

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 21, 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)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford (V) *
Ms. Meg Bohmke, alternate Stafford (V) *
Mr. Thomas Coen, alternate Stafford (V) *
Mr. Tim McLaughlin, 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 *
Mr. Richard Duran, FHWA *
Ms. Jamie Jackson, FRED Transit *
Mr. Aidan Quirke, alternate FRED Transit *
Mr. Robert Schneider, PRTC (V) *
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V) *
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V) *
Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT *
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate VDOT *

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Mark Dudenhefer, Stafford (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania (V)
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania (V)

Mr. Gary Skinner, alternate Spotsylvania (V)
Mr. Mark Whitley, alternate Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline
Ms. Tonya Holland, FTA
Ms. Betsy Massie, alternate PRTC (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Mr. Todd Horsley, DRPT
Ms. Ciara Williams, alternate DRPT
Mr. David McLaughlin, CTAC
Mr. Al Durante, alternate CTAC
Mr. Cedric Rucker, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

Others Present:

Ms. Martha Heeter, PlanRVA
Ms. Kate Gibson, George Washington Regional Commission
Ms. Michele Dooling, George Washington Regional Commission
Ms. Leigh Anderson, George Washington Regional Commission
Mr. Alex Owsiak, Stafford County
Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County
Mr. Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Catherine Coffey, VDOT

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

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Shelton at 6:00pm.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Ms. Feindt; a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the June 21, 2021 Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the June 21, 2021 Policy Committee agenda.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Public Involvement

Ms. Feindt read a comment from resident David Lee Gayle which expressed safety concerns related to cyclists riding on narrow back roads. Mr. Gayle asked that the action be prohibited or at least discouraged. Ms. Shelton asked staff to refer the comment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for review.

No members of the public spoke at the meeting.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of May 20, 2021 Policy Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the May 20, 2021 Policy Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

6. FAMPO Administrator Report

Mr. Ollis presented information on variable speed limits in response to the committee's request for more information at a prior meeting. He reminded the committee that preliminary SMART SCALE project lists were due to FAMPO staff by July 16th. He explained the concept of transit-oriented development and encouraged members to discuss it more in their planning conversations. There was a summary of the upcoming East-West Mobility Study; the first stakeholder meeting will be close to August 1st. Mr. Ollis also conveyed that the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) call for projects deadline is July 2nd and he encouraged committee members to ask their locality staff to submit projects by that deadline as many have not sent in submissions.

7. Action/Discussion Items

a. Transportation Management Area (TMA) Possibilities for FAMPO Presentation

Mr. Duran explain what it takes for an MPO to become a TMA and highlighted the extra requirements that come with the designation. He mentioned that when the 2020 Census data is released, more areas could be designated as TMAs.

Mr. Graham asked whether the population requirement (200,000) must all be within a designated urbanized area. Mr. Duran explained that in order to get the additional TMA funding, the population does have to be within the urbanized area.

Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Ollis how a possible TMA designation would impact FAMPO staff and board members. Mr. Ollis replied that the board would not have to change, but could, and that one additional staff member may be needed to handle the additional administration tasks and reporting.

Mr. Ollis asked Mr. Duran to explain the benefits of becoming a TMA. Mr. Duran replied that TMAs receive additional funding, have opportunities to work with the Department of Transportation on project selection processes, and TMAs enjoy more control of the project selection processes at the federal level. He also clarified that a TMA without a population of 200,000 does not get extra funding.

Mr. Baroody asked whether it was prudent to ask the governor for a TMA designation soon, or wait until the Census data was released which might result in the automatic designation of a TMA. Mr. Ollis replied that both options were possible.

Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Duran if FHWA will designate new TMAs based solely on the Census recommendations or if FHWA would use its own discretion. Mr. Kelly stated that FAMPO has some of the worst congestion and he wanted to make sure that the federal government took that into account when making TMA designations based on Census data. Mr. Duran replied

that he understood and would look more into how decisions on new TMAs would be handled and provide a response to the Committee members at a later date.

b. Regional Transportation Authority Presentation

Ms. Heeter conveyed how the Central Virginia Transportation Authority was formed and the basics of its operations and ability to collect fuel and sales tax to fund transportation projects.

Mr. Kelly asked if the new transportation authority had been discussing how to handle anticipated fuel tax revenue decreases. Ms. Heeter replied that the matter was being discussed but at this point in time the authority had not identified a solution. She noted that fuel taxes were not the only revenue source; sales taxes are collected as well.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if all jurisdictions in the Richmond TPO jurisdiction were required to join the new transportation authority. Ms. Heeter replied that all jurisdictions had joined, but if they had not, funding allocations would be difficult.

c. Resolution 21-29 Authorizing \$12,789 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Funding in FY22 for the Leased Commuter Parking Spaces Project (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Gibson began a presentation on the GWRideConnect leased parking spaces program. Mr. McLaughlin asked if the subject matter was the same as what the committee heard at the last meeting. He stated that at the last meeting, the matter was heard and voted against. Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and showed that the motion for the agenda item did not receive a second at the previous meeting, which resulted in no action taken.

