



**FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2018**

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Members Present:

Joey Hess, Chairman, Stafford County
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Dan Cole, Spotsylvania County
Doug Morgan, Spotsylvania County (In at 9:45)
Ciara Williams, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Chuck Steigerwald, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Rupert Farley, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Dave McLaughlin, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

Staff Members Present:

Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Marti Donley, FAMPO
Nick Quint, FAMPO
Kari Barber, FAMPO
John Bentley, FAMPO
Leigh Anderson, GWRC
JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chair, Mr. Joey Hess.

APPROVAL OF FAMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

The February 5th FAMPO Technical Committee agenda was approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF FAMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 5TH, 2018**

Upon unanimous consent, the February 5th FAMPO Technical Committee minutes were approved as submitted.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2018

Mr. Agnello advised there was Policy Committee discussion on both the I-95 Phase 2 Study Draft Results and the FAMPO Fred Ex letter, both of which will be discussed later in today's meeting. Mr. Agnello relayed there was also committee discussion on the Culpeper Bypass Discussion.

Mr. Agnello stated there is an article in today's Free Lance-Star regarding the Culpeper Bypass discussion, and it will provide more detail than the highlights he will provide at today's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) State Response to January FAMPO Letter Concerning I-95 ITS Study – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that staff was asked to submit a letter on FAMPO's behalf that would be forwarded to the Secretary of Transportation's office. Mr. Agnello stated the content of the letter was to ask the State to consider conducting an ITS/ICM study for the I-95 corridor from I-495 to Massaponax. Mr. Agnello advised the FAMPO letter was sent on January 22, 2018.

Mr. Agnello advised staff received comments to the FAMPO letter on February 7, 2018. Mr. Agnello relayed the response from the Commonwealth was very positive, and an ITS/ICM study is already underway. The Commonwealth advised that the study is currently a working paper and was initially developed as part of the 95 Express Lanes project. Mr. Agnello advised that the traffic data utilized in the initial study was from 2011, so the report is now being updated to include current traffic volumes. The Commonwealth concurred that the study could highlight potential projects that would improve mobility throughout the Fredericksburg Region.

Mr. Agnello advised the Commonwealth is looking to fund the study soon. Mr. Agnello relayed that Ms. Marcie Parker, VDOT Fredericksburg District Administrator, is the point of contact and will keep FAMPO apprised as new information becomes available.

b.) I-95 Phase 2 Study Draft Results– Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the Policy Committee received a presentation from Michael Baker International at the February 26 meeting, and the presentation included in today's agenda packet is the same that was presented to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Agnello advised the next steps in the process are:

- Continue working with the LRTP Advisory Committee to identify both short-term & long-term alternatives
- Revise future concepts based on committee feedback & discussions with VDOT staff – Mr. Agnello asked if there is any feedback today from the Technical Committee to please forward these to his attention as soon as possible
- Continue to refine operational details of the northbound river crossing project as more information becomes available

- Continue testing data and demand impacts of new or improved access points further south within the study area
 - Present findings to FAMPO at future meetings
- i. Adopted 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

Mr. Agnello advised there was Policy Committee discussion; however, Resolution No. 18-19 was endorsed at the February meeting and is in today's agenda packet for informational purposes only. Mr. Agnello relayed Resolution No. 18-19 is requesting approval for two additional task orders with Michael Baker. The total study cost will be approximately \$181,000.

Mr. Agnello stated the first task order is a supplement to the I-95 Corridor Phase 2 Study. The purpose of this task is to conduct additional modeling and technical analysis due to changes from the Commonwealth in January that includes the funding of the I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project as well as additional funding for I-95 corridor improvement projects. Mr. Agnello relayed the work will include additional technical analysis for new/improved interchanges in Spotsylvania County at Exit 128 (Harrison Road), Exit 126 (US 1) and Exit 124 (Alexander's Crossing). Mr. Agnello stated additional technical analysis for the I-95 river crossing projects at both the southern & northern termini and for US 17 interchange improvements will also be a component of the work.

Mr. Agnello relayed the second task order is a Parking Management/Travel Information Study. The purpose of this study is to prepare an ITS parking management/travel information project for FAMPO/GWRC Smart Scale application consideration that will help to strengthen I-95 corridor project applications. Mr. Agnello advised this data would be applicable to the seven park & ride lots within the region, as well as the new lot to be constructed on Commonwealth Drive in Spotsylvania County. Mr. Agnello stated real time travel information regarding the availability of PNR spaces; open VRE seats; etc. will be data studied with the new task order.

Mr. White asked what the Policy Committee concerns were. Mr. Agnello advised Spotsylvania County had some concerns that modeling assumptions from FAMPO and traffic data did not accurately reflect the amount of traffic utilizing River Road. Mr. Agnello stated the data showed that only approximately 200 vehicles would exit off of I-95 at a new interchange access point at Exit 131 (Visitor's Center), going through Central Park, and then heading out further west via River Road. The data showed 10,000 plus would exit off of the new interchange access point and stop in Central Park. The concern from Spotsylvania is that even if a large number of vehicles exit off of Route 3 into Central Park, once their shopping destinations have been completed they then would be utilizing River Road to reach their home destinations. Mr. Agnello stated the study results were based on destination and origin and request was made to Baker International to re-run data for comparison purposes for different times, different alternatives, etc. Mr. Agnello stated the modeling data was based on anticipated additional commercial growth for the Central Park area for 2045. Mr. Agnello relayed Michael Baker International is going to provide additional study results/alternatives for update to the Policy Committee in April.

c.) Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Update – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised that staff has received three CMAQ/RSTP projects for consideration, and the projects have now been scored. Mr. Quint relayed a project was received and scored from each of the three FAMPO localities:

1. County of Stafford – new FRED bus route from Garrisonville to Quantico – 70 points
2. City of Fredericksburg – Gateway Boulevard extension – 50 points
3. County of Spotsylvania – Widening of Mine Road – 46 points

Mr. Quint stated that once budgets are received, funding will be applied to the three projects. Mr. Quint stated the draft budget allocations are expected to be received by staff from VDOT in March. Mr. Quint relayed staff will seek FAMPO committee approval in April.

d.) Update on Fred Ex Funding – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello stated per FAMPO Policy Committee request, staff was tasked with submitting a letter to the Secretary of Transportation regarding use of Fred Ex funding for the I-95 corridor.

