



**CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday • January 13, 2021 • Virtual-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 Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee webpage:  
<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/citizens-transportation-advisory-committee/>.

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

**Members Present:**

**Committee Members Present:**

Mr. Dave McLaughlin, Chair, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Joshua Brock, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. John Castellarin, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Al Durante, Spotsylvania County  
Mr. Neil Holloran, Spotsylvania County (7:04pm)  
Mr. Anton Stubbs, Spotsylvania County  
Mr. Melvin Allen, Sr., Stafford County  
Mr. David Swan, Stafford County  
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County  
Mr. Wade Suddreth, Stafford County  
Dr. Robert Gates, King George County  
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large  
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large  
Mr. Dustin Savage, At-Large

**Others Present**

Ms. Christine Hoeffner, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)  
Ms. Karen Finucan Clarkson, VRE  
Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County  
Ms. Aisha Balogun, Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Vista  
Ms. Maureen Howell, Spotsylvania County Resident

**FAMPO Staff Present**

Mr. Ian Ollis, Administrator  
Mr. Adam Hager, Transportation Planner  
Ms. Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator  
Ms. Leah Vigil, Administrative Assistant

*Speaker name: Summary of speaking points*

- 1. Call to Order** – Chairman David McLaughlin  
The FAMPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting was called to order at **6:04 pm**.
- 2. Roll Call** – Ms. Leah Vigil  
Ms. Vigil took roll call for attendance.
- 3. Approval of the January 13, 2021 CTAC Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**  
Chair McLaughlin clarified that Item 6.c.i. would not entail playing the video.

The January 13, 2021 CTAC Agenda was approved without changes by consensus.

#### **4. Approval of November 10, 2020 CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the November 10, 2020 CTAC Meeting Minutes without changes.

Motion: Mr. Rupert Farley; Second: Mr. Melvin Allen, Sr.

Abstention: Mr. David Swan and Dr. Robert Gates

Motion passed without objection.

#### **5. Initial Public Comment**

Ms. Feindt read an email received 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 huFAFAGE 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 McLaughlin asked if there was anyone online who wished to comment.

Spotsylvania County resident (Chancellor District) Maureen Howell read a statement she submitted to the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors:

My address is 14920 N Rapidan Rd, Fredericksburg VA 22407. I have lived at this address for 40 years thus far since August 6, 1980. I am respectfully requesting consideration and support from the honorable members of the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors to accept the remaining 0.45 mile-portion of North Rapidan Road as a rural addition, or howsoever it may qualify, and to bring it into the secondary system of state highways. This portion of the road is the other half of the state-maintained part of Route 753 and now serves 7 families/houses. My disabled son often requires emergency medical attention. I am greatly concerned the severe erosion/rapid deterioration of this road will prohibit the rescue squad's access to our home when my son is in need of their help.

Mr. Al Durante informed Ms. Howell that there was an online transportation committee meeting the following evening for Spotsylvania County; the contact for transportation planning was Mr. Paul Agnello and the board supervisor for her district was Mr. Tim McLaughlin.

Mr. Ian Ollis responded that he would work with Ms. Howell to address her issue with Spotsylvania County.

Chair McLaughlin again asked for live public comment. There was no response.

#### **6. Member Discussion/Action Items**

- a. Guest Speaker, Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Manager of Project Development, Christine Hoeffner

Ms. Hoeffner presented an overview of the VRE operation including statistics, projects, and rider information.

Ms. Karen Finucan-Clarkson stated that VRE directly serviced 9 jurisdictions, and survey results indicated that 45 jurisdictions were represented in ridership.

Mr. Melvin Allen, Sr. asked about the VRE's relation to news he heard from Congressman Wittman about crossing additions over the Rappahannock.

Ms. Hoeffner responded that perhaps he was referring to the third track over the Rappahannock on a second bridge since the first bridge lacked capacity for an additional

track; to extend south to Spotsylvania post-2030. She stated that efforts were concentrated on northern Virginia (NOVA) as the greatest area of need, and the long bridge along with service extended to Lorton, should be completed by 2030, then post-2030, extended service southbound as funds allowed.

Mr. Ollis stated that construction would begin in 2021 in Fredericksburg and he looked forward to the upgraded station and the third track.

Ms. Hoeffner noted that a 2-year contract for design of the bridge was recently awarded.

Mr. Larry Gross thought the presentation was great and wanted to know if and what the effects of the pandemic were.

Ms. Hoeffner responded that VRE recently experienced an increase in ridership; VRE continued health safety measures.

Mr. Allen, Sr., stated that he was getting feedback from riders on the Quantico line of fellow riders without face masks; what were rider options?

Ms. Finucan-Clarkson noted a 100% ride mask-wear policy; if riders noticed policy violations, they could alert the conductor. She stated that VRE was fully committed to the health and safety of passengers; rider participation was necessary for continued operation; riders could contact customer service email: [gotrains@vre.org](mailto:gotrains@vre.org), phone number 1-800-743-3873, or share on social media.

b. VDOT COVID Commuter Survey Results Round 2 – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt noted the VDOT survey relevant to the Fredericksburg District gathered feedback on commuter behavior changes due to COVID-19; this was one in a series of three surveys VDOT would conduct.

c. VDOT Public Comment Period for Improvements to Route 3 – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt summarized the public hearing held last week by VDOT on Route 3. The public comment period would close January 16<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the meeting was sparsely attended and VDOT proposed improvements concentrated on right turns and increasing traffic efficiency and road capacity. She relayed that VDOT thought they could begin and complete improvements in 2024.

i. FAMPO Informational Video

Ms. Feindt stated she made a video about the proposed improvements and how to provide public comment to VDOT; the video could be found under Transportation News on the FAMPO website.

d. Future of Passenger Rail – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis spoke briefly about the Greater Washington Partnership project, called “Capital Region Rail Vision,” which includes Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia and advocates for improved rail service. Some possible results of the vision plan would be:

- Bi-directional train service for more trip options
- Increased train route availability on weekday peak times to every 15 minutes
- Increased collaboration with Virginia Rail Express (VRE), Baltimore trains and other rail service

Mr. Dustin Savage asked about extending the electric train lines.

