



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2018

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

Members Present:

Mr. Mark Dudenhefer, Chair, Stafford County
Mr. Tim Baroody, City of Fredericksburg
Ms. Ruby Brabo, King George County (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Spotsylvania County
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Paul Trampe, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Meg Bohmke, Stafford County
Mr. Chuck Steigerwald, PRTC
Ms. Marcie Parker, VDOT
Mr. Hap Connors, CTB Representative (Non-Voting Member) (in at 7:24)

Others Present:

Mr. Paul Prideaux, Baker International
Mr. Todd Horsley, DRPT
Mr. John Jenkins, King George County BOS
Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT
Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Mr. Michael Smith, Stafford County Deputy County Administrator
Mr. Rupert Farley, CTAG
Mr. Randy Comer, Thrasher Group
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star
Mr. Todd Rump, Citizen

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO
Mr. Nick Quint, FAMPO
Ms. Kari Barber, FAMPO
Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER

Chair, Mr. Dudenhefer 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. Ross and seconded by Mr. Steigerwald, with all concurring, the FAMPO Policy agenda for the February 26th meeting was accepted as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

None

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a.) Approval of Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2018 – Mr. Paul Agnello

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Steigerwald, with all others concurring, the Consent Agenda was approved as submitted.

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a.) State Response to January FAMPO Letter concerning I-95 ITS Study – Mr. Paul Agnello and Ms. Marcie Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Agnello advised that staff has been tasked from the Policy Committee to write a letter to the State asking that consideration be given to conduct an ITS/ICM study for the I-95 corridor beginning at I-495 and ending at Exit 126/Massaponax. Mr. Agnello advised the letter was submitted by FAMPO on January 22 and Ms. Parker has updates to the letter and request.

Ms. Parker advised an ITS/ICM study was completed in 2012. Ms. Parker stated that even though the previous study would need to be updated, VDOT Central Office concurs that the study is warranted. Ms. Parker advised the request from FAMPO is moving forward, but no timeline has been provided at this time. Ms. Parker stated VDOT would keep FAMPO apprised.

Ms. Bohmke asked if necessary funding for the study has been identified. Ms. Parker stated the study update will only require staff time, so no additional funding will be needed at this time.

- b.) I-95 Phase 2 Study Draft Results – Mr. Paul Agnello and Mr. Paul Prideaux, Michael Baker International

Mr. Agnello advised that staff has been working with Mr. Prideaux on the I-95 Phase 2 Highway Study for approximately the last nine months. Mr. Agnello relayed a transit/TDM study was an additional

component and has been completed. Mr. Agnello stated the highway study is near completion as well, and Mr. Prideaux will provide an update.

Mr. Prideaux stated recommendations from the study will inform potential Smart Scale projects for a short-term fix as well as the LRTP for long-term needs.

Mr. Prideaux relayed that continuous discussion has occurred with VDOT staff to get a better understanding of the scope of the recently-funded corridor improvements that now include the Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project.

Mr. Prideaux stated that revised traffic forecasting and operational analysis has been re-run to test the modeling performance of the new future conditions to re-identify remaining choke points or other unexpected results from the Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing.

Mr. Prideaux stated that Baker has further investigated the effects of a new access point near milepost 131 at the existing visitor's center to determine the volume changes on local roads.

Mr. Prideaux stated the study is almost complete and Baker will continue re-testing modeling data and keep the FAMPO committees updated as new or additional testing results are available.

Currently, Mr. Prideaux stated the I-95 Phase 2 study includes a No-Build Plus 2 alternative that assumes the southbound and northbound Rappahannock River Crossing projects. It also includes the Fred Ex project and all other smaller funded projects within the study area.

Mr. Prideaux stated that the study has shown that even with the major (or minor) projects being implemented, by 2045 the arterial roads will be struggling to handle the increased traffic flow the region is expected to have.

Mr. Connors asked if the current study includes future autonomous vehicle usage. Mr. Prideaux stated the Phase 2 study does not; however, a Phase 3 component to the study could address this.

Mr. Ross stated that a lot of work has been completed on the Jackson Gateway interchange in Spotsylvania County, and VDOT has indicated that some type of super ramp project may be needed. Mr. Ross asked if this study included that data. Mr. Prideaux stated the assumed arterial improvements at both Harrison Road and Massaponax have been included in the data compiled to date.

