

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 16, 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. Matthew Rowe, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Michael Hoyt, Caroline County
Mr. Justin Chenault, Caroline County
Mr. Al Durante, Spotsylvania County
Mr. David Swan, Stafford County
Mr. Wade Suddreth, Stafford County
Dr. Robert Gates, King George County
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. John Castellarin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Ken Pogue, Caroline County
Mr. Melvin Allen, Sr., Stafford County
Mr. Neil Holloran, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Ethylean Crenshaw, Stafford County
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County
Ms. Tara Durant, Stafford County
Mr. Dustin Savage, At-Large

Others Present:

Ms. Kate Gibson, George Washington Regional Commission

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

1. Call to Order – Chairman Dave McLaughlin
The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.
2. Roll Call – Stacey Feindt
Ms. Feindt called the roll.
3. **Approval of the June 16, 2021, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**
Motion was made to approve the June 16, 2021, CTAC agenda.
Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Swan.
Motion passed with unanimous consent.
4. **Approval of May 12, 2021, CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**
Motion was made to approve the May 12, 2021, CTAC meeting minutes
Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Swan.
Motion passed with unanimous consent.
5. Old Business – Chair McLaughlin
 - a. Discussion on CTAC’s Advisory Role and FRED Transit Experiences.

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the opportunity from the previous CTAC meeting for members to take the FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED) Travel Training with Tamara Banks.

Ms. Feindt mentioned that it is a free FRED experience and several FAMPO staff members have completed it. She conveyed that members would get to experience what it is like to ride the FRED bus.

Mr. Durante asked if the training is open to all area residents.

Ms. Feindt said that previously it was not, but now the new grant makes it open to any FAMPO resident.
6. Review of May 20, 2021, Policy Committee Meeting
Ms. Feindt reviewed the May 20th Policy Committee meeting which included a public hearing for several items including an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Community Engagement and Equity Plan (CEEP), and the FY22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The public hearing received two supportive comments. Other items included an update from VDOT on variable speed limits along northbound I95, a letter being sent to the Virginia secretary of transportation on I95 improvements for an extra lane between exit 130 and exit 126, and lastly the approval of Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funding for phase II of FAMPO’s East-West Mobility Study in conjunction with the approval of CMAQ/STBG funding allocations.
7. Public Comment
Ms. Feindt read one public comment submitted by resident, David Lee Gayle, which expressed concern about cyclists creating dangerous situations by riding on local and rural roads that are narrow and winding. He encouraged FAMPO to work to prohibit or discourage cyclists from riding on local

and rural roads that cannot safely accommodate both drivers and cyclists.

8. Member Discussion and Action

a. GWRideConnect Leased Parking Spaces Update – Kate Gibson

Ms. Gibson gave a presentation on the GWRideConnect Leased Parking Program. She spoke of the general role of GWRideConnect in Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies to reduce travel demand or redistribute demand. Specifically, GWRideConnect is seeking approval from the FAMPO Policy Committee to lease parking spaces at Chatham Square, Claiborne Run, and Field House with \$12,789 in CMAQ funding through UPC 87764.

Mr. Swan asked if the funding includes security at any of the locations.

Ms. Gibson said that the lot owners would be in charge of security; however, there is language that they are not liable for any damage.

Mr. McLaughlin asked to confirm that GWRideConnect was one of the most effective programs in the nation.

Ms. Gibson confirmed that GWRideConnect is nationally recognized and one of the most robust vanpooling programs in the country.

b. Endorsement of the Community Engagement and Equity Plan (ACTION ITEM) – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt noted that this document is going before the FAMPO Policy Committee for approval at the June meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin noted the first sentence in the document as being in essence CTAC's mission statement. He noted that it is a significant paragraph and one that CTAC should pay attention too.

Ms. Feindt mentioned that the document was developed with feedback from focus group members.

Mr. McLaughlin asked how stakeholders are added to the community partners list.

Ms. Feindt said that the list of stakeholders is used by staff as a public outreach resource. Focus group members contributed to the list and the list will grow.

Motion was made to approve the Community Engagement and Equity Plan May 12, 2021, Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Durante.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

c. King George Transit Feasibility Study Update – Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane presented an update on a feasibility study to reinstate FRED service in King George County. Staff are analyzing recent data to identify whether service could or should be reinstated. He highlighted an analysis of commuters and StreetLight data.

Mr. Durante asked about a commuter bus from Fredericksburg to Dahlgren and if it only operates during the morning and evening, would the bus stay out in Dahlgren during the day?

Mr. Lehane responded that it is too early in the process to know the details.

Mr. Durante asked if the commuter route would run the service during the day to provide service to students attending Germanna Community College.

