

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 7, 2022 – 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  
Mr. Jacob Pastwik, 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  
Ms. Kimberly Wilson, King George County  
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT  
Dr. Bob Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)  
Ms. Ciara Williams, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)  
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):**

Mr. Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County, arrived at 9:37

### **Committee Members Absent:**

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. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Mr. Jim Ponticello, VDOT  
Mr. Dan Grinnell, VDOT  
Mr. Joe Stainsby, PRTC  
Mr. Todd Horsley, DRPT  
Ms. Christine Hoeffner, VRE  
Mr. R. Craig Reed, FRED  
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

### **Others Present:**

Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT  
Ms. Tammy H., (remote attendance)  
Mr. Colin Burch, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) (remote attendance)  
Ms. Katherine Youngbluth, VPRA (remote attendance)

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator  
Ms. Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner  
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager  
Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner  
Ms. Lana Bizeau, Transportation Planning Intern

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am.

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

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

**3. Approval of the March 7, 2022 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the March 7, 2022 TAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Owsiak Second: Mr. Agnello

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**4. Approval of the February 7, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the February 7, 2022 TAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Owsiak Second: Mr. Agnello

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**5. Review of the February 28, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting**

Mr. Ollis reviewed the Policy Committee meeting by summarizing the agenda. He informed the TAC that the FAMPO and George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) had been reviewed without any proposed changes. The Policy Committee sent a letter to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation with several requests, such as adjustments to SMART SCALE and congestion alleviation along U.S. Route 1. Resolutions 22-24 to 22-28 were all endorsed. Mr. Ollis concluded with an update on the Policy Committee's bylaw discussion. As the Attorney General is not mandated to provide legal counsel to MPOs, the Policy Committee has reached out to a state delegate who will request the counsel on behalf of FAMPO.

**6. Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**7. Action/Discussion Items**

- a. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Project Selection Process Update – Jordan Chandler

## 1. Scoring and Draft Allocations

Ms. Chandler began by presenting the scores of the three active transportation projects for the FY23-28 modified call for projects. The Harrison Rd VCR Trail project scored the highest with a total score of 9.50. The Staffordboro Blvd Sidewalk and the Bankside Trail Phase I projects tied with a total score of 9.00. Mr. Ollis suggested that scoring methodology be reviewed to allow for greater variance in the scores.

Mr. Agnello inquired if the updated Urbanized Area (UA) criteria from the U.S. Census Bureau would need to be considered during a methodology review. Mr. Ollis responded that that is unknown at this time.

Ms. Chandler then presented the CMAQ funding requests and draft allocations. The Harrison Rd VCR Trail project received 50% of the available funding, totaling \$351,170. The Staffordboro Blvd Sidewalk and Bankside Trail Phase I projects received 25% of the available funding, \$175,584 each.

Ms. Gardner raised the question of funding deficits given these CMAQ allocations. After a discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Gardner would note these projects as potentially funded by local sources.

Ms. Chandler then presented the draft STBG & HIP allocations for four programmed projects. She explained that previous and leftover funds were distributed amongst these four projects in the fiscal years for which they had needs. Mr. Ollis emphasized that the goal was to backfill previous and leftover funds.

Ms. Chandler concluded by outlining next steps until approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in June 2022 and reminding the committee that the FY24-28 call for projects would begin in September 2022.

Mr. Agnello inquired about the timeline for the FY23 UPWP. Mr. Ollis responded that information needed to complete the UPWP is still outstanding, though the goal is to have a draft to the committee by April 2022.

Ms. Shropshire advised the committee that VDOT's cost estimation system is now going to apply inflation factors against the current-day cost estimates based on project schedules. For example, if the PE phase is delayed for two-years, all phases of that project will be impacted with two-year inflation factors based on the impact of that delay. She emphasized the need for realistic and detailed funding schedules for projects.

Mr. Owsiak inquired about whether the CMAQ and STBG available funds were still subject to change. Mr. Ollis and Ms. Gardner confirmed this.

Mr. Ollis concluded by saying he will bring this draft allocation list to the next Policy Committee meeting.

