

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes

Monday ♦ April 12, 2021 ♦ 9:30 am

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 recording of this virtual meeting has been posted to the FAMPO Technical Advisory Committee webpage: <https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/technical-advisory-committee/>

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

Committee Members Present:

Chairman Alex Owsiak, Stafford County
Jason Towery, Stafford County
Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Dan Grinnell, VDOT
Bob Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Nick Minor, King George County
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Ciara Williams, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Richard Duran, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Christine Hoeffner, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
Aidan Quirke, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Craig Reed, FRED

Committee Members Not Present:

Brandon Brown, Stafford County
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Leon Hughes, Spotsylvania County
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Jim Ponticello, VDOT
Joe Stainsby, PRTC
Mike Finchum, Caroline County

Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Kimberly Wilson, King George County
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Todd Horsley, DRPT

Others Present:

Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Samuel Hayes
Linda LaSut, VDOT
Susan Gardner, VDOT
Two unidentifiable guests were present in the virtual meeting room

Staff Present:

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator
Kari Barber, Transportation Planner/Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator
Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner
Adam Hager, Transportation Planner
Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order – Chairman Alex Owsiak
The meeting was called to order at 9:32am.
2. Determination of Quorum
Ms. Feindt conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.
3. **Approval of the April 12, 2021 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**
Motion was made to approve the April 12, 2021 TAC agenda.
Motion: Alex Owsiak
Motion passed with unanimous consent.
4. **Approval of March 1, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**
Mr. Alex Owsiak stated that on page 5 item 7.i. mentioned Blackbird sidewalk. However, this is a typo and should state Flatford sidewalk.

Motion was made to approve the March 1, 2021 TAC meeting minutes, as amended.
Motion: Alex Owsiak
Motion passed with unanimous consent.
5. Review of March 15, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting
Mr. Ollis reviewed the Policy Committee meeting noting three actions taken by the committee: approval of the amended memorandum of understanding with the MWCOG Transportation Planning Board (TPB), approval of a new BPAC member, and reappointment of a CTAC member. Mr. Ollis also pointed out that the U.S. Census Bureau is proposing changes to how urban areas are determined and advises members to participate in the public comment period which ends on May 20th.

Mr. Agnello asked if the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) and FAMPO should write a letter as regional bodies. Mr. Ollis responded that he hopes to draft a letter, specifically for the FAMPO Policy Committee to sign and send to the Census Bureau and will provide this language to the committee members.

6. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

7. Member Discussion and Action

a. 5307 Discussion – Chairman Owskiak

Chairman Owskiak discussed that at the March 22nd GWRC Board meeting, PRTC staff gave a presentation related to available FTA Section 5307 funding between FYs 2018 to 2021 in addition to CARES Act funding for transit organizations. Mr. Owskiak noted the board put out a call for projects to allocate this funding and applications should be submitted by April 2nd. He noted that PRTC is evaluating eligibility and program requirements by April 19th. He added that once GWRC allocates the funds, sub-recipients must enter into a sub-recipient agreement with PRTC which allows PRTC to include these improvements in their federal grant application. Lastly, Mr. Owskiak noted that there is potential to free up CMAQ and STBG funding to backfill FY27 if the VRE Station improvements are able to receive funding allocations.

Ms. Hoeffner asked if the 5307 funding match requirements had been previously awarded and if current allocations were covered by soft match or by the recipient, meaning that match was a responsibility of the awardee. Mr. Gibson responded that match requirements have already been taken care of by rolling stock and she would double check with Ms. Betsy Massie of PRTC to confirm. Ms. Jackson confirmed that the local match has already been covered by local soft match.

b. FY22-27 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)/Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Funding – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis discussed the process for CMAQ and STBG applications thus far: call for projects, assess the reduction in funding totaling \$2.7 million, and create working draft allocations.

i. Current Allocations (Approved January 25, 2021)

ii. FY22-27 Call for Projects Scoring

Ms. Chandler presented the project scores for the FY22-27 applications. She reviewed which applications were requesting CMAQ and STBG funds, overall project details, and scoring summaries for each application.

Mr. Towery asked how the Exit 126 Interchange and NW Quadrant Roadways projects were scored. Ms. Chandler replied that staff used the newly approved CMAQ/STBG Prioritization Methodology and referred Mr. Towery to the document for specific details about each measure.

