



## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2020 ♦ **Remote-Only**

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg VA 22401

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

**Approved: July 6, 2020**

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

Bryon Counsell, Stafford County

Jason Towery, Stafford County

Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County

Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Stephen Haynes, VDOT

Jim Ponticello, VDOT

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

Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Jamie Jackson, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)

Craig Reed, FRED (10am)

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Dr. Linda Millsaps, GWRideConnect

### **Others Present:**

Linda LaSut, VDOT

Susan Gardner, VDOT

Brandon Brown, Stafford County

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

Adam Lynch

Barbara (last name not provided)

### **FAMPO Staff Members Present:**

Adam Hager, Transportation Planner

Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement Coordinator/Title VI Coordinator

Leah Vigil, Administrative Assistant

Kari Barber, Transportation Planner

Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner



Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner

*Speaker: Summary of speaking points*

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Determination of a Quorum**

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

**3. Approval of the June 1, 2020 TAC Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**4. Approval of May 4, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Ms. Anderson motioned to approve the draft meeting minutes as amended.

Mr. Owsiak seconded

There was no further discussion; motion passed unanimously

**5. Review of May 18, 2020 FAMPO Policy Committee Meeting**

Mr. Hager summarized highlights from the Policy Committee meeting:

- First all virtual Policy Committee meeting
- Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved for Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP)
- FAMPO Staff was directed to move forward with public comment period beginning May 20, 2020 for:
  - Draft 2045 LRTP Amendment
  - Air Quality Conformity Analysis (AQCA) draft report related to the 2045 LRTP Amendment
  - Draft FY21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  - FY20 UPWP Amendment
- FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was approved
- Special second Policy Committee meeting this month will be June 22, 2020 at 6:00 pm

**6. Public Comment**

Ms. Feindt summarized a written comment by Mr. Robert Thomas of the City of Fredericksburg:

- Sidewalks are too narrow
- Not enough crosswalks
- Paths that allow bikes are dangerous as they impede exercise for the elderly population and/or public health in general by inhibiting social distancing standards

Mr. Towery requested additional discussion item under 7.b. for Stafford project funding shortfalls

## 7. Discussion/Action Items

### a. Study Methodology and Schedule for Review of FAMPO Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) Allocation Process

Mr. Nelson noted that the update to CMAQ/RSTP prioritization is an ongoing discussion and that draft methodologies are in development for Policy Committee approval by fall.

He added that RSTP allocations will be modified in consideration of Stafford County's concerns with the existing allocation process.

### b. Allocation of FY26 CMAQ/RSTP Funds

#### i. Funding shortfall on UPC 110987: Rte 208/Rte 636-Hood/Houser Drive Intersection Improvements

Mr. Agnello reviewed information regarding the shortfall for the project. The updated cost estimate from VDOT is a significant increase – over 22% – although there has been no change in scope. Mr. Agnello mentioned that VDOT had indicated stormwater and other issues contributed to increased costs. Spotsylvania will be requesting an additional \$772,500 in CMAQ and RSTP transfers at the first June Policy Committee meeting.

#### ii. Proposed Transfer Policy for CMAQ/RSTP Funds

Mr. Agnello presented the proposed transfer policy which is similar to what is used by the Hampton Roads and Richmond MPOs. The draft proposal includes language for maximum allowable transfer amounts for projects with no scope change. He noted that adopting such a policy would prevent project delays and release eligible projects for additional funds sooner.

Mr. Towery indicated that Stafford County supported creation and implementation of a policy. He added that there are also current Stafford project funding shortfalls. Specifically, he said new state legislation decreased transportation funding from \$40M to \$20M annually. Stafford County is estimated to receive \$1M less annually, affecting System for the Management and Allocation of Resources for Transportation (SMART SCALE) projects. He added that the Enon Road and Telegraph Road projects are likely to total around \$2M short. In addition, he noted that the Courthouse Rd intersection costs have increased by around \$6M. He indicated that Stafford County will request \$1.6M for immediate allocation from FY21-22 excess funding likely from CMAQ and/or RSTP; to be formally proposed at the next TAC meeting and then at the Policy Committee.

### c. SMART SCALE Round 4 Technical Guidance Update

Mr. Haynes highlighted certain changes to SMART SCALE guidelines including transit and rail project eligibility, project preparation requirements, pre-application submissions, the FAMPO category change from A to B and resulting impacts on weighting with project scores, and environmental quality measures.

Mr. Agnello asked what the new deadlines for project submissions are in light of the updated technical guide. Mr. Haynes indicated that the application intake period for full applications does not begin today as had been previously planned and that the estimated start date is in around two weeks. He added that an update will be sent once details are released. Mr. Haynes also said that the final application deadline of August 3 remains in effect although a change is possible.

Mr. Agnello asked whether localities should expect feedback on pre-applications to update for full application preparation and whether there would be statewide training, via Webex, for example. Mr. Haynes indicated that cost estimates are being looked at closely. He instructed the group to not submit full applications without consulting VDOT for review. He added that forthcoming date change notifications will likely include training opportunities.

Ms. Williams mentioned that some applications have transit elements and to consult her with any questions.

d. Public Comment Period Update

Ms. Feindt reviewed the transportation documents for public comment as well as how to access those documents online. The four documents running concurrently for public comment, ending June 19, 2020, are the Draft FY21 UPWP, Draft Amendment to 2045 LRTP, draft AQCA Report, and draft amendment to the FY20 UPWP. She added that the FAMPO homepage has a Public Comment section with resources for members to refer the public that includes a short description of each document, the full document for review, and a short survey for feedback.

e. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment

Mr. Hager requested TAC recommendation on the amendment which has a primary focus on the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) project list, including updates to projects from SMART SCALE Round 3, the new FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Stafford County bond referendum, and financially closed out projects. He noted that to date, no comments have been received.

i. **Recommendation to the Policy Committee (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Agnello motioned the recommendation to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Owsiak seconded.

