

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 - 6:00pm
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg
<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. Henry “Hank” Scharpenberg, Stafford County – Chair
Mr. Dave McLaughlin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Joshua Brock, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. John Castellarin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. David Swan, Stafford County
Mr. Neil Holloran Spotsylvania County (remote attendance)
Ms. Jeron Hayes, King George County
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large (remote attendance)
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large
Mr. Dustin Savage, At-Large
Mr. Rodney Thomas, At-Large (remote attendance)
Ms. TaMara Banks, At-Large
Ms. Jane Leeds, At-Large (remote attendance)

Committee Members Present but Unable to Fully Participate as Members:

N/A

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Matthew Rowe, City of Fredericksburg – Vice Chair
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County
Ms. Tara Durant, Stafford County
Mr. Ken Pogue, Caroline
Mr. Michael Hoyt, Caroline
Mr. Justin Chenault, Caroline
Mr. Micah Cunningham, Spotsylvania
Ms. Patricia Encarnacion, City of Fredericksburg

Others Present:

Brandon Brown, Stafford County (remote)
Remote Captioner

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager
Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Scharpenberg at 6:00 p.m.

Prior to roll call, Chair Scharpenberg and Mr. Ollis lead discussion among attendees regarding communication by way of e-mail to all recipients (Reply All), related to Virginia's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Mr. Ollis explained that Virginia's FOIA evolved from the U.S. "Sunshine Law". Also known as the Open Meetings Act, its primary function is to ensure that decisions that affect the public are open and accessible to the public.

Mr. Lehane called the roll. He noted a quorum was present.

Chair Scharpenberg noted two new appointees for Stafford will join the CTAC, resulting in that jurisdiction filling 6 of 7 available appointments; and that Ms. Durant will be representing her legislative district during the General Assembly session for the upcoming 60 days.

2. Approval of the January 12, 2021 Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Farley brought two items for consideration to be added to the agenda:

- In light of the news about Facebook's algorithms being used to spread misinformation and hate, he shared concern that FAMPO utilizes Facebook for social media outreach. He requested the agenda be amended to discuss a letter or resolution to the Policy Committee to eliminate Facebook from its social media platform. Staff proposed this be item 8.b. if approved.
- Congestion pricing as a means of preventing events such as the January 3rd snow storm blocking traffic and shutting down I-95 for approximately 24 hours. Currently, the Code of Virginia does not allow congestion pricing. Had there been such a system, it is possible motorists would have diverted off of I-95 to avoid a higher toll ahead of the snow event. Staff proposed this be item 8.c. if approved.

Motion was made to approve the agenda with additions 8.b. and 8.c.

Motion: Mr. David McLaughlin; Second: Ms. TaMara Banks

Opposed: Mr. Neil Holloran

Motion passed.

3. Approval of November 10, 2021 CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion: Mr. Rupert Farley; Second: Mr. David McLaughlin

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Old Business

a. CTAC Member Comments on Mission, Priorities, Structure, and Role and Responsibilities

Prior to the meeting, Chair Scharpenberg received input from CTAC members on the following draft Mission Statement: *Advocate for solutions that mitigate / reduce traffic congestion, improve access to mass transit, and improve safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians in the FAMPO region.*

After serious and informed discussion, the following subcommittee members were tasked to work on the mission statement and report back at the February 9th meeting: David McLaughlin, John Castellarin and Joshua Brock.

Chair Scharpenberg noted the connection between the Mission Statement and his request to form three focus area groups: traffic mitigation, mass transit advocacy, or safety to include pedestrians and bicycles.

5. Review of November 15, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Ollis reviewed the November 15, 2021 Policy Committee meeting with attendees.

The LRTP air conformity report has been approved by the EPA, FTA and FHWA.

The Lafayette Boulevard study was noted and accepted as work complete. The concern with full endorsement of the report is the heavy impacts to adjacent properties with the report's recommendation to widen Lafayette Blvd along its entire length.

Consultants gave their report to the Policy Committee on the LRTP's traffic modeling and it was well received.

The Policy Committee approved the contents of a letter to Virginia's Secretary of Transportation (the Secretary), but agreed to send it after Governor Youngkin takes office, with the potential for him to appoint a new Secretary.

The letter includes the following:

- Specific interventions to improve items such as public transportation, including adding weekend VRE trains and reverse commuting trains for commuters in Northern Virginia that work in the Fredericksburg area.
- The widening of I-95 further south from Route 3 to Massaponax / Exit 126.
- Making better use of Route 1 by using technology to improve mobility and reduce congestion. We already have the road, but how can we better utilize it?

