Lori Hayes
Chair

Ian Ollis
FAMPO Administrator

POLICY COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.fampo.gwregion.org

Committee Members Present: *(V) indicates voting member*
Ms. Lori Hayes, Chair Spotsylvania County (V)
Dr. Will Mackintosh, First Vice-City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Second Vice-Chair Stafford County (V)
Mr. Jonathan Gerlach, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Deuntay Diggs, alternate Stafford County (V)
Ms. Jannan Holmes, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Drew Mullins, Spotsylvania County (V) (online)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Dr. Pamela Yeung, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Meg Bohmke, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)(V) (online)
Mr. David "Sully" Sullins, alternate King George County (online)
Ms. Cathie Coffey, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Melody Fowler, alternate Fredericksburg Go! (FXBGO!)
Ms. Casandra Lord, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Donna Cloniger, alternate VDOT
Ms. Amy Garbarini, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) (online)
Mr. Paul Agnello, Chair TAC (online)
Mr. Timothy Welsh, Chair CTAC
Mr. Chris Clarke, Chair BPAC (online)

Committee Members Absent:
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Cathy Binder, King George County
Mr. David Brown, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Jacob Lane, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Gerald Childress, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)
Mr. Steven Minor, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Mr. Ivan Rucker, alternate Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Mr. Daniel Koenig, Federal Highway Administration (FTA)
Ms. Chelsea Beytas, alternate Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Mr. Todd Horsley, alternate Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Ms. Nancy Long, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County

Others Present:
Mr. Brad Shelton, Michael Baker International
Ms. Ruby Brabo, Stafford County Resident and CTAC Representative
Mr. Allen Watkins, Stafford County Resident and CTAC member
Mr. Joe Brito, Stafford County Resident and CTAC member
Mr. Bill Wright, Celebrate by Del Webb
Mr. Al Wilson, Celebrate by Del Webb
Ms. Barbara Wright, Celebrate by Del Webb
Ms. Roslyn Reeder, Celebrate by Del Webb
Mr. Rodney White, Spotsylvania County (online)
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect (online)

Staff Present:
Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager
Dr. John Ridout, Senior Planner
Ms. Leda Hinkle, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner
Ms. Kari Eaves, Transportation Program Manager
Mr. Eugene Hlaing, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator

1. **Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order**
   Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Chair Hayes led the pledge of allegiance.

3. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**
   Eugene Hlaing conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.

4. **Approval of the January 13, 2025, Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

   Chair Hayes amended the agenda moving the administrator report after correspondence.

   Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

   Motion: Chair Hayes; Second: Dr. Yeung
   Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. **Public Involvement**

   Mr. Hlaing read aloud a comment received from Ms. Suzanne Willis, a resident along River Road. She requested that a weight limit or a local traffic only designation be implemented to restrict heavy commercial traffic along River Road. She also requested a lower speed limit, speed bumps, and a protective barrier for trees along the road.

   Ms. Barbara Wright, resident of Celebrate by Del Webb, disagreed with the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee's (CTAC) endorsement of option C for the river crossing. She argued for Option A as it was a consultant preferred option and performed well on the public survey. She asked the committee to consider a river crossing's impact on the community along Celebrate Virginia Parkway.

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Mr. Al Wilson, the vice president of the HOA at Celebrate by Del Webb, addressed his concerns with river crossing option C. These included maintenance considerations from the impact of increased traffic on the roadway and storm water retention ponds. He also remarked on the likelihood that truck traffic would use the new crossing.

Mr. Bill Wright, a homeowner in the Celebrate by Del Webb community, made an appeal to the board to consider the individual investments made in the homes at Celebrate. He asked the board whether they would consider investing, as he had, with the proposed parkway crossing options in place along the parkway.

Mr. Allen Watkins, resident of Stafford County, raised concerns about the public survey for the River Crossing, calling into question whether the survey results should even be considered in the final decision concerning a river crossing. He shared his concerns and advocated for continued transparency throughout the process.

Ms. Ruby Brabo, representative of the Citizens Transportation Advisory Commission (CTAC), shared the CTAC's decision to endorse option C. She addressed the concerns of community members in Celebrate in her comment, while ultimately emphasizing the importance of Spotsylvania's support for a river crossing as a deciding factor for the committee's endorsement.

Ms. Roslyn Reeder, resident of Celebrate by Del Webb, raised her concerns about quality of life and safety issues that residents would face with a parkway river crossing option. She provided examples of potential safety issues by presenting pictures of the parkway from the community.

6. **Consent Agenda**
   a. Approval of November 18, 2024, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

   b. GWRC / FAMPO Memorandum of Understanding **(ACTION ITEM)**

   c. Resolution 25-23 FFY24 Annual Listing of DRPT Transportation Project Obligations **(ACTION ITEM)**

   d. Resolution 25-24 Highway Systems Functional Classification Update – Approval of Update by the FAMPO Policy Committee **(ACTION ITEM)**

   e. Resolution 25-25 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust funding for FRT0018 FXBGO!'s Security & Fiber Project **(ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the January 13, 2025, Consent Agenda

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Dr. Yeung
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. **FAMPO Administrator Report**

Moved during approval of the meeting agenda to follow the January action/discussion items and correspondence.

