



**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2017**

<http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/committees/policy-committee/>

Members Present:

Mr. Matt Kelly, Chair, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Tim Barody, City of Fredericksburg
Ms. Nancy Long, Caroline County (Non-Voting Member)
Ms. Ruby Brabo, King George County (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Greg Benton, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Spotsylvania County
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Meg Bohmke, Stafford County
Mr. Paul Milde, Stafford County
Ms. Laura Sellers, Stafford County
Mr. Chuck Steigerwald, PRTC
Ms. Marci Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Hap Connors, CTB (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Todd Rump, CTAG (Non-Voting Member)

Others Present:

Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT
Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Mr. Pete Burrus, DRPT
Ms. Jennifer DeBruhl, DRPT
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star
Mr. John Jenkins, King George BOS
Mr. Randy Comer, Citizen

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Mr. Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Mr. Nick Quint, FAMPO
Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRC
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman, Mr. Kelly, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and received acknowledgement that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF FAMPO AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Benton, with all concurring, the FAMPO Policy Agenda was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - None

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) Approval of FAMPO Minutes of November 21, 2016– Mr. Paul Agnello

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Benton, and all others concurring, the minutes from the November 21st meeting were accepted as presented.

b.) DC2RVA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Study Update – Mr. Pete Burrus, DRPT

Mr. Burrus, with DRPT, reviewed the Power-Point presentation that had been previously presented to the Policy Committee. Mr. Burrus stated that DRPT is hopeful to have an endorsement soon from the Federal Railroad Authority (FRA) on the alternatives recommended in the Draft EIS study that is ongoing. Mr. Burrus stated that DRPT is hopeful this report will be available for public review by this spring. Mr. Burrus stated that the preferred alternative is now to proceed with construction of a third track through Fredericksburg.

There were considerable comments presented and questions asked in regard to this project moving forward as to date there has been no funding allocated to the project. Mr. Connors stated that as the CTB will be voting on this project moving forward, he wants to ensure the region's concerns are heard. Mr. Connors asked what would be the best way for FAMPO to get their comments submitted to DRPT and FRA.

Mr. Burrus stated that after the draft EIS has been endorsed by FRA, there will be a sixty-day public comment period in place and this is when citizens, organizations, government entities, etc. are encouraged to submit all concerns. Mr. Burrus advised that all comments received during the public comment period will become part of the final draft EIS so this is the best way to get comments included.

Mr. Burrus advised that if the draft is endorsed by FRA, that the third lane project through the City of Fredericksburg will involve work with city staff and will be in conjunction with the City's local comprehensive plan.

c.) Resolution No. 17-20, Updating the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Provide Additional Information – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 17-20 is a request from VDOT that involves internal “housekeeping” edits and does not involve any money being added, transferred, or deleted to any projects.

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Benton, with all concurring, Resolution No. 17-20 was adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the March 23rd meeting.

d.) Smart Scale Update – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that it came as a surprise to staff when projects were ruled out from consideration in Round 2 of the Smart Scale application process. Mr. Agnello stated that FAMPO staff has had on-going coordination and contact with VDOT staff and thought the projects submitted would be highly scored.

Mr. Milde stated that with the planning and discussions that have occurred with FAMPO, the Policy Committee, and VDOT he does not understand how the projects submitted by this region rated so poorly.

Mr. Agnello advised that VDOT will be giving a presentation to staff and to FAMPO on the scoring process for Round 2 of the Smart Scale application process at an upcoming FAMPO meeting. Mr. Agnello stated that two factors seem to be considerations which are: the local VDOT office did not know what the competition state-wide was going to be; and that it appeared that smaller projects and/or larger projects that have leveraged funding allocated were the projects that scored the highest with Round 2 of the Smart Scale process.

Mr. Connors stated that there is still time for submitting appeals before the CTB adopts Round 2 of the Smart Scale projects and he is not willing to concede. Mr. Connors stated that he will be working with VDOT staff, FAMPO staff, and the VDOT Central office to determine the logic and reasoning that has been demonstrated.

