

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Draft

September 13, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.fampo.gwregion.org

Committee Members Present: *(V) indicates voting member*

Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, First Vice-Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Matthew Kelly, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Timothy Barody, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Cindy Lamb, Second Vice-Chair, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford County (V)
Mr. Mark Dudenhefer, Stafford County (V)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County
Mr. Aidan Quirke, alternate, FREDericksburg Regional Transit alternate (FRED)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate VDOT
Mr. Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) (Virtual attendance – medical reason given)
Mr. Hank Scharpenberg, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

Committee Members Present (remotely, without virtual participation request):

Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V) (Virtual attendance from home)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Chair, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Gary Skinner, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Mark Whitley, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Meg Bohmke, alternate Stafford County (V)
Mr. Tom Coen, alternate Stafford County (V)
Ms. Annie Cupka, King George County
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County
Ms. Jamie Jackson, FRED
Ms. Ciara Williams, alternate DRPT
Mr. Matthew Rowe, CTAC alternate
Mr. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Mr. Cedric Rucker, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

Others Present:

Ms. Kate Gibson, GWRC (remote attendance)
Ms. Michele Dooling, GWRC (remote attendance)
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect (remote attendance)
Ms. Linda LaSut, VDOT (remote attendance)
Mr. Jim Ponticello, VDOT (remote attendance)
Mr. Dan Grinnell, VDOT (remote attendance)
Mr. Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County (remote attendance)
Mr. Alex Owsiak, Stafford County (remote attendance)
Ms. Jennifer Falknor, Healthy Generations (remote attendance)
Ms. TaMara Banks, FRED (remote attendance)
Mr. Zach Harris, Michael Baker International, (remote attendance)

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner/Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner
Ms. Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner
Mr. Adam Hager, Transportation Planner

1. Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order

Vice Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Mr. Ollis conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.

3. Approval of the September 20, 2021 Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the September 20, 2021 Policy Committee agenda.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Lamb
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Public Involvement

Staff read one comment from Ms. Jane Leeds, a FAMPO area resident, related to safety and accessibility concerns, especially for those with disabilities.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of August 16, 2021, Policy Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Lamb
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

6. FAMPO Administrator Report

Mr. Ollis provided a report focused on the continued impact of COVID-19 on transportation, a newly formed Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, and the FAMPO CMAQ/STBG project selection process. He also provided an update on the FAMPO Congestion Management Process

(CMP) Performance Monitoring Program.

Mr. Kelly asked whether it would be worthwhile for the committee to consider a resolution requesting more representation in the FAMPO area on the VPRA.

Ms. Lamb added to Mr. Kelly's statement and noted she would go to the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) transportation subcommittee to discuss the issue.

Mr. Ollis noted staff is glad to take direction from the board regarding next steps with the VPRA.

7. Action/Discussion Items

a. Lafayette Boulevard Traffic Study Update

Mr. Harris shared the draft set of recommendations for the study which includes near- and long-term improvements. Near-term improvements are generally lower in cost and fit within the existing right-of-way (ROW) while long-term recommendations are larger in scope and will require ROW acquisition. Mr. Harris reviewed each specific recommendation and provided details on how they were developed over the course of the study effort.

Mr. Graham noted that there are approximately \$10M in near-term recommendations and \$15M in long-term recommendations. He asked whether an alternatives analysis had been conducted looking at what kinds of bus/transit improvements could occur with such amounts of funding. Mr. Harris responded that this has not been considered. Mr. Ollis noted that transit was considered in a separate phase of this study.

Mr. Kelly noted that Lafayette Boulevard has been studied for a long time. He asked why the widening recommendations tend to be on the southern part of the corridor and not in the City of Fredericksburg. Mr. Harris said that the original scope of the study called for looking at ways of using the existing pavement width. A few alternatives were considered related to traffic movement within a three-lane width, but there were limitations in extending the widening recommendations further north. Traffic operations would be difficult if widening were recommended further north.

Mr. Ollis reiterated the constraint of the existing ROW. Mr. Haynes shared that the focus was to find cost effective solutions with this study.

Mr. Kelly added that a bottleneck would continue if the corridor is only widened in Spotsylvania County.