8. Action/Discussion Items

a. FAMPO Rappahannock River Crossing Parkway Alternatives Study

1. Preliminary Survey Data Results

Mr. Brad Shelton of Michael Baker International (MBI) reminded the committee of the consultant-preferred alternatives that were presented to the public before the survey. He reviewed outreach initiatives including the November public meeting.

Chair Hayes criticized the survey for the absence of a no-build option. Ms. Bohmke cited her many concerns and recommended that the CTAC, in addition to the hours they have already spent on the river crossing, spend more time fleshing out their questions. Dr. Yeung argued that administering the survey around the holidays limited responses and that 1,500 responses were not sufficient. Mr. Mullins postulated that he could get 2,000-3,000 additional responses opposed to a river crossing.

Mr. Ollis clarified for the committee that the survey had the second highest response amount for all surveys he was aware of in FAMPO's history.

Mr. Shelton continued to review the preliminary survey results. Mr. Shelton shared that Option A had received the highest responses as the most preferred option, followed by B-2. Option D was the least preferred option. In addition, 54 responses were in favor of a no-build option. Ms. Hayes remarked that it would be interesting to see the geographic distribution of no-build responses.

Mr. Shelton clarified that MBI was not endorsing an option at that time and presented how additional comments or questions received through the survey were coded. He ended his presentation sharing the next steps: determine a consultant preferred option, present the preferred option at the February Policy Board meeting, and develop a detailed cost estimate and alignment sketch for the preferred option.

The committee discussed the survey design and the importance of a no-build option. They mentioned what was learned in this process and how to proceed with administering surveys moving forward. Mr. Yakabouski reminded the committee of the reason behind pursuing an additional river crossing, emphasizing its service to local traffic.

2. City of Fredericksburg Data Center Implications for the study

Mr. Ollis presented the city's proposal to implement a Technology Overlay District (TOD) on the south side of the river near the proposed river crossing. The committee discussed the implications of the overlay district and ultimately decided that the consultants should not move ahead until the city has finished discussing the TOD at the end of February. The consultant will resume working on the river crossing in March.

b. Letter of Support for a Joint Grant Application from Virginia Railway Express (VRE) & Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) through the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program **(ACTION ITEM)**

Motion to send the letter endorsing the joint VRE and VPRA application.

Motion: Ms. Holmes; Second: Dr. Mackintosh
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

c. New Post River Crossing Research Study Progress

Ms. Hinkle presented maps depicting the distribution of trip destinations for vehicles crossing the river over the Route 3 and Route 301 bridges. She highlighted the areas drawing a large share of the traffic: the residential area just south of the proposed New Post crossing, Southpoint and Cosner's Corner area, the Ferry Farm Walmart commercial area, and Dahlgren. The committee discussed the details of the StreetLight origin-destination analysis and evaluated the outcome. Ms. Hinkle also presented conserved lands near the proposed crossing. The crossing route appeared clear of any such lands directly in its path.

Ms. Golden presented her progress developing the conceptual design of a crossing for VDOT to assist with a cost estimate.

Mr. Ollis presented VDOT's decision that they would not perform model runs for the MPO. He mentioned the two options for proceeding: Ms. Hinkle and Dr. Ridout can complete the model run with the understanding that the runs may not be devoid of technical error, or the committee can hire a consultant to complete the model runs. The committee discussed the different options and agreed that Mr. Ollis would work with VDOT to develop a cost estimate for hiring a consultant to complete the model runs.

9. Correspondence

a. Long Range Transportation Plan / Constrained Long Range Plan Congestion Implications provided to the Secretary of Transportation

Mr. Ollis presented the Secretary's response to a letter sent by the Policy Committee. He believed that there may be a misunderstanding. He and Dr. Ridout presented to the committee where the congestion figures used by FAMPO staff are derived from in the model and how the Secretary came up with his own evaluation of projected congestion in the region. They described why these evaluations were different and used model outputs to precisely illustrate projected congestion. Dr. Mackintosh asked if congestion figures for the region could be calculated without Caroline and King George trips being a factor. The committee agreed that the conversation should continue with the VDOT staff identified in the Secretary's letter.

10. FAMPO Administrator Report

Mr. Ollis quickly covered his Administrator Report. He outlined projects that FAMPO will work on or complete in 2025. He mentioned several other relevant developments and deadlines in the coming calendar year. Looking ahead over the next two years, Mr. Ollis mentioned the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update and any scenario planning that the policy committee consents to accompany that update.

11. Staff and Agency Reports

Mr. Clarke, the new Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory committee (BPAC), introduced himself to the committee.

12. Chair Hayes adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.

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