



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 6, 2020 ♦ Remote-Only

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg VA 22401

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

Approved: September 8, 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 Alex Owsiak, Stafford County

Bryon Counsell, Stafford County

Jason Towery, Stafford County

Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County

Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg

Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg

Nicholas Minor, King George County

Kimberly Wilson, King George County

Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Stephen Haynes, VDOT

Jim Ponticello, VDOT

Dan Grinnell, VDOT (9:37am)

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

Others Present:

Linda LaSut, VDOT

Susan Gardner, VDOT

Katherine Youngbluth, DRPT

Brandon Brown, Stafford County

Neiman Young, King George County

Dave McLaughlin, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Chair

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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

Speaker: Summary of speaking points

1. Call to Order

Chairman Owsiak called the FAMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting to Order at **9:30 am**, and began the meeting by recognizing and thanking Mr. Nelson for his leadership and guidance as FY20 TAC Chair.

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)

Chairman Owsiak requested adding item 8.a.iii. Call for CMAQ Projects

Mr. Agnello requested adding under item 8.d. discussion of allocation of additional STBG-RSTP funds.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the July 6, 2020 Agenda as amended.

Mr. Agnello seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of June 1, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

The June 1, 2020 TAC meeting minutes were approved, with no changes, by consensus.

5. Approval of June 8, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

The June 8, 2020 TAC meeting minutes were approved, with no changes, by consensus.

6. Review of June 15, 2020 and June 22, 2020 FAMPO Policy Committee Meetings

Mr. Hager highlighted June Policy Committee meetings:

June 15, 2020

- The Virtual Public Hearing was held for the Public Comment Period running through June 19, 2020 on four transportation documents
- Resolution 20-40 was approved for allocation of CMAQ funds and balance transfer to new projects

June 22, 2020

- The FY21 UPWP was approved
- The FY20 UPWP amendment was approved
- Time sensitive resolutions were passed at the June 22nd meeting, then a quorum was not present later in the meeting

7. Public Comment

None

8. Discussion/Action Items



a. 5307 Funding Opportunities for Existing and New Transportation Projects – Jason Towery, Stafford County

Mr. Towery summarized the concept of considering allocating FY21-22 5307 funds in order to release an estimated \$2.8M FY21-23 CMAQ funds for:

- Platform improvements at Leeland and Brook VRE stations
 - More than 300k CMAQ funds would be returned to FAMPO, such as funds for VRE multimodal studies on station improvements at Brook, Leeland and Spotsylvania.
- Final decision is for GWRC Board and the FAMPO Policy Committee
 - i. Identification of Existing 5307-Eligible Projects – Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
 - Spotsylvania County has been working with localities
 - 5307 funds are recurring, as of FY20 with around \$1.3M/year, could be used for GWRC staff to make CMAQ/STBG-RSTP funds available for the following
 - GWRC and PRTC projects
 - Multimodal planning projects, i.e.:
 - LRTP transit element or Transportation Demand Management (TDM) studies
 - Transit use as capital or preventive maintenance
 - New bike-ped capital for use within 3 miles of a rail station or within ½ a mile of a bus stop
 - ii. Future GWRideConnect Funding Opportunities – Kate Gibson, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
 - 5307 funds are generated through the Vanpool Alliance
 - Alliance: GWRC, PRTC, Virginia Transportation Corporation (VTC), and the Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation (VRPT)
 - Funds are generated by vanpools which are supported by GWRideConnect
 - The GWRC Board decides on allocation
 - FY20 was the first year funds were available; FRED received all but \$100k
 - The question is how to allocate for FY21 and establish a long-term decision process
 - A short-term process identified for CMAQ-5307 funds' swap such that 5307 funds would make CMAQ funds available for regional project(s)—VRE Platform project
 - PRTC is the direct recipient of funds
 - PRTC manages and deliver 5307 funds as VRE's fiscal agent

iii. (Amendment to Agenda) CMAQ Call for Projects

Ms. Gibson stated that GWRC would like to establish an objective process for project selection for 5307 funds with final GWRC board approval. This agenda item is to obtain TAC feedback today in order to leverage CMAQ funding for SMART SCALE projects, with the deadline for such documentation submission at the end of October.

