

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.fampo.gwregion.org

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

Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Chair, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Jason Graham, First Vice-Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Matthew Kelly, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Timothy Baroody, City of Fredericksburg (V)
Ms. Cindy Lamb, Second Vice-Chair, Stafford County (V)
Mr. Mark Dudenhefer, Stafford County (V)
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford County (V)
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V) (remote attendance with personal reason given)
Ms. Betsy Massie, alternate PRTC (V)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)
Ms. Annie Cupka, King George County
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County
Ms. Jamie Jackson, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Mr. Aidan Quirke, 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)
Mr. Hank Scharpenberg, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

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

Ms. Meg Bohmke, alternate Stafford County (V)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Tom Coen, alternate Stafford County (V)
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Gary Skinner, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)
Mr. Mark Whitley, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline County
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County
Mr. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Ms. Ciara Williams, alternate DRPT
Mr. Cedric Rucker, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

Mr. Matthew Rowe, alternate CTAC

Others Present (remotely):

Ms. Emily Stock, DRPT
Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County
Mr. Jim Ponticello, VDOT
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Mr. Nick Ruiz, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
Mr. Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Therese Vogel, member of the public
Ms. Jane Leeds, member of the public

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

1. Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order

Chair McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

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

3. Approval of the October 18, 2021 Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the October 18, 2021 Policy Committee agenda.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Public Involvement

No comments from members of the public.

5. Public Hearing

No comments from member of the public on the Draft Air Quality Conformity Report for the Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of September 20, 2021 Policy Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the September meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Kelly; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. FAMPO Administrator Report

Mr. Ollis provided an update on the SMART SCALE Round 5 timeline and progress. He reported that three staff members had presented at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) conference, and that a FRED employee and OmniRide both received

Virginia Transit Association (VTA) awards. Mr. Ollis encouraged the committee to consider a vision for FAMPO which would establish a direction on what FAMPO should do to meet future transportation needs. He reported that staff continue to work on the draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Environmental Justice Analysis, both of which they anticipate to complete by the end of this year with a presentation to the Policy Committee in February or March of 2022. Staff are also working on updating the Congestion Management Process (CMP).

Mr. Kelly spoke about the proposal for the committee to develop a vision. He noted that technology is moving quickly and that makes it difficult to determine what the future of transportation might look like. Mr. Ollis replied that staff could present information on the current state of emerging technology and anticipated implications.

Mr. Scharpenberg informed the committee that the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) is considering adopting a vision statement and would report back to the board.

8. Action/Discussion Items

a. Virginia State Rail Plan Presentation

Ms. Stock with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) presented on the effort to develop the 2022 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan. Current work includes a draft project list. The final plan is anticipated to be adopted in spring of 2022. While some virtual public outreach has been conducted, more is planned for early next year. The goals of the plan correlate with VTrans goals. The plan is being developed in close coordination with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) and will include policies and plans set forth by the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative. The CTB will ultimately adopt the plan. FAMPO is encouraged to provide feedback on the draft plan.

Mr. Kelly stated that he hoped the plan would place a priority on commuter rail. He stated that freight rail delays the commuter rail service and wonders if the plan will address that problem. Mr. Kelly also mentioned an ongoing issue with freight cars, filled with dangerous materials, being stored near neighborhoods in the City of Fredericksburg. He asked if the State can do anything about this issue now, and whether the plan will address policies for these types of safety issues.

Ms. Stock replied that a good portion of the plan focuses on the FAMPO region. DRPT understands the need to separate freight and commuter rail to reduce delays; it is a priority. With regard to the freight rail cars being stored near residential areas, she will follow up with CSX.

b. Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Fall Meeting Update

Mr. Ollis noted that a date has yet to be announced for the CTB fall meeting. He presented a list of issues that FAMPO will address at the meeting and asked for comments on the list.

Mr. Kelly stated that there needs to be more exit and entry points on I-95 for emergency vehicles. However, he was not requesting that the matter be added to the already extensive list.

c. FAMPO Multimodal East – West Mobility Study Update

Mr. Ollis conveyed that phase one of the study was underway, with two stakeholder meetings completed. The stakeholder members have discussed goals, survey results, specific problem areas, and reviewed predicted regional growth. Staff have developed a public

participation plan. The next stakeholder meeting will be held on December 6, 2021 at 10:30 am. The stakeholder group includes a wide range of regional representatives.

d. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Selection Process Update

Mr. Hager gave an update on staff and subcommittee efforts to update the project selection process for both funding programs. Staff anticipate that the full draft will be sent, via email, to the FAMPO committees in December 2021, with the Policy Committee voting to approve the draft in January 2022. Mr. Hager noted that the meeting packet included all comments received on the previous methodology draft. Further comments are welcome but be mindful of the tight timeframe.