Mr. Lehane responded that this certainly is an opportunity and that one of the scenarios is to

provide service during the day.

Mr. Ollis responded that in the case of a commuter service, it is unlikely that buses would stay out in Dahlgren during the day. The bus would likely go out and back, bringing commuters both ways.

Mr. Swan responded that commuter buses had the same issue when several companies provided commuter bus service north into Washington D.C.

d. SMART SCALE Round 5 – Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane gave an update on the Round 5 SMART SCALE process. He mentioned that FAMPO/GWRC are working together for the Round 5 submission process and that the process has started within the TAC for the development of a preliminary list of projects.

Mr. Ollis added that SMART SCALE is the state of Virginia’s funding mechanism for the allocation of transportation funding.

e. Transportation Improvements Survey – Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis spoke of the ongoing transportation survey that FAMPO staff have built. The aims of the survey are to find accessibility gaps in the FAMPO transportation system from the public’s point of view, to understand commuter’s transportation choices and why they prefer those options, while also exploring public opinion on multimodal options to ease congestion and improve accessibility. The survey results will inform the 2050 LRTP the East-West Mobility Study, and to help localities identify future project ideas. At the time of the publication of the CTAC meeting agenda, the survey had over 700 responses.

Ms. Feindt asked CTAC members to help FAMPO reach over 1,000 responses. She asked members to send the survey to three other people, share on social media, and encouraged them to take the survey.

Mr. Farley had a question about the functionality of the survey, in that, the survey only shows four questions at first glance.

Mr. Lehane responded that once individuals answer each question, more questions would pop up depending on their previous answers.

Mr. Swan mentioned that he took the survey before the CTAC meeting; however, he had some trouble putting in his home and work locations. Furthermore, he added that overall, he felt it was a well put together survey and hoped that we reached the goal of 1,000 responses. Lastly, he mentioned the potential for public outreach at the commuter lots.

Mr. Farley added that a poster and flyers with a QR code would be a good idea.

Mr. Lehane responded that staff have put together several posters and flyers with information on the survey and included QR codes. Staff have conducted in-person outreach at several events.

Mr. Ollis added that with individuals’ home and work locations and the long form questions, staff can analyze those locations for problems and understand some of the difficulties residents may face.

Mr. Durante asked about the survey deadline.

Mr. Ollis responded that the deadline is Friday, June 25th.

Mr. Swan added that he would reach out to Quantico to see if they could send the survey out to

area residents.

f. Election of CTAC Officers (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. McLaughlin asked if there were any individuals interested in being officers. If not, then CTAC, per the bylaws, could wait until the next scheduled meeting in August to decide.

Motion was made to delay the election to the next scheduled meeting.

Motion: Mr. Swan; Second: Mr. Farley.

Mr. McLaughlin opposed; all others were in favor.

Motion passed with one member opposed.

Mr. Ollis added that members should help solicit new members.

9. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11. Staff Reports

Ms. Feindt mentioned a few items. She noted that it was Al Durante's last CTAC meeting and thanked him for his commitment and work.

At a previous meeting, CTAC had asked about the possibility of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) representative, Cedric Rucker, to speak at a CTAC meeting. Ms. Feindt mentioned that he was currently out of the country and she would reach out once he was back.

Staff continue to work to fill the empty CTAC member seats.

Staff would be at the downtown farmers market on Saturday between 9am and 1pm doing public outreach for the FAMPO survey.

Staff had attended a FRED Transit meeting and learned about the early stages of FRED's rebranding efforts. When ideas are more concrete, FRED will solicit public input.

Mr. Lehane will be working on a survey map for CTAC transportation outreach efforts.

At the next CTAC meeting, FAMPO Bike/Ped planner Kari Barber will give a presentation on current bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts related to the East Coast Greenway.

12. Member Reports

Mr. McLaughlin added to Ms. Feindt's comments on the service of Al Durante as a CTAC member.

He asked that staff present a year in review presentation at the next CTAC meeting, similar to what was presented at the June TAC meeting.

Mr. Swan mentioned the state budget surplus which is in excess of \$1 billion. He asked that CTAC consider sending a message to the CTB in regards to shoulders on rural roadways to increase their safety.

Mr. Durante mentioned that he has talked with several Spotsylvania County supervisors about adding CTAC members and that they would be nominating people. He said that this was his last CTAC meeting and mentioned his appreciation towards CTAC and FAMPO staff and thanked them for the opportunity to participate in CTAC.

Mr. McLaughlin wanted to remind CTAC members about the opportunity to ride FRED Transit which was spoken of earlier in the meeting and to share the FAMPO Transportation Improvements Survey

13. Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting August 11, 2021, at 6:00 pm

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm. Motion was made by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Durante. Motion passed unanimously.