

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - 6:00pm
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg
<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/>

A video recording of the meeting is posted on the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) web page: <https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/citizens-transportation-advisory-committee/> and on youtube at: <https://youtu.be/-IJoLpsIwTw>

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Henry “Hank” Scharpenberg, Stafford County – Chair
Mr. Matthew Rowe, City of Fredericksburg – Vice Chair
Ms. TaMara Banks, At-Large
Mr. Morgan Burch, Stafford County
Mr. Joshua Brock, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. John Castellarin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Jacob Clay, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Tara Durant, Stafford County
Mr. Nicolas Kwatnoski, Stafford County
Mr. David McLaughlin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. David Swan, Stafford County
Mr. Rodney Thomas, At-Large (remote attendance)

Committee Members Present but Unable to Fully Participate as Members:

N/A

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Justin Chenault, Caroline
Mr. Micah Cunningham, Spotsylvania
Ms. Patricia Encarnacion, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large
Mr. Glenn Goldsmith, Stafford County
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large
Ms. Jeron Hayes, King George County
Mr. Neil Holloran, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Michael Hoyt, Caroline
Mr. Ken Pogue, Caroline
Mr. James Powell, Stafford County
Mr. Dustin Savage, At-Large

Others Present:

Ms. Jane Leeds, Interested Party (remote attendance)
Ms. Kelly Schindele, Remote Captioner

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager

Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Ms. Golden conducted roll call and a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the May 11, 2022 Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion: Mr. Swan; Second: Mr. Burch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Approval of April 13, 2022 CTAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. McLaughlin advised attendees that item 8.a.2. Amendment to Goals to Improve Accessibility Outcomes was not unanimously consented, with one no vote and "...by unanimous consent" needs to be deleted. Mr. Kwatnoski's name was inadvertently left off the Committee Members Present list and is to be added. Mr. Castellarin noted the minutes need to match the original agenda numbering since items were deferred.

Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion: Mr. Castellarin; Second: Mr. Clay

Abstained: Mr. Burch; Mr. Rowe

Motion passed.

5. Review of April 18, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting

Ms. Golden provided highlights of the meeting that include Virginia Railway Express (VRE) ridership trends before and during COVID. There has been a notable increase between January and March of 2022, with about 100,000 riders per month for March. Pre-pandemic monthly riders totaled about 300,000 per month. VDOT made a presentation for the history of the Outer Connector project, and how an idea becomes a project. SMART Scale Round 5 projects were discussed, as well as an update on allocations of additional funding for two programs: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG). A resolution directing a public comment period for the Draft FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was adopted.

Chair Scharpenberg advised attendees that during Staff and Agency Reports, a handout was provided to Policy Committee members showing the concept of an eastern connector and western connector road that will facilitate travel in all directions without using the I-95 Corridor. The two routes maximize use of the existing primary road network. The eastern connector alignment modifies an existing concept road found in Stafford County's Plan. The western connector avoids populated areas, and the final plot may involve non-FAMPO jurisdictions.

6. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

7. Old Business

a. FY 23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Golden provided the highlights to the FY 23 UPWP that is available for public comment until May 18. Highlights include: the 2022 Freight Summit, the FRED Transit Strategic Plan (TSP), the FAMPO Vision Plan, the East-West Mobility Study, and the Virginia Central Railway (VCR) Trail Study. Staff efforts to conduct the following are also included: an annual update to the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) as requested, determine the impact of the 2020 Census on the Metropolitan Planning Area boundary and adjust regional funding prioritization methods as necessary, and in conjunction with localities, identify locations for Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

b. FY 23 Rural Work Program (RWP)

Ms. Golden advised attendees of the following FY 23 RWP highlights: prioritizing recommendations from King George County's Trailways Feasibility Study for grant applications, study options for improved access to Barnesfield Park, participation in the Freight Summit by Caroline and King George Counties, assist Caroline County with the Transportation Component of their Comprehensive Plan during their upcoming update process, expand on the Ladysmith bicycle and pedestrian plan to establish foundations for VDOT traffic and engineering studies, and examine funding sources to improve the Ladysmith Road bridge over I-95 for bicycles, pedestrians and other needed improvements.

8. Member Discussion

a. FY 23 Election of CTAC Chair and Vice Chair June 8th

Chair Scharpenberg advised attendees to be prepared to nominate CTAC Chair and Vice Chair, and vote, during the June CTAC meeting. Mr. Burch asked if the by-laws could be amended to eliminate the implied mandate that officers rotate between the three FAMPO jurisdictions each voting cycle. Mr. Ollis shared that the rotation between jurisdictions is a critical component of the Policy Committee by-laws since that body allocates funding, and rotation among Policy Committee officers provides a balance. CTAC members noted that since funding allocations are not part of their mission and charge, there is interest in potential changes to their by-laws to deemphasize officer rotation each year. Mr. Ollis asked attendees to send proposed changes to the by-laws to staff for review and consideration at the June 8th meeting.

b. FAMPO Vision Survey

Mx. Touzel presented the Vision Survey being conducted to better grasp the purpose of FAMPO. Every member of FAMPO committees will be emailed the survey directly along with a unique survey number to remain anonymous. Responses are requested by May 31st. Staff will develop a draft Vision Document after conducting research based on the results of the survey.

c. 2050 Long-Range Transportation Program (LRTP) Future Amendments

1. Status update: Stafford County NE Quadrant Connector and western New River Crossing

Mr. Rowe asked if other options than those presented to the Policy Committee to improve access could be considered and Chair Scharpenberg replied that all options are welcome. Ms. Golden used slides prepared for the May 5th Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) FAMPO Administrator's report that show the proposal for the Stafford County NE Quadrant Connector and western New River Crossing.

