

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 8, 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, Chairman
Mr. Joshua Brock
Mr. John Castellarin
Mr. Matthew Rowe
Ms. Patricia Encarnacion (remote attendance– health concerns, arrived at 6:10 pm, left at 7:35pm)
Mr. Neil Holloran (remote attendance – health concerns, arrived at 6:03)
Mr. David Swan
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith (remote attendance – health concerns, arrived at 6:03)
Ms. Tara Durant (arrived at 6:04)
Mr. Henry Scharpenberg
Dr. Robert Gates (remote attendance– personal reason, arrived at 6:03)
Mr. Rupert Farley
Mr. Dustin Savage (remote attendance– health concerns, left at 6:24)
Mr. Rodney Thomas

Committee Members Present but Unable to Fully Participate as Members:

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Ken Pogue
Mr. Michael Hoyt
Mr. Justin Chenault
Mr. Larry Gross

Others Present:

Mr. Brandon Brown (remote attendance- arrived at 6:45)
Ms. TaMara Banks (remote attendance)

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair McLaughlin at 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Feindt conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the September 8, 2021, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the September 13, 2021, CTAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Rowe

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Approval of August 11, 2021, CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the August 2, 2021, TAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Swan

Abstentions: Mr. Savage, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Scharpenberg

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Old Business

No old Business was discussed

6. Review of August 16, 2021, Policy Committee Meeting – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt reviewed the highlights of the August Policy Committee meeting where she summarized presentations and actions taken for the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment for a FRED project, appointment of an at-large Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) member, the closed session to discuss on-call consultants, and a resolution to appoint 3 new on-call contracts.

7. Public Comment

Ms. Feindt read a public comment from FAMPO resident, Ms. Jane Leeds.

Ms. Banks from Health Generations Area Agency on Aging (HGAAA) whom is a FRED Transit Travel trainer asked the committee over the next few months to get out and ride the FRED Transit service so that committee members can understand what those in the underserved and disabled communities experience on public transportation. She asked that members ride FRED so that they

can make informed decisions. She wanted committee members to reach out to her to discuss the challenges they see when riding the bus. Further, she mentioned several accessibility issues that residents may experience such as access to the Fredericksburg Nationals baseball stadium and other area businesses.

Mr. Ollis requested that the CTAC send the letter from Ms. Jane Leeds to VDOT and VRE as it contained detailed solutions that can be implemented by these agencies rather than the CTAC committee. Mr. McLaughlin said that they would forward the letter.

8. Member Discussion and Action

a. Where Do Transportation Projects Come From? – Jordan Chandler

Ms. Chandler presented information on the process for transportation projects “Where do they come from, where do they go”. During this presentation she discussed several topics including where projects begin as a study, such as STARS studies, VDOT Project Pipeline studies, regional studies, and local studies. Then she discussed how recommendations are developed, and their approval and incorporation into local and regional plans which include local comprehensive plans and the FAMPO LRTP and TIP. Lastly, she discussed the application funding process and the funding sources available.

Mr. McLaughlin asked for an example of STARS study. Mr. Lehane responded with the Route 3 STARS study, where several SMART SCALE projects have been applied for with those recommendations. This study created recommendations on Route 3 between I-95 and the Rappahannock River in the City of Fredericksburg. Ms. Chandler mentioned that FAMPO staff can send out a presentation which included links to each type of project, study, and funding source.

Mr. Rowe asked if signalization improvements were included in this process. Mr. Chandler responded that this is a project that can be studied and implemented through various funding sources. Mr. Lehane gave an example of a SMART SCALE project that was a transit signal optimization project.

Mr. Scharpenberg asked about how FAMPO applies for funding for studies and projects. Ms. Chandler responded that staff would apply for funding grants for studies and gave the most recent example of receiving funding from DRPT for the East-West Mobility study. She also mentioned the SMART SCALE application funding process as a source for project funding. Mr. Scharpenberg followed with a question as to who provides the money. Ms. Chandler mentioned that there are local, state, and federal funding sources. For example, SMART SCALE funding comes from the state, whereas CMAQ/STBG funding comes from federal sources.