Mr. Prideaux stated the next steps for Baker will be:

1. continue working with the LRTP Advisory Committee & VDOT to identify a recommendation list for both short-term & long-term regional transportation needs;
2. revise all future concepts based on FAMPO committee feedback and recommendations from VDOT;
3. continue to refine the operational details of the Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project as information becomes available, so testing can be completed on potential new access points;

4. test the demand impacts of other new and improved access points further south within the study area; and
5. present all study findings to FAMPO at future upcoming meetings.

Mr. Agnello advised that staff has tasked Baker with providing study data for two additional task orders that are included in tonight's agenda packet for consideration by the Policy Committee. Mr. Agnello relayed that all task orders over \$30,000 need to have FAMPO approval before they move forward. The two task orders are:

1. I-95 Corridor Evaluation Phase 2 Supplement – Cost of approximately \$132,990 – the purpose is to conduct additional modeling and technical analysis now that the northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project is funded and there could potentially be additional funding for other I-95 improvement projects throughout the region.
2. Parking Management/Travel Information Supplement – Cost of approximately \$48,019 – the purpose is to prepare an ITS parking management/travel project for the FAMPO/GWRC entities to include as a Smart Scale project supplement to help strengthen I-95 corridor project applications.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if the assumptions to be used in the above two tasks could be submitted to the committee members for their review. Mr. Agnello advised this would be compiled and distributed at the March meeting.

Ms. Bohmke asked if bids have been received from other contractors. Mr. Agnello relayed that Michael Baker International was responsible for the I-95 Phase 2 study and they are one of two on-call consultants hired by FAMPO, with the second being Cambridge Systematics.

Ms. Bohmke stated she has no basis for any price comparisons. Mr. Dudenhefer asked if it would be detrimental if this is re-bid and a notice to proceed occurs once that information is available. Mr. Agnello stated this delay would have negative impacts on the projects the region could submit for Round 3 of Smart Scale.

Mr. Ross asked if Cambridge could be approached to see if the bid received from Baker is in fact the lowest or best of the two. Mr. Ross also asked why a potential new access point at Exit 131 rated higher than a new potential access point at Harrison Road as he thought this was the greater of the two needs. Mr. Agnello stated the study is working its way from north to south.

Ms. Parker advised that Baker is a consultant utilized by VDOT, and they have been pleased with their work and bids in the past. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the committee should receive documentation that requires a vote at the same meeting it is presented at. However, Mr. McLaughlin stated when the Phase 2 study process was set for bid, it was bid for a set period; a number of bids were received; and Baker International came in with the lowest bid to complete the assigned tasks.

Ms. Bohmke stated she just wanted to make sure FAMPO and staff are getting the best price for the work. Ms. Bohmke stated that after the process has been explained and staff concurs with VDOT also in support, her questions at this time have been satisfactorily answered.

- i. Approval of Resolution No. 18-19, Authorizing Staff to Work with Michael Baker International to Execute the I-95 Phase 2 Highway Study Supplements – Mr. Paul Agnello

Upon motion by Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Ms. Bohmke, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18-19 was approved by the FAMPO Policy Committee.

- c.) State Update on FAMPO Fred Ex Funding Questions – Mr. Paul Agnello and Ms. Marcie Parker, VDOT

Mr. Agnello advised that a copy of the questions FAMPO has regarding the Fred Ex project is included in tonight's agenda packet for committee review. Ms. Parker advised that the State is not in a rush to allocate the Fred Ex funding and is planning to react to this after the General Assembly session concludes. Ms. Parker stated that the regulations, requirements and stipulations on the new Transurban agreement will not be finalized until January of 2019.

- i. FAMPO Fred Ex Letter – Mr. Paul Agnello
- ii. Update Regarding Fred Ex Funding – Ms. Marcie Parker

Mr. Agnello advised that FAMPO asked staff to forward a letter to the Secretary of Transportation's office inquiring if FAMPO could reallocate the \$2 million originally allocated to the Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project. Mr. Agnello stated the letter that was forwarded to the State is included in tonight's agenda packet for review.

Ms. Parker advised that the State has responded to FAMPO's question and the funding of the Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project is contingent on the \$2 million FAMPO allocated to it, so at this time this funding would not be available for reallocation to other improvement projects in the region. Ms. Parker stated the total funding is based on money designated to Fred Ex, money from Transurban and money from FAMPO. Ms. Parker advised that there is the possibility that bids could come in lower than estimate and the surplus funds could be released.