Proposed timeline:

- FAMPO Policy Committee approval to re-allocate CMAQ funds in July (no August meeting)
- GWRC board approval of 5307 allocation and which project in August (no July meeting)
- Joint GWRC-FAMPO meeting in September to finalize; may need agreements and/or MOU documentation
- Inquiry of VDOT if call for projects can precede delivery of 5307 funds

Mr. Agnello stated that funds are available - extra CMAQ funds for Quantico bus project; FY27 CMAQ or STBG-RSTP funds for SMART SCALE

Ms. Jackson expressed interest in FRED, operating under the City of Fredericksburg, participating in the evaluation process for eligibility and allocation of CMAQ funds.

Mr. Towery noted that scoring would need to be completed by September and a Policy Committee vote taken no later than October.

Mr. Hager proposed a submission due date of no later than August 7th in order to allow FAMPO staff time to score projects.

Ms. Youngbluth stated that DRPT would like to participate in the call for projects for VRE's Siding A Project (\$108M budget): a third track between Leeland and Brook stations. DRPT seeks CMAQ and other federal funding, for construction completion by 2025.

Mr. Agnello noted a \$3-7M total for re-allocation, depending on FY27 allocation and other funds available.

Ms. Jackson proposed consideration of a scoring threshold for criteria in order to control candidate numbers; FRED would like to participate in this process.

Mr. Agnello made a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee to make a Call for CMAQ projects with:

- A limit of two per locality from SMART SCALE Round 4 tentative list (local or regional projects)

- Two for PRTC, one of which is a SMART SCALE project, the second one for use by PRTC or other transit agency
- \$125k designated for FY22 GWRideConnect allocation.

Mr. Nelson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b. Transportation Planning Board (TPB)-FAMPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Adam Hager

- Document is as of June 19 with editing marks last made by Stafford County
- Request for comments or feedback to Adam (hager@gwregion.org) by July 15, to finalize by the Policy Committee for collective submission to the TPB.

c. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)-Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Prioritization Methodology Update – Alex Owsiak

TAC has begun updating methodology in conjunction with localities and FAMPO staff with separate methodologies:

- 1) CMAQ: focus on congestion relief and improving air quality
 - 2) STBG-RSTP: transportation improvements
- Referring to Hampton Roads and Richmond MPOs
 - Will present to Policy Committee by year end for final feedback and comments, to include transit organizations

Ms. Shropshire inquired if the draft will be available to VDOT and other agencies during the process?

Chairman Owsiak responded that once there is a more complete draft, it will be made available for review

d. Allocation of CMAQ and STBG/RSTP Funding – Alex Owsiak

i. CMAQ and STBG/RSTP Project Scoring

1) Route 1/208/Lafayette Blvd	93
2) Route 1 & Telegraph Rd/Woodstock Ln	80
3) Onville Rd	77
4) Idlewild Blvd/VCR Trail Connector	75

ii. Allocation Spreadsheet as of June 18, 2020 (Reflecting Resolution 20-40)

iii. **Resolution 21-03: Allocating and Transferring Available CMAQ and STBG/RSTP Funds (ACTION ITEM)**

Ms. Gibson inquired how transfers were developed.

Mr. Agnello noted that localities arrived at one for each for CMAQ; then a similar process for STBG-RSTP allocation was applied for existing Stafford and Spotsylvania project deficits. Locality staff worked with FAMPO staff.

Mr. Agnello made a motion to approve Resolution 21-03.

Mr. Nelson seconded. Objections: Ms. Shropshire & Mr. Haynes
Motion carries by majority.

e. SMART SCALE Resolutions of Support – Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane opened up the discussion to recommend the final four FAMPO applications for FAMPO Policy Committee approval, decrease from five in the pre-application phase.

Mr. Agnello observed that FAMPO has jurisdiction over the FAMPO region, not rural localities; King George and Caroline Counties require GWRC board approval. Suggested voting only on Resolutions 21-06 and 21-07; GWRC projects should be for information purposes.

Ms. Gibson stated that the GWRC Executive Committee will meet at 5:30pm on July 20, 2020, prior to the FAMPO Policy Committee meeting, to finalize the four GWRC SMART SCALE project applications.

Mr. Towery suggested that TAC is not ready to vote on any of the resolutions today.

Chairman Owsiak noted that determination of project elimination would not be possible today. This item and all related Resolutions were tabled; no action taken.

