



FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2017

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Members Present:

Mr. Erik Nelson, Chair, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania
Mr. Christopher Rapp, County of Stafford
Mr. Tim Roseboom, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Ms. Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Gregory Burnside, Citizen

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Mr. Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO
Mr. Nick Quint, FAMPO
Mr. John Bentley, FAMPO
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chair, Mr. Nelson.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Upon request made from staff, the following two items were added to the June agenda:

- Category 6 – Action/Discussion items – C – Resolution No. 17-36
- Category 6 – Action/Discussion items – F – Resolution No. 17-37

Upon consent from members present, the June Technical Committee agenda was approved with requested items mentioned above to be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 1, 2017

The minutes from the May 1, 2017, FAMPO Technical Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 15, 2017

Mr. Agnello advised that a presentation was given by VDOT regarding project scope changes in the original SB Rappahannock River Crossing project. Mr. Agnello stated that Ms. Shropshire is also here at today's meeting to give the same information to the Technical Committee.

Mr. Agnello stated that there was lengthy discussion on the consideration of establishing a tax floor with the VRE gas tax. Mr. Agnello also advised that discussion occurred on the possibility of establishing a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) for the region. Mr. Agnello stated that both of these revenue funding options, if implemented, would bring additional revenue to the region annually. Mr. Agnello stated that both of these options will be discussed in more detail at today's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a.) Election of Officers - Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the cycle slate for officers from the FAMPO Technical Committee for the upcoming FY2018 year is:

Chair – Mr. Joey Hess – Stafford County

Vice-Chair – Mr. Dan Cole – Spotsylvania County

Second Vice-Chair – Mr. Erik Nelson – City of Fredericksburg

There was unanimous consent from the members present to accept the slate of officers as presented.

b.) Resolution No. 17-36, Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the public comment period for adoption of the FY2018 UPWP began last month and ended June 16, 2017. Mr. Agnello stated that comments can still be accepted up to June 16th; however, to date, no comments have been provided. Mr. Agnello stated that staff continues to work on updating the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Agnello advised that staff is continuing work on Phase 2 of the I-95 Corridor Study.

Mr. Roseboom with DRPT advised that DRPT has conditionally approved FAMPO's UPWP as submitted; however, adoption still needs to be received from the Policy Committee. Mr. Roseboom stated that there are some minor technical issues and housekeeping updates that will be forthcoming prior to receiving Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) endorsement. Mr. Roseboom advised that for the FAMPO region one amendment for an item from Stafford County will need to be updated and that FAMPO will need to submit a Resolution for support as well. Mr. Roseboom stated that DRPT will forward these updates to FAMPO staff by June 20th.

There was unanimous consent from the FAMPO Technical Committee to move forward Resolution No. 17-36 for adoption of the FY2018 UPWP by the Policy Committee at their upcoming meeting in June.

c.) I-95 SB Rappahannock River Crossing Project Changes – Ms. Michele Shropshire, VDOT

Ms. Shropshire advised that even though there has not been any cost changes, VDOT has a new design for the I-95 SB Rappahannock River Crossing project. Ms. Shropshire stated the new design came about from citizen comments expressed at public meetings. Ms. Shropshire stated there was public concern on the weaving that would have occurred with the first concept. The new concept is still being reviewed by VDOT engineers, but is expected to be endorsed.

Ms. Shropshire stated the new concept will result in a total of six lanes, three of which will be collector-distributor lanes, and the changes will be implemented between Route 17 in Stafford County and just south of Route 3 in Spotsylvania County. Ms. Shropshire stated that the other 3 lanes will continue to be used as general purpose lanes. Ms. Shropshire stated traffic will begin to merge back onto the general purpose lanes of I-95 south of exit 130, before the Harrison Road Bridge overpass. The new configuration at Route 17 is simpler in design. Ms. Shropshire advised the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released in July.

Ms. Shropshire relayed that the Route 3 Safety Improvement project is still moving forward as originally planned and these improvements will include safety improvements to both the I-95 SB and NB lanes.

Ms. Shropshire stated that as a result of change in the termini of the project description, a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from FAMPO is needed in order to release the RFP in July.

i. Resolution No. 17-38 – Amending the FY2015-2018 TIP to Update UPC 101595 – Mr. Paul Agnello

There was unanimous consent from the FAMPO Technical Committee to request that Resolution No. 17-38 be moved forward for adoption by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the upcoming June meeting.

d.) Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Discussion – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello relayed that discussion occurred at the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce forum regarding the region considering establishing its own RTA. Mr. Agnello stated this has been an item of recent months at the FAMPO Policy Committee as well. Mr. Agnello stated the City of Fredericksburg is in support of forming an RTA; Stafford County still needs additional information and presentations made from both Hampton Roads and NOVA (who currently have an RTA in place) & Spotsylvania County is adamantly opposed to the concept.

