TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.fampo.gwregion.org

Committee Members Present:
Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
First Vice Chair, Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Second Vice Chair Matthew Lehane, Stafford County
Adam Derrick, Stafford County (online)
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Casandra Lord, VDOT
Catherine Coffey, PE, VDOT
Joe Stainsby, PRTC (online)
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Matt Bewley, DRPT
Melody Fowler, FXBGO!
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Nick Ruiz, VRE (late, 10:15 am)
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

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

Others Present:
Al Watkins, CTAC, Stafford County Citizen
Will Montgomery, VRE

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

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

   The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chair Agnello

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

   Ms. Leda Hinkle conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

3. **Approval of the January 13, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

   Motion was made to approve the January 6th Agenda.
   Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second: Paul Agnello
   Abstentions: None
   Motion passes with the following changes made:
   - The committee will review item 7d before item 7c.
   - The committee will add and review 7e, a Letter of Support for a Joint Grant Application from VRE & VPRA through the PROTECT Program. The letter was sent to the Policy Committee only after the TAC agenda had been published.

4. **Public Comment**

Citizen Allen Watkins expressed concerns about the transparency of the River Crossing Study survey and how the information about the options was presented, which may have influenced the way people voted.

5. **Consent Agenda**

   a. Approval of the November 4, 2024, TAC Meeting Minutes **(ACTION ITEM)**

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

   Motion was made to Approve the January 13, 2025, Consent Agenda.
   Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second: Chair Paul Agnello
   Abstentions: None
   Motion passed with unanimous consent.

6. **TIP Amendments & Modifications**

a) Endorse 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 Endorse Resolution 25-25.
Motion: Matthew Lehane; Second: Chair Paul Agnello
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Action/Discussion Items

a. FAMPO Rappahannock River Crossing Parkway Alternatives Study Preliminary Survey Data Results – Dr. John Ridout

Dr. John Ridout reviewed each of the slides and presented the number of surveys completed, survey responses, and the next steps for the consultants. The committee discussed the data center and technology overlay district's impacts on the River Crossing alternatives, including Spotsylvania County's reservations regarding the survey results and crossing options.

b. LRTP2050 FY25 Modifications - Chapter 5 – Ms. Becky Golden

Ms. Becky Golden presented the Chapter 5 modifications by GWRideConnect for the TAC to review. As requested, the modifications include 2024 ridership data. Ms. Kari Eaves agreed to provide the TAC with the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) one week prior to the February meeting. Once the Long-Term Goals, Chapter 5 Modifications, and ATP have been reviewed and approved by the TAC, they will be presented to the Policy Committee. The CLRP will only be modified when SMARTSCALE funding is approved in June.

The committee then moved to review item 7d then returned to discuss item 7c.

c. CMAQ/STBG Workshop
- November 4th Presentation: Dividing Up CMAQ / CR / STBG – Dr. John Ridout & Mr. Ian Ollis
- Spotsylvania County Comments on November 4th Presentation – Chair Paul Agnello
- Total Population; Total Population 50% & Urbanized Population 50% Scenarios – Chair Paul Agnello
- VDOT Input on Metrics for Funding Distribution – Ms. Cassy Lord, VDOT District Planning Manager

Following item 7d, Chair Agnello opened the discussion by providing Spotsylvania County's perspective: They are willing to work cooperatively to improve the allocation process, but if progress is not made in discussions during the January 13 TAC meeting, they are willing to keep the current process as is. Mr. Ollis and Dr. Ridout did not present the November 4th presentation. The goal of developing a formula is to make the allocation process easier, and the formula will be reviewed every five years as populations and conditions change in the jurisdictions.

Chair Agnello presented the Spotsylvania County comments on the November 4th presentation. Spotsylvania would like the formula to be based on population, emulating NVTA's formula also based on population. Dr. Ridout presented the allocations for a formula using 50% Total Population and 50% Urbanized Population. Mr. Nick Ruiz expressed his feeling that using daily vehicle miles traveled (DMVT) is the fairest approach and Dr. Ridout noted that the allocations between the 50/50 formula and a formula based on DMVT are similar. The committee discussed the relationship between Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Management Area (TMA) funding. Chair Agnello requested that FAMPO provide the STBG MOU to distribute among the TAC during the February 3 meeting, to review what percentage of the STBG is allocated to North Stafford as opposed to the region, and to provide the population required for FAMPO to be a TMA. Mr. Ollis agreed to provide this information but recognized that it would be difficult to find the exact STBG allocation percentages between North Stafford and the region. The committee discussed set-asides and the different types of funding for transit.