Mr. Towery questioned how Exit 126 Interchange Improvements received such a high score and what were the specific improvements of the application. Mr. Agnello filled in the information regarding the projects scope and that the intent of these improvements were to assist traffic flow with the VA Clinic.

Mr. Towery questioned that these improvements were also linked to SMART SCALE funding and that it was unclear why the Shelton Shop Rd Improvements application was removed, but the Exit 126 application was still eligible for CMAQ/STBG funding. Mr. Agnello replied that there is no SMART SCALE funding for the proposed improvements.

Mr. Towery asked if the CTB does not approve SMART SCALE funds for Shelton

Shop Rd, whether the applications would be rescored and Shelton Shop considered for CMAQ/STBG funds. Mr. Hager responded that yes, that would be acceptable. Mr. Hager added that the CTB will meet early next week and staff hopes to know the results of this decision soon.

iii. Draft FY22-27 Allocations

Mr. Hager noted that these allocations are based on current information and do not reflect the potential 5307 allocations that may be voted on by the GWRC Board. He added that no new allocations were made; however, as of September 2020 the FAMPO Policy Board had moved to fully fund Route 1 and Market Street, which is reflected in this draft. Lastly, Mr. Hager mentioned that funds were moved from the current SYIP years, when possible, in a like for like transfer to FY27 funds in order to avoid negative CMAQ and STBG balances per VDOT regulations.

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

Mr. Ollis noted that staff is seeking action to approve the LRTP Roadway evaluation measures. Mr. Ollis also stated that staff will be presenting Transit/TDM and Active Transportation draft methodologies later in the meeting.

i. **Approval of Evaluation Measures for the FAMPO LRTP Roadway Project Prioritization Methodology (ACTION ITEM)** – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager summarized the discussion at the March 19th TAC workshop. He briefed the committee that staff is planning to incorporate the roadway scoring evaluation measures into a full prioritization methodology document and present this work in May. Mr. Hager noted that project cost and leveraged funding were a hot topic in the TAC workshop and that staff plans to address the cost effectiveness of projects in a separate process from the roadway project scoring measures. He presented a simplified version of how cost will be incorporated into the process and stated that additional details on determining cost effectiveness will also be included in the LRTP project prioritization document.

Mr. Agnello asked if Mr. Hager had a real-world example of what projects might receive high marks for cost effectiveness. Mr. Hager suggested that the STARS improvements at Route 1 and Augustine have a relatively low cost, might receive a low score, but have the potential for high-cost effectiveness. He also mentioned that this cost effectiveness metric will build in flexibility allowing for a more qualitative review of projects and identifying exceptions.

Motion: Mr. Nick Minor; Second: Ms. Jamie Jackson
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

ii. Transit/TDM & Active Transportation Project Prioritization Methodologies – Matthew Lehane & Kari Barber

Mr. Lehane presented the draft scoring measures for Transit/TDM projects. He noted that these measures follow the same overall weighting as roadway methodology. This weighting mimics SMART SCALE, and also includes weighting on statewide coordination and overall project benefit. Mr. Lehane further discussed each sub-measure and how it has been adapted to fit transit and TDM projects. He provided a proof of concept and stated that final scores would have greater variation once project benefit measures and ridership numbers were included.

Ms. Barber presented the draft scoring measures for active transportation (bicycle and pedestrian) projects. She noted that this methodology included the same categories as the other modes, but the weighting for the sub-measures were adjusted to better fit the size and scope of active transportation projects. Mr. Lehane provided a proof of concept for these projects and noted that the final scores would have a greater variation once project benefit measures were included.

Mr. Agnello asked if the statewide coordination measure, VTrans Needs, were fitting for the active transportation projects. Ms. Barber replied yes, VTrans accounts for bike and pedestrian needs and referred Mr. Agnello to the VTrans site for an interactive map with all bicycle and pedestrian corridors.

d. 2045 LRTP Amendment – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager stated that staff would request the Policy Committee initiate a 30-day public comment period for this amendment. He asked that if TAC members have any updated information for a project that it be provided prior to May 20th, the slated date for approval. Mr. Hager identified one mislabeled SMART SCALE Round 4 project, which has since been corrected since the last TAC meeting. Also, he showed the additions to the PE/Studies list which contained several projects in Spotsylvania County.