Mr. Ollis responded with the website in the chatbox:

<https://greaterwashingtonpartnership.com/capital-region-rail-vision/>.

e. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis highlighted the 2050 LRTP

- 2045 LRTP goals came largely from the 2040 LRTP and were adopted in 2018
- The survey, developed from committee feedback, closed at the end of December

- FAMPO staff would recommend changes, such as:
  - Review of prioritization methodology for roadway, transit, and bike-ped projects
  - Modeling growth scenarios

Chair McLaughlin inquired about factoring in COVID effects to transportation in future trends. Mr. Ollis responded that he would propose updates to that chapter to better reflect current conditions, including effects of the pandemic.

Mr. Durante asked if economic development was included in the scenarios.

Mr. Ollis stated that jobs would be accounted for, but not economic development, specifically; modeling by Cambridge Systematics (CS) and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) would project jobs' data, and effects on transportation of both increased and decreased economic development in that regard.

f. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Prioritization Methodology Update - Adam Hager

Mr. Hager noted that the Policy Committee requested an update to STBG scoring that would measure a project's benefit to the Transportation Management Area (TMA) in northern Stafford County.

Mr. Neil Holloran asked if this methodology would be applied to all projects and would still need approval by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Hager responded that the request was to objectively score STBG projects; this update to the scoring process would measure benefit to the TMA; final approval by the Policy Committee would be sought.

Chair McLaughlin recommended the TAC video recording of the meeting covering this topic.

Mr. Hager agreed and said he would send the time stamp to review that agenda item.

g. Performance Based Planning and Programming Update – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager noted the addition of state recommended language of PTASP to the FY21-24 TIP, Highway Safety Targets and Bridge Condition Targets for annual submission per federal regulation. He asked for approval of these items.

Chair McLaughlin asked if TAC endorsed these items.

Mr. Hager responded that the TAC unanimously approved all three items at its January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

i. **Adding the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Hager noted that this would apply to Tier II public transit agencies in the state including FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED).

Motion was made to add state language for inclusion of the PTASP to the FY21-24 TIP.

Motion: Mr. Melvin Allen, Sr.; Second: Mr. John Castellarin  
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

ii. **Highway Safety Target Setting (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the Highway Safety Target setting.

Motion: Mr. Al Durante; Second: Mr. Dustin Savage  
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

iii. **Bridge Condition Target Setting (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the Bridge Condition Target setting.

Motion: Mr. David Swan; Second: Mr. Melvin Allen, Sr.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

h. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Updates – Adam Hager

i. FREDericksburg Regional Transit Project Updates

Mr. Hager stated that FRED is working to update its project list for federal funding for the next four years in the TIP; this was for informational purposes and a vote was not needed.

i. **Resolution 21-15: Supporting Regional I-395/95 Commuter Choice Applications (ACTION ITEM)** – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager noted this action item to approve a FAMPO letter of support due January 29, 2020, for project applications aimed at congestion relief on I-395/95 corridors, to receive funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC); TAC also approved this at its January meeting.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 21-15.

Motion: Dr. Robert Gates; Second: Mr. David Swan

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

j. 2021 FAMPO Meeting Calendar – Leah Vigil

Ms Vigil presented the draft calendar for 2021. She noted months in which CTAC and TAC meet the same week. CTAC determined to reschedule some meetings:

- April 14 moved to April 7
- June 9 moved to June 16
- July 14 moved to July 7

**7. Final Public Comment**

Ms. Feindt noted that three people were live-streaming the meeting on Facebook.

Chair McLaughlin asked for live public comment. There was no response.

**8. Correspondence – Stacey Feindt**

Ms. Feindt noted the three article links regarding transportation improvements in Stafford and on Route 3, and support for rail service.

- a. *The Free Lance-Star* Article, “New Development, More Traffic in Stafford”
- b. *The Free Lance-Star* Article, “VDOT Seeks Input on Route 3 Improvements”
- c. *Potomac Local* Article, “FAMPO Supports Passenger Rail Improvements”

**9. Staff Reports – Stacey Feindt**

a. New Public Reference Manual

Ms. Feindt noted the manual link; she would send an updated version incorporating member feedback.

b. Future Guest Speaker on FRED Transit Ridership, Travel Trainer TaMara Banks

Ms. Feindt announced the next guest speaker would be Ms. TaMara Banks from Healthy Generations Area Agency on Aging (HGAAA).

Chair McLaughlin noted the new FAMPO Administrator, Mr. Ian Ollis in attendance.

Mr. Ollis reported staff changes:

- Two part-time intern contracts for Mohammad Khan and Maggie Campbell were not renewed for the 2021 year
- Matthew Lehane accepted offer to move from part-time to full-time status upon completion of a Master’s degree, December 2020

## 10. Member Reports

- Chair McLaughlin reported a state legislative transportation meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 am; he requested that FAMPO send the link for members to connect
- Mr. Al Durante noted Delegate Josh Cole's proposal for a regional transportation authority that would directly affect FAMPO jurisdiction, on the agenda for the state legislative meeting tomorrow morning.
  - Mr. Hager clarified that this was enabling legislation; it does not require localities nor regions to establish authorities.

## 11. Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting February 10, 2021 at 6:00pm

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at **8:20pm.**

Motion: Mr. David Swan; Second: Mr. Melvin Allen, Sr.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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