Mr. Ollis added that the current policy is over 10 years old and is in need of an update.

e. FAMPO Bylaws Discussion

Chair McLaughlin noted that he had requested this agenda item and that members should review the current bylaws and propose changes they wish to see. He stated that one concern he has is related to the quorum policy which can result in one FAMPO locality stalling action by boycotting a meeting.

Mr. Kelly said that in the past, bylaws changes were discussed in smaller groups and then suggestions were presented to the full committee. He suggested a similar process but reminded members that the election cycle might interrupt the process as it could result in member changes.

Mr. McLaughlin directed Mr. Ollis to put together a timeline for bylaw review and discussion and to schedule a meeting with the CAOs of the FAMPO localities. The CAOs should begin the process and gather ideas from the localities. A small Policy Committee subcommittee can then meet to discuss the CAO recommendations.

Ms. Lamb added that a similar process was used in the past. She cautioned that during that process all ideas were included into the draft bylaws which produced a document that had legal conflicts and disputed changes. She recommended that suggested changes be vetted before they are included to weed out legal conflicts and impracticable policies.

Mr. Kelly added that bylaws changes should include improvements to meeting processes including the manner in which issues come before the committee. The process in which the committee operates is very important.

Ms. Cupka asked if a revision to the bylaws might include changes to voting status. King George would be interested in becoming a voting member. Mr. Dudenhefer acknowledged it is worth considering but would open a discussion on weighted voting. Chair McLaughlin asked Mr. Ollis to research whether FAMPO could add jurisdictions to its voting membership. Mr. Ollis replied that he would put together a briefing and report back to the board.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Ollis and Ms. Feindt noted that a new Title VI assurance had been signed. This was a routine action that was prompted by a leadership change at FAMPO's fiscal agent, the George Washington Regional Commission.

10. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis noted that FAMPO had hired a temporary part-time intern.

11. Member Comments

Ms. Cupka spoke about a news article that conveyed that an incumbent delegate was campaigning on re-introducing a bill to create a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) for Planning District 16. She said that King George is opposed to such a bill and asked if there was interest among committee members to develop a resolution against any such bill. She noted the General Assembly session starts in January. Ms. Cupka asked whether other FAMPO members had been consulted on the previous bill that was introduced.

Mr. Kelly replied that the City of Fredericksburg had discussions with the delegate about the previous bill and voiced their concerns. He does not think the previous bill had been well-thought out and would only create a bureaucratic process without any taxing authority. He asked that action on a possible resolution be delayed until an actual bill was introduced. FAMPO should not take a stance against all future bills that may seek to create an RTA and, depending on the bill's content, FAMPO may or may not support it.

Mr. Ollis added that he had met with Del. Cole and encouraged him to work with localities. Mr. Ollis had not read the news article Ms. Binder had mentioned.

Ms. Vanuch stated that Stafford County had sent a letter to the General Assembly opposing the bill. She motioned for FAMPO to send a resolution expressing opposition to any future bills of a similar nature.

Mr. Ollis asked that committee members not dismiss the general idea of an RTA.

Chair McLaughlin offered a substitute motion for FAMPO to create a resolution conveying that it does not support the creation of an RTA at this time.

Ms. Vanuch withdrew her motion and seconded the substitute motion.

Mr. Kelly asked the committee to not rush into a decision at this meeting but rather wait to comment on a particular bill. He noted that an RTA may be useful if it resulted in increased transportation funding.

Motion was made to formally resolve that "At this time, the FAMPO Policy Committee is currently opposed to the formation of a regional transportation authority within Planning District 16."

Motion: Chair McLaughlin; Second: Ms. Vanuch

A roll call vote was conducted with results as follows:

Ms. Lamb, aye;

Mr. Dudenhefer, aye;

Ms. Vanuch, aye;

Mr. McLaughlin, aye;

Mr. Kelly, nay;

Mr. Graham, nay;

Mr. Baroody, nay;
Dr. Schneider, abstain;
Ms. Parker, nay;

Motion failed with four ayes, four nays, and one abstention.

Ms. Vanuch requested that the RTA legislation issue be placed on the next Policy Committee meeting agenda. Chair McLaughlin agreed noting that the majority of Spotsylvania members were absent from the current meeting and directed Mr. Ollis to place the matter on the next meeting's agenda.

12. Chair McLaughlin adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Ollis asked for confirmation that the date for the next Policy Committee meeting worked for committee members, noting there was mention of a possible conflict with an upcoming VACo conference. The committee concurred on leaving the date as is.

Next meeting: November 15, 2021 at 6:00pm.