

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 1, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cENt8mtEuco>

Committee Members Present:

Chair Matthew Lehane, Stafford County
Second Vice Chair, Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Catherine Coffey, PE, VDOT
Adam Derrick, Stafford County
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Susan Gardner, VDOT
Casandra Lord, VDOT
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg

Committee Members Present (remotely):

First Vice Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Amy Garbarini, DRPT
Chris Clarke, King George County
Steven Minor, FHWA
Shannon Fennell, Spotsylvania County
Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Robert Schneider, PRTC
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

Committee Members Absent:

Khapel Akbari, Stafford County
Chelsea Beytas, FTA
Kimberly Cook, King George County
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Leon Hughes, Caroline County
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Craig Reed, FXBGO!
Joe Stainsby, PRTC
Melody Fowler, FXBGO!
Daniel Koenig, FTA

Others Present

Paige DeBold, FHWA (online)
Will Montgomery, VRE Intern
Allen Watkins

Staff Present:

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
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 April 1, 2024, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Matthew Lehane requested that items 7.b and 7.c be moved before item 7.a. Paul Agnello requested that SS4A Supplemental Planning Grant and Implementation Grant Projects be moved from Staff Reports and be discussed as 7.b.

Motion was made to approve the April 1st Agenda as amended.

Motion: Robert Schneider; Second: Adam Derrick

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the March 18, 2024, Policy Committee Meeting – Mr. Ian Ollis

Ian Ollis covered items that were not also on the March TAC agenda and would not otherwise be covered in the April TAC meeting. Mr. Ollis reviewed the public hearings for TIP Amendments and the GWRC Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan draft. He shared that two TIP amendments were approved as well as the Policy Committee's approval of SMART SCALE pre-applications. He updated the committee on the River Crossing study's presentation to the Policy Committee which was also presented at the March 20 public meeting. He shared that the Vision 2075 update was approved and mentioned Jamie Jackson and Robert Schneider's presentation to the Policy Committee. Finally, he mentioned the closed session where the Policy Committee gave a performance appraisal to the FAMPO Administrator.

5. Public Comment

Allen Watkins commented on the River Crossing Study Alternatives developed by Michael Baker International (MBI) and asked whether development plans near the proposed river crossing could be made available to the consultants and FAMPO committees. He also asked whether FAMPO could identify the impacts developments in the area would have on the four alternatives identified by MBI. Finally, he asked whether it would be worth temporarily

postponing development in the area of the River Crossing Study until the final options are identified and presented.

Gregory Goldstein, a Stafford County resident, wrote to the committee asking whether they had considered the impact of a Buc-ee's development in Stafford County. He asserted his concern that the development would further strain existing infrastructure in the region. He asked whether any studies had been completed to assess the impact of the development and, if so, whether he could have access to information about possible outcomes of the development.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the March 4, 2024, TAC Meeting Minutes (**ACTION ITEM**)
- b. Endorse Resolution 24-26 Approving Modifications to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust Funding Allocations for UPC FRT0019 FXBGO!'s Transit Maintenance Facility HVAC (**ACTION ITEM**)

Motion to Approve the April 1, 2024, Consent Agenda.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Rodney White

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Action / Discussion Items

- a. Endorse Resolution 24-29 Adopt GWRC Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan (**ACTION ITEM**) – Ms. Becky Golden

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-29.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Adam Derrick

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

- b. SS4A Supplemental Planning Grant and Implementation Grant Projects

Becky Golden presented the SS4A Grant award criteria. She emphasized the importance that applications have a demonstrated safety problem. Award selection considerations included requests between \$2.5 and \$10 million and with a high fatality and serious injury ratio per \$1 million in Federal funding requested. Ms. Golden also shared applicant projects supported by locality planning staff and the timeline for next steps.

The committee discussed the timeline for this round of applications, the timeline for the next round of applications, and project eligibility.

- c. Endorse Resolution 24-31 Directing a Public Comment Period for the Draft Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (**ACTION ITEM**) – Ms. Becky Golden & Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis clarified that this endorsement would not pertain to the content of the UPWP, which is not finalized, but it would endorse a public comment period for the UPWP which is required.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-31.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent

d. CMAQ / STBG Project Allocations

1. Proposal to Swap MPO TAP Funding – Chair Matthew Lehane

Chair Lehane proposed shifting CMAQ & STBG funds from a Stafford project, that had been awarded TAP funding, to two other Stafford projects. Mr. Ollis cited his concern that one of those projects proposed to receive the CMAQ/STBG funding had scored poorly in the methodology. He reviewed how, previously, localities were able to shift funds between projects that had still scored well enough to receive STBG funding.

The committee discussed the possible consequences of swapping funding to a project that had not scored well in the methodology and moved forward with the agenda.

2. Proposals regarding Round 7 Smart Scale Preparation – Chair Matthew Lehane

Chair Lehane proposed STBG funding go towards Round 7 SMART SCALE preparation. Mr. Ollis mentioned that the methodology allows for the introduction of such a proposal only in November of the call for projects. He supported the goal of the proposal but stated that work would need to be done to find funding for the proposal. John Ridout presented different funding scenarios later in the committee meeting.