- i. **FAMPO Resolution 21-06: Authorizing Support for the George Washington Regional Commission and Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization SMART SCALE Project Applications (ACTION ITEM)**
 - ii. **FAMPO Resolution 21-07: Supporting Stafford County, City of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County and Fredericksburg Regional Transit SMART SCALE Project Applications (ACTION ITEM)**
 - iii. **GWRC Resolution 21-01: Authorizing Support for the George Washington Regional Commission SMART SCALE Project Applications (ACTION ITEM)**
 - iv. **GWRC Resolution 21-02: Supporting King George County and Caroline County SMART SCALE Project Applications (ACTION ITEM)**
- f. GWRC Draft Resolution 21-03: Endorsement of GW Region Economic Development Opportunities for Transportation – Adam Hager
- i. 2018 Plan
Mr. Hager concluded that the document demonstrates the strong connection between transportation and economic development.
 - ii. Updates for the 2020 Plan
Mr. Hager presented the update for consideration by the committee.

iii. **Recommendation to the GWRC board (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Hager asked that localities respond to FAMPO (hager@gwregion.org) with additional projects or completed projects that can be removed for updating and presentation to the GWRC Executive Committee on July 20th.

Mr. Agnello recommended that this document gets approval by Policy board as well.

Mr. Hager responded that FAMPO will adjust for Policy Committee approval on both agendas.

g. **Public Comment Period Report Summary – Stacey Feindt**

Ms. Feindt reported that four FAMPO documents were available for public comment from May 20, 2020 through June 19, 2020:

- 1) 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment
- 2) Related Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report
- 3) Fiscal Year 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment
- 4) Fiscal Year 2021 UPWP
- The Policy Committee has not yet approved the 2045 LRTP so considering public feedback on that is still worthwhile:
 - 21 comments were received, with over half expressing support for a citizen’s proposal for a parallel route to I-95.
 - These comments are contained in the “Public Comments” section of this document.
 - Comments for the 2045 LRTP Amendment express a desire for:
 - Improved public transit
 - Alternative modes of transportation
 - New parallel road to I-95
 - Funding clarity within the document
 - VDOT comments provide updates to estimates and project descriptions.

Mr. Agnello commended Ms. Feindt for outstanding work.

Ms. Gibson echoed Mr. Agnello’s statement; excellent work.

h. **2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update – Adam Hager**

- February/March 2020 left off with plan to pick up LRTP with new Administrator hire.
- Since a new Administrator has not yet been hired, staff is creating a work plan with a list of tasks for completion from now until late 2021 to move forward on the update.
- Remaining tasks sent to consultant Cambridge with a cost estimate and task order request for assistance on:
 - Travel demand modeling
 - Federal conformity requirements

- Fiscal constraint determination
 - The task order will be in correspondence for the Policy Committee meeting; term to be by July 31st based.
- i. GWRC 2050 LRTP Update – Kari Barber
 - Please review and respond with comments or feedback (barber@gwregion.org) by the end of July
 - The document will be presented at the August GWRC Board meeting
- j. TAC Bylaws: Voting and Membership – Paul Agnello
 - FAMPO and GWRC items—need clarity between the two
 - Voting should align with the Policy Committee
 - Looking to update in the next couple of months

Mr. Nelson agreed that clarification is needed.

Chairman Owsiak agreed that Bylaws and the prioritization process need clarification.

9. Correspondence

None

10. Staff Reports

None

11. Member Reports

Mr. Agnello, Spotsylvania County reported working SMART SCALE. The county is open to a short meeting next week for project recommendations. He noted a schedule conflict and proposed Tuesday, September 8, 2020 for the next TAC meeting.

FAMPO staff and TAC Members agreed to the new date for the next regular TAC meeting.

Ms. Williams, DRPT noted that their website has updates and evaluation agency needs. She introduced Kate Youngbluth, the new DRPT manager for Northern Virginia.

Mr. Minor, King George County expressed appreciation for the well-written Rural LRTP draft.

Chairman Owsiak, Stafford County echoed work to finalize SMART SCALE applications for submission by the August 3rd deadline.

Ms. Youngbluth, DRPT shared that she joined DRPT at the end of last year and looks forward to working with everyone.

12. Adjourn Technical Advisory Committee Meeting / Next Meeting Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 9:30 am

The next meeting was rescheduled as proposed by Mr. Agnello, to Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 9:30am and agreed to by consensus.

There being no further business to conduct, Chairman Owsiak adjourned the Technical Advisory Committee meeting at **11:40 am**.