Mr. Thomas asked if localities and FAMPO can apply for the same funding sources. Ms. Chandler replied that it is different for each funding source. She gave examples of where staff receive applications from localities and prioritize funding for CMAQ/STBG which is then approved by the FAMPO Policy Committee, or where localities/FAMPO/GWRC can apply for funding through SMART SCALE which is then approved by the state. Mr. Ollis added that the role FAMPO generally plays in the funding process is to help decide what projects to apply for localities and how to prioritize this funding.

Mr. Swan added that of importance is who is doing the accounting of the funding and projects, and that in many cases this is VDOT whom keeps track of the amounts of funding available in each funding source.

Mr. Lehane gave an example of studies and projects that have and are taking place on Lafayette Boulevard. He mentioned the Lafayette Boulevard transit and roadway studies as places where recommendations have come from and mentioned the process for receiving funding for those recommendations including working with county planners and VDOT to apply for funding through the SMART SCALE program in Round 4 for Lafayette Boulevard Multimodal Improvements and potentially for Round 5.

Mr. Scharpenberg added onto the discussion by questioning the role CTAC plays in the process in advocating for projects. He discussed its role as a regional body and in advocating at the county level for regional projects. Mr. Brock added that those who know best as to what is wrong with the transportation system are those that use it every day, the citizens. He mentioned methods such as surveys, studies, and CTAC as methods for getting that information and then turning that information into actual projects. Mr. Ollis added that in the end, the role is of the FAMPO Policy Committee to vote and approve studies and projects. He mentioned that he would welcome resolutions from CTAC to support specific things. Further discussion took place between Mr. Brock and Mr. Swan regarding CTAC's history of writing resolutions of support.

Mr. Farley added that there are projects that pop up on projects lists that nobody asked for and feels that money goes down the drain because a roadway has worse congestion. Mr. Brock added that that discussion regarding how projects are prioritized for funding. Further, Mr. Swan discussed how cost-estimation for projects is done and Mr. McLaughlin added onto the discussion regarding the project creation process and citizen input.

Mr. Ollis followed the discussion that the next item on the agenda discusses the approval for all projects in the FAMPO Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP). He mentioned that this is the chance for CTAC to make input on that list.

- b. Discussion on Draft Transportation List of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan – Jordan Chandler
 - i. Draft Transportation Project List
 - ii. Review of Public Comments Received on the Draft Project List – Stacey Feindt
 - iii. Discussion on sending CTAC comments on the Draft Project List to the Policy Committee (ACTION ITEM) – Chair McLaughlin

Ms. Chandler presented information on the draft project list for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. She noted the three major updates since the August CTAC meeting which included removing the cost redundancy between highway and active transportation application elements, the inclusion of TAP applications in concurrence with BPAC, and adjusting the inflation rate used in the mid- and out- years to include a compounding interest rate. She reviewed the overall number of projects in the draft list and their breakdown by mode and agency/jurisdiction.

Ms. Feindt reviewed public comments received on the draft project list.

Mr. McLaughlin asked as to how staff respond to public comments. Ms. Feindt said that staff respond to all public comments and will follow up with all public comments after the policy committee to mentioned how their comments were considered before final decisions were made.

Ms. Durant asked how members can reconcile the public comments with actual projects on the list. Ms. Feindt responded that some public comments contained actual project information

and that staff can provide information as to how comments line up with the project list.

Mr. Ollis discussed that the CLRP list of projects come from the localities and not from FAMPO staff. Localities have requested that staff prioritize and show reasonable belief that there will be funds for these projects. He mentioned that public comments should be sent to the localities as the project specifically come from the localities not the staff.

Mr. McLaughlin added that CTAC has two options, one to individually have members review the list and provide comments by Monday September 20th, the day of the Policy Committee, or that if there are items that CTAC are united on then they could act as a committee to make comments on the list.

Mr. Ollis added that no items can be added to the list in the next 12 months after the policy committee approves the list; however, items on the list can be modified by changing smaller aspects of the projects.

Mr. Rowe asked if the year of expenditure can be changed. Mr. Ollis discussed what the year of expenditure is and that within the years, timeframes can be shuffled.

Mr. McLaughlin added that members could also email their representatives on the FAMPO Policy Committee with specific comments. He mentioned that if there are any items members wanted to discuss, then they should at this time.

Mr. Farley said that he is sympathetic to the public commenter who would like VRE trains on the weekends but is not sympathetic to those who want a new bridge across the Rappahannock.

