

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.  
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
[www.fampo.gwregion.org](http://www.fampo.gwregion.org)

### **Committee Members Present:**

Chairman Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County  
Mr. Rodney White, Spotsylvania County  
Vice Chair Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg  
Second Vice Chair Alex Owsiak, Stafford County  
Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County  
Mr. Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, VDOT  
Dr. Bob Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)  
Ms. Ciara Williams, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) (remote attendance – personal reason)  
Mr. Nick Ruiz, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)  
Mr. Aidan Quirke, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)  
Ms. Kate Gibson, GWRideConnect

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

Ms. Kimberly Wilson, King George County

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Mr. Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County  
Mr. Leon Hughes, Spotsylvania County  
Mr. Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Bryon Counsell, Stafford County  
Mr. Nick Minor, King George County  
Mr. Mike Finchum, Caroline County  
Mr. Craig Pennington, Caroline County  
Mr. Jim Ponticello, VDOT  
Mr. Dan Grinnell, VDOT  
Mr. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Mr. Joe Stainsby, PRTC  
Mr. Todd Horsley, DRPT  
Ms. Christine Hoeffner, VRE  
Mr. R. Craig Reed, FRED  
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

### **Others Present:**

Ms. Linda LaSut, VDOT (remote attendance)  
Ms. Amy Garbarini, DRPT (remote attendance)  
Chip Boyles, GWRC Executive Director

Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner  
Ms. Stacey Feindt, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator  
Mr. Adam Hager, Transportation Planner  
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner  
Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

**1. Call Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:33am.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Mr. Hager conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

**3. Approval of the November 3, 2021 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Haynes asked to add two items, administrative modification for UPC 110382 and amendment for UPC 119112, related to the TIP.

Chairman Agnello suggested adding these two items under agenda item 7.d.

Motion was made to approve the November 3, 2021 TAC agenda, as amended.

Motion: Chairman Agnello Second: Mr. Owsiak

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**4. Approval of the October 4, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the October 04, 2021 TAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Chairman Agnello Second: Mr. Owsiak

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**5. Review of the October 18, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting**

Mr. Ollis reviewed the Policy Committee meeting by summarizing the agenda. He discussed the DRPT Statewide Rail Plan presentation given by Emily Stock, the Fall CTB meeting and topics, the East-West Mobility study progression, CMAQ-STBG project selection process update, and lastly, he mentioned the bylaws discussion requested by the chair about voting membership, establishment of the quorum, and adding action items to the agenda at the last minute.

**6. Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**7. Action/Discussion Items**

a. Fall Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting

Mr. Ollis reviewed the list of items discussed the October TAC and Policy Committee meetings. He noted that one comment was received since the last meeting from Chairman Agnello in relation to the number of SMART SCALE final applications available to each agency and locality.

Chairman Agnello summarized his proposal noting that the number of final applications does not currently align with the need in our region. His suggestion is to create a middle tier for applications from localities between 100,000 and 200,000 people and MPOs/PDCs/Transit Agencies serving areas between 250,000 and 500,000 people.

Mr. Ruiz asked if anyone had considered population growth, produced by the Weldon Cooper Studies, rather than the population. Chairman Agnello said that it had not been previously considered, but that could be an add-on.

Chairman Agnello asked if VDOT had any comments on his proposal. Mr. Haynes noted that the current system was developed based on population as well as each VDOT district's ability to handle applications. Ms. Shropshire noted that the proposal seemed reasonable but added if there was a strain on VDOT due to the number of applications there might be a restriction on the number of applications that VDOT could assist with.

Mr. Owsiak agreed with the proposal presented and Mr. Ollis indicated staff would proceed accordingly.

b. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Project Selection Process Update

1. FHWA CMAQ Resource

Chairman Agnello provide an update on the CMAQ/STBG Project Selection Process noting that the subcommittee has convinced once and will meet again this Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. He noted that the members of the subcommittee submitted comments and suggestions for how to improve the project selection process and the members of the subcommittee discussed their ideas.

c. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funding Discussion

Chairman Agnello mentioned he had asked questions relating to how HIP funds could be used and if they are identical to STBG. He noted that HIP funds can be allocated and used in the same manner as STBG but pointed out a difference in the obligation and allocation timelines between the two funding sources.

Ms. Gardner added that HIP funds can replace STBG funds on a project but cautioned to double check the date of the STBG funding for obligation deadlines.

Mr. Ollis noted a potential gap in funding from Phase I to Phase II of the East-West Mobility Study and might request funds in the new year. The committee agreed to discuss specific dollar amounts for the potential East-West Mobility Study need at the December TAC meeting and move forward with making a decision at the January meeting.

d. Transportation Improvement Program Update – Jordan Chandler

1. UPC 113538 Administrative Modification
2. DRPT Table C Administrative Modification

Ms. Chandler discussed the two administrative modifications on the agenda, one from VDOT and the other from DRPT. She noted that neither project needed board action or to undergo the air quality conformity process. Next, she discussed the administrative modification and amendment added to the agenda at VDOT's request. She noted that a public comment period and public hearing would be needed for the TIP amendment, but neither revision would require air quality conformity analysis. Mr. Hager added that the TAC could recommend the Policy Committee direct a 15-day public comment period for UPC 119112 from November 16th to December 1st and to authorize the TAC to approve the amendment at its December 6th meeting.

Motion was made to recommend the Policy Committee direct a 15-day public comment period for UPC 119112 from November 16th to December 1st and to authorize the TAC to approve the amendment at its December 6th meeting.