Chair Scharpenberg advised attendees that the NE Quadrant Connector is in Stafford County's Comprehensive Plan, and the proposed alignment has been provided to Stafford, with modifications to reduce impacts on occupied residences. Stafford County has also been provided the western New River Crossing proposal, and informal discussions will be made with Culpeper and Orange Counties once Stafford has provided feedback. Mr. Rowe asked if these were corridors of general interest, or at grade. Chair Scharpenberg noted that the proposal would include an improved 2-lane road. Mr. Rowe suggested restricted access that does not allow individual driveways, but access points for existing road intersections.

Mr. Rowe provided a handout with a map showing an extension of Plantation Drive north to connect to Centreport Parkway in Stafford County. The County's current Comprehensive Plan shows an extension of Centreport Pkwy west / southwest to connect to Berea Church Road. Mr. Rowe's proposal would be an alternative to the current plan, and asked for this proposal to be included with the NE Quadrant Connector and western New River Crossing in future discussions with decision makers. Staff provided the proposal to Stafford County Planning officials on May 12th.

2. CTAC Letter to GWRC Localities and VDOT – Amendments to Goals to Improve Accessibility Outcomes

Chair Scharpenberg advised attendees a letter is being sent to each of the five GWRC jurisdictions and VDOT with amendments to the LRTP Goals to be considered with a future amendment to improve priorities for the disabled community and vulnerable road user groups for existing projects. Mr. Ollis advised attendees that projects for rehabilitation of the US Route 1 bridge over the Rappahannock River, and other similar renovation projects, do not require adding adequate accessibility amenities such as a multiuse path that would safely separate users from vehicles. Ms. Durant pointed out that the code of Virginia currently allows renovation projects to avoid such requirements, but is listening for opportunities to close this "loop hole" through the legislature. Chair Scharpenberg's letter is seeking County Administrators, the City Manager and VDOT to consider voluntary incorporation of these amended goals for all of their active projects.

Mr. Burch considered these letters to be of significant importance and made a motion to approve the letters, even though not a formal action item.

Motion: Mr. Burch; Second: Mr. Clay
Motion passed.

9. Public Comment

Chair Scharpenberg advised attendees that he received an email letter from Jane Leeds with transportation solutions that she has encountered while living in San Diego and just as important, her experiences as a disabled person, encouraging everyone to read it, commenting it is “an excellent read”. Staff will send this letter to all CTAC Members and Interested Parties.

Ms. Banks asked if staff could follow up with Caroline County on a letter sent requesting transit services. Staff will accomplish this and report during the June CTAC meeting.

10. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

11. Staff Reports

There were no Staff reports.

12. Member Reports

a. Traffic Mitigation

Mr. Clay advised attendees that he is on the Traffic Mitigation focus group and has not received communications to initiate discussions. Chair Scharpenberg encouraged CTAC members to become engaged on one or more focus group, including taking on a leadership role. Several CTAC members agreed to be part of the groups as follows:

- Traffic Mitigation: Mr. Clay, Mr. Farley and Mr. Holloran
- Mass Transit Advocacy: Ms. Banks and Mr. Castellarin
- Regional Safety: Chair Scharpenberg and Vice Chair Rowe

b. Mass Transit Advocacy

No member reports were provided.

c. Safety to include Pedestrians and Bicycles

No member reports were provided.

Mr. Swan advised attendees that fallen trees and limbs are encroaching into travel lanes and lying in the ditches and shoulder areas of Stafford County Secondary Roads from the January 3rd weather event. Mr. Clay advised attendees that he has observed similar conditions on the roads in his Spotsylvania County neighborhood. Ms. Golden replied that staff would send CTAC members and Interested Parties the VDOT “Report a Problem” web site address that establishes a trackable work order request for each road or location. Members were encouraged to report on their experiences at the June CTAC meeting, and an agenda item will be included.

Mr. Clay discussed CTAC’s mission and purpose. In order to reduce traffic, it is not just a road issue, but also involves a multifaceted approach that incorporates speed limits, construction and job times. Chair Scharpenberg expanded the discussion to seek participation on the focus groups as a way to fold together all of these aspects.

Mr. Ollis described the economics of America’s housing market, the aspects of supply and demand that are driving residents to live in the region, and observations of local development patterns.

13. Adjourn Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting/Next Meeting June 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rowe; Second: Mr. Swan.

Motion passes by unanimous consent.

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