Cassy Lord noted that VDOT will not provide input on the metrics of funding distribution. Mr. Ollis noted that FHWA requested that FAMPO reach out to VDOT for input and confirmed that this correspondence is in writing via email.

Ms. Jamie Jackson expressed that FXBGO! does not support the use of population as an allocation metric as population is not an adequate measure of congestion, and that if a solution cannot be reached, FXBGO! is willing to keep the current process as is. FXBGO! prefers the Transportation Activity x Population Composite option. The committee discussed the set-asides for transit as it relates to Carbon Reduction (CR) funding. Mr. Ollis explained that the set-asides for transit funding are for non-locality specific projects, and localities can still fund transit projects within their jurisdiction using the funding allocated to the locality. Ms. Jackson and Ms. Fowler explained how FXBGO! receives funding compared to other transit agencies and localities.

The committee reviewed the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) & STBG funds after set asides and discussed the benefits of distributing funding based on percentages as opposed to being based on type of funding. The committee then discussed what percentage of the funding should be used for set asides.

Chair Agnello explained Spotsylvania's reservations concerning the Transportation Activity/Population Composite formula: The formula is complicated, and population is accepted by state and federal sources, while DVMT, Facility Miles, and Employment are not established sources. The committee confirmed that the formula variables, including DVMT and Facility Miles, are pulled from FHWA. The committee discussed whether funds will be used on I-95 and whether the DVMT and Miles should be included in the formula. The committee discussed the removal of I-95 from the CMAQ formula, but not from STBG, and the allocation of 7.5% of the STBG to transit funding. Once more information is provided about TMA funding, the committee will decide whether 7.5% of funding includes TMA funding or not. The committee discussed excluding the TMA from present discussions as they do not know when FAMPO will be considered a TMA or if FAMPO will be a part of the DC TMA.

The TAC will continue further discussions when more information about the STBG and CMAQ are presented. For the next TAC meeting, FAMPO staff will provide the approximate dollar values of

the funds allocated, the DVMT calculation including and excluding I-95, the MOU, and the population required in the Fredericksburg region for FAMPO to be considered a TMA.

During the next TAC meeting, there will be a River Crossing survey update, a presentation from VRE, and a presentation on SMARTSCALE results. The next TAC meeting will begin at 9:00 am.

Mr. Lehane expressed his desire to use STBG funding to purchase more bike/ped counters. The committee discussed what counters are available for FAMPO staff to use currently.

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

FAMPO staff commended VDOT and the jurisdictions for working together. Jurisdictions are not limited to sending updates once every 10 years, if a major change occurs jurisdictions are free to suggest classification updates to VDOT. Once the Policy Committee approves the endorsement letter, the letter is sent to TMPD who submits the letter to FHWA. This process will take 4-5 months as FAMPO is not the only MPO sending updates. VDOT confirmed for Stafford that Garrisonville Road has already been updated. After motioning to approve the endorsement, the committee returned to item 7c.

Motion was made to Approve the Endorsement of Resolution 25-24.
Motion: Chair Paul Agnello; Second: Casandra Lord
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

e) 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)**

Item 7e. is on the January 13th Policy Committee agenda, however the letter was only received by FAMPO after the TAC agenda had been published. Printed copies were provided to members. The letter will be amended to include the correct date.

Motion was made to Approve the Endorsement of the Letter of Support.
Motion: Chair Paul Agnello; Second: Matthew Lehane
Abstentions: None
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. Correspondence

- December 10th NEPA Scoping Invitation Letter for Germanna Point Drive Extension (Spotsylvania County)

Mr. Lehane asked VDOT what their plans are for public comment on the Germanna Point Drive Extension. As VDOT has only begun the NEPA scoping process, they are unsure when the public comment period will be.

9. Staff Reports

- League of American Cyclists' State Report Card - Ms. Kari Eaves

Ms. Kari Eaves presented the report card and highlighted the League of American Cyclists' criticism for the changes made to SMARTSCALE making funding for bike/ped projects more difficult.

- 2025 FAMPO Committee Meetings Calendar

Chair Agnello noted that Spotsylvania received a Federal Railroad Crossing Elimination grant and expresses his appreciation to the TAC. A stakeholder group will be formed.

The TAC recognizes the work of Ms. Casandra Lord, who is moving from the district to VDOT central office. Ms. Lord noted that her email will stay the same, and that Rachel Inman is the new Point of Contact.

Mr. Ollis has received his AICP certification.

10. Adjourn/Next TAC Meeting: February 3, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned 12:26 p.m.