

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 20, 2021 - 6:00pm

Hybrid Format

<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 Policy Committee web page

<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/policy-committee/>

(*) Indicates remote connect by phone or internet for attendants per Virginia COVID-19 legislation, as noted above. (IP) indicates in-person attendance. (V) Indicates voting member.

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Cindy Shelton, Chair, Stafford (V)
Mr. Mark Dudenhefer, Stafford (V)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford (V)
Ms. Meg Bohmke, alternate Stafford (V) *
Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Spotsylvania (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania (V) *
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania (V)
Mr. Matthew Kelly, Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, Fredericksburg (V) *
Mr. Timothy Baroody, Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George
Ms. Ann Cupka, King George *
Ms. Jamie Jackson, FRED Transit *
Mr. Robert Schneider, PRTC (V) *
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V) *
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V) *
Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT *
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate VDOT *
Mr. David McLaughlin, CTAC *

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Thomas Coen, alternate Stafford (V)
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania (V)
Mr. Gary Skinner, alternate Spotsylvania (V)
Mr. Doug Fawcett, alternate Fredericksburg (V)

Mr. Mark Whitley, alternate Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline
Ms. Tonya Holland, FTA
Mr. Richard Duran, FHWA
Mr. Aidan Quirke, alternate FRED Transit
Ms. Betsy Massie, alternate PRTC (V)
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Mr. Todd Horsley, DRPT
Ms. Ciara Williams, alternate DRPT
Mr. Al Durante, alternate CTAC
Mr. Cedric Rucker, CTB

Others Present:

Mr. Alex Owsiak, Stafford County
Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County
Mr. Jason Towery, Stafford County
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Ms. Kate Gibson, GWRC
Ms. Michele Dooling, GWRC
Mr. Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Ms. TaMara Banks, Healthy Generations
Ms. Linda LaSut, VDOT
Ms. Catherine Coffey, VDOT
Ms. Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance - Star

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner
Ms. Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner
Mr. Adam Hager, Transportation Planner
Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner

1. Call Policy Committee to Order
Vice Chair McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
Ms. Feindt conducted roll call and a quorum was present.
3. **Approval of the May 20, 2021 Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**
Mr. Ross asked for Item 9 (h), regarding CMAQ allocations, to be tabled but later withdrew after agreeing to hear presentation before asking for a deferment.

Motion was made to approve the May 20, 2021 Policy Committee agenda.
Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch



Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Public Involvement

No comments were received or read by staff.

5. Public Hearing

No members of the public spoke.

Two comments were read by FAMPO staff. One comment expressed support for the amendment to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program which would add the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board's paratransit project. The other comment read expressed support for the amendment to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, particularly the addition of projects that would improve and widen Lafayette Blvd and Tidewater Trail.

6. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the April 19, 2021 Policy meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent. Ms. Bohmke abstained.

7. Chair Comments

Chair Shelton had not yet arrived at the meeting; the chair comments agenda item was moved to later in the meeting.

8. FAMPO Administrator Report – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis gave a presentation to the committee which included information on the need for improvements to I-95 in the FAMPO area and alternatives to I-95; an upcoming staff effort to conduct an east-west mobility study; information on why corridors in the FAMPO area were not included in newly designated critical freight corridor areas by the state; an update on how the U.S. Census Bureau proposal that would change how areas are classified as urbanized areas; possible Metro service extension to the Quantico area; discussions with localities on rights-of-way for the VCR trail; and an update on the RFP for on-call consultants announcement.

9. Action/Discussion Items

a. Variable Speed Limits Presentation

Ms. Parker presented information on upcoming work to install variable speed limit technology and signs along I-95 northbound between mile posts 115 – 130. Work is expected to be completed in fall 2021. VDOT will conduct outreach to law enforcement and members of the public outreach. Variable speed limits will keep traffic flowing and improve safety. At every exit and entry ramp along the affected area, there will be signs to notify motorists that the variable speed limit is in effect.

