

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2024 – 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)
Dr. Pamela Yeung, alternate Stafford County (V)
Ms. Lori Hayes, First Vice-Chair Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Drew Mullins, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, Second Vice-Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Jannan Holmes, 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)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Casandra Lord, alternate Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Mr. David “Sully” Sullins, alternate King George County (online)
Mr. Chris Clarke, Vice Chair BPAC
Mr. Nicolas Kwatnoski, Chair CTAC

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Darrell English, alternate Stafford County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Gerald Childress, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jacob Lane, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. David Brown, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)
Mr. Steven Minor, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Mr. Daniel Koenig, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Ms. Chelsea Beytas, alternate Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Ms. Amy Garbarini, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Todd Horsley, alternate Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Ms. Melody Fowler, alternate Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Ms. Nancy Long, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County
Ms. Cathy Binder, King George County
Mr. Timothy Welsh, Vice Chair CTAC
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Chair BPAC

Others Present:

Brad Shelton (MBI)

Kathy Knotts

Allen Watkins

Chip Boyles (GWRC)

Leigh Anderson (GWRideConnect)

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, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner

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 March 18, 2024, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the March 18, 2024, Policy Committee agenda.

Motion: Mr. Graham; Second: Ms. Hayes

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Public Hearings

a. *Amendments to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust Funding Allocations for 2 Projects: UPC 117026 #SMART22 – Rt 648 Shelton Shop Road Improvements; UPC 103085 #HB2.FY17 Rt 1/630 Area Corridor Improvements*

b. *Draft GWRC Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan*

A written comment was received from Jane Leeds regarding the SS4A Safety Action Plan:

Jane Leeds said the study underscores the prioritization of single occupancy vehicle needs and remedies in transportation planning yet neglects to adequately address the challenges faced by individuals with mobility limitations, particularly those unable to drive or access public transit safely. The Fredericksburg area lacks sufficient infrastructure for physically challenged residents, leading to restricted mobility and diminished quality of life, especially among the financially disadvantaged and disabled. Despite being taxpayers, these individuals are overlooked in resource allocation, with a primary focus on accommodating vehicle drivers. Additionally, the absence of essential amenities like audible signals and accessible sidewalks further exacerbates the difficulties for those with visual impairments. Public transit options remain inadequate, hindering access to essential services, and limiting employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. To rectify these disparities,

inclusive transportation planning is essential, necessitating the provision of safe and accessible infrastructure for pedestrians and individuals with disabilities, as well as extending public transit services to accommodate varying schedules and needs.

No additional comments from members of the public were made.

6. **Public Involvement**

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

Allen Watkins of England Run Lane commented on the developments in the area and said these projects are available to view on his Stafford southern gateway Facebook page. His presentation touched on potential and current developments and potential options for a river crossing.

No additional comments from members of the public were made.

7. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of February 26, 2024, Policy Committee Minutes (**ACTION ITEM**)
- b. Endorse Resolution 24-24 Adopt Amendments to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust Funding Allocations for 2 Projects: UPC 117026 #SMART22 – Rt 648 Shelton Shop Road Improvements; UPC 103085 #HB2.FY17 Rt 1/630 Area Corridor Improvements (**ACTION ITEM**)
- c. Resolution 24-25 Approving Modifications to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust the Funding for 2 Projects: FRT0002 Replacement Rolling Stock and FRT0009 Transit Preventative Maintenance Activities (**ACTION ITEM**)

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Ms. Gary; Second: Mr. Graham

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. **FAMPO Administrator Report**

Mr. Ollis provided an update on the I-95 Rappahannock River Bridge average daily traffic before and after the local lanes opened. The additional lanes are having the effect the VDOT study said they would. He gave an update on the Policy Committee request to work with OmniRide and FXBGO! regarding the future of transit in the region. He also discussed the MWCOG response to a prior Policy Committee question regarding the question of remote work trends of federal workers. There is insufficient data available at the time about remote work patterns, but there was a consensus that hybrid work schedules are the new normal for Federal workers. Mr. Ollis reminded members about the RTA subcommittee will meet on Thursday, March 21st, and about the River Crossing Study Open House on Wednesday, March 20th at the VDOT Auditorium on Deacon Road.

9. **Action/Discussion Items**

- a. Approval of SMART SCALE Pre-applications (**ACTION ITEM**) - Ms. Kari Eaves

Ms. Eaves gave new Policy Committee members a quick overview of the SMART SCALE process. She also provided an update on the projects that GWRC and FAMPO submitted as SMART SCALE Pre-applications. Both GWRC and FAMPO have submitted 5 projects each. One project from each list of 5 will need to be removed. As the applications are

prepared, the two worst scoring projects will be removed and then the final list of 8 will need a resolution in June.

Motion was made to approve the SMART SCALE Pre-applications

Motion: Ms. Hayes; Second: Ms. Holmes

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

b. FAMPO River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study – Brad Shelton, AICP

1. FAMPO River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternative Study Public Meeting – 20 March 5pm to 7pm

Mr. Brad Shelton, of Michael Baker International (MBI), provided an update on the status of the River Crossing NEPA Alternatives Study. It is a planning and environmental linkages study that looks at the benefits and impacts to the environment, community, and economy. MBI is establishing a purpose and need statement for the project. Preliminary screening looked at the model for indication of anticipated usage of a new crossing; the result showed that a crossing would be very popular.

