



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday ♦ January 4, 2021 ♦ 9:30 am

Remote-Only

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg VA 22401

<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/>

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

Jason Towery, Stafford County

Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County

Rodney White, Spotsylvania County

Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg

Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Stephen Haynes, VDOT

Dan Grinnell, VDOT

Bob Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Joe Stainsby, PRTC

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Nick Minor, King George County

Kimberly Wilson, King George County

Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

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

Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Jamie Jackson, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)

Aidan Quirke, FRED

Others Present:

Brandon Brown, Stafford County

Doug Fawcett, City of Fredericksburg

Richard Denbow, Cambridge Systematics (CS)

Feng Liu, CS

Susan Gardner, VDOT

Katherine Youngbluth, DRPT

FAMPO Staff Members Present:

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Adam Hager, Transportation Planner

Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator

Leah Vigil, Administrative Assistant

Kari Barber, Transportation Planner/Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator

Jordan Chandler, 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 **9:32 am**.

2. Determination of a Quorum

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

3. Approval of the January 4, 2021 TAC Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

The January 4, 2021 TAC Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

4. Approval of November 9, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

The November 9, 2020 TAC minutes were approved without changes, by unanimous consent.

5. Public Comment – Stacey Feindt read an email submitted by City of Fredericksburg resident Elizabeth LeDoux:

Good evening,

I saw a Facebook post asking for thoughts on biking and walking trails in Fredericksburg. The Federal "Safe Routes to Schools" program has federal money for building walking and biking trails to schools.

I propose we use funds like these to build a bike trail that runs from Learning Lane, running north along Rt1, all the way to James Monroe High School, connecting all of our schools to the same new path, and connecting to the VCR trail, and the Canal Path, giving a huge percentage of our school age children access to a path route to every school in our district.

Also, the large number of people walking along Rt. 1 would have a safe path to get to their destination (which I'm guessing is to shopping.) Next we can address a safe path along Lafayette Boulevard for the same purpose.

Thanks for your consideration.

Chair Owsiak asked if there was anyone online who wished to comment. There was not.

6. Discussion/Action Items

a. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

i. Consultant Support – Rich Denbow & Feng Liu, Cambridge Systematics

Mr. Denbow introduced himself as a consultant working under a task order. He then turned the meeting presentation over to Mr. Liu who updated TAC on the 2050 LRTP.

Paul Agnello noted that Spotsylvania County employment growth did not currently reflect county projections, especially near Exit 126 where the Veteran's Clinic would be built; the material did not account for any growth in that area.

Mr. Liu said he would follow-up with him on this item to update figures.

Jason Towery inquired if this work included significant plans in Stafford County's upcoming Comprehensive Plan update which would affect numbers as well; he would like to follow-up on this matter.

Mr. Liu responded that they had not, as the presentation was based off of the 2045 LRTP.

Stephen Haynes inquired why Prince William County was on the maps.

Mr. Liu answered that it was part of the affected area for travel demand modeling, and understood that Prince William County was not part of the FAMPO planning region.

ii. Public Involvement – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt highlighted public participation in a survey to develop goals and objectives for the 2050 LRTP:

- Survey open from November through December 2020
- Designed in collaboration with FAMPO TAC and Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) members
- Provided facts on public outreach efforts and preliminary survey results
- TAC feedback welcomed on the final report to be realized at the end of January

Kate Gibson said the work was excellent and thanked Ms. Feindt.

iii. Program Update – Ian Ollis and Adam Hager

Mr. Hager noted the following:

- Staff would update goals and objectives of the 2050 LRTP based on results from the survey for presentation and review in February by FAMPO committees
- LRTP call for projects would resume this year
- Project prioritization update for TAC presentation next month
 - Highway project update of prioritization methodology to present to TAC next month
 - Developing baseline prioritization methodology for bike-ped and transit; no existing methodology for these modes

Mr. Agnello thought that was incorrect and noted that he would follow-up with Mr. Hager.

- Would request forecast revenues from localities and transit providers; recent email from VDOT Mr. Haynes was received with requested data

Mr. Agnello asked for the timeframe for figures' request.

Mr. Hager thought they would be needed in the next week or two.