Mr. Kelly advised that an advisory committee is going to be formed which will result in membership from the FAMPO/VDOT staff as well as representation from each locality. Each respective locality needs to nominate and recommend one member to serve on the advisory committee. The advisory committee is going to evaluate each Smart Scale project submitted, seek specifics on what would have made the project score higher, receive funding, and be approved; review the projects submitted to determine if they need to be removed from the Smart Scale application process; determine alternative methods of securing leveraged funding; etc. Mr. Kelly asked that each locality submit their representative’s name to FAMPO by week-end so that membership roster can be approved by FAMPO by the March meeting.

e.) Revenue Sharing Program Potential Changes – Ms. Marcie Parker, VDOT

Ms. Parker provided a Power-Point presentation on potential changes that could occur with the Revenue Sharing program. Ms. Parker relayed that the legislative language refers to Section 33.2-357 of the Code of Virginia.

Ms. Parker advised that priority selection for revenue shared projects will include the following categories:

- 1.) Existing Revenue Shared Projects
- 2.) Projects that will meet a need in a State-wide Transportation Plan or are in a locality's capital plan that can be accelerated
- 3.) Maintenance projects for pavements or bridges
- 4.) All other requests

Ms. Parker relayed that the proposed changes will result in a \$10 million maximum application amount per locality and up to \$5 million of the application can be designated for maintenance projects. Ms. Parker advised that each fiscal year, the CTB can allocate Revenue Shared projects in the range of \$15 million to \$200 million max. Ms. Parker advised that the presentation was submitted to the CTB in December and will be further discussed at the upcoming February FAMPO meeting.

Ms. Parker stated that the CTB is considering six changes and that they can accept all, some, none, or combinations of all categories. Included in the Power-Point presentation, was a slide that showed what the changes could mean locally. Ms. Parker advised that since FY2011, over 55% of the Revenue Shared projects within the region would have been affected if the changes are implemented.

Ms. Parker advised that each locality should have received a survey that was sent to the City Manager/County Administrators and that this committee needs to follow-up to ensure a copy is available. Mr. Connors asked that all comments be forwarded to VDOT so that these can be compiled for review before the CTB votes to make any or all changes being recommended.

Mr. Milde stated that the State has stopped asking for Revenue Sharing projects but both the counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford have benefited from this revenue source. Mr. Milde requested that FAMPO write a letter of opposition asking that the Revenue Sharing program not be discontinued and that this be available for member review at the February Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Parker recommended that the letter of opposition not be submitted in February; however, submitted in March. Ms. Parker stated that the CTB will be reviewing the changes in February and the February FAMPO meeting will be after the CTB meeting has concluded. Ms. Parker stated that the CTB plans to vote on the proposed changes in March and this would be the appropriate time frame for FAMPO to submit its letter of opposition.

f.) 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the existing 2040 LRTP was adopted on April 15, 2013 and staff is beginning work on the 2045 LRTP. Mr. Agnello stated that staff's targeted time frame for completion of the 2045 LRTP will be May of 2018.

Mr. Agnello stated that a LRTP Advisory Committee will be a new component this year for the 2045 LRTP update. Mr. Agnello stated that the Advisory Committee representatives will be appointed by the Policy Committee and that each FAMPO member can appoint both a primary and alternate voting member. Mr. Agnello stated that the LRTP Advisory Committee will be a public meeting and non-voting members are welcome to also attend.

Mr. Agnello advised that the expectations of the LRTP Advisory Committee will be the appointed representative will have regular attendance at the monthly meetings that will occur between January-November; will have the ability to represent their respective jurisdiction, agency, or group's position on LRTP issues; and will be the contact person who provides feedback on meeting materials and committee requests back to the Policy Committee member who appointed them. Mr. Agnello stated that the LRTP Advisory Committee meetings will occur during the workday and will last approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. Mr. Agnello relayed that the kick-off meeting is scheduled for February 9th at 1:30 p.m. in the GWRC conference room. Mr. Agnello advised that included in the Power-Point presentation there is a roster of the 2045 LRTP Advisory Committee members and that each locality has been contacted, as well as DRPT, PRTC, VDOT, CTAG and MWCOG. Mr. Agnello stated that to date all members and alternates have been appointed with the exception of King George County. Ms. Brabo advised that she would follow-up and have King George contact Mr. Agnello.

