

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - 6:00pm

Remote-only

(No in-person attendance in light of COVID-19)

<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 video recording of the meeting will be posted to the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) web page: <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.

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Dave McLaughlin, Chair, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Joshua Brock, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. John Castellarin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Matthew Rowe, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Al Durante, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County
Mr. Wade Suddreth, Stafford County
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large

Others Present:

Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County
Ms. Allie Oakley

Staff Present:

Ms. Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner
Mr. Adam Hager, Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order – Chairman Dave McLaughlin
The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.
2. Roll Call – Stacey Feindt
Ms. Feindt called the roll.
3. **Approval of the April 7, 2021 Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**
Motion was made to approve the April 7, 2021 CTAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Gross
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Approval of March 10, 2021 CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Chair McLaughlin proposed amending language pertaining to his comments about the February CTAC meeting. He summarized his changes and indicated he provided specific language to Ms. Feindt.

Mr. Farley indicated he was present at the March meeting and would like to be included in the attendance.

Motion was made to approve the March 10, 2021 CTAC meeting minutes, as amended.

Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Durante

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Old Business – Chair McLaughlin

6. Review of February 22, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting

Ms. Feindt summarized the March 15 Policy Committee meeting, noting actions taken and updates provided by Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator.

7. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

8. Member Discussion and Action

a. Upcoming Election for CTAC Officers – Chair McLaughlin

Chair McLaughlin noted that the CTAC officers are on a rotation according to jurisdiction represented. He requested the Spotsylvania members work amongst themselves to potentially identify someone to serve as chair next year. This item will be back on the May CTAC agenda.

Mr. Durante asked for a point of clarification. He asked if someone from Spotsylvania County decides to run for chair, then can someone from another jurisdiction not run? Likewise, if someone from Spotsylvania County does not run, would it just pass to Stafford County? Chair McLaughlin said that yes, that would generally be the case although the bylaws are not extremely specific.

b. New Community Engagement and Equity Plan – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt outlined a new FAMPO document that will be replacing three current documents called the Community Engagement and Equity Plan, or CEEP. The existing Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, and Limited English Proficiency Plan will be combined into this new CEEP document. Ms. Feindt detailed the timeline for this update which includes various public outreach activities including focus groups. Finally, she noted that CTAC will be able to provide comments during the 45-day public comment period which will be kicking off later in April.

Chair McLaughlin asked about when the Title VI was last updated, noting it was not too long ago. Ms. Feindt indicated it predated her time at FAMPO and that VDOT did not have a record of what exactly was updated last time.

Chair McLaughlin also noted that there have been significant improvements in public outreach efforts at FAMPO recently. Mr. Gross concurred with Chair McLaughlin's comments.

Mr. Durante asked for more details regarding the focus groups. Ms. Feindt responded that CTAC members should have recently received an email with details, but that generally the focus groups are meant to provide an opportunity for input from traditionally underserved groups and communities such as the Thurman Brisben Center, disAbility Resource Center, Micah Ecumenical Ministries, and others.

c. Bicycle and Pedestrian Data – Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane presented an overview of the FAMPO bicycle and pedestrian counting program. He highlighted developments over the past few months which primarily involve utilizing StreetLight data to supplement data from bicycle and pedestrian counter devices. He described the overall purpose of utilizing StreetLight data and noted it would not be used for exact counts at specific locations, more so, it could be used as an index for comparative counts between locations and time periods.

Chair McLaughlin asked about how StreetLight uses cell phone data and whether it can identify individuals. Mr. Lehane confirmed that the data is not tied to individuals; the data is anonymous.

Mr. Goldsmith asked how StreetLight “knows” entry and exit points for trips. Mr. Lehane mentioned that StreetLight collects millions of data points that is filters through its algorithms and makes a best guess as to origins and destinations. Generally, he said, because there are so many data points, the guesses are pretty accurate.

Mr. Gross asked about how StreetLight can differentiate modes of transportation such as driving, using transit, riding a bike, or walking. Mr. Lehane responded that there are certain parameters built into the algorithms that can predict mode type.

d. CTAC’s Advisory Role – Stacey Feindt

Chair McLaughlin initiated a discussion related to how CTAC can best fulfill its role as an advisory committee. Ms. Feindt indicated that FAMPO staff are soliciting ideas from CTAC members on topics they would be interested in learning about and then highlighting topics or providing advice to the FAMPO Policy Committee. She also offered some potential ideas.

Mr. Farley asked how Ms. Feindt would like to receive proposal submissions. Ms. Feindt said a discussion could be had during the meeting or she would be willing to collect ideas via email after the meeting.

Mr. Farley noted that transportation infrastructure investment policy has not worked since the 1950s. He indicated that he would like to see congestion pricing implemented in the region as opposed to trying to pave our way out of congestion. He requested a scenario study that would identify alternative futures to fix congestion and shift to a transit-based transportation system.

Mr. Durante responded to Mr. Farley’s comments, noting that elected officials allow development that can drive urban sprawl. He said he was interested in the intersection of new development and transportation, specifically public transportation.

Mr. Brock highlighted that the CTAC is mostly consulted on transportation items brought before the committee. He recalled Mr. Farley’s comments and indicated it might be worth embarking on playing a more active role in the decision-making process. Chair McLaughlin concurred with Mr. Brock’s comments.

e. Upcoming Public Comment Periods – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt notified the CTAC that there will soon be five concurrent public comment periods for FAMPO work activities. They will involve the Community Engagement and Equity Plan, an amendment to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, an amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and the draft UPWP for the new fiscal year. Members will receive an email announcement when the comment periods begin.

9. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

10. Correspondence

Ms. Feindt shared three news articles related to transportation issues relevant to the committee. The first was a link to a webinar about roadway design and safety; the second was an article about linking the rail networks in Maryland and Virginia; the third was related to the \$3.7B rail deal between the Commonwealth of Virginia, Amtrak, VRE, and CSX.

11. Staff Reports

Ms. Feindt had no staff report.

12. Member Reports

Mr. Gross mentioned he hopes Mr. Durante considers running for chair. He also asked whether anyone had information related to the VCR trail at Blue and Gray Parkway/Lafayette Blvd. Mr. Lehane responded that there are planned pedestrian improvements up Telegraph Hill.

Mr. Farley indicated he was unhappy with the format of the agenda and would prefer links for each agenda item. Ms. Feindt indicated this would be a one-off and staff would revert to the preferred method at the next meeting.

13. **Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting May 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm. Motion was made by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Castellarin. Motion passed unanimously.