

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 - 6:00pm
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/>

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/>

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Dave McLaughlin, Chair, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Joshua Brock, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Matthew Rowe, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Neil Holloran, Spotsylvania County (remotely; virtual attendance from home approved; personal conflict)
Mr. Wade Suddreth, Stafford County (remotely; virtual attendance from home approved; personal conflict)
Ms. Tara Durant, Stafford County
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large

Committee Members Present but Unable to Fully Participate as Members:

Mr. David Swan, Stafford County (remotely; virtual attendance not requested in advance)
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County (remotely; virtual attendance not requested in advance)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. John Castellarin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Ken Pogue, Caroline County
Mr. Michael Hoyt, Caroline County
Mr. Justin Chenault, Caroline County
Dr. Robert Gates, King George County
Mr. Dustin Savage, At-Large

Others Present:

Mr. Aidan Quirke, FREDericksburg Regional Transit
Mr. Joe Brito
Mr. Hank Scharpenberg
Ms. Annalee

Staff Present:

Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner & Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator (remotely)
Ms. Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner

Ms. Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner (remotely)
Mr. Adam Hager, Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair McLaughlin at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Feindt called the roll. She clarified virtual participation rules based on FOIA requirements.

3. **Approval of the August 11, 2021 Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Farley proposed moving agenda item 8.a to after item 3. He also proposed a new agenda item regarding making access to the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) building off limits to unvaccinated participants. Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Rowe. Motion to approve the agenda as amended passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Member Discussion and Action**

a. Public Comment Period for FRED Transit Amendment

Ms. Feindt shared information related to a TIP amendment that is currently in a public comment period. FRED requested FAMPO add the purchase of a parking lot to the TIP to align with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) FY22 Six-Year Improvement Program. Three comments have been received by staff to date and summarized by Ms. Feindt.

Mr. Quirke summarized the history of the project and indicated it is funded and approved by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and DRPT. He highlighted some of the options the purchase of the lots will provide. In the short term, they would be used for additional parking but in the future could be leased or utilized in a different fashion.

Mr. Farley asked for clarification regarding potential uses in the future and highlighted the need for more pedestrian-friendly improvements. Mr. Quirke concurred and noted that the purchase of the lots does not lock FRED into parking spaces in the long term. He noted the need to increase ridership on the system.

Mr. Brock asked whether FRED is engaged in commuter options on I-95. Mr. Quirke clarified that, no, FRED does not operate commuter buses. However, FRED is looking to operate some additional feeder bus service to local Amtrak/VRE stations.

Chair McLaughlin noted that Mr. Quirke's comments provided more context than what was in the 2017 Transit Development Plan. Mr. Hager clarified that FAMPO's role in the process is to add the fully funded project into the TIP so funds can be expended.

Mr. Farley inquired about the possibility of a new transit hub at the Amtrak station. Mr. Quirke noted that there are no current plans to add a new hub but it is likely in the future.

Mr. Brock and Mr. Gross commented on the possibility of utilizing capital funding to develop income-generating assets for the agency. Mr. Quirke described the prevalence of such practices in Asia, but it is not very common in the United States. He reiterated that it is important for FRED to maintain flexibility with its formula funding.

5. Approval of June 16, 2021 CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the June 16, 2021 CTAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Gross.

Abstentions: Mr. Rowe.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

6. Old Business

Chair McLaughlin did not present any old business.

7. Review of June 21, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting

Ms. Feindt reviewed the June 21, 2021 Policy Committee meeting which included the discontinuance of the leased commuter parking spaces funding through GWRideConnect, the new FAMPO Community Engagement and Equity Plan, a presentation by the Federal Highway Administration regarding transportation management areas (TMAs), and a presentation by PlanRVA regarding regional transportation authorities.

8. Public Comment

Mr. Brito provided comments related to a proposal he has developed to add a new road in Stafford County. Chair McLaughlin invited Mr. Brito to share his Facebook page with the group where members could learn more about the proposal.

Ms. Feindt read a public comment submitted by FAMPO area resident Ms. Jane Leeds which focused on fair allotment of funding from the anticipated federal infrastructure bill and related opportunities for FAMPO to improve transportation access to those with mobility issues.

9. Member Discussion and Action

a. Transportation Improvements Survey Findings

Mr. Lehane reviewed the recently conducted transportation improvements survey in which FAMPO received 1,060 responses. He summarized the data, the analysis staff conducted, and described the maps that have been developed. He highlighted the overall impressions and conclusions from the survey.

Mr. Rowe asked if the answers to this survey were similar or different to surveys from the past few years from FAMPO. Mr. Lehane noted that there has not been a similar survey in recent years by FAMPO, but other planning partners such as DRPT and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) have.

