TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 5, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.fampo.gwregion.org Video URL: https://youtu.be/ZTSHWZ9Jnmo

Committee Members Present:
First Vice Chair, Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Second Vice Chair Matthew Lehane, Stafford County
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Catherine Coffey, PE, VDOT
Adam Derrick, Stafford County
Melody Fowler, FXBGO!
Amy Garbarini, DRPT (online)
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Nick Ruiz, VRE
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Craig Pennington, Caroline County (online)

Committee Members Absent:
Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
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
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Casandra Lord, VDOT
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Craig Reed, FXBGO!
Robert Schneider, PRTC
Joe Stainsby, PRTC
Chris Clarke, King George

Others Present:
Matt Bewley, DRPT
Linzy Browne, Stafford County
Rachel Inman, VDOT
Linda LaSut, VDOT
Will Montgomery, VRE Transportation Intern
Al Watkins, CTAC, Stafford County Citizen

Staff Present:
Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager
John Ridout, Senior Transportation Planner
Eugene Hlaing, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator

1. **Call Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to Order**

   The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Vice Chair Jackson.

2. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

   Eugene Hlaing conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

3. **Approval of the August 5th, 2024, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

   Motion was made to approve the August 5th Agenda.
   Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second: Rodney White
   Abstentions: None
   Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Review of the June 17, 2024, Policy Committee Meeting

   Mr. Ian Ollis reviewed the agenda for the June 17, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. Ollis noted the ratification of the additional task order to complete a model run for the Harrison Road/I-95 interchange. He noted the briefing by Ms. Christine Hoeffner and Mr. Nick Ruiz concerning the VRE System Plan 2050 Draft Plan Review and updated the committee on the Policy Committee's letters approving the SMART SCALE projects prior to final submission. Mr. Ollis announced that the RTA Subcommittee closed in May, and that the Policy Committee was provided with a summary of the discussions and events concerning the closure of the RTA subcommittee. The Policy Committee experienced a change in leadership as Supervisor Lori Hayes was elected as PC chair. The Policy Committee reviewed correspondence concerning the SS4A application and is waiting for confirmation that they are receiving the grant.

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5. Public Comment

No public comments.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the June 3, 2024, TAC Meeting Minutes **(ACTION ITEM)**

b. Endorse Resolution 25-01 Adopting an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust funding for UPC 123887 #SMART24 – Route 1 SB Widening with Pedestrian Accommodations **(ACTION ITEM)**

Motion to Approve Item a of the August 5, 2024, Consent Agenda.
Motion: Melody Fowler; Second: Adam Derrick
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion to Approve Item b of the August 5, 2024, Consent Agenda.
Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second: Melody Fowler
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. TIP Amendments & Modifications

a. Endorse Resolution 25-02 Approving Modifications to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust the Funding for 2 Projects: Maintenance: Preventative Maintenance and System Preservation, and Maintenance: Preventative Maintenance for Bridges **(ACTION ITEM)**

b. Endorse Resolution 25-03 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Add a New Project UPC 120943 Germanna Point Drive Extension **(ACTION ITEM)**

Motion to Approve Items 7a and 7b.
Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second; Rodney White
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. Action / Discussion Items

a. River Crossing Updates – Dr. John Ridout

Dr. John Ridout presented an update on the progress of the River Crossing Project. Dr. Ridout announced that the following materials were provided to BPAC to begin gaining input on how to show bike and pedestrian connections in study materials. Dr. Ridout presented the 250-foot-wide Study Corridors, explaining that that the 250-foot-wide study corridors are much larger than the actual proposed footprint, which allows FAMPO to identify the existing conditions within the corridor and make recommendations to the best method of weaving the roadway. Dr. Ridout presented the consultant's map displaying five potential paths and each option's environmental constraints.

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Dr. Ridout announced that the consultants are continuing to work on environmental updates, particularly the resource protection areas, resource management areas, and prime farmlands. Dr. Ridout advised attendees that a full presentation will be given during the next stakeholder meeting.

