



**FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2016**

[www.fampo.gwregion.org/fampo-technical-committee](http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/fampo-technical-committee)

**Members Present:**

Mr. Dan Cole, Chair, County of Spotsylvania  
Mr. Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Jack Green, County of King George (In at 9:25)  
Mr. Joey Hess, County of Stafford (In at 9:20)  
Mr. Tim Roseboom, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)  
Ms. Wendy Kimball, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)  
Mr. Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)  
Ms. Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)  
Ms. Cynthia Porter Johnson, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)  
Mr. Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Ms. Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

**Others Present:**

Mr. Dan Grinnell, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)  
Mr. Jake Herman, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)  
Mr. Rupert Farley, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

**Staff Members Present:**

Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO  
Mr. Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO  
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO  
Mr. Daniel Reese, FAMPO  
Mr. Nicholas Quint, FAMPO  
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRC  
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

**CALL TO ORDER**

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair, Mr. Cole.

**APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA**

The June 13<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee agenda was accepted as presented.

## **APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 9, 2016**

The minutes from the May 9, 2016, Technical Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

## **REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 16, 2016**

Mr. Agnello advised that the Policy Committee minutes are included in today's agenda packet and are self-explanatory. Mr. Agnello advised that discussion did occur on the worsening of the existing traffic conditions during the commuting work hours as a result of the delays and improvements currently being made to the Metro lines. Mr. Agnello stated that there was consensus that traffic delays within the region have gotten worse as a result of the Metro delays. Mr. Agnello also relayed that another new discussion item was that the Policy Committee favorably supported the meeting agenda packets being converted from a Xeroxed copy into an electronic format. Mr. Agnello advised that staff was asked to provide some cost comparisons involved in considering this option and bring it back for further discussion at the upcoming June meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **a.) Selection of a New Chair and Vice-Chair - Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that effective in July, it is time for rotation of the new chair and vice-chair for the FAMPO Technical Committee. The rotation cycle for the upcoming 2016-2017 year will be the City of Fredericksburg serving as chair and the County of Stafford serving as vice-chair. Mr. Agnello relayed that the new chairman will be Mr. Erik Nelson and the vice-chair will be Mr. Joey Hess. Mr. Agnello thanked Mr. Dan Cole for serving as chairman for the 2015-2016 year.

### **b.) Proposed FY2017 Meeting Dates and Times - Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that it was a request from the Policy Committee that they be in receipt of the monthly agenda packets prior than a week before the Policy Committee meetings. Mr. Agnello stated that in order to be able to accommodate this request, as the Technical Committee currently meets a week before the Policy Committee; a request is being made to change the meeting dates for the Technical Committee for the upcoming year.

Mr. Agnello advised that all of the Technical Committee members had been contacted, and all were available to meet on the first Monday of each month rather than the second Monday. Mr. Agnello also stated that it was a request that the meeting times begin at 9:30 a.m. rather than starting at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Agnello relayed that the meeting date for the upcoming July meeting would have been on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> when the office and localities are closed for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday; so the meeting for July will still be held on the second Monday of the month (July 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. – the 9:00 a.m. start time for July was requested by Ms. Soneji as she stated that she already had other meetings scheduled accordingly but will be able to alter her meetings and schedule beginning in September).

Mr. Agnello stated that there is usually no meeting held in August. The first Monday in September is Labor Day, so the September meeting will occur on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Agnello apologized for the series of scheduling changes but stated that by October, the Technical Committee meetings will occur on the first Monday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m. There do not appear to be any additional conflicts remaining for the remainder of the 2016-2017 year.

**c.) US 301/207 Corridor Study Update - Mr. Stephen Haynes**

Mr. Haynes advised that there are different reasons for VDOT doing a study on the Route 301/207 corridor. The Route 207/301 corridor extends from Carmel Church to the Harry Nice Bridge and involves the counties of Caroline and King George. However, the traffic that is generated on this corridor comes from the Hampton Roads area to Maryland. The traffic coincides with the I-95 corridor, and currently there are four-lane road segments that are mostly underutilized.