Mr. Gross asked about challenges faced by those who have disabilities in survey responses. Mr. Lehane responded that there were some responses by those who identified as having a disability – about 5% in total.

Mr. Rowe, Mr. Brito, and Mr. Lehane discussed the percentages of those who live in the FAMPO region who work inside the region vs. outside the region.

b. Draft Transportation Project List for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Chandler presented information related to the development of the draft project lists for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She described the overall intent of the plan and how new projects were collected, scored, prioritized, and incorporated.

Mr. Hager added context regarding the project scoring sheets and the fields in the draft project lists. He referred members to the packet and offered hard copies to members who did not have

access.

Chair McLaughlin noted that interstate projects are listed by jurisdiction and questioned if this listing was based on priority. Mr. Hager noted that the projects have been prioritized prior to being added to the list and that the draft list is sorted by functional classification – roadway type – and then further arranged by jurisdiction.

Chair McLaughlin asked who scored the 2050 candidate projects and Mr. Hager responded that FAMPO staff scored and ranked the projects in accordance with the FAMPO LRTP Prioritization Methodology which is available on the FAMPO website.

Chair McLaughlin asked if there are any exceptions or decisions that staff made outside of the scoring criteria. Mr. Hager noted that there are two projects that were treated as exceptions, which is acceptable in the language of the recently approved prioritization methodology.

Mr. Farley asked what a “UPC” was. Mr. Hager noted that Universal Project Code (UPC) is linked to VDOT Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) and finances for each project. He noted that staff would send out a link to this site in the committee meeting summary email.

Mr. Rowe asked what the “Cost to Complete” column represented in the project list table. Mr. Hager noted that some projects are fully funded but on the list for consistency with VDOT/DRPT plans. VDOT has asked for specific projects to remain on the list, even if construction has been completed, until project can be financially closed out.

Mr. Gross asked where the criteria for scoring came from and whether it aligns with SMART SCALE. Mr. Hager said that staff used the approved LRTP Prioritization Methodology which closely reflects the VDOT SMART SCALE process.

c. Update on Regional Trail Connection Work

Ms. Barber highlighted recent work from a Department of Forestry grant awarded to GWRC for a regional greenway plan. She provided an overview of the project and noted that a final report is being developed which is scheduled for completion in October. She also reviewed a map that had been agreed upon by the localities that showed priority areas for new greenway connections.

Chair McLaughlin asked about the recent issue with the Leeland trail. Ms. Barber noted that is a separate issue from the current greenway study. Chair McLaughlin asked staff to prepare a briefing related to the recent article about the Leeland area.

d. Nominations and Election of Officers (ACTION ITEM)

There were no nominations for chair or vice chair. Chair McLaughlin mentioned that the bylaws allow staff to run meetings in the absence of a chair and vice chair. He stated the other option was for him to serve month-to-month until there was a nomination, noting it was not his preference to remain as chairman; the role should be handed over to a new locality. Mr. Gross expressed satisfaction with Chair McLaughlin remaining in the chair position on a month-by-month basis until there was a nomination, or for staff to lead the meetings; members did not object to either option.

e. Bylaw Amendment to Define Quorum

Ms. Feindt noted that CTAC needs to establish a quorum for its public meetings. Chair McLaughlin said he would lean toward something with a low threshold. Ms. Feindt pointed to suggested bylaw language in the meeting packet which referenced a proposed quorum of at least five members and two of the three FAMPO jurisdictions represented.

Motion was made to approve the bylaw amendment as presented by staff.

Motion: Mr. Gross. Second: Mr. Farley.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

f. **GWRC Building Rules**

Mr. Farley sought discussion from the group regarding sending a resolution to the Policy Committee requesting barring individuals from the building who are not fully vaccinated. A motion was made by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Gross. Chair McLaughlin shared that FAMPO does not own the building. Mr. Farley withdrew his motion.

10. Public Comment

Mr. Brito commented that the greenway map presented complemented his proposal shared earlier in the meeting.

11. Correspondence

Ms. Feindt noted that the public comment read by staff earlier in the meeting is included in the packet under Correspondence.

12. Staff Reports

Ms. Feindt mentioned the recently commenced FAMPO East-West Mobility Study, a forthcoming meeting with a public hearing in Spotsylvania County for a proposed amendment to their comprehensive plan, and a forthcoming meeting for proposed Fred Transit service changes to the University of Mary Washington routes.

13. Member Reports

Mr. Holloran shared he is working to increase CTAC participation in Spotsylvania County.

14. Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting September 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Gross. Motion passed unanimously.