## 2. Draft FAMPO CMAQ & STBG Allocations for FY 2023-2028

Ms. Chandler brought the draft CMAQ and STBG allocations for FY23-28 to the committee's attention, as well as a step-by-step breakdown of where funds were allocated or transferred. Mr. Agnello asked if any project had been removed from the list and Ms. Gardner noted that five projects have been removed.

b. SMART SCALE Round 5 Update – Kari Barber

Ms. Barber gave a brief update of the pre-application process for SMART SCALE Round 5. She is awaiting information and sketches from VDOT. She inquired with VDOT on when to expect updates on the VTRANS Pipeline Studies projects. Mr. Haynes responded that these updates would occur in Phase 3; however, VDOT first required input from the localities as to their preferences among the consultant's recommendations. Mr. Ollis responded that he had passed along Spotsylvania's choices.

Mr. Amin asked about assistance in SMART SCALE applications given the variability of receiving funds. Mr. Ollis explained that projects are pre-screened to point out any issues with the application, but it is impossible to predict funding since SMART SCALE is a competitive scoring process.

c. Transportation Alternatives Update – Kari Barber

Ms. Barber gave a brief update on Transportation Alternatives. She summarized the Policy Committee's action to use prior and current TMA funding to fully fund Flatford Road sidewalk and to place the remainder on Staffordboro Blvd sidewalk, as the TAC had requested. She also stated that the CTB At-Large member selection and the selections of the full CTB for district funding would be forthcoming by the end of the month, so more information would be available at the next TAC meeting.

Mr. Agnello inquired about the possibility for additional Transportation Alternatives funding. Ms. Barber responded that she is not aware of any.

Mr. Ollis reminded the committee that Ms. Barber will be the new FAMPO point of contact regarding SMART SCALE and will continue to oversee Transportation Alternatives, while Ms. Chandler will continue to be the FAMPO point of contact regarding CMAQ & STBG funding and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He asked the committee to hold off on Streetlight requests until a new staff member is designated. He also announced FAMPO's new hire for the Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator position.

d. **Endorse Resolution 22-29 Approving the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (ACTION ITEM) – Ian Ollis**

Mr. Ollis thanked the committee for their comments on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and reminded the committee of the ongoing public comment period for the 2022 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update. The only portion that is still being updated is Appendix J – Public Involvement Summary. He expressed his intention to propose adoption of the entire 2050 LRTP including the CMP as an appendix at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Motion was made to endorse Resolution 22-29.

Motion: Mr. Agnello Second: Ms. Jackson

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

e. FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Jordan Chandler

1. **Endorse Resolution 22-30 Approving amendments to the FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add UPC 120524, New Park & Ride Lot near I-**

**95 Exit 133 and UPC 120644; Rt 1 STARS - Rt. 3 Off-Ramp / Spotsy Ave Improv (ACTION ITEM)**

Ms. Chandler presented two projects to add to the TIP for incorporation during the March 2022 Policy Committee meeting. Neither project required air quality conformity assessments. The Park & Ride lot will be at Old Forge Rd and have 500 parking spaces.

Motion was made to endorse Resolution 22-30.

Motion: Mr. Quirke Second: Mr. Owsiak

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**8. Correspondence**

Mr. Ollis indicated that Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP) briefed staff about their metrics and what they foresee as future opportunities and challenges.

**9. Staff Reports**

Mr. Ollis referenced the comments he made at the end of agenda item 7c.

**10. Member Reports**

Ms. Williams announced that DRPT has hired a new planner who will take over their TAC delegation.

Mr. Ruiz invited the committee to virtually attend the VRE board meeting, March 18, 2022 at 9:00 am.

Ms. Gibson announced GWRideConnect's new CommuteVA! App available on their website and the app store.

Dr. Schneider reported that OmniRide is purchasing 19 busses. Ridership is 40-45% of pre-pandemic levels with 80% of service. He emphasized that with flex and telework proliferating around the region, morning and evening rush hour peaks will flatten.

Mr. Quirke provided an update on the FRED fare free service and their continued efforts to hire new drivers.

Ms. Williams added that representatives from Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) will be joining the committee. Ms. Youngbluth and Mr. Burch both introduced themselves. Mr. Burch will be VPRA's primary representative.

**11. Adjourn/Next TAC Meeting: April 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 am.

Motion: Mr. Agnello Second: Mr. Owsiak

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.