

## **CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10th, 2024 - 6:00pm  
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg  
<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/>

A video recording of the meeting is posted on the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) web page: <https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/citizens-transportation-advisory-committee/> and on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szDrNeCmLYw>

### **Committee Members Present:**

Nicolas Kwatnoski, Chair  
Tim Welsh, Spotsylvania County, Vice Chair  
TaMara Banks, At-Large  
Rupert Farley, At-Large  
Robert Fogg, Spotsylvania County  
Larry Gross, At-Large  
David McLaughlin, City of Fredericksburg  
Al Watkins, Stafford County  
Clinton Wells, Spotsylvania County  
Kevin Wilkinson, Spotsylvania County  
Joe Brito, Stafford County  
Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County (online)  
Yolanda Hipski, City of Fredericksburg  
Denise Flatley, King George County

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Ruby Brabo, Stafford County  
Justin Chenault, Caroline County  
Patricia Encarnacion, City of Fredericksburg  
Jeron Hayes, King George County  
Michael Hoyt, Caroline County  
Ann Palbalker, Stafford County  
Ken Pogue, Caroline County  
James Powell, Stafford County  
Matthew Rowe, City of Fredericksburg  
Rodney Thomas, At-Large

### **Others Present**

John Garman, Virginia Outdoor Center (present for public comment)

### **Staff Present:**

John Ridout, Transportation Planner II  
Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator  
Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Connor Anderson, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner  
Leda Hinkle, Transportation Planning Intern

### **1. Call to Order**

At 6:01 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Chair Kwatnoski

### **2. Roll Call**

John Ridout conducted roll call and a quorum was present.

### **3. Approval of the April 10, 2024, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Allen Watkins requested to add a presentation to his comments in item 7.b.i of the agenda.

Motion was made to approve the agenda with amendments.

Motion: 4:30; Second: Kevin Wilkinson

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Approval March 13, 2024, CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Amend the minutes to reflect that Dave McLaughlin motioned to not endorse Resolution 24-24 rather than Tim McLaughlin.

Motion was made to approve the March minutes with amendments.

Motion: Rupert Farley; Second: 00:05:20.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Public Comment:**

John Garman, co-owner of the Virginia Outdoor Center (VOC), executive director of Rappahannock Quarry West L.L.C., and home-owner in Stafford County, shared the language of the conservation easement, approved by the Fredericksburg City Council in 2006, that does not allow for a river crossing. He reviewed the various outdoor recreation sites in the area of proposed river crossing alternatives. Specifically, Options 3 and 4, which were also identified in the easement as sites for a river crossing, interfere with two river access areas for paddle sports. Further west, option 5 crosses over the only climbing area in the region. He further identified how option 2 interferes with the quarry. He shared his observation that the proposed river crossing options interfere with outdoor recreation sites. He asked the committee to consider these sites, the natural identity of the area, and conservation easements while deliberating on river crossing alternatives.

## 6. VDOT/Transit Report-a-Problem

No issues were raised.

## 7. Action/Discussion Items

### a) SMART SCALE Overview, Applications and Process – Connor Anderson

Connor Anderson provided an overview of SMART SCALE, outlining the SMART SCALE process and identifying the current stage of the process. He clarified that FAMPO is only eligible to submit four High Priority Projects (HPP). He shared that only certain projects are eligible for HPP funding and described the requirements that make a project eligible. He outlined the upcoming timeline for the process and discussed FAMPO's classification in category B for weighting typologies. He provided a brief overview of project scoring metrics, and he reviewed the list of the 10 projects submitted for the region, under both FAMPO and GWRC. Finally, he shared the upcoming schedule for project application/submission.

Rupert Farley asked whether there are still public hearings for the projects. Mr. Anderson answered that there still will be an opportunity for public comment to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

Nicolas Kwatnoski asked whether CTAC could endorse project options in the SMART SCALE process. Dr. Ridout answered that CTAC can, but it would be more impactful to approach singular jurisdictions. He described FAMPO's limited role creating projects and the responsibility the MPO has, instead, for coordinating SMART SCALE applications with localities and VDOT. Staff clarified that the projects are not yet scored and FAMPO does not have score estimates. The Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment scores SMART SCALE projects.

Ian Ollis clarified that it is past the point in the timeline for terminating a project. He stated that projects may only undergo slight alterations. He also shared that projects are scored in relation to one another, emphasizing the nuances of the scoring process that makes it difficult to anticipate project scores. Chair Kwatnoski asked whether CTAC has any say in which two projects would be removed from the FAMPO project list to be submitted in June. Mr. Ollis confirmed that input could be shared with FAMPO's Policy Committee.

Robert Fogg asked about the funding amounts allocated to the region. Answering his question, staff discussed the cost estimate component of project scoring.

Staff clarified that they would discuss the project list again in May. Denise Flatley asked whether staff might rank the projects on the list, and she shared that visualizations of impacted traffic patterns would be helpful at certain intersections.

