



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday ♦ February 1, 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

Bob Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

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

Richard Duran, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Jamie Jackson, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)

Aidan Quirke, FRED

Others Present:

Linda LaSut, VDOT

Susan Gardner, VDOT

Katherine Youngbluth, DRPT

Vivek Hariharan

Susan Gayle (Facebook Livestream)

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 **9:31 am**.

2. Determination of a Quorum

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

3. Approval of the February 1, 2021 TAC Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

The February 1, 2021 TAC Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

4. Approval of January 4, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Paul Agnello inquired follow-up from Mr. Feng Liu of Cambridge Systematics (CS).

Mr. Adam Hager noted that he relayed information Mr. Liu supplied and could assist in obtaining more details.

The January 4, 2021 TAC minutes were approved without changes, by unanimous consent.

5. Public Comment

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

6. Discussion/Action Items

a. Transportation Planning Board (TPB)-FAMPO Memorandum of Understanding (ACTION ITEM) – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis noted that a previous version of this document was approved by the Policy Committee in late 2020. This version was sent to TPB for review. The draft MOU in the meeting packet includes edits recommended by the TPB:

- Paragraph repositioning
- Explanations on some items
- Mostly administrative in nature

Ms. Michelle Shropshire asked if action was required today and if the FHWA's Richard Duran had reviewed it yet.

Mr. Adam Hager responded that action was not required as there was no deadline; however, the Policy Committee approved the last version and the updated version had minor changes. Approval by the TAC was requested in preparation of advancing the document to the Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Richard Duran said he did not have a chance to examine documents.

Mr. Jason Towery noted that Stafford would likely want the paragraph in Article I Section B to remain with original text; they would not want recommended edits striking the development of a separate Congestion Management Process (CMP) for northern Stafford despite verbal redundancy.

Mr. Hager responded that a deadline was not given and action could be delayed to allow VDOT, FHWA and others more time to review the newest changes. He proposed comments and feedback by February 16 for inclusion at the Policy Committee meeting, February 22nd.

Mr. Ollis proposed comments by February 16 for presentation to the Policy Committee; and delay till March for TAC and Policy Committee Action.

No vote was taken.

b. System for the Management and Allocation of Resources for Transportation (SMART SCALE) Round 4 Results – Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane reported recently released data:

- FAMPO to receive funding for 3 out of 4 project applications, totaling over \$30M
 - Route 208 multimodal improvements slated for \$7.7M in Spotsylvania
 - Lafayette Blvd multimodal improvements slated for \$11.7M in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania
 - I-95 Exit 126 Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) Study improvements slated for \$10.8M in Spotsylvania
- GWRC to receive funding for 1 out of 4 project applications, totaling about \$10M
 - US-17 STARS Study improvements slated for \$9.7M in Stafford

- Projects scored well in some categories such as:
 - Air quality
 - Travel time reliability
 - Reduced crashes
 - Land use
- Project categories to improve:
 - Overall accessibility
 - Congestion mitigation
- Next steps and general timeline
 - February - April 2021: Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to recommend revisions
 - April – May 2021: Public hearing and revisions
 - May 2021: CTB meeting of revised funding
 - June 2021: CTB meeting - Adoption of projects to be included in the Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP)

Mr. Agnello asked what the timeline was for adding these projects to the TIP and the (Fiscally) Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP).

Ms. Michelle Shropshire responded that they would not be added until after the 6-year plan was approved; action may need to be taken to include in the CLRP, VDOT would confirm.

c. Amending the FAMPO Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program/ Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Prioritization Methodology (ACTION ITEM) – Chair Owsiak & FAMPO Staff

Chair Owsiak noted this had been presented to the Policy Committee and there were no major changes.

Mr. Hager stated that VDOT sent comments prior to the Policy Committee meeting which proposed:

- A more comprehensive overhaul of the process
 - Mr. Hager noted this was touched on at the January TAC meeting in which it was determined by the subcommittee to be an undertaking too large if it was going to be used for the spring 2021 call for projects.
 - Ms. Shropshire noted that while it was a bigger task, VDOT recommended revamping the process as other MPOs have done across the state, before census results.
- A sliding scale for the bike-ped category
 - Mr. Hager stated a disclaimer clarified scoring only within a project category, not across categories.

Mr. Agnello agreed with the VDOT recommendation to remove a sentence toward the bottom of page 6, “This typically takes place at the July FAMPO meeting.”

Chair Owsiak agreed with removing the sentence.

Mr. Hager stated that should this move forward, project applications could be submitted beginning in March; while no project limit had been set, staff will propose no more than three per locality or agency.

Mr. Agnello asked if projects previously accepted would be included in the application process.

Mr. Hager responded that more information may be required as an application form was under development, but that yes, previous applications would be fine.

Motion was made to approve the amended FAMPO CMAQ/RSTP Prioritization Methodology with sentence removal.