- d.) Smart Scale Update & Project Discussion – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Round 3 of the Smart Scale process has a longer intake process period and that preliminary work is beginning now. Mr. Agnello relayed the official application intake period opens on March 1st. Mr. Agnello stated that June 1st is the deadline date for creation of an application and that if an application is submitted on June 2nd it will not be considered. Mr. Agnello stated that August 1st is the application submission deadline date. Mr. Agnello relayed that VDOT is providing a State Smart Scale training session at the Fredericksburg District Auditorium on Tuesday, February 27th beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Agnello advised that since the Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project is fully funded, this project has now been removed as the number one regional Smart Scale project. Mr. Agnello relayed that

some additional I-95 improvement projects needed to compliment the river crossing projects have been added. Mr. Agnello stated that several on-going studies will be completed over the next several months, so it is likely that additional updates will be made prior to August 1.

Mr. Agnello stated that on May 14th there will be a forum scheduled to discuss the regional Smart Scale projects. To maximize the number of application slots available region-wide, staff will be working closely with the localities and VDOT to see if project bundling options are a possibility.

i. Updated Matrix of Regional Projects – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised an updated matrix of the current regional projects for consideration is included in tonight's agenda packet. If there are other revisions/amendments needed that are not reflected on the current list, Mr. Agnello asked that staff be advised by February 28.

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

Mr. Agnello advised the top five draft I-95 corridor project needs are:

1. I-95 SB widening from 3 to 4 lanes from Mpt 128.7 to Exit 126 – this will result in the replacement of the Harrison Road bridge as a new 4-lane bridge with bike/ped accommodations and provide an additional lane on the Exit 126 off-ramp;
2. I-95 NB Rappahannock River Crossing project enhancements – this will result in interchange improvements at US 17, an “S” ramp improvement to Route 3 east and the northern tail general purpose widening from 3 to 4 lanes from Exit 133 to Exit 136;
3. I-95 NB widening from 3 to 4 lanes between Exit 126 and Exit 130 – this includes Exit 126 US 1 on-ramp improvements;
4. I-95 SB – new access point at Mpt 131 in Central Park
5. Park & Ride lot improvements region-wide – Mine Road expansion in Stafford County; new lot on US 17 east in Stafford County; & new lot in Central Park in the City of Fredericksburg

Mr. Agnello advised that the LRTP Public Involvement Schedule is as follows:

- FAMPO to authorize resolution for public involvement period to begin on March 13, 2018
- Public Comment Period to run from March 13 to April 11
- Public Meeting at GWRC on March 15
- Public Hearing at GWRC prior to April Policy Committee meeting on April 16 with request that FAMPO adopt on April 16

Mr. Ross asked how the new access point at Mpt 131 got on the project list and how it gets taken off. Mr. Ross stated this project will not solve the traffic congestion and will cause extensive back-ups on River Road. Mr. Ross stated this project assists the City in its economic development efforts but will not be a project that provides for traffic congestion relief. Mr. Agnello relayed the project was one recommended from Phase 2 of the I-95 study, and the City of Fredericksburg has endorsed the project. Mr. Ross stated the Harrison Road project is the preferred project in Spotsylvania County.

Mr. Dudenhefer asked who is responsible for completing the IJR, how much does it cost, and who completes the analysis. Mr. Agnello advised the IJR will either be initiated by FAMPO or VDOT. Mr. Dudenhefer stated this item needs to be on the March agenda for further discussion, comments, and questions that still need to be resolved.

i. Draft 2045 LRTP Project List – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised the most current draft 2045 LRTP project list is included in tonight's agenda packet, and if there are comments/feedback to please forward these to staff by February 28.

ii. Approval of Resolution No. 18-18, Directing that a Public Comment Period and Public Hearing be Held Prior to the Adoption of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Mr. Paul Agnello

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Trampe, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18.18 was adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the February 26th meeting.

f.) Call for Appointments to Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised that a copy of the current CTAG members and vacancies is included in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Dudenhefer asked what CTAG is. Mr. Quint relayed that just like the FAMPO Technical Committee who is comprised of representatives from the local planning offices, CTAG is a citizens' advisory group who is also interested in the transportation issues within the region. Mr. Quint advised both committees serve as advisory committees to the Policy Committee.

