

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, May 6, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diErw9KzX1E>

Committee Members Present:

Chair Matthew Lehane, Stafford County
First Vice Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Second Vice Chair, Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Catherine Coffey, PE, VDOT
Adam Derrick, Stafford County
Melody Fowler, FXBGO!
Amy Garbarini, DRPT
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Casandra Lord, VDOT
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Susan Gardner, VDOT

Committee Members Absent:

Leon Hughes, Caroline County
Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Daniel Koenig, FTA
Steven Minor, FHWA
Robert Schneider, PRTC
Khapel Akbari, Stafford County
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County
Chelsea Beytas, FTA
Kimberly Cook, King George County
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Shannon Fennell, Spotsylvania County
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Craig Reed, FXBGO!
Joe Stainsby, PRTC

Staff Present:

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager
John Ridout, Transportation Planner II
Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner III and Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Connor Anderson, GIS Technician & Transportation Planner

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

Connor Anderson conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the May 6, 2024, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Agnello requested that item 6b be pulled from the consent agenda and discussed after the approval of 6a and 6c.

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

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Rodney White

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the April 15, 2024, Policy Committee Meeting – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis shared the Policy Committee's approval for FAMPO to move forward with supplemental and implementation grant applications as a part of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). He clarified that both grants are combined into one application. He updated the committee on the Policy Committee's approval of the Unified Planning Work Program for public comment. He reviewed the CMAQ/STBG project allocations public comment period, approved by the Policy Committee, which will provide an extended project list to the public without cost estimates. The Policy Committee also voted against unallocated CMAQ/STBG funds being used for SMART SCALE prep and that they are, instead, returned to the region for reallocation.

Mr. Ollis reviewed an upcoming Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) public meeting on the Six-Year Improvement Program. He reminded the committee that the April RTA Subcommittee meeting had been postponed to May 30th. He also reviewed River Crossing Study updates and the closed session that occurred during the April meeting.

5. Public Comment

Allen Watkins remarked on the public responses to Michael Baker International's MetroQuest survey. He urged the TAC to consider the accuracy of these claims when advising the Policy Committee on the River Crossing. He also commented on the consideration for Stafford County Fire and Rescue (Station 12) access with the various River Crossing alternatives. He claimed that the location of those in need of emergency services, rather than the location of the station itself, are important to consider when evaluating river crossing alternatives in terms of emergency access.

Finally, Mr. Watkins commented on the scoring of the four river crossing alternatives in the public survey. He identified option A as the eastern option, distinct from options B, C, and D which make use of Celebrate Virginia Parkway. He added his analysis that these western projects collectively score higher than option A. He advised the committee to consider how

geographic characteristics may have impacted the public's ranking of each alternative as they advise river crossing development.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the April 1, 2024, TAC Meeting Minutes (**ACTION ITEM**)
- b. Endorse Resolution 24-32 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (**ACTION ITEM**)
- c. Endorse Resolution 24-35 Approving an Amendment 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 Items a and c of the May 6, 2024, Consent Agenda.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

After the committee approved consent agenda items 6a and 6c, the committee discussed item b, Endorse Resolution 24-32 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), per Mr. Agnello's amendment to the May 6, 2024, Technical Advisory Committee agenda. Mr. Agnello expressed interest in updating the UPWP to include changes to CMAQ/STBG allocation methodology. Mr. Ollis commented on the current methodology's failure to consider projects with applications for both CMAQ and STBG funding. Mr. Ollis remarked that the procedure for scoring dual-eligible projects was not explicitly stated in the UPWP.

Motion to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program with an Update to Section 4.2 that Includes Changes to CMAQ / STBG Methodology.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Mr. Ollis raised several other amendments to the UPWP. These included correcting the Route 3 Pipeline Study on page 24, section 3.1 to the updated study terminus. The committee discussed including CMAQ / STBG methodology in the UPWP for fiscal year 25 as the process is shifting to a biennial timeline and will not be completed in the next fiscal year. The committee decided to include the methodology with the language that it would be employed if requested by the Policy Committee.