Motion: Mr. Paul Agnello; Second: Mr. Jason Towery
Motion passed with unanimous consent

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

Mr. Ollis noted the final 2050 LRTP update would:

- Have to be approved by April 2023 at the latest
 - Therefore, postponing tentative deadline of December
 - December 2021 was a general, self-imposed date
 - Would like to focus on completion of prioritization methodology updates
- Similar structure to the 2045 LRTP
- Move forward with regular updates and disregard the December 2021 date
- Be reviewed and approved by section or block
- Explore scenario planning with additional modeling by VDOT Staff
- Introduce a regional project database
- Not require action today

Mr. Agnello noted that the timeline was established to ensure inclusion of projects in the CLRP; and asked for summary comparisons of lists and revenue forecasts from the 2045 LRTP to the 2050 LRTP on the next agenda, especially in regard to the CLRP.

Mr. Hager responded that there were fluctuations in revenue forecasts and the comparison summaries could be on the March agenda.

Ms. Jamie Jackson stated that projects would need to meet regional standards for LRTP inclusion.

Mr. Ollis noted the 2045 LRTP may need an update which could provide more time for the 2050 LRTP process.

Mr. Agnello asked what the timeline was for the CLRP amendment to the 2045 LRTP.

Mr. Hager responded that he would have to consult with VDOT for that information and present it at the next meeting.

e. 2050 LRTP Goals and Objectives – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt presented survey development and results for inclusion in the 2050 LRTP.

Approving Regional Goals and Objectives for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to endorse approval of the regional goals and objectives proposed for the 2050 LRTP.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

f. Roadway Project Prioritization Methodology Update – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager presented guidelines developed for a new roadway project prioritization methodology to better align with SMART SCALE and update along with other MPOs and would simplify and condense the overall scoring process; this was an opportunity to review and provide feedback so that staff could test Round 4 SMART SCALE projects.

Mr. Agnello asked if state data for SMART SCALE could be used; also could the staff do this type of analysis as smaller MPOs, such as Central Shenandoah and Waynesboro have done.

Mr. Hager responded that state data was quite technical and time-intensive; and staff had not yet contacted the MPOs Mr. Agnello referenced that have adopted similar, simplified approaches and he could contact them subsequently.

Ms. Shropshire observed LRTP projects were more conceptual in nature; would the methodology work with a lack of data?

Mr. Hager responded that many of the projects were location-based so lack of

information would not be terribly detrimental. Additionally, the data could be used to measure regional benefit is more qualitative in nature and is not built upon technical data from studies and the like.

Mr. Ollis stated this was an example of overhauling the LRTP prioritization process by block; comments were requested.

g. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Updates – Jordan Chandler

Resolution 21-16: Approving the FY21-24 TIP Rollover Amendment (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Chandler stated this was to transfer previously approved projects from the MPO TIP to be included in the statewide TIP amendments for FY18-21 to the FY21-24 TIP.

Motion was made to endorse approval of FY21-24 TIP Rollover Amendments.

Motion: Mr. Jason Towery; Second: Mr. Paul Agnello

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Resolution 21-17: Amending the FY21-24 TIP to Approve the RW, PE, and CN Phases for UPC 110914, #SMART18 – I-95 Exit 126, Rte 1 SB Onto Southpoint Pkwy; UPC 110932, #SMART18 – Twin Lake-Kensington Bike/Ped Connector; and UPC 109474, #HB2.FY17 – New Commuter Parking Lot Rte 1 at Commonwealth Dr (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Chandler noted that VDOT had recently updated funding on 3 UPCs/projects; the resolution reflected the changes in amendments to the FY21-24 TIP to allow projects to move forward.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 21-17.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

h. Transportation Alternatives Program Update – Kari Barber

- Ms. Barber noted that 2021 was a year to accept Transportation Alternatives Applications and consider candidate projects; dates to remember:
 - Open portal around May 17
 - Pre-application deadline July 1
 - Final application deadline October 1

i. DRPT Technical Assistance Grant Application for East-West Multimodal Mobility Study in the FAMPO Region – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis stated that FAMPO would submit one application for the first Phase of an east-west mobility study for inter-regional connectivity.

Mr. Agnello asked when the deadline was; noted these grant applications had historically been presented with a Resolution of support; and asked about matching fund sources.

Mr. Ollis responded that they had two letters of support from Omniride/PRTC and FRED Transit; no action was required, and matching funds would come from 5303 and a small component of local funds.

j. FAMPO 2021 Meeting Calendar – Leah Vigil

Ms. Vigil presented the draft schedule for FAMPO meetings with updated summer break showing July off instead of August from the Policy Committee meeting.

TAC agreed to take July off and meet again on Monday, August 2, 2021.

7. Correspondence - None

8. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis noted the retirement of Mr. Erik Nelson and FAMPO staff certificate of appreciation for him.

9. Member Reports

- Stafford County – Mr. Jason Towery noted that Stafford was closely monitoring House Bill 1910, which originally proposed creating a Regional Transportation Authority for the FAMPO region and had become a proposal for a Regional Transportation Improvement Committee.
- Spotsylvania County – Mr. Agnello requested information on the bill; VDOT sent an email indicating funding for a trail application and requested inclusion of this at the next meeting. Mr. Towery responded that he would share information on the bill.
- FRED Jamie Jackson stated that localities would be contacted about 5307 vanpool funds and reducing local matches; and there was a new website with real time, transit development plan and other improvements: rideFRED.com.

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

There being no further business to conduct, Chairman Owsiak adjourned the Technical Advisory Committee meeting at **11:02 am**.

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