TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 3, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUuczVEuWX8

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 (online)
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Casandra Lord, VDOT
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Robert Schneider, PRTC (online)
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Craig Pennington, Caroline County (online)

Committee Members Absent:
Leon Hughes, Caroline County
Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Daniel Koenig, FTA
Steven Minor, FHWA
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
Susan Gardner, VDOT
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Craig Reed, FXBGO!
Joe Stainsby, PRTC
Chris Clarke, King George (online)

Others Present:
Will Montgomery, VRE Transportation Intern

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 9:30 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 June 3, 2024, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

   Motion was made to approve the June 3rd Agenda.
   Motion: Pual Agnello; Second: Melody Fowler
   Abstentions: None
   Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the May 20, 2024, Policy Committee Meeting

   Mr. Ian Ollis presented his administrator report from the May Policy Committee meeting. He shared the maps produced by Mr. Connor Anderson showing the growth rates for Virginia planning district commissions (PDCs). He identified the GWRC region as the fastest growing region in Virginia. He shared an article identifying a return in growth of urban areas since the pandemic. He also shared his question to the policy committee to think about a new CMAQ / STBG funding allocation process. He identified the problems with the current process and presented the process used by the NVTA describing how FAMPO might replicate it.

5. **Public Comment**

   Ms. Becky Golden read a public comment received from Mr. Larry Gross. Mr. Gross shared his support for the SMART SCALE concept and his skepticism for the River Crossing Project.

6. **Consent Agenda**

   a. Approval of the May 6, 2024, TAC Meeting Minutes **(ACTION ITEM)**

   b. Endorse Resolution 24-41 Adopting an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust funding for UPC FRT0018 FXBGO!'s Security & Fiber Project **(ACTION ITEM)**

   c. Endorse Resolution 24-42 Adopting an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust funding for UPC 124309 Transforming Rail in Virginia / VPRA **(ACTION ITEM)**

d. Endorse Resolution 24-43 Adopting an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust funding for UPC 109474 #HB2.FY17 – New Commuter Parking Lot Route 1 at Commonwealth Drive

Motion to Approve the June 3, 2024, Consent Agenda.
Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Action / Discussion Items

a. Virginia Port Authority Update & Trends in Port Centric Development

Mr. Chris Gullickson, Director of Development and Transportation Policy at the Port of Virginia, presented a strategic overview of the Port of Virginia to the Technical Advisory Committee. He reviewed their facilities, structure, growth, and economic impact. Several projects planned to improve container circulation around the port and save time were also shared with the committee. He emphasized the port's interest and involvement in the entire Commonwealth of Virginia and highlighted active developments planned around port facilities. He finished his presentation by reviewing their integrated freight strategy and climate resiliency.

Responding to a question from the committee, Mr. Gullickson discussed technological advances that have put electric freight and other green alternatives on the horizon. Mr. Ollis asked about freight use across different corridors and the cost to send a shipping container to China. Mr. Gullickson answered the first question, identifying State Route 58 and 460 as very important freight corridors in terms of tonnage. He remarked on the even distribution of cargo moving south and west and cargo moving north and east. Describing shipping rates, Mr. Gullickson identified costs as high as $20,000 during the peak of Covid related shortages for transporting one shipping container from the far east to Virginia but the cost has since declined. Mr. Nick Ruiz asked about the rail mode share of freight activity. Mr. Gullickson answered that rail is about 36% of the port's freight activity and is increasing.

b. VRE System Plan 2050 Draft Plan Review

Mr. Nick Ruiz began his presentation by reminding the committee that VRE system plans are created once every ten years and are planned to update more frequently in the future. He identified growth in the region occurring along transit corridors and reviewed VRE's vision statement, 2050 system plan goals, and the timeline of the update process. He identified the current, final phase of the update process and plans for 2030 and 2050 timeframes that include expanding service. He answered how the shorter trips that Amtrak currently serves could be replaced by VRE service by 2050. Mr. Ruiz also reviewed the personal and societal benefits of the VRE and the capital costs for operation out through 2050. He finished his presentation by reviewing projected increases in ridership through 2050.

c. VDOT's Statewide Update to the Federal Functional Classification (FFC)