The draft project purpose states: *the purpose of this project is to provide additional north-south travel capacity across the Rappahannock River to support travel moving between points west of I-95 in the FAMPO Region.* The three draft needs statements have been developed to support this purpose, establishing a grid system of roads, a new multimodal connection across the river, and additional routes for emergency responders. Some goals include minimizing the environmental impacts.

Mr. Shelton gave an overview of approved and proposed developments plus easements that the study had to consider. Mr. Shelton then presented the four alternative alignments to be presented at the March 20th public meeting.

c. Vision 2075 Update – Mr. Ian Ollis & Mx. Colie Touzel

Mr. Ollis gave an update on Vision 2075, FAMPO’s vision statement that clarifies the organization’s meaning and purpose. The six goals presented in the October meeting now have objectives tied to them. Mr. Ollis gave a quick overview of the newly added objectives and noted that the TAC requested an additional goal be added: “Improved quality of life”.

There was discussion among PC members about the non-motorized objective in the quality-of-life goal section. This discussion included topics of development, planning, and mixed-use zoning that has been implemented in the region. The PC decided to add this objective to Goal C: “Safe Travel,” as well.

d. Future of Transit – Ms. Jamie Jackson & Dr. Robert Schneider

1. FXBGO!

Ms. Jackson, the Director of Public Transit for the City of Fredericksburg, gave an overview of Fredericksburg Regional Transit, now rebranded as Fredericksburg Go! or FXBGO!. She outlined the organization’s operations and goals, including services, staff, facilities, routes, fares, ridership information, and funding. FXBGO! is currently offering fare-free service supported by a grant from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. She addressed concerns about the sustainability of grant funding, potential rate increases, and the impact of

funding on their services. The Fare Free program will conclude in the Spring of 2025. Ridership is now above pre-pandemic levels.

There were questions from the PC about getting ridership data by route, next steps for when grant funding ends, and costs per rider. The cost for localities to put towards FXBGO! has decreased in recent years due to grant funding which has been reported annually to county administrators.

2. OmniRide

Dr. Schneider, Executive Director of PRTC, gave an overview of the commission, services and resources, and key issues and trends. He spoke about the rebranding the organization underwent, where all services became branded as OmniRide, their premier service. OmniRide provides commuter express bus services, local bus services in Prince William County, and micro transit services. He explained the I-95 and I-66 commuter services and the routes and park and ride lots they utilize. He outlined the financial challenges faced by the organization due to the decrease in revenue caused by the pandemic and motor fuels tax issues in the region. He highlighted the impact of inflation on their operations, the difficulties of attracting and retaining drivers, and the need to adapt to changing commuter patterns. He touched on House Bill 285, which makes it easier to get bus shelters, and that the bill passed unanimously in the house and in the senate.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

11. Staff and Agency Reports

There was a reminder that the RTA subcommittee is on March 21st at 6pm.

Mx. Touzel displayed the preliminary data of the SS4A survey, showing the number of participants and safety strategies that ranked the highest.

Ms. Golden provided updates on the SS4A Grant Application Timeline which included:

- FHWA encourages applicants to combine Supplemental Planning Grant and Implementation Grant requests into the same application, and FHWA is able to make partial awards.
- Award criteria is based on Fatalities on the road per \$1 Million of requested funding, and the funding request must be for a countermeasure that reduces the Fatality collision type.
- Many of the road-related fatalities on the SS4A Draft Safety Action Plan priority corridors have been eliminated with VDOT-installed rumble strips. That is good news for motorist safety but means other corridors in the GWRC Transportation Safety Plan with fatalities need to be selected for Implementation grant locations for this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- The April 17th deadline in the NOFO is for FHWA to review a Safety Action Plan against the self-certification checklist, and not for a pre-screening of grant applications.
- May 10th is FAMPO's deadline for Resolutions of support from localities and that resolution must commit to the applicant's 20% match.
- Deposit of local match funds with GWRC is required for execution of the SS4A Grant Agreement, if an award is made.

- March 22nd is the deadline for localities to provide Implementation Grant project details to FAMPO for staff to prepare the grant application.

12. Board Member and Chair Comments

There were no board member comments.

13. Closed Session

- a. Resolution 24-27: Allowing the Policy Committee to Go into Closed Session (ACTION ITEM)

Voting and non-voting members of the Policy Committee, and the FAMPO Administrator are invited to attend the closed meeting because they are deemed necessary and their presence will aid the body in its consideration of the topics to be discussed, pursuant to Virginia FOIA Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1).

Motion was made to allow the Policy Committee to Go into Closed Session

Motion: Ms. Hayes Second: Mr. Mullins

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

14. Return to Open Session

- a. Resolution 24-28: Allowing the Policy Committee to Return to Open Session (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to allow the Policy Committee to Return to Open Session

Motion: Ms. Hayes Second: Ms. Vanuch

There was a roll call vote. All the following Members voted yes: Ms. Bohmke, Ms. Hayes, Mr. Graham, Ms. Holmes, Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. Mullins, Ms. Gary, Ms. Parker, Dr. Schneider, and Ms. Vanuch.

None voted no.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion for Adjustment to FAMPO Administrator's Remuneration:

"I hereby move that the policy committee instructs the GWRC Executive Director to amend the annual remuneration of the FAMPO Administrator to reflect an increase of 1.5% to his annual salary, effective July 1 in addition to the budgeted 3.5% COLA and 40 hours of PTO."

Motion: Ms. Hayes Second: Ms. Gary

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

15. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting April 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Bohmke adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.