Mr. Agnello stated that staff plans to use studies and analysis that have already been conducted by VDOT or localities for the 2045 LRTP updates and he estimates by utilizing the resources already available that this will result in an approximate \$100,000 cost savings.

g.) Volkswagen Settlement Funding Opportunity– Mr. Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that included in tonight's agenda packet is a letter written by GWRC dated December 15, 2016 to Ms. Angela Conroy. Mr. Robinson advised that Ms. Conroy is with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality office and this agency is representing the State of Virginia in the Volkswagen settlement and partial consent decree.

Mr. Robinson stated that the letter states that the national amount of the settlement is at least \$2.7 billion and of this amount, Virginia is slated to receive at least \$87.5 million. Mr. Robinson stated that the terms of the consent decree have been negotiated between the Federal Government and Volkswagen and are not likely to change.

Mr. Robinson advised that all public bodies may apply to receive funding and for projects that qualify there is no funding match required. Mr. Robinson stated that the private sector can also apply for funding; however, private sectors will require a match based on the percentage of what is being applied for.

Mr. Robinson advised that Amtrak and VRE rail projects are not eligible projects for consideration. However, equipping facilities or Park and Ride lots for electric charging stations or CNG fueling sites are projects that would be eligible. This includes projects for vehicle maintenance and storage facilities like for FRED maintenance garage, Park and Ride lots, etc.

Mr. Robinson stated that in order to be eligible, the vehicles when loaded with fuel, passengers, or cargo weigh more than 14,001 pounds and need to have been manufactured between 1992 and 2009. This would include FRED buses, school buses, transit vehicles, snow plows, delivery trucks, etc.; however, would not include car pools or van pools as the 14,001 weight requirement would not be met.

Mr. Robinson advised that the consent decree states that projects must be “implemented” within three years. Mr. Robinson stated that this was a specific point, per DEQ’s request that entities provide comments and feedback on, that GWRC replied too. Mr. Robinson stated that consideration was asked that the word “implemented” be changed to “obligated” and that funding would not necessarily be required within three years. Mr. Robinson advised that if you have an entire fleet of school buses or FRED buses, in order to continue to provide the services needed and expected, the entire fleet could not be pulled off the road to convert the vehicles to CNG fuel usage at one time. Mr. Robinson relayed that if the wording states the funding needs to be obligated within three years this would allow an entity to phase in the conversion in smaller intervals.

Mr. Robinson stated that at this time, all that has been requested from DEQ is that agencies reply back with comments. Mr. Robinson advised that it is not known if there will be an on-going request from DEQ for continued interaction. Mr. Robinson stated that staff will need guidance from both FAMPO and GWRC as to what projects could be considered and presented to see if funding is allocated.

Mr. Kelly asked if this is an item that needs action tonight and Mr. Robinson stated that it is not. Mr. Kelly asked that staff put this item on the February agenda as a discussion item. This will give the localities time to discuss the issue with their respective Boards and Planning Departments and present some projects for consideration that would be applicable for further discussion in February.

h.) Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Ridership Counts – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint stated that as part of the Master Agreement with VRE/PRTC, the region is required to conduct ridership surveys every October. Mr. Quint relayed that the Spotsylvania Station opened on November 16, 2015 so this will be the first survey that contains ridership counts from that station. Mr. Quint stated that since November 16, 2015, one additional train has been added to line and the number of coaches has remained the same.

Mr. Quint stated that FAMPO conducted a VRE boarding count in March of 2016 in addition to the annual ridership survey conducted by PRTC in October of 2016. Mr. Quint advised that the counts are conducted on either a Tuesday or Wednesday work day as these days have shown to be the days consistently with the largest numbers of riders.