Motion to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Updating the Route 3 Pipeline Study Terminus and Editing the Language of the CMAQ / STBG Methodology to include "if requested by the Policy Committee."

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Rodney White

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-32 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program as Amended.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. TIP Amendments & Modifications

- a. Endorse Resolution 24-37 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust funding for UPC FRT0018 FXBGO!'s Security & Fiber Project (**ACTION ITEM**)
- b. Endorse Resolution 24-38 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust funding for UPC 124309 Transforming Rail in Virginia / VPRA (**ACTION ITEM**)
- c. Endorse Resolution 24-39 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment of the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust funding for UPC 109474 #HB2.FY17 – New Commuter Parking Lot Route 1 at Commonwealth Drive (**ACTION ITEM**)
- d. Endorse Resolution 24-40 Approving a Modification to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust the Funding for UPC FRT0010 Replacement of Two Transit Support Vehicles for FXBGO! (**ACTION ITEM**)

Mr. Ollis commented that item b would be controversial for the Policy Committee for its high dollar amount. He also raised the consideration of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) involvement in the amendment. While the DRPT is currently identified with VDOT for requesting the adjustment in funding allocations, they have since withdrawn their responsibility in the matter. Chair Lehane advised that the responsible parties should be identified before the amendment is considered by the Policy Committee. Mr. Ollis stated the committee's decision to request VDOT and DRPT clarify the amendment before the Policy Committee and, should they not provide clarification in time, the amendment will not be presented to the Policy Committee.

Motion to Approve Items 7a, 7b, 7c, and 7d with the Aforementioned Conditions Applied to 7b.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Chair Lehane requested a member of VPRA be added as a non-voting member to the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Ollis responded that he has repeatedly requested that they draft a letter requesting membership. Should VPRA request it, they will be eligible for membership, but an amendment to the Policy Committee bylaws is required.

8. Action / Discussion Items

- a. CMAQ / STBG Project Allocations – Dr. John Ridout
 1. Presentation

John Ridout presented that the funding distribution splits for fiscal year 30 have not changed. Mr. Ollis updated the committee on the revised 5303 funding for FAMPO from the DRPT to cover remaining administrative costs. FAMPO, subsequently, returned CMAQ / STBG funds that had been allocated to supplement administration costs back into the regional pot. Additionally, CMAQ / STBG funds proposed to be allocated to SMART SCALE had also been returned for reallocation following the established methodology.

Dr. Ridout presented an overview of the FY25-FY29 CMAQ/CR/STBG funding distribution following the adopted methodology. He presented the CMAQ/CR/STBG funding available per mode of transportation and the maximum funding available per project type. Mr. Agnello requested from the staff a summary of the budget for the three funding types for the last six-year plan and for this six-year plan to identify any changes. Dr. Ridout answered that all the years had increased except FY30 which saw no change. He also noted that FY25 had a greater increase than other years.

Dr. Ridout presented existing and new projects with the updated funding amounts. Chair Lehane raised a question about the funding methodology for funding projects through some combination of CMAQ/CR/STBG funds. He explained that if the order of funding allocations changed, projects could receive different amounts of funds. Further discussion was deferred to another time.

Nick Ruiz asked about STBG funds for Stafford VRE stations which he believed were identified in the VRE budget and were not included on the spreadsheet. Mr. Ollis and Kate Gibson identified funding towards those stations from 5303 funds and GWRC funding. Mr. Ruiz planned to confirm the funding source for Brooke and Leeland stations in the VRE's budget.

Chair Lehane asked for clarification on the funding swaps indicated by a note in the top right corner of the presentation. Mr. Ollis clarified that the funding amounts allocated to projects stayed the same and that the swaps were between years. Chair Lehane requested that the committee be provided spreadsheets of the allocations that include the changes between different iterations.