Mr. Kelly asked if there are best practices or case studies to help implement the change. Ms. Parker noted that the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel uses a similar set-up and stated that VDOT staff had worked with other states who also use the technology. Mr. Ross asked Ms. Parker if VDOT had reviewed any white papers on the technology's effectiveness and stated that enforcement of the speed limit will be key. He wondered where the technology has been proven to work. Ms. Parker replied that other states, in particular Colorado, use the technology and in the case of Colorado the system has remained in place for a decade, which testifies to its effectiveness. Mr. McLaughlin asked how much the project cost and what information was used to decide that variable speed limits were a good solution. Ms. Parker replied that the project cost \$10 million and she would have to ask VDOT staff

what information was used to decide that variable speed limits were a good solution. Mr. Ollis asked if Ms. Parker could address the committee's questions by providing them with more information after the meeting.

b. U.S. Census Bureau Update

Mr. Ollis and Mr. Lehane presented information on how proposed U.S. Census Bureau changes might impact urban area designation for the FAMPO area. Possible changes include less geographic area designated as urban areas and smaller total populations counts designated under urban areas which could impact funding. The exact impact cannot be determined because the 2020 Census data has not yet been released.

Mr. Ollis proposed that the committee send a letter to U.S. Census Bureau expressing concerns for proposed changes to urban area determinations. He presented a drafted letter.

Mr. Dudenhefer noted that Stafford County is quickly growing and it was shocking that some of its most populated areas could essentially become an urban island, separated from FAMPO and the planning organization to its north. He asked that the committee agree to send the letter but copy federal legislators too.

Ms. Vanuch and Ms. Shelton agreed that federal legislators needed to be copied on the letter. Mr. Ollis noted the letter would be amended to include federal legislators.

Motion was made to send the presented letter to the U.S. Census Bureau, with federal legislators added to the list of whom to send copies to.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. Kelly

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

c. Letter to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation Concerning the Draft FY22-27 Six Year Improvement Program

Mr. Ollis proposed that the committee send a letter to the Virginia secretary of transportation expressing the importance of I-95 improvements.

Mr. Graham responded that there are many other congestion mitigation strategies that could solve congestion problems. He asked why money should be spent to increase capacity on I-95.

Mr. Kelly responded that the I-95 improvements would give better merge ability and relieve traffic in a specific area.

Ms. Parker added that the improvements would add an extra lane between exits 130 and 126 and that the improvements were identified in an I-95 corridor study. The project is on the state's recommended capital improvement projects list. However, that list has not yet been prioritized nor voted on.

Motion was made to send a letter in support of the I-95 improvements to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. Kelly

Motion passed with Mr. Graham voting against.

d. Request for Proposal (RFP) for On-Call Consultants Update

Mr. Ollis gave an update on the progress being made to release a request for proposal (RFP) for on-call consultants. Staff anticipate the RFP will be released on June 1, 2021.

e. SMART SCALE Round 5 Update

Mr. Ollis conveyed that SMART SCALE project proposals will be discussed at the FAMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the timeline for initial submissions is in June/July timeframe.

Ms. Gibson stated that Round 5 efforts will feature GWRC and FAMPO working together in order to prevent duplicated efforts. Although there will eventually be separate project lists, the process will be coordinated and feature joint meetings via the TAC.

Mr. Dudenhefer asked why the SMART SCALE timeline is moved up every year. Mr. Ollis answered that it gives VDOT more time to do their part and FAMPO staff are fine with the change.

f. Community Engagement and Equity Plan Update

Ms. Feindt gave a presentation on the draft Community Engagement and Equity Plan that will fulfill the requirement to have an updated Title VI and public participation plan. The draft plan is currently out for public comment. The committee will be asked to adopt the plan at its June meeting.

Mr. Kelly expressed satisfaction with staff's work to increase community outreach and noted he had observed increased public awareness efforts.

Mr. McLaughlin asked what staff does with the demographic data contained in the plan. Ms. Feindt answered that it was used to conduct strategic community outreach, for example, knowing where minority and low-income populations are within the community will help staff proactively reach those underserved groups. Mr. McLaughlin asked staff to periodically report efforts and outreach statistics to the committee. Ms. Feindt replied that the new plan contains requirements to do so.

g. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funding for FY22

Mr. Ollis relayed that staff and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that \$125,000 be used for Phase II of the East-West Mobility Study and \$515,050 be placed on the Regionally Significant Projects line item as a placeholder for further allocation at a later date.

Motion was made to approve the funding allocations.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Mr. Dudenhefer

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

h. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) FY22-27 Funding

Mr. Ollis summarized staff's efforts to reconcile changing project lists, costs, and budgets. He showed a spreadsheet on funding allocations which was approved by the TAC. He noted that about \$660k is "parked" in FY2027 and explained that those funds were very recently conveyed to staff who did not have enough time to properly allocate them and there was no reason to rush the effort.

