

## **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

September 19, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

[www.fampo.gwregion.org](http://www.fampo.gwregion.org)

A video recording of the meeting is posted on the Policy Committee web page: <https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/policy-committee/> and on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/hF8IHcl9afk>

### **Committee Members Present:** *(V) indicates voting member*

Mr. Jason Graham, Chair, City of Fredericksburg (V)  
Mr. Timothy Baroody, City of Fredericksburg (V)  
Mr. David Brown, alternate City of Fredericksburg (V)  
Ms. Meg Bohmke, First Vice-Chair, Stafford County (V)  
Ms. Crystal Vanuch, Stafford County (V)  
Ms. Monica Gary, Stafford County (V)  
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County (V)  
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County (V)  
Ms. Lori Hayes, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)  
Ms. Marcie Parker, Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)  
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, alternate Representative from the Secretary of Transportation (V)  
Dr. Robert Schneider, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (V)  
Ms. Cathy Binder, alternate King George County  
Mr. Brian Geouge, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)  
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Mr. Stephen Haynes, alternate Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Ms. Ciara Williams, DRPT  
Ms. Jamie Jackson, FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)  
Ms. Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Mr. Matthew Kelly, City of Fredericksburg (V)  
Ms. Pamela Yeung, alternate Stafford County (V)  
Mr. Darrell English, alternate Stafford County (V)  
Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Second Vice-Chair, Spotsylvania County (V)  
Mr. Kevin Marshall, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)  
Ms. Deborah Frazier, alternate Spotsylvania County (V)  
Mr. Joe Stainsby, alternate PRTC (V)  
Mr. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Ms. Tonya Holland, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)  
Mr. Craig Reed, alternate FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)  
Mr. Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)  
Mr. Jeffery Sili, Caroline County  
Mr. Jeffrey Black, alternate Caroline County  
Mr. Matthew Rowe, CTAC

**Others Present (remotely or in person):**

Mr. Henry Scharpenberg  
Mr. Chip Boyles, GWRC Executive Director  
Mr. Paul Prideaux, Michael Baker International  
Mr. Drew Morrison, VHB  
Mr. Chris Daily, VHB (Remote attendance)  
Mr. Darrell Smith, VHB (Remote attendance)  
Mr. Alex Owsiak, Stafford County (Remote attendance)  
Mr. Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County (Remote attendance)  
Mr. Colin Burch, VPRC (Remote attendance)

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator  
Ms. Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner/Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator  
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager  
Dr. John Ridout, Transportation Planner II  
Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement/Title VI Coordinator

**1. Call Policy Committee Meeting to Order** – Chair Jason Graham  
Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**  
Chair Graham led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum** – Mx. Colie Touzel  
Mx. Touzel conducted roll call and determined a quorum present.

**4. Approval of the September 19, 2022 Policy Committee Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**  
Mr. Ollis requested to add a new item 8.f., Letter of Support for University of Mary Washington’s (UMW’s) Center for Preservation and Resilience of at-Risk Transportation Infrastructure (C-PARTI) proposal.

Motion was made to approve the September 19, 2022 Policy Committee agenda as amended.

Motion: Ms. Bohmke; Second: Dr. Schneider

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**5. Public Involvement**

Mx. Touzel read aloud general comments from the public which were received prior to the meeting.

**6. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of August 15, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**  
Ms. Bohmke pointed out two typographical errors in the minutes.

Motion to approve the consent agenda with corrections.

Motion: Ms. Bohmke; Second: Dr. Schneider

Abstentions: none

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

## 7. FAMPO Administrator Report – Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis advised attendees that there will be a pause in the Travel Demand Model until March 2023, due to a delay in the National Household Survey data that helps generate traffic. Traffic trends for the region were provided showing a noteworthy increase in freight traffic: it is up 11% from pre-Covid numbers. Virginia Railway Express (VRE) is experiencing a significant increase in ridership to just about 120,000 per month through August. FRED Transit (FXBGO!) is also experiencing increased ridership. Amtrak ridership has increased about 29% between June and July 2022—the highest ridership on record—and an almost 20% increase between July 2022 compared to pre-pandemic ridership in July 2019. Dr. Schneider advised attendees that Amtrak now utilizes a Dynamic Pricing model with increased fares during peak periods and lower fares for non-peak periods, similar to airlines. Mr. Ollis provided an overview of two studies to be discussed later on the agenda: the Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study and the Virginia Central Railway (VCR) Trail Crossing Study. Freight operator attendee acceptance to the September 29<sup>th</sup> Freight Summit is low, and the event has been scaled back. The FY 24-29 TIP update process is underway, and two letters have been received from FAMPO jurisdictions requesting research into a potential river crossing.

## 8. Action/Discussion Items

### a. FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study

#### 1. Introduction / Progress to Date

Mr. Ollis gave the history and overview of the study: Phase I is complete and Phase II is in process.

#### 2. Transmittal of Phase I Draft report

The Phase I report outlines existing conditions, project definitions and provides initial Transit proposals. As such, the Phase I report does not initiate a public comment process.

#### 3. Phase II Presentation

Mr. Darrell Smith of VHB explained the Transit portion of Phase II. Key points include: successful examples of a corridor-based Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) with level boarding, faster travel times, short headways and 14-hour service span during weekdays and 10-hour service on weekends. Four options of the BRT route were examined with the recommended option's Phase I serving stops between the Old Salem Church Road park-and-ride lot in Spotsylvania County, along Primary Route 3 to the Spotsylvania Towne Centre, through Central Park with a stop at Walmart, along Cowan Boulevard and deviating to a stop at the Mary Washington Hospital, then up US Route 1 to University of Mary Washington, through Fredericksburg with several stops, to the Fredericksburg Train Station. A Phase II of the recommended option would extend west to the Gordon Road park-and-ride lot and course along the Phase I route.

