

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 2024 – 7:30 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)
Dr. Pamela Yeung, alternate Stafford County (V)
Mr. Deuntay Diggs, alternate Stafford County (V)
Ms. Lori Hayes, First Vice-Chair Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Drew Mullins, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, Second Vice-Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Timothy Baroody, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Will Mackintosh, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Catherine Coffey, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Ms. Casandra Lord, alternate Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Melody Fowler, alternate Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Ms. Cathy Binder, King George County
Mr. David “Sully” Sullins, alternate King George County
Mr. Timothy Welsh, Vice Chair CTAC
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Chair BPAC (online)
Mr. Chris Clarke, Vice Chair BPAC (online)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Gerald Childress, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jacob Lane, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. David Brown, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)
Mr. Steven Minor, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Mr. Daniel Koenig, Federal Highway Administration (FTA)
Ms. Chelsea Beytas, alternate Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Amy Garbarini, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Todd Horsley, alternate Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Ms. Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Ms. Nancy Long, alternate Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, Caroline County

Others Present:

Alan Watkins (online)
Paul Agnello (online)
Paul Prideaux (online)
Rodney White (online)
Leigh Anderson (online)
Gavin Gardon
Kevin Stephens

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
Mr. Connor Anderson, Transportation Planner/GIS Technician

1. Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order

Chair Bohmke called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 January 22, 2024, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the January 22, 2024, Policy Committee agenda.

Motion: Mr. Graham; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Public Hearings

Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust Funding Allocations for 2 Projects: Route 1 and Exit 126 Southbound Improvements; #SMART 22- 195
Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements

No public comments were received for the public hearing.

6. Public Involvement

Previously submitted comments were included in the meeting packet and read aloud.

Letters were received from Jane Leeds and Joe Brito. Ms. Leeds' letter covered the need for more public transit in the region and stated that the planning process for that must be started now before the area is overrun by congestion. Mr. Brito's letter emphasized his support for an RTA and said it is needed to properly fund the region's transportation needs.

No additional comments from members of the public were made.

7. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of November 20, 2023, Policy Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM)
- b. Endorse Resolution 24-15 Adopt Amendments 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 (ACTION ITEM)
- c. Endorse Resolution 24-16 FFY23 Annual Listing of Transportation Project Obligations (ACTION ITEM)
- d. Endorse Resolution 24-17 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to add UPC FRT0002 FXBGO! Rolling Stock Replacement (ACTION ITEM)
- e. Endorse Resolution 24-18 Approving a Rollover from the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program for 8 Projects: UPC 117026 #SMART22 – Rt 648 Shelton Shop Road Improvements, UPC 119112 #SMART22 – I-95 Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements, UPC 123908 River Crossing Study Only, UPC 110932 #SMART18 – Twin Lake – Kensington Bike / Ped Connector, UPC 115123 #SMART20 – Lafayette Blvd / Kenmore Ave / Charles St Roundabouts, UPC 105464 #HB2.FY17 Rt 606 West – Reconstruction of Mudd Tavern Rd, UPC 105535 #SGR17VB – Rt 3 (Business) Rappahannock River Bridge Rehabilitation, Bridge ID 18073 and UPC 109474 #HB2.FY17 – New Commuter Parking Lot Rt 1 at Commonwealth Dr (ACTION ITEM)
- f. Endorse Resolution 24-19 Approving Modifications to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to adjust funding for 3 Projects: FRT0012 Expand Project Scope to Include Intrusion Security Alarm System at FXBGO! Central, Operations and Maintenance Facilities, FRT003 Expand Project Scope to Include Automatic Passenger Counters (APC's) and UPC FRT0018 FXBGO! Security and Fiber Project (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Mr. Graham; Second: Mr. Yakabowski

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. **FAMPO Administrator Report**

Mr. Ollis commenced the session by introducing and extending a welcome to new committee members of FAMPO. He proceeded to give an overview of FAMPO's role, ongoing projects, completed studies, and FAMPO's vision outlining key focus areas for the future. He clarified FAMPO's responsibilities, encompassing monitoring the transportation system, strategic planning, formulating transportation policies, securing funding for enhancements, community engagement, and collaboration with relevant authorities. Furthermore, Mr. Ollis provided an overview of current FAMPO projects, including updates on the Travel Demand Model, CMAQ/STBG scoring, and various studies. Noteworthy mentions were made of successfully completed studies such as the East-West Mobility Study, the VCR Trail Bridge and Study, and the Freight Summit.

9. **Action/Discussion Items**

- a. SMART SCALE Round 6 – Ms. Kari Eaves

CTB Meeting Results & Regional Project Choices

Ms. Eaves provided an overview on the final policy revisions for SMART SCALE Round 6 and noted that the changes encompass five crucial points: the CTB will score projects based on congestion projected 7 years into the future rather than solely current values, the economic measure will be revised to better align with state priorities as determined by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), the number of applications will remain consistent with Round 5, eligibility for High Priority Projects (HPP) will be restricted to specific project types, and the land use factor will serve only as a multiplier for other metrics. HPP eligibility changes primarily affect MPOs and PDCs, emphasizing roadways on new alignments, new lanes, and bridges for large regionally significant projects. Step 2, allowing small projects to be funded by HPP funds, has been removed from the process, raising concerns about statewide competition and the need for leveraged funding, especially for larger projects, where matching funds result in a much higher chance of success.