There was no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

f. FY21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Draft Update

Mr. Hager explained that there was no change in the document presented today from the May 18, 2020 Policy Committee meeting. No substantial content changes were needed although some minor comments from VDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), would be incorporated to present to the Policy Committee later this month. Specifically, he noted that FHWA asked for a detailed list of programs or studies using RSTP funds and that VDOT suggested adding language for potential bylaws amendments and public participation procedure updates in light of the ongoing virtual format which will likely extend to the following fiscal year. He also mentioned that VDOT suggested adding language to allow FAMPO to participate in the dialogue around the expiration of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act in September 2020. Lastly, he noted that locality staff had requested greater detail on RSTP use within the UPWP.

i. **Recommendation to the Policy Committee (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Owsiak motioned the recommendation to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Agnello seconded.

There was no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

g. Rural Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) Update

Ms. Barber presented the RLRTP highlights. She noted that the plan is made up of financially non-constrained transportation needs and recommendations. She said that an initial, working draft would be distributed to King George County and Caroline County staff on June 12 and the current plan is to present a complete draft to the GWRC board later this summer.

Mr. Nelson asked what was meant by Active Transportation. Ms. Barber said this refers primarily to bicycle or pedestrian transportation but is more inclusive of modes of travel.

h. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update

Mr. Lehane summarized data collection for the CMP. He noted that a Performance Monitor Program FY21 is part of the CMP and it includes congestion scan data for CMP corridors with the exception that there is no INRIX data available for Route 610 and Streetlight data could be used instead. He presented congestion scans for various time periods including: throughout the 2019 calendar year, the month of January 2020, and January 2020 through March 2020. He also presented a tool called a Performance Chart which provides speed variation data at the different locations and times. He asked if the TAC had any recommendations for frequency and process changes on reporting in FY21.

Mr. Agnello indicated that this requirement is related to the FAMPO-TPB MOU which is in the process of being updated. He added that some locations may be removed including those outside of the FAMPO region.

i. Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Program for FY21

Mr. Lehane presented data of interest on the FY21 program. He mentioned that FAMPO has two bicycle-pedestrian eco-counters collecting trail usage data. For FY21, FAMPO

staff will monitor shared use paths at 24 locations which will be determined by FAMPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee in July. The idea is to cycle through each location four times in the 12-month period for a representative sampling. He added that daily usage statistics will be presented in an annual report at the end of the fiscal year, including web-maps.

j. George Washington Region Transportation Opportunities for Economic Growth Update

Ms. Chandler informed the committee of the purpose of this document which is primarily related to supporting SMART SCALE applications. She said that FAMPO staff is collaborating with staff from GO Virginia and Fredericksburg Regional Alliance (FRA) on the update to this document. While the first part of the document is related to economic development initiatives, the latter part is related to transportation projects that will help the region achieve its economic development goals. She said she would be sending projects lists out to localities for review and possible updates to include in the document.

k. FY21 FAMPO Schedule Update

Mr. Hager noted FAMPO TAC meeting dates of interest in the draft schedule. Specifically, he noted the extra June TAC meeting on June 8, 2020 and the extra Policy Committee meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.

l. **Election of Officers (ACTION ITEM)**

Chairman Nelson presented the new slate of TAC officers to vote into rotation for FY21. Chairman Nelson will continue through June and a new Chair will begin at the July TAC meeting. The TAC officers follow the same structure as the Policy Committee wherein there is an annual rotation among the FAMPO jurisdictions.

Mr. Towery nominated Mr. Owskiak for the chair position. Mr. Agnello indicated he would continue to serve as the Spotsylvania representative and Mr. Nelson said he would continue to represent the City of Fredericksburg. The slate of officers for FY21 will be:

- Chairman: Alex Owskiak, Stafford County
- First Vice Chair: Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
- Second Vice Chair: Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg

The slate of new officers was approved unanimously by acclamation.

**8. Correspondence**

None

**9. Staff Reports**

None

**10. Member Reports**

Mr. Agnello asked if VDOT had updated Transportation Alternatives (TA) information. Ms. Gardner said she would relay as soon as available and that allocations have not yet been determined.

Ms. Gardner mentioned that the TAC advised removing the UPC for RSTP bike-ped. She asked that if it is still being used, why is it being closed out? Mr. Hager responded saying the UPC will not be invoiced beyond June 2020.

Mr. Owsiak asked if VDOT had further detail on Revenue Sharing or TA awards. Mr. Nelson mentioned that Ms. Gardner previously indicated VDOT is awaiting word from Richmond.

Mr. Reed noted that FRED has scaled back service due to COVID-19 for last week in March and all of April and May but plans to gradually increase service. He added that drivers have to do extra cleaning. There is a possibility to contract with professional sanitation service.

Mr. Amin asked VDOT of the anticipated closing date of Chatham Bridge. Ms. Shropshire responded saying the date is getting close, but is not firm yet. She said that the TAC will be notified. She added that last week's VDOT meeting video has been posted on VDOT website.

#### **11. Adjourn Technical Advisory Committee Meeting / Next Meeting**

There being no further business to conduct, Chairman Nelson adjourned the Technical Advisory Committee meeting at **10:47 am**.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for **June 8, 2020 at 9:30 am**.