Mr. Ollis stated that the 2050 LRTP structure would:

- Look similar to the 2045 LRTP
- Future trends would include assistance (no in-house modeling capabilities):
 - CS modeling
 - VDOT scenario planning and modeling
- Examine planning in the following areas
 - Chapter 4 Scenarios
 - Transportation
 - Regional
 - Fiscally constrained project planning

Mr. Towery inquired the general timeline.

Mr. Ollis stated it should be completed by the end of 2021; FAMPO committees would be notified if that needed updating; there was not any pressure currently, the deadline would be in 2023.

Mr. Hager noted the target date for finalization would be December 2021 which would result in January 2022 presentations since there would be no meetings in December.

Mr. Towery stated there was a data sharing opportunity, as Stafford County could have significant changes to its Comprehensive Plan which would also need to be updated in the LRTP.

Mr. Ollis would request locality changes that affect transportation planning this week.

b. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Prioritization Methodology Update – Chair Owsiak & FAMPO Staff

Mr. Owsiak gave an overview:

- A subcommittee formed in November 2020
- The objective was to formulate scoring to include benefit to the Transportation Management Area (TMA), for north Stafford in accordance with the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FAMPO and the Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
- The subcommittee considered project types for scoring, such as intermodal freight, roadway and transit
 - Intermodal freight and transit were found to be unfeasible for measuring TMA benefit as these projects more regional in nature
 - Additional scoring metrics were identified for certain projects:
 - Roadway
 - Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) signals
 - Planning studies
 - Non-motorized

i. Presentation

Mr. Hager noted that the subcommittee met a few times in December to work out quantitative and objective metrics to directly benefit the TMA.

- The suggested timeline received positive feedback from VDOT
- End date would be to send approved allocations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) by June 2021
- They would take feedback from all committees this month and request approval February 2021
- A two-tiered approach was developed
 1. If a project could be feasible for benefitting the TMA, it would first be weighted to 90%
 2. Next, it would receive a maximum of 10 additional points for benefitting the TMA
 - Eligible projects would potentially receive funding specifically from STBG, not CMAQ

Matthew Lehane highlighted roadway projects. The analysis used StreetLight Data to score projects based on their roadway volume to and from the TMA. The StreetLight Data was used to score project, with extra points if a TMA-benefit was determined.

Jordan Chandler noted the other categories analyzed for additional scoring due to TMA benefit. Questions and feedback were requested in January for approval in February 2021

- ITS
- Transit
- Preliminary Engineering (PE)/Project studies
- Non-motorized, or active transportation projects

Michelle Shropshire asked if non-motorized projects could use a graduated scale and if updates to the process and procedure were included.

Ms. Chandler responded that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) utilized a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile distance for providing a fixed-route service called “paratransit.” In the subcommittee meeting, it was suggested to use this distance since it was federally recognized although, not the exact same service. The project benefit to the area would be awarded 10 points and otherwise, would not receive additional points.

Chair Owsiak noted that an overhaul of process and procedure was originally considered, but that updating language related to process and schedule was beyond the scope of the amendment. The subcommittee concluded that such an effort would entail more resources, manpower, and time than available.

Mr. Towery stated that a timeline with expectations would be helpful; this year necessitated both a typical and off-cycle call for project timelines.

Mr. Agnello noted that in the past five years or so, this process took place in late winter to early spring. The introduction of the System for the Management and Allocation of Resources for Transportation (SMART SCALE) allocated funds to candidate projects which did not always qualify, which created unused funds out of cycle. He posited there should be flexibility for both.

Ms. Shropshire stated that the timeline could be simplified to general updates per month. She further inquired if the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had been engaged for comment on this matter.

Chair Owsiak responded that today's presentation was an introduction for FAMPO committees and FHWA.

Jamie Jackson inquired how transit compared with other categories in the scoring process and if there was separate funding for transit; if not, transit and active transportation funding clarity was requested. She also agreed with Mr. Towery that a general timeline would be useful, including guidelines for new project eligibility.

Ms. Chandler responded that transit projects would rank against others in the same category only.

Mr. Hager stated that there was not be a separate transit funding set aside; however, such projects would generally apply for CMAQ funding; this amendment is focused exclusively to STBG funding.