Answering Mr. Agnello's question, Dr. Ridout clarified that staff recommend revisiting how dual-eligible projects are handled in the methodology before the next round of allocations. He explained that jurisdictions are submitting dual-eligible projects in different ways, complicating the methodology. Mr. Ollis emphasized that the total funding request complicates funding allocations for dual-eligible projects and that there is no procedure in the methodology for scoring projects with cost effectiveness across funding sources. He recommends developing certain requirements for the applications of dual-eligible projects and a methodology for scoring them.

The committee requested old project allocations be made available on the FAMPO website. Chair Lehane also requested that the excel spreadsheets with the allocations also be made available.

a. LRTP Update Timeline – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis gave an overview of the LRTP timeline. He identified the need for hiring consultants to complete the Scenario Planning for the LRTP 2027 update and the lack of funds to do so. He shared the need to identify this funding. Chair Lehane requested that FAMPO staff make a proposal for scenario planning funding in the fall of FY25.

Mr. Agnello asked if scenario planning is required for the LRTP update. Mr. Ollis said he didn't think it was a requirement, but he identified the chapter in the LRTP on scenario planning and described how outdated current scenarios are.

2. Endorse Resolution 24-36 Adopting the Allocation of Fiscal Year 2025-2030 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and Highway Improvement Program (HIP) Funds (**ACTION ITEM**)

Motion to Endorse Resolution 24-36.

Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Jamie Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

b. SMART SCALE Pre-application Projects Status Update – Ms. Kari Eaves

Kari Eaves presented an overview of the timeline for SMART SCALE Round 6. She reviewed the project lists for FAMPO and GWRC.

The committee discussed the project that had been screened out on the FAMPO project list and the various Route 208 submissions made by Spotsylvania County. Ms. Eaves and Mr. Ollis discussed changes that must be made to Round 7 regional project submissions: no unilateral changes in the last few weeks before preapplication deadline and no duplicate projects across regional and jurisdiction level project lists without close coordination with VDOT. The committee discussed the timeline for the next round of SMART SCALE and planning projects early in the fall with pipeline studies. Mr. Ollis identified the disadvantage that SMART SCALE criteria before the next round may not be established until after pipeline studies are underway.

The responsible jurisdictions summarized the region's project applications for the committee. The committee plans to vote on project endorsements at the next committee meeting on June 1st.

c. Draft Letter in Progress to CTB – Ms. Kari Eaves

Ms. Eaves requested more comments from committee members for the letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Chair Lehane recommended that all comments be submitted by the end of June so that a draft letter may be presented at the August committee meeting. Mr. Ollis reminded the committee that they will not meet in July. Mr. Agnello

raised a question about the timeline of the letter being sent. Chair Lehane proposed sending two letters before deferring further discussion to the August TAC meeting. Ms. Eaves concluded by asking the committee to consider two types of comments: those on the SMART SCALE Round 6 review process, and those on the more general SMART SCALE process, such as the timing of Pipeline Studies.

9. Correspondence

- VDOT CTB Public Meeting FY25-30 Six-Year Improvement Program
- Termination of Conformity Process Message

10. Staff Reports

- SS4A Supplemental Planning Grant and Implementation Grant Projects

Becky Golden presented the locality supported SS4A grant projects, projects for supplemental planning and implementation grants, and next steps.

- FAMPO River Crossing Parkway NEPA Alternatives Study Update

Dr. Ridout briefly reviewed the closing of the public comment period and public involvement with Michael Baker International's MetroQuest survey. He noted the geographic distribution of survey respondents, identified that the no-build option was the least favorable among survey respondents, and highlighted the favored alternatives.

11. Member Reports

- a. Notification to changes to cost estimates on FAMPO funded projects – VDOT
- b. Notification of new transportation projects by localities – e.g. Revenue Sharing

12. Adjourn/Next TAC Meeting: June 3, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned 11:32 a.m.