Mr. Kelly asked what issues on this matter came up at the TAC meeting. Mr. Ollis answered that a Spotsylvania member had raised last-minute questions about the allocation policy. Because the policy is vague or silent on many matters, staff made its best attempt to take an objective approach.

Mr. Kelly noted that staff will require many months to extract satisfactory answers from the current policy and wondered if the funding should be approved at this time. Mr. Dudenhefer asked if there was an issue with delaying the decision.

Ms. Gardner stated that VDOT needs the finalized list of funding allocations by May 28, 2021. The Commonwealth Transportation Board approves the list on June 23, 2021. She noted that FAMPO also needs to reflect the recent 5307 allocations in its submittal.

Mr. McLaughlin noted the small amount of time the committee had to review the information; Ms. Shelton concurred. Mr. Ollis stated that FAMPO staff had also received information from VDOT quite late in the process and presented a placeholder allocation scenario last month based on information available at the time.

Mr. Kelly replied that city and county staff have been privy to the information for quite a while but expressed frustration with the timing of proposed questions from a TAC member. Mr. Ross conveyed that the TAC member had legitimate concerns and asked to address the issues with the allocation policy now rather than kick them down the road.

Mr. Ollis said the policy needs to be reviewed because staff find it impossible to find definitive answers to questions. He suggested this be an upcoming agenda item. He clarified that at today's meeting, the committee either needed to approve the list in the agenda packet, or push funds to a balance entry, piling up the money, and not allocating it at this time. Ms. Vanuch suggested the committee approve the allocations and revisit the allocation policy at a future meeting.

Motion was made to approve the FY22-27 CMAQ/STBG allocations.

Motion: Mr. Mark Dudenhefer; Second: Mr. Matthew Kelly

Motion passed with Tim McLaughlin voting against, expressing the need for more time to review and find answers.

Mr. Ollis presented information on allocating CMAQ funding for the GWRideConnect leased commuter parking spaces. He noted that TAC had recommended this funding allocation and the funding program was something that had been grandfathered in to a prior FHWA rule related to use of CMAQ for leased parking spaces; if it were not approved, the funding opportunity would be lost. Mr. Hager pointed out that this was the most cost-effective way of securing commuter parking, as opposed to building and maintaining a lot.

Mr. Dudenhefer and Ms. Vanuch both noted that commuting levels are down and commuter lots appear to be almost empty. Mr. McLaughlin added that commuter vans who use and benefit from the spaces were privately owned and that he could not support using public funds to subsidize private business. He asked staff to go back and look at options.

Mr. Graham pointed out that continued funding was an insurance policy for post-covid returns. He also mentioned that supporting rideshare options reduces wear and tear on I-95 which itself is a subsidy.

Motion was made to authorize \$17,000 in CMAQ funding in FY22 for the leased commuter parking spaces project.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: No second.

Motion did not pass.

i. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Mr. Ollis presented information on a final draft of the project prioritization policy for the 2050 LRTP which he stated was approved by TAC.

Motion was made to approve the FAMPO LRTP project prioritization methodology.

Motion: Mr. Dudenhefer; Second: Mr. Kelly

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

j. Draft 2045 LRTP Amendment

Mr. Ollis presented the draft 2045 amendment.

Motion was made to approve the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan amendment.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. McLaughlin

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

k. Resolution 21-30: FY20 Annual Listing of Transportation Project Obligations

Mr. Hager presented the annual list of transportation project obligations.

Motion was made to approve the FY20 annual list of transportation project obligations.

Motion: Mr. Dudenhefer; Second: Mr. Ross

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

l. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Ms. Chandler presented the TIP amendment which would add funding for paratransit vehicles for the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board.

Motion was made to approve the FY21-24 TIP amendment to add paratransit vehicles for the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. Ross

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

m. FY22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Hager presented the FY22 UPWP draft.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if the staff work program includes provisions that would allow staff to make necessary administrative modifications to FAMPO documents. Mr. Hager replied that it did and showed language in the draft document that allowed for committee bylaw revisions.

Motion was made to approve the FY22 UPWP.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. Kelly

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

10. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis conveyed that the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) had approved the FAMPO/TPB MOU.

11. Staff and Agency Reports

No reports.



12. Board Member and Chair Comments

No comments.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Shelton and the next Policy Committee Meeting will be held in-person on June 21, 2021 at 6:00pm.