Motion: Chairman Agnello Second: Ms. Jackson  
Abstentions: None  
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

e. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update – Adam Hager and Jordan Chandler

1. **Resolution 22-12: Approving the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program Air Quality Conformity Report (ACTION ITEM)**

i. Project List Correction

Mr. Hager noted that this resolution was to approve the Air Quality Conformity Report but noted one amendment to the 2050 LRTP project list. He discussed the foundation of the 2050 list was using the 2045 list and that when adding a SMART SCALE Round 4 project the Dixon St./Tidewater Trail project termini was accidentally shortened. He noted that if this correction was not made now, another Air Quality Conformity process would be required, so rather than repeating the work staff proposed to make the correction now.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 22-12.  
Motion: Chairman Agnello Second: Mr. Owsiak  
Abstentions: None  
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

2. Draft System Performance Report

Mr. Hager discussed the creation of this report was complete by Cambridge Systematics, the on-call consultant assisting with the LRTP. He noted that the report was almost finalized with the exception of some missing 2020 safety data. He added that this report will be an appendix to the LRTP.

Mr. Brown asked if the System Performance Report actually reviewed trends in the region. Mr. Hager stated that the document does evaluate the FAMPO region as well as the state.

3. Environmental Justice Analysis Update

Ms. Chandler informed the committee about the history of Environmental Justice (EJ) laws and how they guide MPOs in the planning process. She mentioned that MPOs must assess how transportation projects may affect traditionally underserved populations. She reviewed the regional focus areas for each population group and the transportation projects in the CLRP.

Mr. Agnello thanked staff for their work relating to EJ and CMP.

Ms. Jackson asked if staff was following the guidelines in the FAMPO Community Engagement and Equity Plan document. Ms. Chandler responded that there is not a prescribed methodology used to assess EJ and that each MPO develops their own standard.

Mr. Brown asked if staff could show the dispersion of traditionally underserved populations and that having a less restrictive measure might fit a long-range plan assessment. Ms. Chandler said she would send out the other factors used to assess focus areas.

#### 4. Congestion Management Process (CMP) 2021 Update

Mr. Hager discussed the basis of the CMP and that it is a federally required task due to the the Washington, DC-MD-VA Urbanized Area's designation as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) and its presence in the FAMPO planning area. He reviewed the proposed corridors and asked the committee for questions.

Mr. Amin asked if staff had considered adding Fall Hill Ave in the City of Fredericksburg. Mr. Hager responded that the functional classification of Fall Hill Ave did not meet the proposed threshold as a new corridor since it is only a collector roadway.

Chairman Agnello mentioned that VDOT would be updating the functional classification of roadways in the near future and suggested that this would be an appropriate time to reassess the CMP corridors.

#### 8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

#### 9. Staff Reports

Mr. Hager walked through several staff reports noting that these are all important topics but do not have the scale to be individual presentations in the meeting. He started by discussing an update to parts of the SMART SCALE Technical Guidance and additional funds available from SMART SCALE Round 4.

Chairman Agnello asked if the regional funds on these projects were required or if funds could be freed up with this news. Mr. Ollis said that staff would look into the funds and amounts and bring back an update in at the December TAC. Ms. Shropshire informed the committee that the December CTB meeting would occur on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hager continued discussing the CMP quarterly report and added that a narrative report will also accompany the data starting in the new year. Next, he discussed the FY22 VDOT Safety Targets noting that staff is working to assess the targets and would most likely concur with the

proposed measures. Then, he reminded the committee of the DRPT Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study. Mr. Lehane reminded the committee that he would be reaching out to gather more information about local economic development sites for Round 5 of SMART SCALE.

Mr. Hager then discussed the George Washington Region Transportation Opportunities for Economic Growth Report noting with the proposed updates to the SMART SCALE Technical Guidance would no longer require a project to be in a regional economic development plan. The committee members agreed that the document did not need to be updated at this time and each locality would add projects to local comprehensive and economic development documents to receive the SMART SCALE points.

Mr. Brown asked about the FY22 Safety Targets and asked if there was the possibility to set standards lower, stricter, than the state. He noted that the group could meet periodically and reassess the targets. Mr. Hager said he would talk with Mr. Brown about the current state targets and that the decision would need to be approved by February 2022.

## **10. Member Reports**

Ms. Shropshire noted that VDOT will be requesting TIP amendment(s) in the near future since some SMART SCALE Round 4 projects are advancing, but this action will not be needed until after the CTB STIP approval.

Mr. Haynes noted that VDOT has an open job for a Planning Specialist III and more details can be found at [www.virginiadot.org/jobs](http://www.virginiadot.org/jobs)

Mr. Quirke noted that FRED had fare free service yesterday, for Election Day, and that last week daily service started an hour earlier on some routes.

Mr. Owsiak told the committee that Stafford County had submitted their Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Revenue Sharing (RS) applications.

Ms. Gibson introduced the new GWRC Executive Director, Chip Boyles, and shared that GWRideConnect will be meeting with a marketing consultant to discuss and prepare plans for a return to shared rides.

Mr. Ruiz noted that VRE is currently in the initial phase of updating the System Plan and is looking to gain access to StreetLight Data to assist with the regional analysis of rail and transit.

Dr. Schneider noted that PRTC continues to see an increase in ridership and notes that congestion in the region is still severe. He also notified the committee that on December 6<sup>th</sup> Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and PRTC would be hosting a legislative event to discuss their agendas for the next year, he added that there would be a wide array of speakers.

Chairman Agnello noted that the Transportation Bond Referendum passed with a 58 to 42 split. He also noted that the public safety and school bonds also passed.

Mr. Ollis added that staff is working with the City of Fredericksburg to use the \$75,000 in STBG funds to hire a consultant to investigate and design or engineer the two bridges for the Virginia Central Railway (VCR) Trail SMART SCALE project.

## **11. Adjourn/Next TAC Meeting: December 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:03am.

Motion: Ms. Jackson Second: Mr. Ruiz

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.