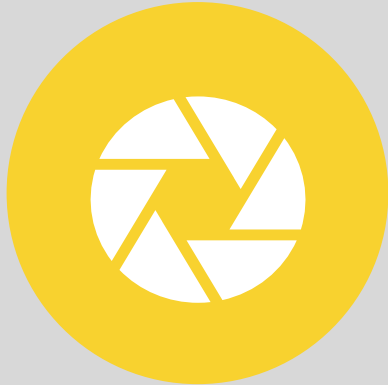


FAMPO ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

November 2021



Overview



FAMPO VISION



BIF



EARLY BUS

Early Bus Service

FRED Has added **an additional hour** of morning service to nine (9) routes

The total hour early ridership count from October 18 to October 29 was 130 passenger trips. A full Comparison can be undertaken in the New Year when we have sufficient data points to make comparisons etc.

Please do advertise this new service in your jurisdictions for public awareness.



What is the future transportation
& planning **Vision** for FAMPO?

- ❖ What would a good outcome be, 50 years from now?
 - ❖ Reduced traffic with more business / population?
 - ❖ Environmental improvements?
 - ❖ Lifestyle improvements?
 - ❖ Affordable transportation?
 - ❖

- ❖ If we can't build our way out of a congestion crisis, what are we going to do – i.e. what are the alternatives?

- ❖ Mega Trends in Transportation:
 - ❖ Funding – Gas Tax is insufficient
 - ❖ Gas tax hasn't covered highway construction & maintenance costs for years
 - ❖ General Taxpayer is funding a portion of the costs via tax appropriations to the fund.
 - ❖ Electrification of vehicles will be the demise of the gas tax – An alternative must be found

- ❖ Mega Trends in Transportation:
 - ❖ Smart technology to make better use of facilities:
 - ❖ Phone apps to plan trips better
 - ❖ Technology to synchronize traffic lights, regulate speed and monitor dangerous & criminal behavior
 - ❖ Technology to manage large transit fleets “on time” & customer experience & wayfinding technology

❖ Mega Trends in Transportation:

- ❖ Electric vehicles of all kinds are the future.
 - ❖ Driver of electrification will be price – once electric is cheaper there will be no point buying gasoline (ICE)
 - ❖ Automobile manufacturers are all betting on electric. Buses, Trucks and trains are following the electrification trend
 - ❖ Charging Stations will be a key new infrastructure need
 - ❖ This is generally good for air quality, unhelpful for congestion (An electric vehicle still takes up space on the road/rail)

❖ Mega Trends in Transportation:

- ❖ Ride-hailing (Uber & Lyft) is betting on an unsustainable future
 - ❖ All ride-hailing companies are essentially loss-making.
 - ❖ Investors will want a return on investment that hasn't materialized
 - ❖ Ergo, Ride-hailing will begin to shrink if a better business model isn't found.
 - ❖ This is a policy concern as larger cities accommodate ride-hailing in policy e.g. Airport access, curb space usage etc.
 - ❖ Autonomous vehicles were touted as the savior of Ride-hailing – much delayed

❖ Mega Trends in Transportation:

- ❖ Autonomous vehicles will be a mixed bag of success and failure
 - ❖ Manufacturers keep delaying launch of “fully autonomous vehicles”
 - ❖ Machine learning only goes so far – A computer cannot determine **why** obstacles are in front of, or approaching, the car, & what the **likely outcome** will be. Researchers refer to the “last 5%” which is almost impossibly difficult to teach a computer.
 - ❖ Legal liability concerns when an autonomous car kills or injures. Likely outcome is “driver assisted” rather than autonomous vehicles
 - ❖ Ride-hailing companies have stopped marketing the future of autonomous taxis as the nirvana for all applications.

❖ Mega Trends in Transportation:

- ❖ Transit is also evolving
 - ❖ In Europe, Asia, Africa and South America, Transit is seen as a public service or public good, not a liability
 - ❖ Transit will electrify also. The key limit is the drain of air-conditioning on batteries in busses and overhead catenary (wires) for trains
 - ❖ True High-speed rail is faster than air travel on destinations up to 400m
 - ❖ Hyperloop transportation unlikely to become a trend due to technical difficulties – (breakdowns in an enclosed vacuum tube could be fatal, cost of maintaining the vacuum is high, throughput isn't high)

❖ Mega Trends in Transportation:

- ❖ Land Use is evolving
 - ❖ Trend toward mixed use rather than separating housing
 - ❖ Dense nodes surrounded by lower densities
 - ❖ Transit & shared-use paths connecting nodes
- ❖ Bike & Ped uses are experiencing a resurgence
 - ❖ Bike- & Scooter-sharing is a business (Docked & Dockless)
 - ❖ Healthy lifestyle options – Greenways & parks
 - ❖ Biking as a form of transportation and not only recreation

BIF

Bipartisan Infrastructure bill (BIF) (Adapted from Vectre Corporation summary)

The bill allots \$550 Billion in new spending over five years on top of current FAST Act funding levels by incorporating the \$303 Billion Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 into the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. In total, the Commonwealth can expect \$10.1 Billion in new funding for infrastructure-related projects over the next five years. Within the BIF, there are several buckets of funding. Those are:

- ❖ \$110 Billion to repair and rebuild roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users. Of this \$110 Billion, Virginia's projected funding per White House estimates is \$537 Million for bridges and \$7 Billion for road projects.
- ❖ \$105 Billion for public transportation and transit. Of this \$105 Billion, \$39 Billion would be used to stabilize transit systems still reeling from COVID-19 and \$66 Billion would be available for Amtrak. Per the White House, Virginia's estimated allotment is \$1.2 Billion in new transit funds.

BIF

- ❖ \$65 Billion for efforts to bridge the digital divide and provide high speed internet connectivity to individuals throughout the country. Virginia is estimated to receive \$100 Million in broadband coverage access funds through a program called Affordability Connectivity Benefit.
- ❖ \$55 Billion for clean drinking water and the elimination of lead pipes. Virginia is expected to receive \$738 Million to improve water infrastructure across the Commonwealth.
- ❖ \$25 Billion for airports. The Commonwealth is expected to receive \$386 Million for airport infrastructure development over the next five years.
- ❖ \$7.5 Billion in electric vehicle infrastructure. The Commonwealth is expected to receive \$106 Million over five years to support the expansion of a vehicle charging network.
- ❖ The Commonwealth is also expected to receive \$15 Million over five years to help fight wildfires and \$21 Million to protect against cyberattacks; in addition, Virginia will benefit from the bill's \$3.5 Billion investment in weatherization of the nation's electrical grid system.

Way Forward

- ❖ 2 key FAMPO Staff are moving to new jobs elsewhere – We are advertising
- ❖ A review of salary scales and professional development is underway
- ❖ The LRTP is moving forward:
 - ❖ We will have a draft completed this year
 - ❖ Public comment period in February/March
- ❖ We are completing updates to the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and developing a new Environmental Justice analysis (federally required) for the LRTP and the TIP
- ❖ Congestion Management Process and Performance Monitoring Program:
 - ❖ <https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/congestion-management-process/>