Mr. Agnello stated that as transportation needs continue to rise and federal, state & local funding sources will more than likely continue to decrease, regions are looking at developing other revenue sources. Mr. Agnello advised that the regions that have additional options in place have tended to outscore other regions in the Smart Scale process.

Mr. Agnello advised that the following three transportation revenue sources are being studied by the region:

1. Legislatively updating the 1986 District Grant formulas for Smart Scale to be less focused on city/town population within its district (In FAMPO, only the City of Fredericksburg and the town of Colonial Beach areas are eligible for this funding source) Item 1 could generate an additional \$5M revenue source in Smart Scale projects and an approximate \$35M to the District Grant Program.
2. Establishing a motor fuel tax floor for the VRE gas tax. Implementation of this revenue source could generate an additional \$5.5M annually to the FAMPO jurisdictions – if implemented, an additional \$158M would be allocated to the FAMPO region (City of Fredericksburg, and Counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford) between FY2018 and FY2045.
3. Creating a Regional Transportation Authority – this option generates the largest amount of revenue and would result in an additional \$35M generated in FY2018. Between FY2019 and FY2045, the revenue increase could be \$1.3B (in order to establish an RTA, Mr. Agnello advised that at least 2 adjacent jurisdictions need to be on board).

e.) FAMPO Committee Meetings Calendar – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised that the new FAMPO calendar gives meeting dates for the next year, and is included in today's packet. Mr. Quint reminded everyone that the next FAMPO Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11th at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Agnello stated that as the Policy Committee will not be meeting until the middle of August, there will be no business and/or activity applicable for a meeting in July, so both the Technical Committee and CTAG will cancel meetings for both July and August. Mr. Agnello relayed that the 2045 LRTP Advisory Committee will still be meeting in July/August.

f.) Resolution No. 17-37, Amending the Fiscal Years 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program to Update UPC 107463 – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised that Resolution No. 17-37, is requesting the TIP be amended for the Mine Road Sidewalk project in Northern Stafford County that was added to the Six Year Improvement

Program (SYIP) after it was selected for funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Mr. Quint stated the Resolution will add funding to the construction phase of this project.

Resolution No. 17-37 was unanimously endorsed by the FAMPO Technical Committee with a request that it be forwarded to the Policy Committee for adoption at the upcoming June meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Agnello advised that a public information meeting is being conducted by VDOT on Thursday, June 8th from 5-7:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of the upcoming safety improvement projects at the Route 3 interchange in Spotsylvania County.

STAFF REPORT:

Mr. Agnello advised that FAMPO has two new staff members; both are graduates of the University of Mary Washington and previously served as FAMPO interns. The new staff members are Mr. John Bentley and Ms. Kari Barber.

Mr. Agnello also relayed that staff is glad to report that Ms. Donley is now back after being out for medical issues.

MEMBER REPORTS

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT): Mr. Roseboom advised that DRPT's Revenue Advisory Board meeting is scheduled to occur a week from Friday. Mr. Roseboom relayed that Ms. DeBruhl will be making a presentation on what is being submitted and proposed for State approval at the upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED): Mr. White advised that FRED has placed its order to receive 12 new buses. To date, 4 have been received, inventoried, inspected, etc. Mr. White stated the other 8 buses are forthcoming.

George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC): Ms. Utz advised that GWRideConnect is wrapping up the FY2017 year and looking forward to success in FY2018 with the rideshare program. Ms. Utz relayed that GWRideConnect signed up 1,000 new applicants in 2017. Ms. Utz stated that the Advantage self-insured vanpool insurance program is still operating, and GWRC staff maintains the program in conjunction with DRM in Richmond.

Ms. Utz also advised that GWRideConnect will begin its summer marketing campaign with weekly ads being run on the local radio stations. The ad campaign will run from June to September. Ms. Utz also advised that GWRideConnect also has a new part-time receptionist (Mr. Spencer Diehl) coming on board on June 12th.

Virginia Railway Express (VRE): Ms. Soneji advised that the monthly VRE board meeting will be held on June 16th in Fredericksburg. Ms. Soneji relayed that VRE is celebrating its 25th year of

operation, and after the June 16th meeting is concluded, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will occur at the Fredericksburg station.

**NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, September 11th, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
/ADJOURN**

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday September 11th, 2017. The June 5th meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.