

Meeting Summary
Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) Committee Meeting
January 24, 2007

Members Present:

Mr. Steven Apicella, Stafford County
Mr. Bruce Iosco, Stafford County
Mr. Bob Gramann, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Den Boyd, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Billy Seargeant, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Alfred King, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Layton Fairchild, Jr., Spotsylvania County
Mr. John Hennessy, National Park Service
Mr. Dave Coman, King George Dept. of Social Services

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Lloyd Robinson, GWRC
Ms. Marti Donley, GWRC
Mr. Andy Waple, GWRC
Mr. David Lee, GWRC

The 2007 Transportation Advisory Group were welcomed, and everyone introduced themselves.

FAMPO Chairman, Mr. Matt Kelly, gave a brief update on the new staff at GWRC and FAMPO. He highlighted the different plans that are currently active in the MPO, and the preliminary discussions with VDOT and FHWA in reorganizing relationships between VDOT and the MPO to state a goal that the MPO will take a more active and greater role in both planning and implementing transportation plans. The role of the TAG Committee will become vastly greater than it has been in the past on working on current projects and the Regional Transit Plan in the future.

The relationship between GWRC and FAMPO was discussed. The Board wanted to revitalize the Planning District and the MPO at the same time to make them more effective regionally by combining both meetings and staffing the agency in order to be more aggressive in completing projects. There is a unity by having local officials serve on both Boards. The GWRC handles the land issues and the MPO handles the transportation issues.

The TAG Committee will be reviewed on the currently projects of the MPO and to gather their thoughts on the information in order to look ahead to the organization of the TAG in the future, meeting dates and the role of the TAG Committee. The Technical Committee of engineers and planners who discuss technical aspects and make recommendations to the Board. The TAG Committee are citizens at large and generally appointed by the local jurisdictions to give citizen input; therefore, the Board would receive two types of inputs. The Board would be able to receive input of how people are viewing the projects from the TAG Committee, and the technical aspects from the Technical Committee before a decision is made by the Board.

Organization and Meeting Schedule

The order of all the committees was discussed. The TAG Committee would meet prior to the Technical Committee to review the same agenda and make conclusions and recommendations to the Technical Committee. The agenda contains items that would be taken to the Board for review. The TAG Committee will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

The role of the TAG was discussed to include reaction and recommendation. The TAG's role in the Public Participation Plan was discussed. The TAG committee currently have 11 appointments from Stafford County,

Spotsylvania County and the City of Fredericksburg at the present with hopes to having representatives from King George County and Caroline County in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) Status

The new plan has to be adopted by January 2008. By March, the draft population of 2035 will be reviewed by the MPO and the local governments. There will be an additional 230,000 people living in our region. The model will be reviewed with VDOT to conclude the outcome of the transportation system. Project definitions will be reviewed and calculated to view possible revenues. In April, the traffic modeling and the land use assumption recommendations from the TAC and TAG will be made to the MPO. Between April and June, there will be a review and action time for the TAG. The MPO will also have an action item in that time period as well. In the summer, a Needs Plan will be in place based on the current population, where people will live over time, the impacts of the transportation system, what projects need to be built, and the costs are estimated. Public meetings will be held to gather input. The input will first be shared with the TAC and TAG, and then shared with the MPO. The MPO will then adopt a Needs Plan for the region. The Needs Plan revenue analysis will be conducted which has to be approved by the Federal Government. The proof of revenues and the Needs Plan will constitute a Constrained Long Range Plan. The CLRP will be presented for public review, and the Plan will be adopted in January 2008. The MPO authorized the staff to go out with a retainer contract so planning, engineering and designing services, and part of the work will be the design/review of existing assumptions in the existing long range plan.

Transit Policy Plan Status

The GWRC is the actual owner of the project in business for FAMPO. A notice to proceed letter was sent to Edwards & Kelcey, and an open house is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Questions, recommendations, and concerns about the Transit Policy Plan are welcomed at the open house.

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Discussion

The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) is involved in making significant changes. The change of voting structure is based on how the budget is apportioned. The two commissions in the VRE Operations Board are looking to change the dues structure for VRE and to expand membership on the VRE Operations Board. The issue of the third rail and CSX were discussed.

Public Participation Update

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is close to completion. The completion date is scheduled for February 15, 2007. All Board members will receive an electronic copy to review before the February Board meeting on February 26, 2007. A Resolution will be recommended to advertise the PPP for public comment for a forty-five day period and to hold a Public hearing at the April FAMPO meeting.. A resolution will be presented at the April 2007 Board meeting for adoption of the PPP depending on the outcome of the public comment period. The FAMPO website is currently under consideration, and the consultants, Cordell & Crumley, will be helping expedite both the GWRC and FAMPO websites.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Status

The Bike and Pedestrian Plan is moving forward, and the next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 29th. A set of goals and objectives, a vision statement, a public survey will be reviewed, and any recommendations, revisions, and comments will be presented to the February TAC committee for review. A handout was given outlining a funding program for projects less than \$500,000 under from FHWA for public lands highways discretionary funds. money. The application must be submitted to VDOT by March 6, 2007. The funds do not have a local match requirement, and the funds must be obligated by the end of the fiscal year. The projects

under consideration for the grant were outlined to include construction, engineering, planning and research. The projects in question for the funding program will be presented to the Board at the February meeting.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.