



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2020 ♦ **Remote-Only**

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg VA 22401

<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/technical-advisory-committee/>

Due to the nature of the Declaration of a State of Emergency Due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pursuant to Code § 2.2-3708.2 this meeting is to be held by electronic communications, via the web platform GoToMeeting. The catastrophic nature of this declared emergency makes it impracticable and unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and the purpose of this meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body.

A recording of this virtual meeting has been posted to the FAMPO Technical Advisory Committee webpage:
<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/technical-advisory-committee/>

Members Present:

Remote connection by phone or internet for all attendants per Virginia COVID-19 legislation as noted above.

Chairman Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg

Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg

Alex Owsiak, Stafford County

Jason Towery, Stafford County

Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County

Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Stephen Haynes, VDOT

Jim Ponticello, VDOT

Charles Steigerwald, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Ciara Williams, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Christine Hoeffner, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)

Craig Reed, FRED

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect

Dr. Linda Millsaps, GWRideConnect

Others Present:

Linda LaSut, VDOT

Susan Gardner, VDOT

Dave McLaughlin, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Chair & City of Fredericksburg

FAMPO Staff Members Present:

Adam Hager, Transportation Planner

Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement Coordinator/Title VI Coordinator

Leah Vigil, Administrative Assistant

Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner

Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order – Chairman Erik Nelson

Chairman Nelson called the FAMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting to Order at **9:30 am**.

2. Determination of a Quorum – Ms. Stacey Feindt

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

3. Approval of the June 8, 2020 TAC Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Public Comment - None

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. Allocation of CMAQ/RSTP Funds

Chairman Nelson opened the discussion noting that GWRideConnect is recognized as an important part of the region's transportation network and that funding sources other than CMAQ/RSTP will be explored, such as 5307 funds, which have not always been available.

i. UPC 110987: Rte 208/Hood Drive CMAQ/STBG-RSTP Transfer Request

Mr. Agnello stated that Spotsylvania County has a transfer request for UPC 110987: Rte 208/Hood Drive for \$772,500 in CMAQ/RSTP funding which is about 15% of the original budget. The request would help the County meet the new VDOT cost estimate which had increased significantly. The County would assume the remaining cost responsibility for the project.

Mr. Steigerwald asked the group about the removal of CMAQ funding for GWRideConnect without any replacement and whether 5307 funding was actually eligible to fund the program.

Mr. Nelson stated that no replacement in funding has been made clear to date and that this is a question we all have.

Mr. Agnello noted that 5307 is a new funding source that GWRC will be receiving in the near future and that funding can be used for MPO/FAMPO staff. He further noted the following:

- As some GWRideConnect staff have done work for FAMPO in the past, 5307 funding could go directly to GWRideConnect if they were doing work for FAMPO.
- If FAMPO fills its open positions, this could generate more indirect funds for GWRC staff. This would mean they would be able to charge less to CMAQ or to 5303 or PL.

- 5303 and PL have sizeable surpluses that will be carried over from FY20 to FY21. This figure represents a few hundred thousand in additional funding. Also, RSTP funding for the LRTP can be used for FAMPO staffing. This source has \$200,000 and Spotsylvania County does not support using all of that for consulting. The County would like to see at least \$100,000 go towards FAMPO staffing. The County would also support flexibility with the RSTP and CMAQ funding, in that, the \$200,000 for FAMPO and \$125,000 for GWRideConnect could be used through FY22 if it was not all spent.
- As for GWRideConnect spending, it appears that GWRC is projected to only spend about half of that CMAQ for FY20. So, there is a question of whether GWRC needs that amount in extra funding. Maybe half of that at \$62,500 would be enough. The County is willing to work with the TAC and the MPO process on this. The County wants to make sure that GWRC is whole and that nobody is laid off. Based upon the figures that the County is seeing, there is more than enough funding for FY21 and also for FY22.

Mr. Nelson stated that the commitment is there to make sure that GWRideConnect can function and remain whole, but that they are also dealing with a concerted effort by member jurisdictions to make sure that funding that can be used for projects is in fact used for projects.