Mr. Ollis responded that he would research the FAMPO and other MPO practices and report findings next month.

ii. Prioritization Methodology – Tracked Changes (December 21, 2020)

iii. Prioritization Methodology – Clean (December 21, 2020)

Mr. Hager reviewed changes to the document:

- Administrative
- Summary of TMA benefit measures
- Feedback and comments requested by January 20, 2021

c. Performance Based Planning and Programming Update – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager reviewed items for action.

- i. Adding the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (ACTION ITEM)
- ii. Highway Safety Target Setting (ACTION ITEM)
- iii. Bridge Condition Target Setting (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the above three items.

Motion: Alex Owsiak; Second: Paul Agnello

Motion passed by unanimous consent

d. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Updates

- i. FREDericksburg Regional Transit Project Updates – Jamie Jackson and Aidan Quirke, FRED

Mr. Quirke presented updates to the TIP on funding for three FRED projects:

1. Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) for consultant fees
2. Radio equipment purchase
3. Parking lot

Chair Owsiak asked what the funding source was for “Local.”

Ms. Jackson responded that jurisdictions would allocate funds; however, the projects were 5307-eligible and could reduce local contributions.

- ii. Draft Resolution 21-16: Approving the FY21-24 TIP Rollover Amendment – Jordan Chandler

Ms. Chandler presented the draft rollover amendment. She noted that the FY 21-24 TIP had been approved and implemented after FHWA and FTA approval of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in October 202.

Mr. Towery asked what the purpose of this was.

Mr. Hager noted this was an administrative carryover from the FY18-21 TIP to the FY21-24 TIP for statewide consistency.

Mr. Agnello noted the same and the Resolution had inclusion of projects added after August 2019.

Ms. Gibson requested a “Whereas-” clause insertion to clarify this as administrative in nature and Policy-approved.

Mr. Hager agreed to add language for clarification.

- e. Resolution 21-15: Supporting Regional I-395/95 Commuter Choice Applications (ACTION ITEM) – Chair Owsiak

Chair Owsiak reviewed project applications of toll funding for transit/multi-modal use, due January 29th.

Mr. Agnello proposed adding verbiage to the final “Whereas-” clause to indicate 2045 LRTP project consistency.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 21-15 with amended clause.

Motion: Alex Owsiak; Second: Paul Agnello

Motion passed by unanimous consent

- f. 2045 LRTP Amendment – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager stated a second amendment would likely need to be processed for the (Fiscally) Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) prior to SMART SCALE projects receiving funding as well as projects associated with the VA Clinic in Spotsylvania, for roll-out in April/May 2021; FAMPO will continue to update as needed. He asked if VDOT had any new TIP amendments.

Ms. Shropshire responded that there were none at the moment. However, new ones may be needed.

- g. 2021 FAMPO Meeting Calendar – Leah Vigil

Ms. Vigil presented the draft schedule for FAMPO meetings and requested confirmation of proposed new TAC meeting dates for July, September and November 2021, due to holidays.

Ms. Gibson asked if FAMPO staff felt there was enough time for proposed rescheduled meetings.

Mr. Agnello noted an additional federal holiday of Juneteenth to be observed June 18, 2021.

Mr. Hager responded that the reduced preparation time for rescheduled meetings was not ideal yet manageable and agreed that Juneteenth would be observed on Friday, June 18, 2021.

Proposed reschedule meeting dates were accepted; Juneteenth would be added.

7. Correspondence – None

8. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis reported:

- Two part-time intern contracts for Mohammad Khan and Maggie Campbell were not renewed for the new year
- Matthew Lehane accepted offer to move from part-time to full-time status upon completion of his Master's degree, December 2020

9. Member Reports

- Spotsylvania County Mr. Agnello noted that they looked forward to SMART SCALE Round 4 results in the coming weeks and requested this item be on the next TAC agenda
- DRPT Ms. Williams stated that the FY22 grant application process would run from December 1, 2020 – February 1, 2021; she or project managers could be contacted with any questions

10. Adjourn Technical Advisory Committee Meeting / Next Meeting Monday, February 1, 2021 at 9:30 am

There being no further business to conduct, Chairman Owsiak adjourned the Technical Advisory Committee meeting at **11:10 am**.

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