### b) River Crossing Parkway Study & Discussion (**ACTION ITEM**) – John Ridout

Dr. Ridout presented an overview of the River Crossing Study and defined the Planning

and Environmental Linkages (PEL) component of the study, describing the advantages of using PEL. For the study, he reviewed purpose and need and preliminary screening conducted by consultants at Michael Baker International (MBI) to follow NEPA requirements. He further described MBI's current stage in the River Crossing Study: anticipating the usage of different alternatives, identifying corridors, and efforts to minimize environmental and historic resource impacts. Joe Brito spoke to the historic and cultural resources in the region. Mr. Ollis requested that Mr. Brito share a list of cultural resources in the area, so that FAMPO staff may share it with MBI consultants. Dr. Ridout also shared how consultants are in the process of assessing physical features, including terrain and roadway design criteria. Finally, he shared the alternatives that have been presented to the public, provided a brief overview of that meeting, and shared how other alternatives may result from input received.

Mr. Fogg asked whether any jurisdictional boards had supplied input on the River Crossing Study. Mr. Ollis shared that the stakeholder group has membership from all jurisdictions and localities do participate and provide input. Mr. Fogg advocated for a river crossing further west, arguing that the current proposed alternatives' proximity to I-95 is disadvantageous to the region.

Mr. Farley asked whether any stakeholders in Central Park, who would benefit from an additional river crossing, had offered to contribute to the funding of such a project.

i) Al Watkins' Comments & Questions Submitted to TAC, CTAC, and PC – Al Watkins

Mr. Watkins presented a video reviewing the timeline of the developments of the River Crossing Study in the September and October Policy Committee meetings of 2023. He presented the four initial options for a river crossing and reviewed how several planned developments, that may interfere with proposed river crossing alternatives, were revealed to the Policy Committee. His video highlighted how specific proposed crossings are impacted by the developments.

His video also presented Stafford County's rezoning near the river crossing, approved in January 2024, and the most recent alternative river crossings presented by MBI at the March 20<sup>th</sup> open house. He described how those alternatives would interact with current and proposed developments in the area. He inquired how these developments would impact a river crossing and reviewed conservation easements in the area. The video ended with several of Mr. Watkins' musings and requests. He requested that the information about developments in the area, that may impact a river crossing, be shared with Michael Baker International, FAMPO, the public, and local officials. He also requested that FAMPO evaluates the impact of these developments on the proposed river crossings and that local officials investigate placing a moratorium on planned new development. Mr. Watkins also identified the lack of development timelines. He emphasized how the unknowns of these developments can inhibit sound decision making concerning a river crossing.

Dr. Ridout clarified that, generally speaking, there is no viable route to pause or delay

developments in the area. Mr. Ollis clarified that while there is no way to delay developments, public boards have the authority to terminate developments. He also shared an informal agreement that the city will share development plans with FAMPO to share with MBI consultants. He shared the process for working through and/or adjusting developments and conservation easements, and he reviewed the timeline of the River Crossing Study. He identified that now as the time for public feedback/input and reminded the committee of the survey that is a part of the public comment period closing on April 19th.

Dr. Ridout shared where different development applications could be located on jurisdictions' websites.

Joe Brito shared that mutual agreement is necessary to change the proffer for a development.

ii) Committee Discussion

Mr. Farley motioned to terminate the river crossing project. The motion received no second.

Ms. Flatley validated a river crossing for how it will serve developments in the area, supply emergency service access to South Stafford, and provide better transportation flow to the west of Fredericksburg generally. She shared her criticisms of Option A concerning traffic flow and her preference for a further western route. Clinton Wells spoke to the implications the different alternatives have for existing roads in the area. He remarked on the location of option A, east of new developments, and how that location wouldn't provide as much access for that community. He asked about the precedent for the alternatives and established roadways, and he advocated for investigating an option further west.

Chair Kwatnoski asked whether the CTAC could recommend the consultants investigate an alternative river crossing further west of the current options. Mr. Ollis clarified that the consultants are commissioned by the Policy Committee, and he advised that requests of the consultant exist within the project scope as defined by the Policy Committee. He also spoke to how the proposed RTA could fund more studies across a wider geography.

Yolanda Hipski commented on the currently open public comment period and suggested that it is inappropriate to act as a committee without first considering those comments. She believed it would be valuable for development site plans and what is and is not recorded be available to FAMPO and MBI consultants.

Mr. Watkins advocated for asking for complete transparency from developers for information on site plans.

Mr. Wells agreed with Ms. Hipski that the committee should defer an official recommendation for a river crossing option until after the public comment period.

Motion to ask the Policy Committee to consider expanding the scope of the River Crossing Study to include alternative further to the west and Spotsylvania.  
Motion: Clinton Wells; Second: Tim Welsh.

Discussion:

Mr. Farley commented that a river crossing further to the west would induce traffic and expand suburban sprawl. He emphasized that transportation developments should work to reduce traffic and be pedestrian forward. He announced his opposition to the motion.