Dr. Millsaps stated that GWRideConnect's understanding is that 5307 funding cannot be used to fund transportation demand management (TDM) program staffing and marketing. Further, there is no existing sub-recipient agreement that would allow a move to the staffing model that Mr. Agnello is suggesting. The move of funding affects 3.6 FTE GWRC staff members which is not insignificant.

Ms. Williams stated that, in addition to Dr. Millsaps comment, 5307 funding is to be used for capital purpose and TDM would not be eligible under that program.

Mr. Towery stated that from Stafford's point of view, none of the municipalities wish to see GWRideConnect defunded. Efforts have been to free up as much of CMAQ/RSTP funding for projects as possible.

Ms. Anderson stated that if hours were taken away from the GWRideConnect program to work for FAMPO, the program would suffer.

Ms. Gibson added that for GWRideConnect staff to work under FAMPO they would have to stop working on GWRideConnect projects and work on FAMPO projects in order to be eligible under 5307. This essentially cuts GWRideConnect staff and increases FAMPO staff. As for the FY20 GWRideConnect budget the decrease in spending has been due to not doing planned marketing because of COVID-19. Further, it is also because of not

charging a lot of staff time to the program as previously intended. The FY21 budget has been restructured and this is not seen as a problem in the future.

Ms. Shropshire stated that VDOT was not aware of the implications of changes being proposed. She added that there are restrictions to some of the changes being proposed and there are some concerns regarding how these proposed changes affect the FY21 UPWP.

Ms. Gardner added that VDOT believes we need to have a longer conversation on the uses of funding types being discussed, how money has been moved around, and how some of the projects have been added.

Ms. Hoeffner asked about the action to de-obligate some CMAQ funds that were allocated to a VRE study. There has been no replacement funding identified.

Mr. Towery noted that studies for VRE Station multi-modal improvements at Brooke and Leeland stations were stopped with VRE approval. Brooke would be too remote; Leeland will be addressed in a new pedestrian improvement project.

Mr. Agnello explained that the new Spotsylvania station already had multimodal function and did not need further consideration for funding.

ii. Transfer Request for Route 1/Enon Road

Mr. Owsiak stated that due to decreased state funding, Stafford County requested leftover FY21/22 RSTP funding for the Route 1 and Telegraph/Woodstock Intersection project and additional RSTP funding allocation for the Enon Road project, up to \$1M.

iii. Stafford County Application for Available RSTP Funds

Mr. Owsiak requested additional RSTP funds for Onville Road and Route 1 & Telegraph/Woodstock Intersection SMART SCALE projects.

iv. Request to Consider CMAQ Applications for RSTP Funding

Mr. Agnello presented three projects for consideration of RSTP funding:

- Route 208/Lafayette Blvd & Route 1
- Onville Road
- Idlewild Boulevard/VCR Trail Connector

v. **Approval of Draft Resolution 20-40: Transferring Available CMAQ and RSTP Funds (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Agnello made a motion to approve Resolution 20-40 as amended:

- Second “Whereas,” clause remove “VDOT”
- Attachment 2: remove amounts for Line 30 - Telegraph Rd Project
- Add a fourth “Whereas,”: GWRideConnect has FAMPO TAC support to remain whole as a program with a stable and continuous source of funding.

Mr. Towery seconded.

Opposed: Ms. Shropshire
Mr. Haynes
Ms. Anderson

Abstention: Mr. Steigerwald

There was no further discussion. Motion carried by majority.

6. FY21 FAMPO Schedule Update

Mr. Hager asked if there were concerns on moving the July 13, TAC meeting up to July 6, 2020, after July 4th weekend. There were no comments.

Mr. Hager reported for FAMPO staff, that Jordan Chandler sent out a request for updates to projects in a support document for SMART SCALE to localities and agencies last week. He reminded the group that for those who have been asked to provide feedback, the deadline for comments is June 16, 2020.

7. Member Reports

Ms. Hoeffner called attention to additional social distancing guidelines VRE will implement as people return to work. She would send a web link to Mr. Hager to share with the committee.

8. Adjourn Technical Advisory Committee Meeting / Next Meeting

There being no further business to conduct, Chairman Nelson adjourned the Technical Advisory Committee meeting at **11:22 am**.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for **July 6, 2020 at 9:30 am**.