Mr. Owsiak noted that the cost estimates sent over do not seem to be included in this version. Mr. Hager responded that staff would update the cost information in the version that goes out for public comment.

e. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update – Jordan Chandler

Ms. Chandler informed the committee of an administrative update that would be taking place with STIP ID RAAA002, a mobility management project. No action is needed from the TAC or the board, air quality conformity determination is not required, and a public comment period for this revision is not required.

i. Paratransit Vehicles for the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board

Ms. Chandler informed the TAC that DRPT made a request to add RACS001, a Paratransit Vehicle project, to the TIP. She noted that this request requires a 30-day public comment period since it is a new TIP project, but no air quality conformity since this project category is exempt. After the public comment period, this project will be brought to the Policy Committee for consideration and approval.

f. FY22 Unified Planning Work Program – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager reviewed items from this fiscal year that were still pending or in progress. He stated the Lafayette Boulevard Study Phase 2 and Route 1 at Massaponax STARS Study would most likely rollover into the next fiscal year. Mr. Hager noted that staff is awaiting confirmation of new funding from a DRPT Technical Assistance Grant to begin an East-West Mobility Study in the region that Mr. Ollis has discussed previously. He noted that staff is seeking questions and comments related to the draft UPWP.

Mr. Agnello asked if the Lafayette Blvd Study was near completion since he has not attended any meetings. Mr. Hager responded that staff is working with the consultant to set up a stakeholder meeting to provide feedback and the meeting should be scheduled shortly.

g. Community Engagement and Equity Plan Update – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Stacey Feindt discussed the connection between the Public Involvement Plan and the

separate Title VI plan which will now be incorporated into one document, the Community Engagement and Equity Plan (CEEP). She has held focus groups that have provide valuable feedback, is planning a 45-day public comment period pending approval by the Policy Committee, plans to present a draft of the document, and seek approval in June. Implementation of this document is planned for the fall of 2021.

h. Forthcoming Public Comment Periods – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt mentioned that item two on this list in the meeting packet will be removed; this public comment period is no longer occurring. She encourages committee members to review the other four documents during their anticipated public comment period timelines.

Mr. Agnello asked why the Unified Planning Work Program amendment public comment period was no longer needed. Mr. Ollis replied that FAMPO agreed with VDOT to have the previous deprogramming request canceled and that these funds will still be available for this coming financial year.

Mr. Agnello asked if this deprogramming was carryover from FY21 to FY22. Mr. Ollis stated that this was correct.

i. Request for Proposal (RFP) for On-Call Consultants Update – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis noted that work has been completed for the RFP. He shared that this document has been workshopped by VDOT, the GWRC attorney, FAMPO staff, and GWRC staff. Mr. Ollis said that this document will be slated for approval at the April Policy Committee meeting and request for proposals will start on May 3rd, 2021.

j. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funding – Chairman Owsiak

Mr. Owsiak noted that funding is being transferred from Onville Road, which is now receiving funding for these improvements from another source, and that these funds will be transferred to Flatford Road.

Ms. Gardner stated that VDOT is unable to move funds until a resolution is passed requesting that funds be removed from Onville Road, but these funds will then be directly applied to Flatford Road.

i. Resolution 21-25: Allocation Transfer of Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funding for UPC 113561, Flatford Rd Sidewalk Project in Northern Stafford County (ACTION ITEM) – Kari Barber

Motion: Mr. Paul Agnello; Second: Mr. Nick Minor

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis noted that there has been no new correspondence.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis noted that FAMPO is still advertising for a full-time planning position; otherwise, there are no other staff updates.

10. Member Reports

Mr. Haynes indicated that the state would be hosting its Six Year Improvement Program spring meeting on Tuesday April 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Information for this event can be found on the

CTB site under Planning & Funding.

Ms. Gardner reminded localities to sign-up for TAP and Revenue Sharing (RS) workshop.

Ms. Jackson introduced Michael “Mike” Craig as an alternate to for the City of Fredericksburg.

Mr. Minor asked where information can be found regarding sign-ups for the TAP and RS workshops and had no other updates from King George.

Ms. Gardner noted that this information can be found on the VDOT site under Local Assistance Program, but if you could not find the information to contact her at 899-4013.

11. Adjourn Technical Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting May 3, 2021 at 9:30 am

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:06am.

Motion: Mr. Alex Owsiak; Second: Mr. Nick Minor

Motion passed with unanimous consent.