TaMara Banks requested more information before making a decision. She asked how the committee can make motions/take action without more information. Dr. Ridout shared that MBI had identified option C, using Celebrate Virginia Parkway, as having a less significant environmental impact than option D, which extends Greenbank Road. Dr. Ridout clarified that the committee was not endorsing an option, and Chair Kwatnoski added that the current motion would obtain more information by expanding the study's scope.

The committee discussed recommending Spotsylvania contribute to the cost of expanding the scope. Mr. Ollis identified that CMAQ/STBG funds, from northern Stafford's membership to the DC Transportation Management Area (TMA), are the current funding sources for the study.

Mr. Brito discussed the potential the river crossing has to become either a bypass or a local road. Chair Kwatnoski deferred the question of which it will become to a later, bigger picture discussion. Mr. Watkins identified a potential "further west" option, which was similar to option D but continues further west into Spotsylvania. Mr. Ollis clarified that this was no longer an option considering recent commercial development in Spotsylvania.

Motion passed with a roll call vote:

Nicholas Kwatnoski: Aye  
TaMara Banks: No  
Joe Brito: No  
Rupert Farley: No  
Robert Fogg: Aye  
Glen Goldsmith: Aye  
Larry Gross: Abstain  
Yolanda Hipski: Aye  
David McLaughlin: No  
Tim Welsh: Aye  
Allen Watkins: Aye  
Kevin Wilkinson: Aye  
Clinton Wells: Aye  
Denise Flatley: Aye

Mr. Brito motioned to add an observation deck, connect Option A to celebrate VA parkway, and Option B something. Receiving no second, the motion failed.

Motion that a letter, addressed on behalf of CTAC to the Fredericksburg City Council and Stafford Board of Supervisors, asks jurisdictions to take active measures in good faith to share development information in a timely manner to Michael Baker International, FAMPO committees, and the public.

Motion: Allen Watkins; Second: 1:53:00.

Discussion:

Mr. Farley asked whether motions must be directed to the Policy Committee. Dr. Ridout clarified that this letter would be written on behalf of CTAC and directed to the city council and board of supervisors. Chair Kwatnoski will present this letter to Policy Committee. The letter will ask that jurisdictions take active measures in good faith to provide records of development, recorded plats, parcels, special use permits, preliminary subdivision plans, concept plans for rezoning in the study region in a timely manner to FAMPO committees, relevant jurisdictions, and Michael Baker International.

Motion passed.

Mr. Watkins shared why he suspected option A had changed to no longer connect to Celebrate Virginia Parkway. Mr. Wells described how the change may impact traffic on Route 17. Mr. Ollis clarified that the Enon connector project places the River Crossing where it is. He also described the travel demand model and the conclusion that a river crossing with a greater distance from I-95 would attract higher truck traffic than one closer to I-95.

- c) Endorse Resolution 24-29 Adopt GWRC Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan (**ACTION ITEM**) – Staff

Motion to endorse Resolution 24-29

Motion: Rupert Farley; Second: 02:14:00

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

## 8. Staff Reports

- TIP Modification

Dr. Ridout reviewed the TIP amendment to add HVAC to BLANK maintenance. No action was necessary or taken by the CTAC.

- Policy Committee Meeting & RTA Subcommittee

Dr. Ridout reviewed both committee meetings, the items discussed, and the actions

taken. He also answered Mr. Fogg's question about the RTA subcommittee membership, and the committee discussed the open nature of RTA subcommittee meetings and the location of the meeting recordings on the FAMPO website.

- TAC

Dr. Ridout summarized the discussion on CMAQ/STBG funding allocations, and the decision to support funding SMART SCALE project development in a roll call vote. He also reviewed other items covered in the TAC.

## 9. Member Reports

a) Joe Brito and Chair Kwatnoski mentioned concerns about the area around the route 17 interchange. Mr. Brito also offered information on past connector studies, the 2013 study, and traffic counts and shared his email for any inquiries: [jsbrito@aol.com](mailto:jsbrito@aol.com). Mr. Ollis spoke to Mr. Brito's past involvement in River Crossing studies and shared Mr. Watkin's Facebook page: Stafford's Southern Gateway.

b) Public Outreach & Acknowledgement

Mx. Touzel shared correspondence from VDOT on their six-year improvement program and public meetings.

## 10. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

## 11. Future Agenda Item

a) VRE Presentation June 12 & VDOT Presentation in August

Dr. Ridout shared the upcoming meetings and asked what topics the committee requests VDOT include in their presentation.

b) Officer Elections (Nomination/Considerations in May, Elections in June)

- i. Chair – Spotsylvania
- ii. Vice Chair – Fredericksburg

c) Joe Brito booth at Earth Day

## 12. Adjourn/Next CTAC Meeting May 8th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Motion: Rupert Farley; Seconded: 2:28:00.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.