The committee discussed deviating from the CMAQ / STBG funding methodology to allow for funding preparation for SMART SCALE Round 7 rather than funding a 3rd roadway project. Nick Ruiz suggested possibly redistributing funds currently allocated for funding studies. Paul Agnello expressed his concern that this discussion was premature and the possibility that increased funding on SMART SCALE project applications would decrease the funding they receive in SMART SCALE. Chair Lehane argued that the same amount of funding would be received by the district and that this was not a premature discussion. He clarified that project development in preparation for any funding programs could be eligible to receive this funding.

Mr. Agnello and Kate Gibson both advocated against deviating from the adopted CMAQ/STBG methodology. Mr. Ollis commented on the new two-year cycle of STBG funding, and Chair Lehane made a final point advocating for the proposal.

3. Proposals regarding GWRideConnect – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello introduced the proposal to redistribute CMAQ funding for GWRideConnect for FY27 in an even split for fiscal years 25, 26, and 27. Mr. Ollis clarified what this

money could be used for, and Dr. Ridout shared that the existing balance of \$30,000 from FY24 can be reapportioned to GWRideConnect funding in FY25. The committee discussed the logistics of redistributing funding, and Ms. Gibson commented that GWRideConnect had already budgeted for the larger CMAQ funding they were set to receive in FY27. She commented that the redistributed funds would be helpful in FY26, but the amount proposed was unnecessarily large. The committee supported using the remaining emergency balance from FY24 in FY25 and moving about \$10,000 from FY27 to FY26.

4. CMAQ/STBG Funding Scenarios (**ACTION ITEM**) – Dr. John Ridout

a) Presentation

Dr. Ridout presented CMAQ/STBG funding per project by source and FY30 category totals per mode. He also reviewed two set asides which included the redistribution of the emergency balance from FY24 to fund GWRideConnect in FY25 and pulling \$4,622 from STBG funds for FAMPO administration. He reviewed a correction to a Spotsylvania project and the balance entry for years 2026 – 2030. Finally, he gave general description of the three funding scenario options and the projects included in those scenarios. He finished the presentation outlining the process and next steps.

b) Funding Scenarios

i. Option A

Option A is the “raw” allocation of funds for FY30 based on the adopted methodology. In this scenario, the top two scoring projects in each category are awarded up to the requested amount of the award maximum. Unused funding is left until it can be applied to the next eligible project. Options B and C address those leftover funds.

ii. Option B

Option B is the “methodology preferred option,” where the remaining CMAQ funds will be applied to the third-place project in the scoring methodology.

iii. Option C

Option C would deviate from the adopted methodology and swap remaining CMAQ funding for STBG to fund project preparation for SMART SCALE application. There is the possibility for a delay in some projects, and the SMART SCALE support selection would be competitive.

Mr. Ollis explained how the TAC’s recommendation of a funding scenario would be shared with the Policy Committee before coming back to the TAC for a final recommendation. He also reviewed the cost effectiveness component of CMAQ scoring methodology and how it impacted project scoring in a way that determined what the third-place project is for option B.

Chair Lehane asked what the committee’s opinion was of the different scenario options. Jamie Jackson supported option C, citing that it was in the city’s best interest. Mr. Agnello said that while Spotsylvania is open to the idea of reapportioning funding for studies, he thinks that should be a later change in the methodology. Staying true to the methodology, he was in support of option B. Mr. Agnello asked who proposed Option C. The proposal for Option C to fund SMARTSCALE support and concept was proposed by Stafford County. The committee discussed SMART SCALE Round 6, what projects option C could fund, the development of option C, and when funding from option C would be available. Chair Lehane clarified that option C would fund project development in preparation for any grant application. The committee determined a roll call vote was necessary to determine the funding scenario that would be presented to the Policy Committee.

5. Endorse Resolution 24-30 Directing a Public Comment Period for CMAQ / STBG Project Allocations (**ACTION ITEM**) – Ms. Becky Golden & Mr. Ian Ollis

Motion for a Roll Call Vote to Endorse Resolution 24-30, moving forward with Funding Scenario Option C.

Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second: Adam Derrick

- Stafford County-Aye
- Spotsylvania County-No
- Fredericksburg City-Aye
- VDOT-Aye
- DRPT-Aye
- GWRideConnect-No
- VRE-No
- PRTC-Aye

The motion passed.

8. Correspondence

- Kanti Srikanth response to Supervisor Vanuch Inquiry

Ms. Golden presented correspondence that answered Supervisor Vanuch’s inquiry regarding the number of federal employment positions that have become remote.

9. Staff Reports

- FAMPO River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study Update

Dr. Ridout presented survey results and presentations related to the River Crossing Study.

10. Member Reports

- a. VRE’s 2050 Draft System Plan

11. Adjourn/Next TAC Meeting: May 6, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned 11:27 a.m.