Laura Sellers raised concerns about HPP changes, particularly the alteration of Step 2 and the potential for bias against smaller projects.

Mr. Graham noted that the funding landscape may favor projects from NOVA, Hampton Roads, and Richmond, prompting a discussion on the acceptance of this new reality.

Ms. Sellers emphasized the importance of challenging and changing policies.

Ms. Eaves reminded everyone of the March 31st deadline for pre-applications, with TAC finalizing the list according to new HPP rules. The SMART SCALE technical guide draft will be released for comment next week.

b. SS4A Corridors & Project Ideas – Ms. Becky Golden

Ms. Golden provided a comprehensive overview of the chosen corridors for SS4A, highlighting their observations and potential countermeasures. Currently, cost estimates and crash reduction benefits are in preparation. The Policy Committee is scheduled to receive the draft safety action plan at the next meeting, encompassing detailed information and estimates. Following this, the action plan will be open for public comment, with the aim of adoption at the March Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Graham raised concern about the exclusion of the Dixon Street corridor, where a recent fatality occurred. He emphasized its importance due to ongoing projects and fully funded SMART SCALE initiatives on that street. Ms. Golden advised attendees that the portion of Dixon Street between Route 3 and the Spotsylvania County line has been combined with Tidewater Trail through Spotsylvania to Jim Morris Road as a safety project corridor.

c. CMAQ / STBG Update – Dr. John Ridout & Mr. Connor Anderson

Dr. Ridout provided the Policy Committee with an update on the CMAQ/STBG scoring process. Staff explained why Stafford has a dedicated section of STBG Active Transportation funding due to the Transportation Management Area (TMA) in North Stafford, ensuring additional funding for CMAQ/STBG. Dr. Ridout then outlined the submitted projects, with half of the 36 total projects focused on roadways, a quarter on

transit, and a quarter on active transportation. Out of the expected \$6 million, \$4 million is allocated to roadway projects. The screening project period closed on January 19th, and traditionally, the top two projects in each category secure funding. Mr. Anderson and Dr. Ridout are currently involved in the scoring process, which is anticipated to be available by January 31st. Each project can receive a maximum of 50% of the available funding in each category. With a total funding request of \$52 million and only \$6 million available, there will be a competitive selection process for project funding.

d. FAMPO River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study Update - Mr. Ian Ollis & Dr. John Ridout

Dr. Ridout provided an update on the current phase of the River Crossing Parkway Study, detailing discussions from the stakeholder meeting held on January 16th. Consultants, Michael Baker International (MBI), are currently in the data collection and analysis phase, also focusing on environmental inventory and stakeholder coordination. Plans for public involvement, preliminary screening, and traffic counts have been initiated. A snapshot of actual traffic data revealed consistent activity on roads from the AM Peak until the PM Peak, with minimal midday traffic dips. The areas covered included US17 and Washington Intersection, I95 SB ramp to Rt 3, and US17 Falmouth intersection. Environmental study areas were delineated, and Mr. Graham raised concerns about developed land issues, leading to the consultant receiving the NEON development documents to rework alignments and avoid approved buildings.

Mr. Graham emphasized the impact of approved developments on potential river crossings, advising against certain points due to ongoing projects. Chair Bohmke inquired about the specific projects, and Mr. Graham provided information stating that some have been in process for 3 years. It was noted that these types of developments should have been addressed during the discussions about the study in the year prior, before hiring MBI to conduct the NEPA study.

Dr. Ridout outlined project scope and stakeholder coordination, with plans for a public workshop.

Mr. Ollis noted that the model runs will assess the impacts of each crossing option, determining the best course of action based on impact and relief. The complexity of Route 3, with various major connectors, was highlighted, emphasizing that a river crossing could alleviate congestion on specific sections of the road.

e. Stafford County Route 1 and Enon Road Improvement Project RAISE Grant Application Letter of Support

There was a letter of support sent to Secretary Buttigieg regarding Stafford County's RAISE grant application for their Enon Road Improvement Project. A motion was made to endorse this letter of support.

Motion: Ms. Hayes; Second: Ms. Vanuch
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

- f. Resolution 24-20 Approving a Transfer of Funds to Close out Two Projects: UPC 121799 FAMPO Freight Summit and UPC 111682 Virginia Central Railway (VCR) Trail Crossing Study (ACTION ITEM)

There was an underspending on the Freight Summit and an overspending on the VCR Trail study, surpassing the allocated hours in the task order. After discussion, an agreement was reached to split the difference in the funds. A motion was made to seek approval for the transfer of funds between the two studies.

Motion: Mr. Graham; Second: Mr. Yakabouski
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

10. Correspondence

It was noted that there is a senate bill proposing King George County leave Planning District 16. There was a letter of support from Richmond County and Culpeper County to make Route 3 a Corridor of Statewide Significance.

11. Staff and Agency Reports

Reminder: RTA subcommittee – 29 January at 6pm.

12. Board Member and Chair Comments

Chair Bohmke introduced Al Watkins from CTAC and Kevin Stephens from Senator Durant's office to the Policy Committee.

13. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting February 26, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

Chair Bohmke adjourned the meeting at 9:57 pm.