

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 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. Hank Scharpenberg, Chairman
Mr. Dave McLaughlin
Mr. John Castellarin
Mr. Josh Brock
Mr. Matthew Rowe, Vice Chair
Mr. David Swan
Ms. Tara Durant
Mr. Jeron Haynes
Mr. Larry Gross
Mr. Rupert Farley
Mr. Rodney Thomas
Ms. TaMara Banks
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith (remote attendance – health concerns)
Ms. Jane Leeds (remote attendance – disability)
Mr. Neil Holloran (remote attendance – health concerns)

Committee Members Present but Unable to Fully Participate as Members:

All members received prior permission to attend virtually.

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Ken Pogue
Mr. Michael Hoyt
Mr. Justin Chenault
Ms. Patricia Encarnacion

Others Present:

Mr. Brandon Brown (remote attendance)
Ms. Katy Joslin-Hanbury (remote captioner)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Mr. Joe Brito

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 Scharpenberg at 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of the October 13, 2021 Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Farley commented that since there are two guests speaking tonight, items 8a and 8b should be moved up on the agenda to be discussed immediately after agenda item 3. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rowe.

Motion was made to approve the October 13, 2021 CTAC agenda, as amended.

Motion: Mr. Rowe; Second: Mr. Gross

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Approval of September 8, 2021 CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the September 8, 2021 CTAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Farley; Second: Ms. Durant

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Old Business

Chair Scharpenberg discussed the letter sent to the Policy Committee on the committee's suggestion to study an additional river crossing and include the study in the draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) project list. He added that Spotsylvania was supportive as was Stafford, and the city was mildly skeptical of the idea.

6. Review of September 20, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting – Stacey Feindt

Ms. Feindt reviewed the highlights of the September Policy Committee meeting where she summarized presentations and actions taken for the 2050 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP), including, the consideration of a letter CTAC sent to the committee in regard to an additional river crossing. The Policy Committee encouraged CTAC to continue conversation on the river crossing topic. Further, during the Policy meeting, there was also a presentation on the Lafayette Boulevard Traffic Study, by Michael Baker International. The meeting recording is available on the FAMPO Policy Committee webpage.

7. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

8. Member Discussion and Action

- a. Presentation on the History of River Crossing Alternatives – Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT District Planning Manager

Mr. Haynes gave an overview of the history of river crossing alternatives across the Rappahannock River. He discussed the timeline of the “Outer Connector” projects from 1993 to 2015. The “Outer Connector” options were a set of alternative routes to I-95, which included new river crossings west of the current I-95 river crossing. Mr. Haynes timeline and presentation discussed the series of studies, meetings, and approvals that have occurred since 1993 in each jurisdiction and he further discussed each of the considered alternatives. The Rappahannock Southbound and Northbound River Crossing projects are a result of the identified need to improve traffic flow on I-95, and both crossings are currently being constructed.

Chair Scharpenberg asked if there is a federal component required for a Rappahannock River crossing. Mr. Haynes responded that yes, federal funding would be involved and federal requirements.

Mr. Ollis asked about the latest efforts on an outer connector. Mr. Haynes responded that in 2013 the George Washington Toll Road Authority (GWRTA) was approved but never implemented.

Mr. Rowe asked about the level of improvements that were studied, such as limited access roadways or at-grade intersections. Mr. Haynes responded that most of the assumptions of the outer connector were limited access or controlled access. Generally, in regards to who would use the roadways and how the roadways would be accessed was not touched upon in too much detail.

Mr. Rowe also asked how much traffic on I-95 at the new Southbound River Crossing is traffic from US-17. Mr. Haynes responded that he would have to follow up on the specifics of that question, and he discussed some of the general traffic patterns in the Fredericksburg region.

Chair Scharpenberg asked if there had been other extensive studies on this issue since 2013. Mr. Haynes responded that no, there has not been similar studies, except for the Stafford Parkway study.

Chair Scharpenberg asked Mr. Ollis if there any projects in the FAMPO draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan project list that were related to an additional river crossing. Mr. Ollis responded that the river crossing was not ranked by the three jurisdictions as a priority, but that it is being discussed for the East-West Mobility Study led by FAMPO staff. Mr. Haynes and Mr. Ollis further discussed the specifics of the East-West Mobility Study and the benefit and projects that may be examined.

Chair Scharpenberg discussed further the impacts of traffic on I-95 on the region, especially the closure of I-95 due to an incident a few weeks prior. He mentioned that north-south is a chokepoint that will continue to exist and that north-south travel problems impact east-west travel. Chair Scharpenberg talked about the history of the outer connector and the impacts these decisions have had on the region.

- b. Resident’s Proposal for an Alternative North to South Route – Mr. Joe Brito, Stafford Resident

Mr. Brito gave an overview of his proposal for an alternative north to south route west of I-95. He discussed his petition for what he calls an inner connector and a regional trail going north-south from northern Stafford County to Spotsylvania County with an additional river crossing

near the Celebrate Virginia development in Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg. Mr. Brito discussed the specifics of his proposal and the path it would take through each jurisdiction, including the roads that are already built, the future plans, and the new roads that would need to be constructed for this project.

c. SMART SCALE Round 5 Update – Mr. Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane discussed the pre-pre application process undertaken by FAMPO and the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) to submit potential SMART SCALE Round 5 projects to VDOT. He discussed the SMART SCALE program and how FAMPO staff developed an initial list of projects. He then discussed the staff timeline for project submission through June of 2022 and the specifics of each of the 5 GWRC and 5 FAMPO projects.

Ms. Leeds asked questions about ADA accessibility for each of the projects such as sidewalks and crosswalks. Mr. Lehane and Mr. Ollis responded that the projects do include ADA accessibility as well as sidewalks and crosswalks on several projects.

Ms. Banks asked whether pedestrian improvements along Warrenton Road (US 17 Bus.) were included in the project applications. Mr. Lehane responded that the project was selected by locality staff and had been identified in the US-17 STARS Study as a candidate project. He added that locality staff would be able to give project specific details.

d. New Member Roles and Direction for CTAC – Chair Scharpenberg

Chair Scharpenberg discussed CTAC’s role and the direction he would like the committee to take. He proposed a mission statement for the committee, possible committee priorities, a subcommittee/focus group structure, and the responsibilities of committee members.

Mr. Brock requested to present information on organizational roles to CTAC. Chair Scharpenberg was agreeable.

Mr. Ollis requested that FAMPO staff be able to present information to CTAC on FOIA public meeting requirements.

9. Public Comment

The meeting ended before any further public comments were made.

10. Correspondence

The meeting ended before correspondence was presented.

11. Staff Reports

The meeting ended before staff reports were given.

12. Member Reports

The meeting ended before member reports were given.

**13. Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting
November 10, 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.