Before the Spotsylvania Station opened, the October 2015 survey showed that there 3,098 riders boarding the VRE on the day the survey was conducted. Mr. Quint advised that the March, 2016

passenger boarding counts which included the Spotsylvania Station VRE station for the first time depicted a grand total of 3,312 riders. This is a 6.5% increase and an additional 214 riders from the October, 2015 survey.

Mr. Quint stated that the October 2016 passenger boarding count resulted in 3,297 daily riders that reflected a 6% increase with an additional 199 riders. Mr. Quint advised that the boarding's for the entire Fredericksburg Line increased by 8% from October of 2015 to October of 2016.

After the Spotsylvania Station opened, the count shows that both the Fredericksburg Station and Leeland Station showed a drop in the number of riders boarding at both of these stations. Those riders getting on at the Brooke Road Station remained consistent from both the October 2015 and October 2016 and did not appear to be affected either way by the opening of the Spotsylvania Station.

i.) FAMPO Meeting Calendar – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that a calendar of all upcoming FAMPO committee meetings for the current year is available for pick-up by the members. Mr. Kelly relayed that earlier tonight at the GWRC meeting a request was made and endorsed to change the current “off-meeting” month from August to July. There was unanimous concurrence from the Policy Committee members to make the same change applicable to the Policy Committee meeting dates. Mr. Agnello relayed that the staff would update the calendar to reflect having July be the “off-meeting” month and August be shown as a regular meeting date.

FAMPO CORRESPONDENCE – Included in agenda packet and is self-explanatory.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Agnello advised that the Secretary's office funded an I-95 TDM study for the GWRC region and a draft resolution for this study will be submitted at the upcoming February 27th meeting.

Mr. Agnello relayed that Ms. Donley will be out on medical leave for approximately six weeks and anything that previously went through her to please forward to him so that staff can complete follow-ups as needed. Mr. Agnello also stated that FAMPO has hired two new interns from the University of Mary Washington, Ms. Kari Barber and Mr. John Bentley, who will be working with Mr. Quint.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Ross:

Mr. Ross stated that he had spoken to Ms. Parker prior to tonight's meeting and requested that during the Route 3/95 safety project that the eastbound lanes not be removed until the new three left-hand turn lane project is completed, tested, and determined to have resolved the current congestion issue.

Mr. Ross also relayed that Spotsylvania County is meeting with VDOT to determine feasibility of removing the bump-outs along Route 3 which would result in a fourth lane being created at a low cost.

Ms. Parker stated that VDOT would discuss both topics and follow-up at the upcoming February meeting.

Mr. Milde asked that VDOT also re-evaluate the fly-over tail on the eastbound lanes at the Route 610 interchange to determine if this alternative is still a feasible one to consider pursuing. Ms. Parker stated that VDOT would discuss this request as well and provide feedback at the upcoming February meeting.

Mr. Benton asked that staff take efforts needed to reach out to our senators, delegates, and congressmen for resolution to the traffic congestion experienced in the area by encouraging the government office buildings in Washington, DC to re-locate further south and possibly into this region. Mr. Kelly asked for Mr. Ware follow-up with this request and provide any feedback obtained at an upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Rump advised that he is CTAG chair and CTAG had the following requests made at their January meeting that they wish to bring to the Policy Committee for consideration. Mr. Rump stated that CTAG is concerned about the weave lanes that will occur at the Route 17 interchange for the cars and trucks. CTAG asked that the Policy Committee pursue this concern with VDOT, etc. to determine what other alternatives could possibly be explored.

Mr. Rump also relayed that CTAG expressed concern about the project at Route 610 in Stafford County no longer moving forward as it was not a project selected in Round 2 of the Smart Scale application process. CTAG is asking the Policy Committee request a full report indicating what projects were selected; how they were selected; what projects were not selected; and the reasons why a project was not selected to enable the region to potentially score well with Round 3.

FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from both the FAMPO CTAG meeting and the FAMPO Technical Committee meeting are included in tonight's agenda packet.

ADJOURN FAMPO MEETING/NEXT MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2017

The FAMPO meeting for January 23rd was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting will occur on February 27, 2017 at 7:15 p.m.