

News Release: April 21, 2020

COVID- 19: Dramatic Travel Decrease in the Fredericksburg Area

In response to the spread of COVID-19, Governor Ralph Northam implemented a stay-at-home order on Monday, March 30th. This order directed Virginians to stay at home except in the case of essential travel. A recent travel data analysis by the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) provides insight into how well local residents are adhering to stay-at-home orders.

George Washington Regional Commission staff, Matthew Lehane and Jordan Chandler, who serve as transportation planners for the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO), recently analyzed travel data collected by StreetLight Data, Inc., to determine how traffic has decreased in the Fredericksburg area since the stay-at-home order took effect. FAMPO's Policy Committee Chair, Matthew Kelly, acknowledged the importance of travel data, "Travel data helps local leaders gauge how well residents are adhering to stay-at-home orders."

Streetlight Data is a transportation analytics platform that collects anonymous location data from millions of mobile devices in order to conduct big data analysis on transportation networks. StreetLight's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) dataset was used to determine vehicle travel change for the City of Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George and Caroline counties. The VMT dataset uses average daily measures from January 2020 as a baseline for comparative change during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chandler and Lehane determined that since the stay-at-home order began, there has been a dramatic decrease in vehicle miles traveled throughout the Fredericksburg area. Area-wide, there was a 64 percent decrease in average daily vehicle miles traveled from March 29 through April 4 compared to the average daily vehicle miles traveled in January 2020. A more thorough examination by the county showed that Stafford County had the most significant decrease, totaling 74 percent. The City of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania and King George counties experienced 61-66 percent decreases. Vehicle miles traveled in Caroline County decreased by 53 percent.

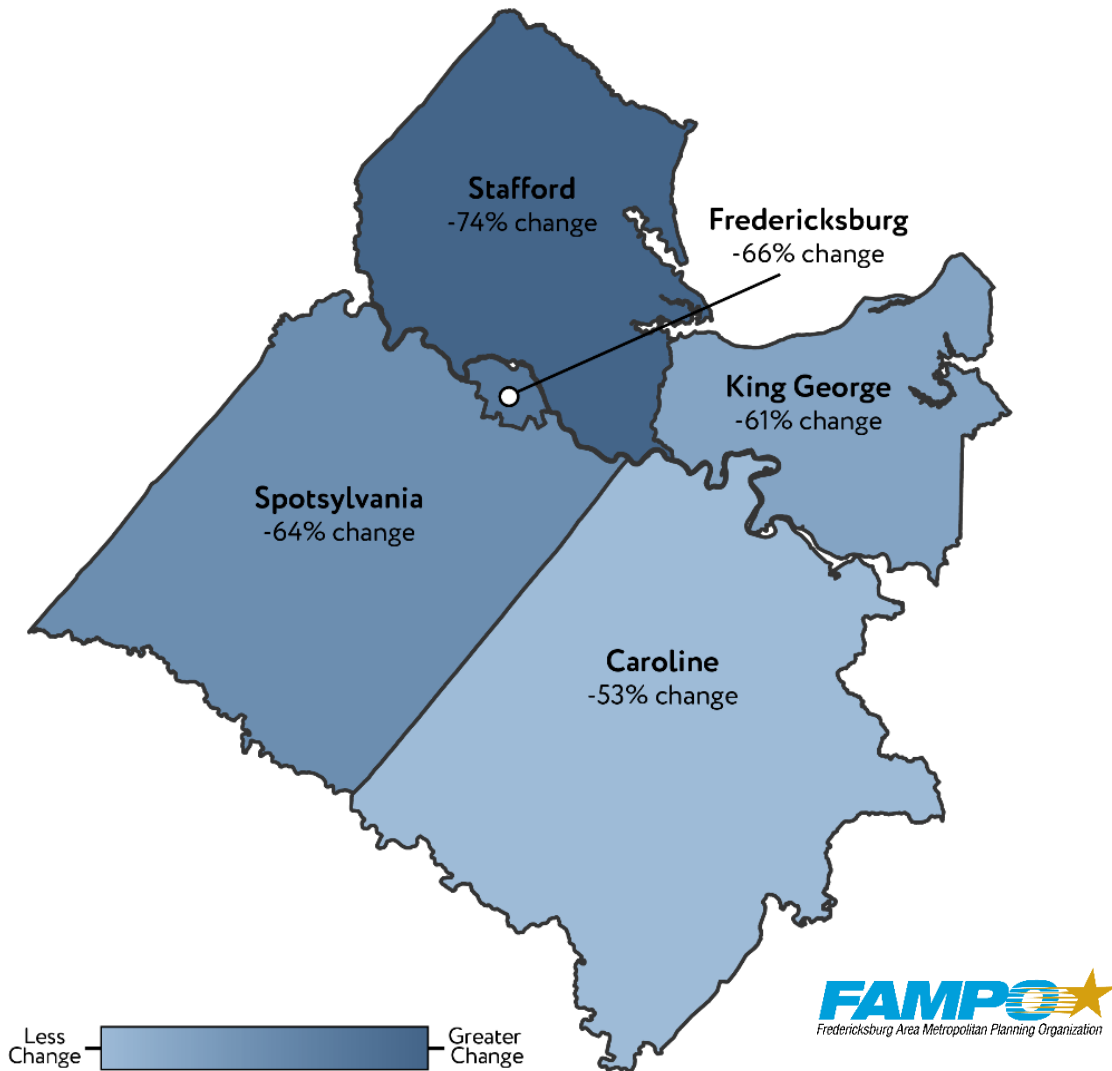
The pair also examined the change to average daily road traffic for the last weeks of March 2019 and 2020 and discovered significant traffic decreases throughout the region:

- 45% decrease on I-95 at the Rappahannock River crossing
- 51% decrease on Route 1 in Stafford near Aquia Harbor
- 49% decrease on Route 1 in the City of Fredericksburg near Falmouth
- 47% decrease on Route 3 in Spotsylvania County near Spotsylvania Town Center
- 48% decrease on US 301 in King George, near Dahlgren
- 53% decrease on US 301 in Caroline County near Port Royal

- 47% decrease on Route 2 in the town of Bowling Green in Caroline County

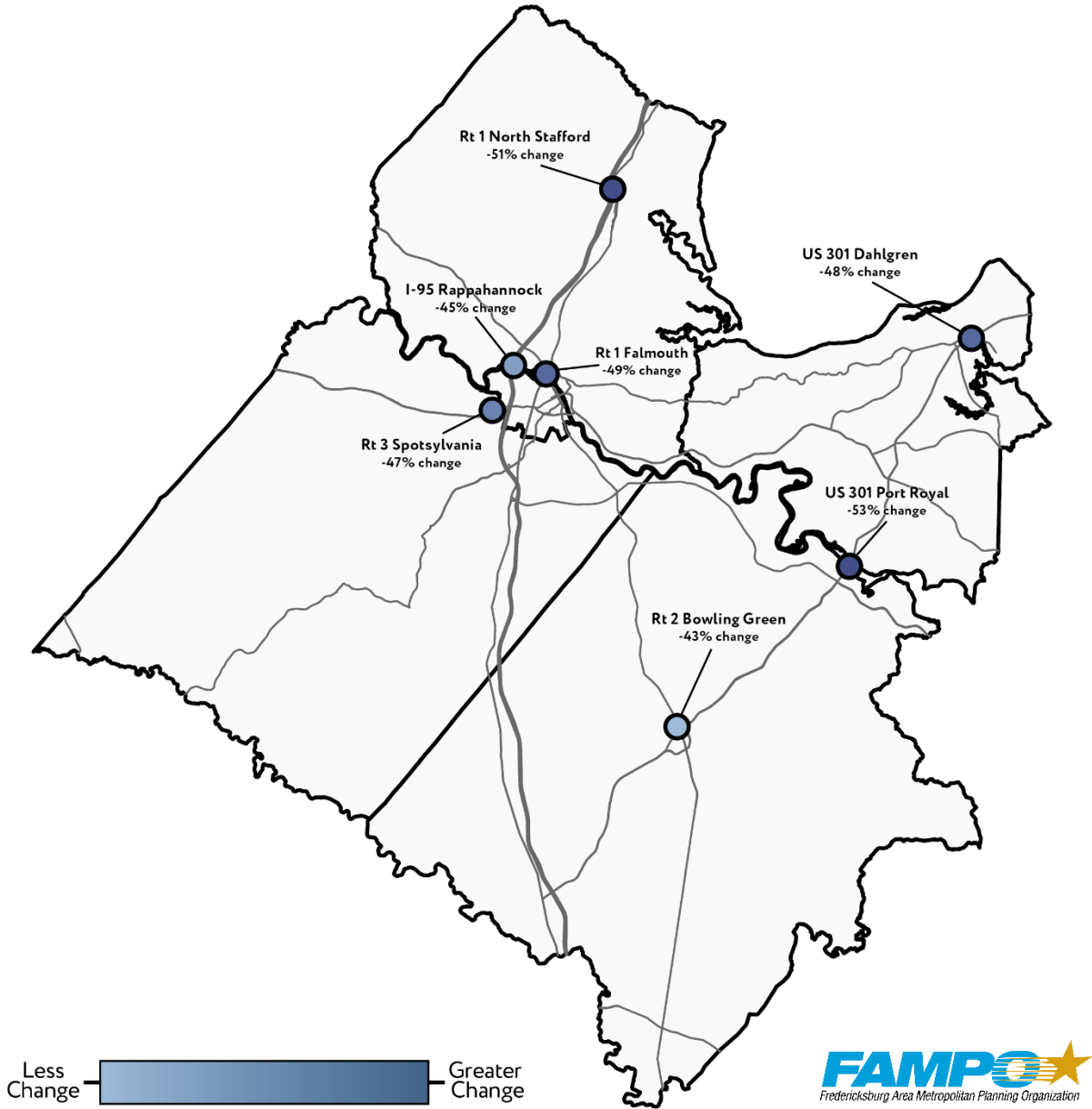
The following maps and tables provide visual representations of all findings.

Post Stay-at-Home Order: Fredericksburg Area Experiences a Dramatic Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)



Locality	VMT Daily Average for January 2020	VMT Daily Average March 29 - April 4, 2020	Percent Change
Caroline	2,154,466	1,009,142	-53%
Fredericksburg	1,893,835	648,428	-66%
King George	1,096,110	431,142	-61%
Spotsylvania	5,631,262	1,988,571	-65%
Stafford	5,777,670	1,504,285	-74%

Post Stay-at-Home Order: Fredericksburg Area Roadways Experience Significant Decrease in Travel



Road Segment	Average Daily Segment Trips March 24 - 30, 2019	Average Daily Segment Trips March 22 - 28, 2020	Percent Change
I-95 at Rappahanock	131,296	71,839	-45%
Rt 1 near Falmouth	32,056	16,433	-49%
Rt 1 near Aquia Harbor	29,282	14,363	-51%
Rt 3 in Spotsylvania	65,621	35,096	-47%
Rt 2 Bowling Green	4,237	2,426	-43%
US 301 Dahlgren	26,380	13,780	-48%
US 301 Port Royal	17,017	8,063	-53%