

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 3, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org

Committee Members Present:

Chair Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
First Vice Chair Alex Owsiak, Stafford County
Second Vice Chair Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Matthew Lehane, Stafford County
Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Ciara Williams, DRPT

Committee Members Present (remotely):

Bob Schneider, PRTC
Nick Ruiz, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Committee Members Absent:

Nick Minor, King George County
Amy Garbarini, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mohamed Benomar, Spotsylvania County
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Mike Craig, City of Fredericksburg
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Kimberly Wilson, King George County
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Mike Finchum, Caroline County
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Jim Ponticello, VDOT
Dan Grinnell, VDOT
Craig Reed, FREDericksburg Regional Transit
Christine Hoeffner, VRE
Kate Gibson, GWRC

Others Present:

Matthew Wade, Virginia Clean Cities (Remote)
Susan Gardner

Staff Present:

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Becky Golden, Transportation Planning Manager

Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator

John S. Ridout, Transportation Planner II

1. Call Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am by Chair Jackson.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Colie Touzel conducted roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

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

Motion was made to approve the October 3, 2022, TAC agenda.

Motion: Paul Angelo; Second: Alex Owsiak

Abstentions: None

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Approval of the October 3, TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion was made to approve the August 1, 2022, meeting minutes.

Motion: Alex Owsiak; Second: Paul Agnello

Abstentions: None

Motion passed.

5. Review of the September 19, 2022, Policy Committee Meeting

The Policy Committee provided substantial comment and discussion to VHB about the Phase II Transit report. Phase I was a transmittal informational item. The Policy Committee discussion focused on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) proposal, Brooke VRE Station multi-use path and the Stafford Transit Center. The committee provided thoughts on the pros and cons, and some identified issues. The Policy Committee was not unanimous for moving the study to public comment but passed to opening the public comment period. VCR trail crossings options were presented, and the Policy Committee supported going forward with the tunnel under I-95 option, the bridge over Route 1 all three options for the crossing of Route 3. The crossing under Route 3 along Hazel Run crossing option was later requested to be dropped from consideration. The policy committee approved the commence CMAQ and STBG call for projects, and the public comment period for the TIP Amendment to renovate the Fredericksburg train station. Finally, the Policy Committee provided support for a UMW grant/study which required no funding agreement - just the letter of support.

6. Public Comment

- a. None

7. Action/Discussion Items

- a. FY 24 – 29 CMAQ / STBG Announcement –John Rideout

John provided an announcement and update for the FY28/FY29 call for projects. The call for projects is now open and information and applications are available online. Paul Angello asked two questions: How much funding is available and when are jurisdiction board letters due. John provided, ss for the board letter, those Board letters are due by the end of November as board calendars allow. As for funding, FAMPO parked the FY28 funding of about 4.7 million combined while staff is awaiting VDOT to designate the FY29 amounts. In addition, there may be an updated funding amount. There is unspent money on previous projects. That information should be along shortly and FAMPO will update the jurisdictions. Alex Owsiak asked if funds could be available before FY28/FY29 for current projects. FAMPO/VDOT discussed that as FAMPO/VDOT go through the process where it ranks, look at what phases can be accomplished, and update information. Staff requested that localities could email and update where the projects with problems are exist so that FAMPO, VDOT, and localities can decide on the process together. FAMPO asked if VDOT could provide cost updates on projects. VDOT suggested that an update might follow this month after the CTB.

- b. Draft Vision 2100 Update – Mr. Ian Ollis and Mx. Colie Touzel

Ian and Colie introduced the start of the Vision 2100 process. Ian identified that FAMPO needs to develop a vision document with the TAC and Policy Committee. This document that will develop an outline of where the region would like to go. FAMPO will build the vision with additional rounds of input from recent prior surveys. Vision 2100 will not look at near term and look at solving the big problems that take more time. The vision will be more inspirational, identify the big fix if we had the big money, what would we fix and build in larger projects. This is an early rough draft so please provide feedback.