Motion was then made by Mr. McLaughlin to deny funding; seconded by Crystal Vanuch. A roll call vote was conducted which resulted in six nays and four ayes. The motion to deny funding did not pass. Votes were as follows:

Ms. Shelton, nay;
Mr. Coen, aye;
Ms. Vanuch, aye;
Mr. McLaughlin, aye;
Mr. Ross, aye;
Mr. Kelly, nay;
Mr. Graham, nay;
Mr. Baroody, nay;
Dr. Schneider, nay;
Ms. Shropshire, nay.

Ms. Gibson continued with her presentation. Mr. Kelly asked if the funding recommendation from TAC was unanimous to which Ms. Gibson replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Graham asked if GWRideConnect could advertise the leased parking spaces reductions and changes. Ms. Gibson replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Ross asked what the current lot utilization was at the VDOT park and ride lots near the leased spaces. Ms. Shropshire replied that VDOT could find out those figures and report back.

Mr. McLaughlin expressed concern that the program incentivizes people to work outside of the region and spend money outside of the region. Ms. Shelton stated that she visited the lots in

question last week and noticed that some vehicles were parked in the spaces but were not associated with the carpool or vanpool program. She asked how parking was monitored. Ms. Gibson replied that they use hang tags and utilization counts are conducted twice a month, but towing was the responsibility of the owner, and to her knowledge, in the past, owners had not towed vehicles.

Mr. Coen commented that it sounded like the monitoring system was not being implemented effectively. Ms. Vanuch stated that she drove by late at night the previous week and noted that commuter vans that were out of service were parked in the leased parking spaces.

Motion made to approve funding by Mr. Graham.; seconded by Dr. Schneider.

A substitute motion was made to deny funding. Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Mr. McLaughlin. A roll call vote was conducted for the substitute motion and resulted in six ayes and three nays with one abstention. The motion to deny funding passed. Votes were recorded as follows:

Ms. Shelton, aye;
Mr. Coen, aye;
Ms. Vanuch, aye;
Mr. McLaughlin, aye;
Mr. Ross, aye;
Mr. Kelly, nay;
Mr. Graham, nay;
Mr. Baroody, nay;
Dr. Schneider, aye;
Ms. Shropshire, abstain.

d. Resolution 21-37 Approving the FAMPO Community Engagement and Equity Plan

Ms. Feindt noted that the committee had been presented with information on the development and purpose of the plan at previous meetings. The committee was being asked tonight to approve the plan which would replace the current Title VI and Public Participation Plan. The draft document was developed with input from over 20 members of the public, and many of those represented underserved groups. No comments were received during the 30-day public comment period. Ms. Feindt noted a few changes that were made to the draft document after the public comment period concluded. The changes were administrative in nature.

Motion was made to approve the FAMPO Community Engagement and Equity Plan.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Dr. Schneider

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

e. FY21-24 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Updates

Ms. Chandler presented the following resolutions:

Resolution 21-34 directing a public comment period for an amendment to the FY21-24 TIP to add Park N' Ride and parking lot purchase for FRED Transit; and

Resolution 21-35 amending the FY21-24 TIP to adjust FY22-24 funds for FRED Transit projects; and

Resolution 21-36 amending the FY21-24 TIP to open the preliminary engineering (PE) phase

of UPC 119189, Route 1 and Route 208 Area Multimodal and Revitalization Improvements

Mr. Graham asked if Resolution 21-35 would take funding away from rolling stock. Mr. Quirke responded that the funding changes would not take funding away from rolling stock vehicles, rather, the breakdown of the funding figures changed by allocation sources, but do not impact the implementation of projects. These changes are administrative in nature.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 21-34, Resolution 21-35, and Resolution 21-36.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Mr. McLaughlin

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

f. FAMPO Transportation Improvement Survey

Mr. Ollis highlighted preliminary survey findings from the Transportation Improvements Survey which is being conducted by staff. The survey ends June 25th and staff have collected almost 1,000 responses.

g. FY21 Year in Review and Way Forward

Mr. Ollis summarized staff accomplishments during the passing fiscal year and noted upcoming projects staff expect to complete in the coming fiscal year.

h. Schedule Update

Mr. Hager presented an updated committee meeting calendar.

i. FAMPO Support for Spotsylvania County 2021 RAISE Grant Application

Mr. Ollis presented a letter submitted by Spotsylvania County which was different from the letter contained in the meeting packet. Spotsylvania was asking for committee support for their RAISE Grant application.

Motion was made to support Spotsylvania's RAISE Grant application.

Motion: Mr. McLaughlin; Second: Mr. Coen.

Motion passed with Mr. Kelly voting against.

j. Resolution 21-38 Approving the Slate of Officers to Serve in Fiscal Year 2022 (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ollis noted that names had been pre-selected by staff based on prior election cycles, but the committee could make changes as they deemed appropriate. Mr. Kelly asked that his name be removed and replaced with Mr. Graham. Ms. Vanuch deferred to Ms. Shelton on whether she would remain as an officer representing Stafford County, and Ms. Shelton agreed.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 21-38, as amended.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

k. Resolution 21-39 Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Cindy Shelton

Mr. Ollis thanked Ms. Shelton for her service and stated that staff enjoyed working with her and appreciated her guidance and ability to foster cooperation.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 21-39.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence.

9. Staff and Agency Reports

Ms. Shropshire noted that TAP and revenue sharing applications are due July 1st.

10. Board Member and Chair Comments

No comments.

11. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: August 16, 2021 at 6:00pm