

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Monday ♦ May 10, 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
Brandon Brown, Stafford County
Jason Towery, Stafford County (Alternate)
Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg (Alternate)
Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Dan Grinnell, VDOT (Alternate)
Bob Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Craig Pennington, Caroline County (Alternate)
Nick Minor, King George County
Kimberly Wilson, King George County
Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Todd Horsley, DRPT (Alternate)
Ciara Williams, DRPT
Richard Duran, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
Christine Hoeffner, VRE (Alternate)
Aidan Quirke, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)

Committee Members Not Present:

Bryon Counsel, Stafford County
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Leon Hughes, Spotsylvania County
Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Jim Ponticello, VDOT
Joseph Stainsby, PRTC
Craig Reed, FRED
Mike Finchum, Caroline County

Others Present:

Catherine Coffey, VDOT
Adam Derrick, Stafford County
Katherine Youngbluth, DRPT
Linda LaSut, VDOT

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 9:31am.
2. Determination of Quorum
Ms. Feindt conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.
3. **Approval of the May 10, 2021 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Agnello requested that item 5b moved to front of agenda before 5a, because new funding discussed in 5b might impact 5a.

Motion: Mr. Agnello; Second: None

Motion failed.

Motion was made to approve the May 10, 2021 TAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Owsiak; Second: Dr. Schneider

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Member Discussion and Action
 - a. FY22-27 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Funding – Ian Ollis & Adam Hager

Mr. Ollis stated that FAMPO received two emails from Mr. Owsiak and Mr. Agnello and felt that the TAC should hear the comments expressed in those emails before seeing the presentation on Option A as planned.

Mr. Owsiak agreed and said that Mr. Agnello's concerns should be heard first.

Mr. Agnello commented that the TAC should make a recommendation to FAMPO and GWRC

that they replace CMAQ funds on some projects, such as the Brooke Station improvements or leased parking spaces, with 5307 funding which he believed was better suited to such projects.

Ms. Hoeffner said a consideration in replacing Brooke CMAQ funding with 5307 is the issue of the match requirement. Before VRE would be comfortable submitting applications for a call for projects, but now would want assurances that GWRC or Stafford County would provide the match.

Ms. Gibson added that because of that it would be appropriate to hold off the discussion until the call for projects, which will take months. This will give the TAC time to discuss. Mr. Agnello stated that Spotsylvania had concerns with project scoring for safety, land use, and categorization. The TAC discussed these concerns. Chair Owsiak said that the committee agreed that the process needs improvements and asked if they could move forward. Mr. Towery stated that the TAC could come back later and readjust the process. Motion was made to approve FY22-27 CMAQ/STBG allocations as presented.

Motion: Dr. Schneider; Second: Ms. Hoeffner

Discussion: Mr. Agnello stated that Spotsylvania would not vote in favor of the motion as they still had concerns and did not think it was ready.

Mr. Hager commented that the motion would need to reflect the approximately \$7,000 change in the FY22 STBG budget and explained how that would be done.

Dr. Schneider said that the process was backed up by data and further recommended by staff; the TAC should approve and move forward making changes as needed.

Mr. Towery added an amendment to the motion for the approximately \$7,000 change, which Dr. Schneider accepted the amendment on his motion.

Dr. Schneider then reconfirmed his motion.

Mr. Owsiak asked Ms. Hoeffner to confirm her second, which she did.

A roll call vote by jurisdiction and agency was taken by Ms. Chandler.

Spotsylvania voted no; all others voted yes.

Abstentions: None

Motion passed.

a. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Update – Chairman Owsiak and Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis presented on the HIP program and explained that it is not a routine funding source but comes to the region at various times. There is no specific policy for allocation—the TAC and Policy Committee decide. Mr. Ollis proposed to fund the East/West Mobility Study, Phase II, with a portion of the funding and park the rest of the funds to be allocated later.

Ms. Gardner added that the funds must be fully obligated by September 2024.

Mr. Hager mentioned that if the TAC wants to take action, the balance of the funds could be placed in Regionally Significant Projects to be allocated later.

Mr. Agnello asked if there was a scope, schedule, and budget for the East/West Mobility Study.

Mr. Ollis responded that staff was developing it. The study would be working on several

corridors in the region—key corridors based on congestion problems experienced now and what would likely occur in 2050 based on available data. He stressed the need to find solutions to regional east/west congestion and that the study would be a major undertaking in pursuit of that.

Mr. Agnello asked about the rough budget for the study and where bike and pedestrian modes would be included.

Mr. Ollis responded that bike and pedestrian modes will be spread across both Phase I and Phase II, since cycling links to transit hubs.

Mr. Agnello commented that if FAMPO wanted to start the study in FY22 it would be beneficial to allocate some funding now.

Mr. Owsiak concurred, but added that without seeing the scope he would be more comfortable with partially funding the study, to which Mr. Ollis and Mr. Agnello consented.

Motion to partially fund the FAMPO East/West Mobility Study, Phase II, for \$125,000 for FY 22.

Motion: Mr. Agnello; Second: Mr. Haynes

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

7. Member Reports

There were no member reports.

8. **Adjourn Technical Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting June 7th at 9:30 am**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:00.

Motion: Mr. Owsiak; Second: Mr. Agnello

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.