Mr. Agnello stated the I-95 Corridor Phase 2 Study identified the top transportation needs along the I-95 corridor within the FAMPO region. These efforts support the 2045 LRTP and will assist in preparations for Smart Scale Round 3. Approximately \$330 million in critical multimodal transportation needs, beyond the committed improvements for Fred Ex and the I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing, have been identified.

Mr. Agnello advised the identified improvements are:

- I-95 southbound improvements for Fred Ex and River Crossing project to function well
- I-95 northbound improvements needed for River Crossing project to function well
- Additional I-95 improvements needed between Exits 126 & 148
- ITS/ICM improvements needed
- Park & Ride lot improvements needed region wide
- Transit improvements needed

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

Mr. Agnello stated June 1 is the deadline for creating an application for Round 3 of Smart Scale, and August 1 is the submission deadline. Mr. Agnello stated that for the June 1 deadline, there are no application limits imposed.

Mr. Haynes stated the pre-screening period from June to August is not a 100% guarantee that projects reviewed by VDOT will get approved; however, the pre-screening process does allow VDOT staff to work with localities/agencies to ensure they are utilizing their best options. Mr. Agnello stated VDOT is expecting to be in receipt of a lot of projects, so the earlier we can get them submitted the better.

Mr. Agnello stated recent changes to the Smart Scale candidate project list have occurred:

- I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project has been removed due to the Fred Ex announcement in January
- Additional I-95 improvement projects will be needed to compliment the river crossing projects which include improvements to US 17 (northbound & southbound) and to Exits 126 and 130
- As the result of several studies across the region nearing completion, updated projects may be likely as a result of the study data

Mr. Agnello advised the FAMPO/GWRC Smart Scale schedule is as follows:

- March to May 2018 – Continued discussion/development of the region’s candidate projects & coordination on project applications to localities & FAMPO/GWRC
- May 14th – Regional Forum to Discuss Smart Scale projects
- May 2018 – Review & approval of regional candidate projects Policy Committee endorsement on May 21st
- June/July 2018 – FAMPO/GWRC approval of local District Grant projects

As a resolution of support on projects is needed for Round 3 of the Smart Scale application process, staff has made the decision that they will be approving all projects that will be submitted, whether regional or local projects.

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

Mr. Agnello advised an updated matrix of regional projects for consideration is included in today’s agenda packet. If there are any revisions needed, please notify him as soon as possible.

f.) Technical Committee Bylaws – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that at the February Policy Committee meeting, a request was made for a bylaws review. Mr. Agnello stated that to remain consistent, a request has been submitted to both the Technical Committee & CTAG for their bylaws to be reviewed and amended as well. Mr. Agnello stated there is not a time deadline to complete this review process.

Mr. Agnello stated the FAMPO Technical Committee bylaws were last updated in 2009. Mr. Agnello stated that to be consistent with the Policy Committee, some suggested changes have been made and are included in today’s agenda packet. Mr. Agnello asked that the Technical Committee members review the current bylaws & provide feedback to Mr. Quint. Mr. Agnello stated the comments received will be discussed at the April Technical Committee meeting and there is no rush to adopt them. Mr. Steigerwald asked that a copy be forwarded to him electronically. Mr. Quint stated an electronic copy will be distributed to all committee members.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Agnello advised the Chamber of Commerce is conducting a transportation forum on March 13 at Belmont. Mr. Agnello stated this forum will be looking at major unfunded projects within the region and will include discussion on Fred Ex, etc. Mr. Agnello stated a summary of the forum will be presented at the April committee meetings.

Mr. Agnello stated also in correspondence is a letter noting Ms. Donley's retirement from FAMPO effective June 30. Mr. Agnello stated that Ms. Donley's efforts on FAMPO items, meetings, public participation, etc. has been invaluable. Mr. Agnello stated Ms. Donley's efforts have been greatly appreciated and asked for a round of applause from the committee.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Agnello advised that staff is beginning the update process for the FY2019 UPWP. Mr. Agnello stated this update will include the regional/local studies and an email will be sent to all members requesting information to be provided.

Ms. Donley advised the public comment period for the LRTP begins on March 13 and a public hearing will be held prior to the FAMPO Policy Committee meeting on April 16.

MEMBER REPORTS

DRPT:

Ms. Williams advised that funding allocation numbers are now complete and will be forwarded to agencies today. Ms. Williams advised a kick-off meeting will be held in VDOT Central Office on March 12 at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Williams stated the meeting would address the on-going capital project needs.

VRE:

Ms. Soneji advised that VRE has completed testing of the automatic counters at the Spotsylvania VRE station and will begin installing the equipment at other stations along the Fredericksburg and Manassas lines. Ms. Soneji stated VRE conducted a TDP workshop that focused on broad goals and objectives. Ms. Soneji stated in June another workshop will be held and will be more focused on project descriptions, costs, etc. Ms. Soneji stated a presentation to the Technical Committee is in order and asked this be an agenda item for the April meeting.

ADJOURN

The FAMPO Technical Committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2018 beginning at 9:30 a.m.