Ms. Brabo asked when and where the CTAG meetings are held. Mr. Quint advised they are held at GWRC on the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Bohmke asked who assigns members to serve on the committee as At-Large members. Mr. Quint stated the At-Large members can come from any locality, district, or special entity organization (i.e. such as National Park Service, etc.) and FAMPO makes these nominations. Ms. Bohmke stated she did have someone who has expressed interest in serving but knew a member from her jurisdiction is already serving and was not aware of FAMPO having options to nominate At-Large members. Ms. Bohmke thanked Mr. Quint for bringing the current list of members to the attention of the Policy Committee and stated she would be taking it back to her Board with the hope that vacant positions could be filled. She also encouraged members from other localities to do the same thing.

g.) FAMPO Bylaws Discussion – Mr. Paul Agnello

i. Comments Received – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the FAMPO bylaws were updated in both 2011 & 2014. Mr. Agnello relayed that a request was made to staff in January of 2018 from Spotsylvania County to change Article VIII – Section 6 (changing verbiage that allow a FAMPO jurisdiction to be allowed to add discussion items to the agenda up to seven calendar days prior to the meeting).

Mr. Agnello advised that there is no deadline on when the bylaws need to be updated; however, the changes do require a 30-day committee review. Mr. Agnello stated staff is looking at seeking approval from the Policy Committee on April 16.

Mr. Agnello stated that to date, staff has received requested changes from Spotsylvania County, Stafford County and CTAG. Mr. Agnello reiterated that there is not a set date that changes need to be incorporated; however, if members can provide any comments, feedback, etc. to staff within the next several weeks that this would be helpful.

h.) Culpeper Bypass Discussion – Mr. Paul Agnello and Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County

Mr. Agnello advised in 2013 there was a George Washington Toll Road Authority committee in place and at that time the committee had discussed potential outer connector toll roads being constructed from Stafford County to Route 3 west. Mr. Agnello stated that he was going to turn the presentation over to Mr. Ross.

Mr. Ross stated the dynamics of the Policy Committee have changed from when this concept was initially discussed and that he and Mr. Trampe are the only members who previously served on the George Washington Toll Road Authority committee, and he thought it was worthwhile to at least bring the topic up again to see if it could possibly be a viable alternative.

Mr. Ross stated the idea was to take pressure off the Route 3 choke points and allow citizens to utilize an alternative route. Mr. Ross stated this concept would also provide a better alternative to the citizens from the region that commute to Charlottesville for their work sites.

Mr. Trampe stated there were many right of way concerns with the other bypass options.

Mr. Ross stated in 2013 the concept was abandoned due to it not being a project of interest. Ms. Parker stated that before this project concept is pursued further, the effects on US 17 & Route 3 need to be considered and StreetLight data needs to be utilized for the thought process.

Mr. Ross stated this project would have been a connecting project to the Berea Parkway in Stafford County. Mr. Dudenhefer asked if this project was the one that would involve construction of two bridges. Mr. Ross concurred but stated the two bridges were small bridges and not as significant of an impact as replacement of the Rappahannock River bridge.

Mr. Dudenhefer stated the original proffered land for the Berea Parkway project has expired. Mr. Dudenhefer stated that Stafford could certainly take the request from Mr. Ross back to their board for review; however, he does not see Stafford County pursuing the Berea Parkway at this time.

Ms. Bohmke concurred with Mr. Dudenhefer and stated the project is still on the books in Stafford County; however, there is no action being pursued. Ms. Bohmke stated the project does not have the support of Mr. Gary Snellings who is the Stafford supervisor for that district. Mr. Bohmke stated the

project goes through the counties of Stafford, Culpeper and Orange (two of which are outside of the FAMPO Region) and asked Mr. Ross how much of the project would go through Spotsylvania County. Mr. Ross stated none of the project would go through Spotsylvania County. Mr. Ross stated that initially both Culpeper & Orange had passed resolutions of support for the project concept and were interested in being kept apprised of the status; however, neither at that time had allocated any funding to be applied to the project. (Mr. Ross stated that included in tonight's agenda packet is the original map & resolution from Orange County. Mr. Ross stated that also included is a letter that was written to Orange County from Mr. Matt Kelly, who was chair of FAMPO at that time, Mr. Ross stated that he wanted the record to show that this letter from Mr. Kelly was sent to the other two jurisdictions without it being approved by anyone on the FAMPO Policy Committee). Mr. Ross stated that if the Berea Parkway project is no longer a consideration in Stafford County, then the Culpeper Bypass would not make sense.

i. Culpeper Bypass Map

In packet for member review

ii. Culpeper Bypass Letters

In packet for member review

STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS

None

MEMBER REPORTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

In packet and self-explanatory

FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the Technical Committee and CTAG are included in tonight's agenda packet.

ADJOURN FAMPO MEETING/NEXT MEETING

The February 26, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m., and the next meeting date will be on March 19, 2018 at 7:15 p.m.