Ian provided a read-through of the 7 objectives and asked for suggestions.

Matthew Lehane – Is FAMPO doing data demographics or analysis? Ian responded, no – we are thinking about considering long term vision and overall principles. Not project level planning. Interventions are generalized, a broad “what”, not a “when” or “where”.

Nick Ruiz asked, why year 2100? Ian responded, FAMPO is looking to the end of the century and to promote a more positive outlook Nick commented it might be too far into the future and too nebulous. Nick recommended to be more near-term. Maybe 2060? Use 2070? 50-year vision.

Chairperson Jackson suggested to continue to tell the story about the future so the vision can give officials the opportunity to see possibilities of the future and take steps towards the future.

Ian suggested that the Vision can pivot to “Vision 2075” and perhaps remove some redundancy elsewhere in the language as well.

c. Results of the Slugging Survey

Leigh Anderson provided an overview of GWRideConnect and TDM activities along with a description of slugging practices. The last survey was conducted in 2014, and for the 2022 slug-count included two-person teams with counters as early as 4am. Results showed that slugging was down to about 35% of the previous counts. It is important to note that there were no OMNIRide buses in 2014 but significant OMNIRide activity in 2022. The highest counts were located at the 610 Staffordboro lot. Surveyors collected limited demographics with about - 80 percent skewed with a male appearance and 20% female appearance.

Ian added two other items – Firstly, DC metro has the highest telework shift in the country that is impacting current counts. Secondly, the region is getting more commuter buses. More commuter buses will lower slugging use but also support in tandem. Without a bus to the slug-lots, sluggers don't have a backup ride. Also noted that since 2014, there has been an increased guaranteed ride-home numbers to five emergency rides. Slugging seems to be still recovering post-covid at a similar pace of transit recovery data.

Nick Ruiz said the counts mirrors VRE ridership recover. Nick asked why this male/female is skew so significant. VRE ridership is about single digit skew. Leigh responded that 20% female is high. There are some significant cultural practices that discourage women from getting in cars with strangers. John Ridout also added that depending on the destination of the sluggers, men have about a 20% or more greater average distance in commuting pattern which might further the skew.

Leigh also noted that the future express lanes will expand slugging. Riders were optimistic about 630 and wanted a Pentagon sign, with questions about how to go about accomplishing a sign to 630.

d. DOE Funding Opportunities

Matthew Wade provided an informational talk about DOE funding opportunities with Virginia Clean Cities Virginia Clean Cities works with federal, state, and private grants to building out EV charging infrastructure, natural gas vehicles, electric school buses. There will be an October 22 demonstration onsite in the Fredericksburg area. For the grant opportunity, Wade is working on using electric trucks for the last mile delivery area in EJ communities with a million-dollar grant in federal cost share with a 50/50 cost share – requiring a non-federal \$1 million match. Matthew expects 8-10 awards. Matthew sought for a non-monetary/no cost share letter of commitment from FAMPO for being a stakeholder.

The TAC asked how much of this study will benefit this area and if there are opportunities for community colleges. TAC mentioned that we need to know how this organization will benefit the region and that the chamber of commerce or the private sector might be better to endorse VCC instead of FAMPO.

e. Funding for Commuter Lot Maintenance, Safety and Security – Mr. Paul Agnello

Paul Agnello stated that VDOT is doing well building new lots, but older lots like Route 28 are falling behind. He reached out to VDOT and learned that VDOT can do maintenance but not updates or rehabilitation. If we were to update the platform or structure, it would need a different funding source.

Ian noted the older lots like Salem Church are in dire need of update. Ian asked VDOT if there are funds available by the next TAC meeting. Jamie Jackson asked staff to identify what our options are. Leigh noted that GWRideConnect will be doing lot counts soon. TAC identified that it needs to strategize on next steps. VDOT will find out and get back.

f. Update on FAMPO Intraregional Multimodal East-West Mobility Study, Phase II - Mr. Ian Ollis

Ian reported, we are updating our email process FAMPO will cease using MailChimp. FAMPO will be sending committee emails using Outlook instead. Each locality staffer is now on the Policy Committee email.