Dr. Ridout confirmed that FAMPO staff continues to review first initial model runs and the microsimulation. He notified the committee of the updates being made to the model runs. Dr. Ridout announced that both outputs will be available in the August Stakeholder Meeting on September 26th at the Fredericksburg Nationals Stadium.

Mr. Lehane asked if the stakeholder meeting on Thursday evening will be held in place of the regular stakeholder meeting held during the day. Dr. Ridout explained that the regular stakeholder meeting will be held if there is a need, but the necessity of the meeting is still undetermined.

Mr. Mike Craig asked if Dr. Ridout has a date for the report to be finalized. Dr. Ridout clarified if Mr. Craig refers to a finalized draft. Dr. Ridout projected that the report will be finalized in Winter/Spring of 2025. Mr. Ollis projected that the report will be finalized by the end of January 2025.

b. FAMPO Travel Demand Model Update – Ms. Becky Golden

Ms. Becky Golden noted that FAMPO continues to work with VDOT to ensure that all ongoing/upcoming projects in the constrained Long-Range Plan are included in the model. Ms. Golden presented the model schedule, projecting that the model will be completed in December 2024. Mr. Ollis elaborated on the significance of the Travel Demand Model Update. Mr. Ollis stated that as there has been a significant change in socioeconomic, population, and jobs data, and the Fredericksburg region continues to be the fastest growing region in Virginia, the updated model will provide better predictions concerning future congestion, traffic, etc. Mr. Ollis reminded the committee of the work done by local jurisdictions to aid in the model update. Mr. Ollis continued detailing the updates made to the model concerning new transit data, alterations of TAZs, and the upcoming increase of housing near the Spotsylvania border.

c. VPRA Potomac Creek Third Track Project / Leeland Road Bridge Reconstruction Public Outreach – Ms. Becky Golden

Ms. Golden stated that there will be an upcoming public meeting concerning the closure of the Leeland Road Bridge. Ms. Golden presented a location map of the four bridge projects under the scope of project. Mr. Ollis explained the advantages of the third track, which will allow trains to pass each other, allow more trains to run through the system, and decrease train delays. Mr. Ollis explained that the Leeland Road Bridge must be removed as there is not enough space to build a third track below the bridge as is.

Mr. Nick Ruiz asked about an estimated time frame concerning the Leeland Road Bridge closure. Ms. Golden stated that the estimated timeframe will be covered in a later part of the presentation. Ms. Golden noted that the Leeland Road Bridge requires full closure, and that construction will take approximately 22 months. Ms. Golden noted the extensive public

involvement stakeholder engagement of the project. She presented the two proposed detours for vehicle/truck usage. Ms. Golden presented the details of the VDOT public hearing and the full timeline of the project. She noted that the other three bridge projects will not involve permanent closures.

Mr. Ollis noted that Leeland Road will likely be closed by fall of 2025.

Mr. Matthew Bewley mentioned that a fourth track had been noted within the presentation and asked if the fourth track is hypothetical or a planned project. Mr. Ruiz explained that the fourth track is a long-term plan for the corridor and elaborated on the benefits of a fourth track.