Ms. Cassy Lord presented the roadways with an updated FFC. The entirety of the update included segments of Garrisonville Road that are now classified as a minor arterial rather than a major collector. Chair Lehane asked about the update for the exit 140 interchange at

Courthouse Road and Hospital Boulevard. Ms. Lord agreed it could be updated. Mr. Ollis asked the jurisdictions to recognize the importance of these updates, clarifying that the classifications would impact federal funding and would not be updated again for another ten years. He further explained that FAMPO will have to approve of the updates and any discrepancies should be brought up sooner than later. Chair Lehane advised committee members as to where they may find classification criteria. Ms. Lord and Mr. Ollis clarified the timeline for update approval occurring around September and October. Ms. Lord identified that the map she presented could be found in this meeting's agenda.

d. SMART SCALE Round 6 Presentation

Ms. Kari Eaves briefly reviewed the timeline of SMART SCALE and the four FAMPO projects. She reviewed the need for a project swap replacing the US Route 1 Massaponax corridor intersection improvements project that OIPI deemed unfit for classification as a High Priority Project (HPP). The replacement project is the Route 208 / Smith Station Road project from the Spotsylvania local list, chosen by the locality. The committee needed to make the recommendation for four projects on the GWRC list to advance to the full application phase. Mr. Agnello advised that the committee remove the Route 208 project from the GWRC project list as two similar projects are on the FAMPO project list. Ms. Eaves finished her presentation by reviewing the timeline for next steps.

1. Endorse Resolution 24-44 Authorizing Support for the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) SMART SCALE Projects 1, 3, 4, and 5 Applications (**ACTION ITEM**)

   Motion to endorse Resolution 24-44
   Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Adam Derrick
   Abstentions: None
   Motion passed with unanimous consent.

2. Endorse Resolution 24-45 Approving Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) Regional SMART SCALE Round 6 Projects 2, 3, 5, and the replacement Route 208 / Smith Station Road Applications (**ACTION ITEM**)

   Motion to endorse resolution 24-45
   Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Adam Derrick
   Abstentions: None
   Motion passed with unanimous consent.

3. Endorse Resolution 24-46 Authorizing Support for Locality Round 6 SMART SCALE Project Applications (**ACTION ITEM**)

   Motion to endorse resolution 24-46
   Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Adam Derrick
   Abstentions: None
   Motion passed with unanimous consent.

e. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Ms. Eaves presented the projects awarded TAP funding within the region. She gave a brief description of each project, and the funding awarded this and prior rounds, if any.

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f. Election of Officers (**ACTION ITEM**)

Chair Lehane asked for nominations for Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair for the Technical Advisory Committee in FY25. Mr. Agnello nominated himself for Chair, Mr. Bassam Amin nominated Ms. Jamie Jackson for First Vice Chair, and Chair Lehane nominated himself for Second Vice Chair.

Motion to approve the TAC officer candidates with Mr. Agnello as Chair, Ms. Jackson as First Vice Chair, and Mr. Lehane as Second Vice Chair.
Motion: Paul Agnello; Second: Nick Ruiz
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

g. Vote of Thanks Recognizing Outgoing Chair (**ACTION ITEM**)

Mr. Agnello thanked Chair Lehane for his service as Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee during FY24.

8. Correspondence

- VDOT Letter of Support for GWRC FY24 SS4A Supplemental Planning and Implementation Grant application

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis announced that FAMPO is recruiting a new Public Engagement Officer.

10. Member Reports

a. Notification to changes to cost estimates on FAMPO funded projects – VDOT

b. Stafford County SS4A Supplemental Planning Grant Award

c. Notification of new transportation projects by localities – e.g., Revenue Sharing

   i) Spotsylvania County's New Construction Projects & Projects Receiving Additional Funding

d. Mr. Ruiz thanked jurisdictions that provided input for VRE's 2050 System Plan Update. He also offered to present the update for other committees or boards and otherwise coordinate with interested committee members. Mr. Ollis recommended that Mr. Ruiz coordinate with Mr. Leon Hughes of Caroline County to discuss the rail component of the county's comprehensive plan.

11. Adjourn/Next TAC Meeting: August 5, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned 11:01 a.m.

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