Mr. Brock added that he believes those two ideas are coupled together, and that if you add VRE trains on the weekends you may also need to add another bridge for better accessibility.

Mr. Thomas asked where a bridge may be located as you cannot widen or extend current roadways.

Mr. Scharpenberg added that, and additional bridge may be a way to dissipate traffic from I-95 and Route 1 between Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania. He said that from a regional perspective this is something that should be advocated for. Further, that members of this committee should talk with their representatives and the public and advocate for the project.

Mr. Thomas mentioned that one of his biggest concerns is weekend traffic, especially how traffic backs up on roads, such as Brooke Rd, as out of state travelers attempt to avoid congestion on I-95 and Route 1.

Mr. McLaughlin said that if CTAC feels there is an item that is missing from the list then this is an action item that the committee could take.

Mr. Rowe asked a question in regard to previous studies that have taken place with the outer connector. Mr. Ollis responded that there has been an outer connector project that was approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB); however, then Spotsylvania County voted against the project, and the project did not move forward. At another point, the project was also voted on and the City of Fredericksburg then voted against the project. He said that it has been difficult to get localities to all agree on this project at the same time. Mr. Ollis further explained that this as well as several other reasons are why the project is not in the CLRP.

Mr. Farley discussed his opposition to the project and that the priority in the state is to make walkable pedestrian-oriented communities adding that paving our way out of congestion seems

to be the option chosen, even as it has never worked, and never will. Further, that the cost of the project when compared with a transit-oriented development and the use of congestion pricing could pay for the transit and lead to healthier and more mobile communities.

Mr. Scharpenberg made a motion to request that the Policy Committee contemplates CTAC's concern that the draft project list for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan does not include a study that would examine building a third roadway crossing over the Rappahannock River.

Once the motion was made further discussion was made regarding CTAC's concerns. Motion was made to send a letter to the FAMPO Policy Committee.

Motion: Mr. Scharpenberg; Second: Mr. Thomas

Motion passed 7-4.

c. Interactive Exercise, Mapping Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues – Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane discussed a new tool that FAMPO staff have begun to implement for their Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). In the future, the tool will allow members to make comments on an interactive map in regard to bicycle and pedestrian issues that they see.

d. Nomination and Election of Officers (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. McLaughlin called for nominations for chair and vice chair. Mr. Scharpenberg nominated himself for the chairman position.

Mr. Farley motioned to postpone the item until the next meeting. The motion received no second.

The vote to elect Mr. Scharpenberg as chairman was unanimous.

Mr. McLaughlin asked for nominations for vice chair.

Mr. Rowe nominated himself for the vice chair position.

The vote to elect Mr. Rowe as vice chair was unanimous.

Mr. Scharpenberg made a motion to recognize the service of Mr. McLaughlin as chairman.

The motion was remarkably seconded by everyone simultaneously and all voted in favor.

9. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

10. Correspondence

Ms. Feindt noted two resources included and linked in the agenda, the City of Fredericksburg's Small Area Plan for Celebrate Virginia/Central Park Area, and the GWRC Greenway Trails Survey.

11. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis presented on FAMPO staff's upcoming and current work efforts in his Administrator Report. He discussed the rural work program (RWP), the East-West Mobility study, the Lafayette Boulevard highway study phase 2, other ongoing studies in the FAMPO region, census 2020 figures, the CMAQ/STBG methodology update, the approval of new FAMPO on-call consultants, and current preparations for the fall CTB meetings with the VA Secretary of Transportation.

Ms. Feindt noted upcoming CTAC meeting presentations, one from VDOT on the Leeland Road shared use path project, and another from Spotsylvania County about the county's bond referendum.

These presentations are expected to occur at the October CTAC meeting.

a. CTAC Member Changes

Ms. Feindt welcomed Ms. Patricia Encarnacion, a new City of Fredericksburg Representative, and Mr. Henry Scharpenberg, a new Stafford County Representative, as well as Mr. Rodney Thomas, a new at-larger representative. She also announced the resignation of Mr. Wade Suddreth, a Stafford County CTAC member and thanked him for his service.

She noted there are two open at-large seats, two open city seats, six open Spotsylvania seats, three open Stafford County seats, no open seats for Caroline, and two open King George seats.

12. Member Reports

No members made any reports.

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

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm.

Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Mr. Swan

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.