9. Correspondence

- King George Ready Set Go Phase I TAP Award Notification
  Ms. Becky Golden provided an overview of the TAP Award Notification.
- FHWA Input on NVTA Prioritization Process
  Mr. Ollis presented an email correspondence between FHWA and FAMPO, where FAMPO asked FHWA if they would approve FAMPO's use of an allocation model like NVTA's. FHWA agreed on the condition that FAMPO submit their proposal to FHWA for approval. Mr. Ollis elaborated on the two primary differences between FAMPO and NVTA's allocation models.
  Firstly, Mr. Ollis explained that it would be the jurisdiction or transit agency that prioritizes projects for funding, rather than FAMPO. Secondly, NVTA uses a formula based on population to allocate funding as opposed to a score. FAMPO is exploring the implementation of a formula using population and other considerations. Mr. Ollis elaborated on the problems with FAMPO's current score system, stating that the current system is always subject to the criteria, which requires regular updates. Mr. Ollis stated that the new formula will only need to be updated every five years and allows for consistency in the amount allocated to each jurisdiction. Mr. Ollis reiterated that FHWA accepts the formula method on the condition that FAMPO send the formula to FHWA for approval.
  Mr. Ollis stated that First Chair Paul Agnello requested that the TAC wait to have a full discussion about the allocation model change until the September 2, 2024 meeting as he would not be present for the August 5, 2024 TAC meeting. Mr. Ollis stated that the full review of the SMART SCALE process will also occur during the September meeting as Ms. Kari Eaves, who worked extensively on SMART SCALE, was not present for the August meeting.
  Mr. Ruiz asked Mr. Ollis to clarify that the change in allocation model, if accepted, would come into effect not in the upcoming allocation round, but in the following application round; Therefore, allowing two years for the decision to be discussed and voted on.
  Mr. Ollis explained that within the current policy, CMAQ/STBG allocations are made every two years. Mr. Ollis explained that Ms. Linda LaSut will communicate the amount of money to be allocated for a one year period, and TAC will vote on an account in which to keep the funds. This process will happen for two years, reducing the time pressure to decide on the allocation model.

10. Staff Reports

Public Engagement Officer Mr. Eugene Hlaing introduced himself as a new FAMPO staff member.

- VTA Awards
  Ms. Golden introduced the VTA awards. Ms. Melody Fowler explained why FXBGO! Nominated Matthew Rooney for the Transit Employee Unsung Hero Award and commended him for his work. Ms. Golden recognized Ms. Jennifer DeBruhl and Mr. Bob Schneider for the awards they received. Mr. Ruiz elaborated on his time spent with the Virginia Transit Leadership Institute Graduates program and suggested that the present organizations nominate staff to attend.
- New Route 208 Park & Ride FXBGO! VRE Feeder Service
  Ms. Fowler updated the committee on FXBGO!'s new Route 208 Park & Ride service. Ms. Fowler stated that the Route 208 Park & Ride Lot to the Fredericksburg AMTRAK/VRE station service is receiving new riders and FXBGO! plans to increase their marketing for the service. Mr. Rodney White updated the committee on the new bus shelter built by VDOT and VDOT's intention to build a second shelter.
  Mr. Ruiz asked if the FXBGO! drivers are being told to wait for late trains during PM runs. Ms. Fowler confirms that drivers are told to wait for late trains.
- Fredericksburg Comprehensive Plan Update Process – FXBG Forward
  Mr. Mike Craig provided an overview of the 7-year planning cycle of the Fredericksburg Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Craig encouraged the committee meeting attendees to take the Comprehensive Plan Update survey and noted that the survey is not intended exclusively for Fredericksburg City residents. Mr. Craig noted several considerations and changes made to the Comprehensive Plan.
- Reminder VDOT's Statewide Update to the Federal Functional Classification (FFC)
  Ms. Golden summarized the document and asked Mr. Ollis to clarify the timeframe in which comments on the FFC will no longer be accepted. Mr. Ollis stated that VDOT would like to receive comments soon. Mr. Ollis urged each jurisdiction to review VDOT's work concerning the FFC and to submit comments for changes that should be made to the road classifications. Mr. Ollis stated that comments must be made prior to the classification change, and that classification changes occur only every ten years. Ms. Golden elaborated that the FFC is permissive, and that a change in classification offers flexibility for development in the future. Mr. Ollis urged the jurisdictions again to submit comments for changes. Mr. Ollis asked VDOT when they expect FAMPO to confirm their support for FFC changes. Ms. Catherine Coffey replied that they expect a response by September 2024. Mr. Ollis noted the next TAC meeting is in the first week of September, and that FAMPO may need to request that VDOT push the deadline back an additional month.
- Mr. Ollis stated that the final item is not on the agenda, but Mr. Lehane requested that FAMPO produce a list of the submitted SMART SCALE projects. Mr. Ollis provided a table detailing the rough estimate costs for each submitted project and stated that a full debrief will occur during the September TAC meeting.

11. Member Reports

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

b. Notification of new transportation projects by localities – eg. Revenue Sharing

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

Meeting Adjourned 10:16 a.m.

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