Fredericksburg City
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County
Caroline County
King George County

FAMPO
Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Yolanda Hipski
Chair

Ian Ollis
FAMPO Administrator

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 13, 2025 - 6:00pm
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg
https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/

A video recording of the meeting is linked on the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) webpage:
https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/citizens-transportation-advisory-committee/

Committee Members Present:

Yolanda Hipski, City of Fredericksburg, Chair
Allen Watkins, Stafford County, Vice Chair
Jason Braaten, Stafford County
Joe Brito, Stafford County (6:13pm)
Rupert Farley, At-Large
Denise Flatley, King George
Robert Fogg, Spotsylvania County
Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County (Online)
Larry Gross, At-Large (Online)
Rebekah Herrin, City of Fredericksburg (Online)
David McLaughlin, City of Fredericksburg
Tolanda Parker, Stafford County
Clinton Wells, Spotsylvania County
Tim Welsh, Spotsylvania County
Kevin Wilkinson, Spotsylvania County

Committee Members Absent:

TaMara Banks, At-Large
Ruby Brabo, Stafford County
Justin Chenault, Caroline County
David Fauth, City of Fredericksburg
Michael Hoyt, Caroline County
Cassandra Jagroop, City of Fredericksburg
Ann Palbalkar, Stafford County
Ken Pogue, Caroline County
Rodney Thomas, At-Large

Others Present

Rachel Inman, VDOT
Marcus Garcia, Spotsylvania County Resident

Staff Present:
John Ridout, Senior Transportation Planner
Leda Hinkle, GIS Technician / Transportation Planner
Eugene Hlaing, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator

1. **Call to Order**
   At 6:00 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Chair Yolanda Hipski

2. **Roll Call**
   Leda Hinkle conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

3. **Approval of the August 13, 2025, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda**

   Motion: Robert Fogg; Second: Jason Braaten
   Discussion: None.
   Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Approval of the June 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes**
   Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.
   Motion: Robert Fogg; Second: Al Watkins
   Discussion: None
   Motion passed Motion passed unanimously with David McLaughlin and Denise Flatley abstaining.

5. **Public Comment:** Marcus Garcia of Spotsylvania County asked about the status and upcoming items of the FAMPO River Crossing Study.

6. **VDOT/Transit Report-a-Problem**

   The group discussed several VDOT and transit issues. Jason Braaten noted improvements around safety concerns at the Benchmark Road and Mine Road intersection. Clinton Wells communicated concerns with the Benchmark and Mine Road intersection with the rail crossing. Drivers are crossing into oncoming traffic travel lanes to pass the queue of vehicles waiting for a train to pass. Robert Fogg noted there is a project in the vicinity of that intersection. Al Watkins noted that the intersection of US 17 and Southern Gateway has signal timing issues only allowing three vehicles to exit per cycle. In addition, US 17 appears to have pavement seams opening and concerns of pavement conditions around I-95. Tim Welsh noted that at the intersection of Route 2 and 17 near New Post, the traffic signal appears mistimed with long greens with no traffic approaching.

7. **Action/Discussion Items**
   a. **Goals for CTAC in 2025-2026**

Yolanda Hipski started off discussing the future direction of CTAC (Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee) and past success with the impeding completion of the river crossing project. Yolanda proposed two main functions for CTAC: providing citizen input to the Policy Committee and disseminating information about FAMPO projects. The group discussed potential activities, including monthly member reports to share ongoing work and connections between organizations. Members discussed the need for better coordination between different transportation modes and organizations, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, bus routes, OmniRide, and VRE.

Denise Flatley noted a lack of representation and challenges faced by rural areas in accessing transportation services. The group agreed to explore ways to improve transportation options for underserved communities and to encourage more participation from lower-priority areas in decision-making processes.

Bob Fogg noted the rising costs of road and sidewalk projects due to increasing construction and maintenance expenses and concern about the lack of funding for necessary road projects and highlighted the need to address the issue of rising costs, which could exceed budget limits in the future.

Tim Welsh touched on the impact of utility line installations on road projects, and questioned the current practices and costs associated with moving these lines.

The conversation transitioned to emphasizing the need for education on various funding options and grant opportunities. Participants discussed existing grants, including smart-scale projects, high-priority corridors, and safety grants, while noting the limited availability of funding for major projects.

Jason Braaten reiterated the connectivity issues, the need for better bus route education, and the potential for data centers to contribute to transportation funding. The conversation ended with plans to review grants and explore additional funding sources, with John Ridout mentioned as someone who would investigate grants.

b. Discussion of Member Reports

John Ridout initiated the discussion of the role and limits of Member Reports during the CTAC meeting. He noted that a few CTAC members were having conflicts with the extended time meetings were running past the designated 90 minutes. In addition, FAMPO Staff was running into an administrative constrain with the additional time burdens. The committee discussed revising member report time allocations, with a proposal to limit member presentations to 20 minutes plus 30 minutes for discussion, though concerns were raised about implementation and whether to include this in the bylaws.

> Motion was made to adopt the presenter guidelines into the bylaws.
> Motion: Clinton Wells; Second: Rupert Farley
> Discussion: David McLaughlin opened discussion with clarification of the proposal. CTAC members discussed different needs and lengths while acknowledging the need for a clear distinction between member presentations and brief member reports to manage meeting time effectively. After the discussion, a consensus was to defer further discussion on the specific wording and implementation until the next meeting, John Ridout would generate a draft concept of the bylaws prior to a vote.
> Clinton Wells withdrew the motion.

c. CTAC and Bike/Ped Committee

Dr. Ridout highlighted the need for more citizen engagement in the Biking Pedestrian Advisory Committee, noting the need for jurisdictions to appoint representatives. CTAC members discussed the need to help with the outreach and awareness of the open seats. Jason Braaten, Joe Brito, and Tolanda Parker expressed interest in observing a BPAC meeting.

8. Staff Reports

John Ridout provided an update on the TAC and Policy Committee meetings. The August TAC meeting focused on grant methodologies and population projections while the PC's June meeting was administrative as well as endorsing the preferred local alternative (Option C) for the River Crossing Report.

Leda introduced a Complete Streets plan for the region, defining "Complete Streets" and emphasizing the importance of considering all modes of transportation in road design. The CTAC would be discussing the Complete Streets plan in the future.

Finally, John Ridout denoted upcoming transportation improvement program (TIP) actions.

9. Member Reports

Al Watkins remarked on the specific parameters of the Policy Committee's endorsed River Crossing option. He also noted that different concepts, including CTAC's concepts, have previously been floated with Option C of the River Crossing. John Ridout provided that the consultants are using the 250ft corridor in developing the drawing and initial documents finding the best path with the information available. Robert Fogg asked if the river crossing will be funded through SmartScale. It would likely require a large funding source, if not SMART SCALE, then some federal grant program.

10. Public Comment

Marcus Garcia asked if he could have a conversation with the Spotsylvania County CTAC members after the meeting. John Ridout noted for FOIA requirements, no more than two members could be present at a time in the follow up with Marcus.

11. Future Agenda Items

TIP Actions & Updated TIP Documents
Complete Streets
Member Reports and the Bylaws
Goals and Objectives of the Committee
Education/Information Items for the Committee

12. Adjourn/Next CTAC Meeting September 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.
Motion: Jason Braaten; Second: Kevin Wilkenson
Motion passed by unanimous consent.