Spotsylvania County representatives shared the following concerns with the portion of the proposal between Spotsylvania Towne Centre and the two Route 3 park-and-ride lots: is the proposal meeting a demand through this segment of Route 3; commuter ridership would be better served by shuttles between the park-and-ride lots and the Fredericksburg train station; the route looks good for UMW students to access shopping and restaurant locations throughout the weekday and weekend hours; and, there are no population centers that are served by this portion of the route.

VHB is recommending the Stafford Courthouse Road park-and-ride lot for a Transit Center that would provide: park and ride for commuter buses, a turnaround point for local buses, layover space, break room facilities for bus operators, a transfer point for connecting passengers, a waiting room with passenger amenities and real time arrival information. In addition to the Transit Center, the Phase II Transit Report recommends new Transit Stops to provide connectivity within the Courthouse Urban Area Development Plan (Stafford Downtown) included in Stafford County's Comprehensive Plan.

Stafford County representatives advised attendees that the plans for Stafford Downtown are being reexamined, and questioned the recommendation for new Transit Stops shown on the Phase II Transit Report.

Mr. Drew Morrison of VHB explained the Pedestrian / Bicycle shared-use path routes to serve the Spotsylvania and Brooke VRE stations. Destinations for the Spotsylvania VRE station include Germanna Community College and the proposed East Coast Greenway route up Benchmark Road toward the City of Fredericksburg.

Destinations for the Brooke VRE station include the Stafford Courthouse / Hospital area, with two different routes: one route would run from Hospital Center Blvd south along a utility easement, through the Stafford Civil War Park to Mt Hope Church Road (SR 677) to Brooke Road (SR 608); another route would run along Courthouse Road (State Route 630) from the Stafford Courthouse area, and along Andrew Chapel Road (SR 629), to access the Brooke VRE station.

Stafford County representatives voiced concern for the route running along the utility easement to Brooke Road. This route passes the Stafford Regional Landfill, and the Brooke Road proposed shared use path will cause heavy impacts to adjacent property owners, since that road and right of way width is very narrow. Courthouse Road is currently used by cyclists and makes sense.

#### 4. Phase II Transit Report

Mr. Ollis thanked members for their input, and requested consideration to commence the public comment period for the Phase II Transit Report.

#### 5. **Resolution 23-01 Directing a Public Comment Period for Adoption of the FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Phase II Transit Report (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to adopt Resolution 23-01.

Motion: Mr. Baroody; Second: Dr. Schneider

Motion passed.

**b. VCR Trail – Selection of Preferred Alternatives**

Mr. Paul Prideaux of Michael Baker International presented the scope and results of the study for grade separated crossings of the VCR Trail at three major highways: I-95 near Hazel Run, US Route 1 at Kings Mill Drive, and the Blue and Gray Pkwy (PR 3) / Lafayette Blvd. Members support the following: tunnel for I-95, a bridge for US Route 1 at Kings Mill Drive, and a bridge somewhere in the vicinity of the Blue and Gray Parkway. Fredericksburg representatives asked for a follow up meeting with staff to discuss the specifics of the Blue and Gray Pkwy crossing.

Motion to approve the tunnel crossing for I-95, the bridge crossing for US Route 1, and two of three bridge options for Blue and Gray Pkwy.

Motion: Mr. Yakabouski; Second: Ms. Vanuch

Abstentions: none

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**c. CMAQ – STBG Call for Projects**

Ms. Golden explained the type of projects eligible for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) programs, and outlined the schedule of work.

Motion was made to approve the CMAQ – STBG Call for Project schedule.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Dr. Schneider

Abstentions: none

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**d. Resolution 23-04 Directing a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the FY 21–24 Transportation Improvement Program to Add UPC T11606: Fredericksburg Station Rehabilitation (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Ollis explained the nature and scope for the project to rehabilitate the Fredericksburg Train Station, and requested approval to commence the public comment period to add the project to the TIP.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 23-04.

Motion: Ms. Vanuch; Second: Dr. Schneider

Abstentions: none

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**e. Resolution 23-05 Supporting DRPT Grant Application to the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program (ACTION ITEM)**

Resolution 23-05 supports an application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for improvements that will increase grade crossing safety for both rail and vehicular traffic at Brent Point Road in Stafford County and Summit Crossing Road in Spotsylvania County. The two counties have committed funds toward the local match.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 23-05.

Motion: Ms. Bohmke; Second: Dr. Schneider

Abstentions: none

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**f. Letter of Support to the US Secretary of Transportation for University of Mary Washington's Center for Preservation and Resilience of at-Risk Transportation Infrastructure (C-PARTI) (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve UMW's Letter of Support.

Motion: Dr. Schneider; Second: Mr. Brown

Abstentions: none

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**9. Correspondence**

Mr. Ollis summarized correspondence received including: VRE ridership information, letters from Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg requesting research for another Rappahannock River Crossing, and information for the DRPT Transit Equity and Modernization Study related to an earlier public comment.

**10. Staff and Agency Reports**

Ms. Parker advised attendees the Orange Plank Road / Route 3 Public Hearing is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>; and that votes can be cast for the Chatham Bridge Rehabilitation and Shared Use Path project that is among twelve finalists for the America's Transportation Awards. Voting ends October 21<sup>st</sup> <https://americatransportationawards.org/> , and votes may be cast each day from any device.

**11. Board Member and Chair Comments**

There were no comments from board members or chairpersons.

**12. Adjourn/Next Policy Committee Meeting: October 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

Chair Graham adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.