approved as presented from the October TAC input and approval.

5. Public Comment

Alan Watkins from Stafford County spoke that he attended the Stafford County Board of Supervisors presentation by Chair Lehane regarding transportation and reported that the information was informative and well received. Max Steinbaum provided comments in support of trail network connectivity along River Road and trail improvements to the VCR trail and Smith Run Trail. John Bryant provided written comments in opposition to an RTA, and instead to tax home builders, businesses and the people who drive through the area.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the October 2, 2023, TAC Meeting Minutes
- b. Endorse Resolution 24-11 Approving Amendments to the Community Engagement and Equity Plan (CEEP)

Motion to Approve the November 6, 2023, Consent Agenda, as amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Robert Schneider

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. TIP Rollover Requests and Amendments

- a. Endorse Resolution 24-13 Approving a Rollover from the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program for 2 Projects: Route 1 and Exit 126 Southbound Improvements; #SMART 22 - I95 Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-13.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Robert Schneider

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

- b. Endorse Resolution 24-14 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust Funding Allocations for 2 Projects: Route 1 and Exit 126 Southbound Improvements; #SMART 22 - I95 Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-14.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. Action / Discussion Items

- a. SMART SCALE Round 6 CTB Update & Regional Project Ideas

Kari Eaves presented results of the October 17th CTB Board meeting with the following final staff recommendations included:

- Change Economic Development 1 and 2 Scoring Methodology and Process
- Addition of Mid-Level Application Tier
- Strictly define HPP eligibility to a list of project types
- Eliminate Funding Step 2
- Calculate congestion benefits 10 years in the future
- Modify Land Use factor to a Multiplier of all other factor areas and modify factor weightings
- Tie funding to past performance of locally-administered projects

Proposed changes to the Economic Development criteria include:

- Focus on sites that will attract growth industries, with the inventory captured in a statewide real estate database
- Job creation and capital investments in sites
- Estimates potential market demand of sites by including site visits
- Proposed Ed.2 (Freight Impact) scoring methodology focus proposed to shift from freight tonnage moved to freight volume moved (FAMPO Recommendation)

HPP eligible projects include:

- New Capacity Highway
- Managed Lanes
- New or Improved Interchanges
- New or Improved Passenger Rail Stations or Service
- Freight Rail Improvements
- High-Capacity Fixed Guideway Transit
- Transit Transfer Stations
- New Bridges

Eliminate Funding Step 2 for MPO/PDC projects. This means that MPO / PDC projects will compete statewide against regions with significant leveraged funding sources. This makes the local match more essential to the process. A new mid-level tier is also recommended that impacts FAMPO and some cities and counties with an extra “slot” of SMART SCALE applications. Mr. Ollis gave credit to Mr. Agnello for bringing this idea forward, and Laura Sellers for championing the idea at the CTB level.

Changes recommended to the Land Use criteria will impact stand-alone bicycle and pedestrian project applications, with those projects combined with a road improvement seen as more viable in Round 6.

Discussion regarding the milestone schedule for applications as well as proposed regional projects resulted in the following candidate projects to be submitted to the portal for VDOT to assist with the cost estimates, sketches and other application components:

- Centreport Pkwy to US 1 Interchange (Stafford)
- I-95 Widening from Exit 130 to Exit 126 (Spotsylvania)
- Butler Rd Roadway widening from Castle Rock Dr to Carter St from 2 to 4 lanes (Stafford)
- Garrisonville Rd widening from Eustace Rd to Pkwy Blvd from 4 to 6 lanes (Phase 1) (Stafford)
- Warrenton Rd widening from Stafford Lakew Pkwy to Village Pkwy from 4 to 6 lanes (Stafford)
- I-95 Exit 136 Centreport Pkwy Interchange Modifications (Stafford)
- US 1 / 3 Interchange operational improvements (Fredericksburg)

b. Regional Transportation Authority Update

Mr. Ollis described the juxtaposition of the lack of an RTA in the GWRC region amid the adjacent authorities; as well as the aspects of draft legislation including representation of jurisdictions, weighting of votes, prioritization of projects and project types. Research provided by Dr. Ridout was illustrated for the wholesale fuel tax. Since the Commuter Rail tax was extended to all jurisdictions in Virginia, the revised draft legislation eliminates this potential source of revenue in the RTA.

The presentation estimates revenue from the following: retail tax, transient occupancy tax and recordation tax. A comparison of other RTA revenue by source was provided, and robust discussion regarding transit projects and funding percentage set asides resulted in the draft legislation proposing 15% toward transit.

Consent Agenda Item 6.c. Endorse Resolution 24-12 Approving the Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1.

Mr. Ollis explained the need to amend the FY24 UPWP to reflect the work effort to research and produce documents for an RTA and confirmed Mr. Agnello's question that this is an administrative action.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-12.

Motion: Cassandra Lord; Second: Paul Agnello

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

c. 2050 LRTP Update Proposed Timeline / Schedule

Becky Golden and Mr. Ollis explained the timeframe to update the LRTP and the CLRP project list will be spring of 2024. The staff's intent is to better define the Needs List for projects that are not funded in the immediate horizon and maintain the CLRP List as those that are funded.

9. Correspondence

VDOT's request for comments regarding Olde Forge Drive Park and Ride lot environmental scoping.

10. Staff Reports

Dr. Ridout announced that the first stakeholder meeting for the FAMPO River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study will be forthcoming in January. Colie Touzel advised that the Congestion Management Program Performance Monitoring Program tool has been updated by staff, and they provided an update on the first SS4A stakeholder meeting. Localities have been requested to identify countermeasures for the five priority locations at the upcoming November 15th stakeholder meeting. Mx Touzel presented the TAC meeting schedule for 2024 with no concerns raised from attendees and provided the 2023 Public Involvement activity summary. Mr. Ollis complimented Mx Touzel for their direct communication and contact with over 450 citizens.

11. Member Reports

Mr. Ollis expressed high praise and appreciation to VDOT's Stephen Haynes who is retiring in December after 37 years working for VDOT, and presented a card signed by TAC members and staff. Jamie Jackson advised attendees that in FY26 in the absence of CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funding, local contributions for transit routes will increase, providing the connection between potential transit funding should an RTA be formed for the region.

Dr. Ridout provided reminders for the CMAQ / STBG application process, and Nick Ruiz shared that VRE is preparing a float for the Fredericksburg Christmas parade. Robert Schneider announced the ribbon cutting details for three new Commuter bus routes on December 11th: Courthouse Rd to downtown DC, Falmouth to Pentagon and Commonwealth lot to the Navy Yard.

Kate Gibson announced the GWRideConnect strategic plan is out for public comment.

12. Meeting Adjourned 11:20 a.m.