Ms. Lamb asked if this was a STARS Study. Mr. Haynes responded that this is a FAMPO study that was initiated with Phase I a couple of years ago. Ms. Lamb asked who the stakeholders were for this study. Mr. Haynes noted that the City of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County, VDOT, and FAMPO.

Mr. Yakabouski asked whether recent studies at the Four Mile Fork area were taken into account with this effort. Mr. Haynes said that a recent improvement at the Four Mile Fork area has been funded but it may not have been explicitly added to this study given the recency.

b. SMART SCALE Round 5 Initial Project Selection

Mr. Lehane shared an update on the SMART SCALE process and informed the board that staff has developed an initial set of projects for submission at the regional level for FAMPO and GWRC.

Mr. Ollis reviewed the project lists and added that they are preliminary in nature; no action is being requested of the board and changes can take place before the official pre-application period. He added that many projects are multi-jurisdictional which tend to score favorably in the SMART SCALE process.

Mr. Kelly appreciated the Lafayette Boulevard roadway and bike/ped project elements being included together. Mr. Ollis said staff is considering a transit element as well.

Ms. Lamb noted that Stafford is continuing to review the project list and may not think it is the right list. Mr. Ollis responded that staff is happy to take comments and make adjustments.

Mr. Dudenhefer, Ms. Parker, and Mr. Haynes discussed ongoing work related to the development of the project lists, specifically related to I-95 Exit 136 and Centreport Parkway.

Mr. Graham asked if action was requested of the board. Mr. Ollis and Mr. Hager responded that no action was being requested tonight.

Ms. Coffey noted that while no action is required, VDOT is asking for applicants to provide as much information as possible at this point.

Mr. Graham invited a motion for action, but no motion was made. The board concurred with staff's recommendation to submit the list as presented.

c. Resolution 22-06: Supporting Transportation Alternatives Program Applications (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Barber shared information related to the pending submission of TAP projects and asked the board for approval in support of local applications.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 22-06.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Lamb
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

d. Resolution 22-07: Approving the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Fiscally Constrained Project Lists (ACTION ITEM)

1. Public Comments Received
2. Presentation
3. Letter to the Policy Committee from the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee
4. Draft 2050 LRTP Project Lists

Mr. Ollis shared an update on the LRTP and reviewed the minor changes made to the fiscally constrained project lists since August. He informed the committee that members of the public submitted comments which were included in the meeting packet. He added that the FAMPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee has submitted a letter to the Policy Committee regarding the absence of a new river crossing project in the draft project lists.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 22-07.
Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Lamb

Regarding the CTAC letter, Mr. Scharpenberg shared that the CTAC believes the critical issue in the region is the gridlock and not including a river crossing project will inhibit the transportation system if this issue is kicked down the road.

Mr. Ollis said project specifics must be provided in order to include the project for air quality conformity. Mr. Kelly encouraged Mr. Scharpenberg to continue discussions at the CTAC and invited further discussion with the Policy Committee, but the approval of the project lists was urgent tonight and must move forward.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Resolution 22-08: Endorsing the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Fiscally Constrained Project Lists for Air Quality Conformity Analysis (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve Resolution 22-08.
Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Lamb
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

6. Resolution 22-09: Authorizing the Technical Advisory Committee to Approve the Draft Air Quality Conformity Report for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Fiscally Constrained Project List for Public Comment (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve Resolution 22-09.
Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Lamb
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

e. Resolution 22-10: Appointing Jane Leeds as an At-Large Member to the CTAC (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve Resolution 22-10.

Motion: Mr. Lamb; Second: Mr. Kelly
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

f. Resolution 22-11: Appointing TaMara Banks as an At-Large Member to the CTAC (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve Resolution 22-11.

Motion: Mr. Lamb; Second: Mr. Kelly
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

g. FY22 FAMPO Meetings Calendar Update

Mr. Hager shared an updated calendar with committee members and noted that the chair has suggested moving the January and February Policy Committee meeting dates back one week due to holidays.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence was shared.

9. Staff and Agency Reports

Mr. Ollis shared that FAMPO is currently advertising for a Transportation Planner II/III and transportation planning internship.

Ms. Parker shared that there is information on VDOT's social media related to upcoming roadway improvements.

10. Board Member and Chair Comments

No comments were made.

11. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: October 18, 2021 at 6:00pm

Vice Chair Graham adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.