Second, FAMPO asked the consultant to slow down the timeline. VHB will reduce the information, and then provides solutions across two different months for the policy committee. Next Policy meeting, the consultants will review the corridors' issues and provide a run through of each of the focused areas. FAMPO will need to cut down from 13 corridors to 7 but expect that there will be a proposal for 14, including a new bridge over the river. The last 7 projects should be ready to submit for SmartScale. Paul Agnello asked if the VDOT Route 3 pipeline study would be included in the East-West study. Ian said the consultants are the same for both studies, which is helpful to link FAMPO projects. Next month we should see the interventions and when we have the documents and have a discussion of the various studies as to which solutions are the politicians going to support. Ian asked for the TAC to make suggestions to their elected officials.

Ian provided an update on the public comment to the Transit report's survey. Thus far, there has been overwhelming support for a rapid reliable bus route as well as the actual route (83%). 88% of the public supports the Stafford Bus Terminal. The public supports bike/ped path to the Brooke Road VRE stations, and 80% supports bike/ped to the Spotsy VRE station. FAMPO is still taking public comments, survey participation, as well as TAC comments and provide feedback to the consultants before going back to the policy committee.

Ian also made suggestions of East-West study options based on Policy Committee feedback. FAMPO might consider removing BRT on Route 3 as a discussion option and further consider the Brooke Road VRE Shared Use Path (SUP) route. No added information on the location of a transit station in downtown Stafford. Leave off engineering as of now or modify existing lot.

Bob Schneider proposed a pivot to calling the transit project a high-capacity transit corridor on Route 3 rather than the BRT-lite.

g. Endorse Resolution 23-06. Approving an Amendment to the FY21-24 TIP to add UPC t11606: Fredericksburg Station Rehabilitation.

Motion was made to endorse the Resolution 23-06.

Motion: Paul Agnello, Second Alex Owsiak

Abstentions: None

Motion passed.

8. Correspondence –

Research River Crossing from Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg



Ian Ollis notified the TAC of the request to research/study a new river crossing over the Rappahannock. Ian noted that there is specific consideration as to how FAMPO can address the request since FAMPO can't do a big formal study without funding. Packets of concise research is plausible. FAMPO needs to get feedback with the stakeholders and explore what a formal study would entail. The request as it stands is only from Stafford and Fredericksburg. If there is interest from Spotsylvania, we would need additional discussion. Current crossing options would be centrally located between Fredericksburg and Stafford. Without Spotsylvania's input, options would not include a western option or a far western Spotsylvania or Culpepper route. The city asked for an environmental study. There have been other asks for economic benefits that is beyond the FAMPO staff capacity. FAMPO might need an engineering study and suggest it as how it would be built. Provide options for timing for major projects including I95 interchanges. Next step is to set up a meeting to discuss putting something together. Committee agreed to a stakeholder group to be set up. Spotsylvania asked to be able to attend the stakeholder group, although no letter requesting a crossing is expected from Spotsylvania. Stephen Haynes commented that it is probably that the intended crossing is within the City limits west of the I-95 as the City and Stafford are the two jurisdictions requesting the research.

9. Staff Reports

Ian Ollis provided a brief description of the 2022 Freight Summit. FAMPO and the Fredericksburg Regional Alliance had 20+ attendees despite an uphill challenge of reaching freight operators, which is a nation-wide challenge. Attendees discussed issues about freight at a later stage and agreed this is a good first start at introducing FAMPO to freight players.

10. Member Reports

Chairperson Jackson - Fredericksburg Transit is holding pop-up meetings. Expect to see more public outreach for transit.

Paul Agnello - Normally notifications of cost-sharing are only two years cadence, is this a member report? Ian said, it is an opportunity for revenue sharing input, and we lack a formal mechanism to discuss this. FAMPO uses it as a reminder. FAMPO will be changing the format to new project items.

Adjourned 12:18pm