The link to the public involvement activity report is available on the website, on the FAMPO Policy Committee's November 15, 2021 agenda.

Mr. Ollis explained the following funding sources and project selection processes for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Programs. The final draft of the selection processes will be presented to the Policy Committee during their January 24th meeting.

5. Review of November 15, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting (Continued)

Mr. Ollis explained the updates to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that were on the agenda.

Mr. Ollis advised attendees there were two discussions. One about amending the Policy Committee bylaws, and the idea to add other counties to be part of FAMPO. No final decisions were made.

Mr. Ollis advised the Policy Committee of two staff resignations. Later during the CTAC meeting, he introduced a new staff member filling one of those vacancies.

6. Public Comment

The Chair asked if there were any public comments, and there were none.

7. Member Discussion and Action

a. Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Mr. Ollis announced the completion of the 2050 LRTP and credited this update to two years of effort and the wonderful job done by FAMPO staff. It is over 700 pages in print, but the Chapters and appendices are all loaded independently on this site for public comment:

<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/lrtp2050/>

Mr. Ollis introduced Becky Golden, a new staff member, and advised that she is the point of contact for comments on the LRTP.

Mr. McLaughlin asked the relation between the LRTP and the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). Mr. Ollis explained that the CLRP is the list of all projects that come from localities, and the LRTP predicts the impacts of those projects on regional congestion and mobility.

Mr. Farley complimented the 2050 LRTP, and staff's effort. He noted a section where congestion pricing could be added, but the matter is on the agenda as item 8.c.

Staff will examine that portion of the LRTP during review of public comments.

8. Member Discussion and Action

b. FAMPO's use of Facebook

Mr. Farley shared the concerns listed during agenda item 3. above regarding FAMPO's use of Facebook. He feels the Policy Committee should consider dropping support of this social media platform. After discussion, CTAC tabled to the February 9th meeting, asking that facts be brought forward whether there has been abuse or entities tampering with Facebook messaging, and staff's experience with this platform for public outreach. Mr. Ollis asked that any materials be provided to staff for the February 9th CTAC agenda packet.

Motion was made to table item 8.b. to the February 9th CTAC meeting

Motion: Mr. David Swan; Second: Mr. Neil Holloran

Motion passes by unanimous consent.

8. Member Discussion and Action

c. Congestion Pricing

Mr. Farley shared the concerns listed during agenda item 3. above with the idea that congestion pricing, had it been allowed by Virginia law, could be a way to address weather emergencies on I-95.

After committee discussion, Mr. Holloran made a motion to table this to the next meeting. The Chair clarified the motion is to make sure that we have more information so that we can look at this from a substantive factual stand point. Mr. Ollis asked that any materials be provided to staff for the February 9th CTAC agenda packet.

Motion was made to table item 8.c. to the February 9th CTAC meeting

Motion: Mr. Neil Holloran; Second: Mr. David Swan

Motion passes by unanimous consent

9. Public Comment

The Chair asked if there were any public comments, and there were none voiced at the CTAC meeting. Mr. Lehane reported that written comments from Ms. Leeds were received on the LRTP and were disseminated to Ms. Golden.

10. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

11. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis advised that Ms. Golden, would be the liaison for CTAC, and thanked Mr. Lehane for his hard work in this role over the past several months.

Mr. Lehane shared the 2022 FAMPO Meeting Calendar. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th at 6:00 p.m.

12. Member Reports

Chair Scharpenberg reported on his meeting with the Stafford County Board of Supervisors and Planning staff, to explain the role of CTAC.

13. Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting February 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rupert Farley; Second Mr. David Swan.

Motion passes by unanimous consent.

FAMPO committee meetings are open to the public. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact FAMPO at 540-642-1235 or fampo@gwregion.org at least two days prior to the meeting. If hearing-impaired, telephone 1-800-273- 7545 (TDD).

Las reuniones del comité FAMPO están abiertas al público. La participación pública es solicitada sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o su estado familiar. Las personas que requieren alojamiento especial de acuerdo con el Americans with Disabilities Act, o personas que requieren servicios de traducción (libre de cargo) deben comunicarse con la FAMPO al 540-642-1235 o fampo@gwregion.org al menos dos días antes de la reunión. Personas con problemas auditivos, llamen al 800-273-7545 (TDD).