Mr. Haynes advised that the purpose of the VDOT study is to determine if Route 207/301 could be a viable alternative to the interstate system during times of congestion or incidents and to determine the most effective ways of increasing the efficiency and safety of the corridor. Mr. Haynes stated that currently the only traffic congestion that occurs on the corridor is at Dahlgren (Rt 301) and Carmel Church (Rt 207).

Mr. Haynes stated that within PD 16 there will be eighteen new construction projects beginning sometime in the next six years. All of these projects will affect traffic flow and congestion on the I-95 corridor. Mr. Haynes stated that this also does not include projects that have been funded that will be occurring in both the Richmond, Northern Virginia and Maryland areas. Mr. Haynes stated that it is the intent to encourage additional new capacity utilization that is currently available on the Route 207/301 corridor that also does not drastically increase the travel times from point a to point b.

Mr. Haynes advised that the cut-off date for the first round of funding considerations was missed; however, the study has been submitted for Round two of HB2 funding considerations. Mr. Haynes relayed that once funding has been obtained, the study completion time is expected to be approximately a year. Mr. Haynes advised that the modeling design will coincide with the 2040 design for the Harry Nice Bridge project.

Mr. Haynes relayed that another element for study is the determination of whether the existing road designs meet the state's criteria in having the ability to potentially increase the current posted speed limits on the Route 207 and 301 corridors. Mr. Haynes stated that if speed limits are increased and

overall travel time from point a to point b does not significantly vary, then utilization of an alternate route becomes more attractive for those traveling the I-95 corridor. Mr. Haynes advised however that an increase in a current posted speed limit would require approval from the General Assembly but the study would address this issue as well as compile data that studies the existing roadway geometrics; the existing access management options and opportunities for improvements.

Mr. Agnello asked Mr. Haynes if at this time is there any FAMPO support that could be offered to assist with the study efforts. Mr. Haynes stated that the project scope is just getting underway and preparing to begin in August of 2016. Mr. Haynes stated that as the project study nears completion, at that time letters of support from the localities and/or FAMPO could become helpful. Mr. Haynes advised that currently the initial data is being done to determine if this study will be provided by a VDOT consultant or whether the study can actually be completed internally.

Mr. Agnello asked if VDOT has spoken with the Maryland Department of Transportation to coincide study resources with them. Mr. Haynes stated that as of now Maryland and Virginia are not working together, but that will be one of the project scope tasks.

Mr. Agnello asked if the funding currently being collected by the State of Maryland for the Harry Nice Bridge has to be allocated towards bridge repairs. Mr. Green relayed that the toll money that is revenue from the bridge utilization does not have to be designated solely for bridge projects. Mr. Green stated that he felt this study being undertaken now is positive as it could provide traffic alternatives and the Harry Nice Bridge repair project is still at least five years out before repair work will be initiated.

**d.) Resolution 16-34, Allocating Fiscal Years 2017-2022 CMAQ/RSTP Funds – Mr. Daniel Reese**

Mr. Reese advised that Resolution No. 16-34 is requesting adoption of the CMAQ/RSTP funding allocations. Mr. Reese stated that staff received the final allocated figures last week and have updated the matrix sheet included in today's agenda packet.

Mr. Reese relayed that the region received funding for six operational studies in the FAMPO region, and even though some of the previous funding allocations have been adjusted, all six will still be at least fully funded through the PE phase.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Cole, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-34 was endorsed by the FAMPO Technical Committee with a request that it be adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the upcoming June meeting.

**e.) I-95 Phase I Corridor Study Update – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that the I-95 Phase I Corridor Study is nearing completion. Mr. Agnello relayed that last month consideration of two alternatives was moved forward for further study. Mr. Agnello

stated that both alternatives presented at last month's meeting made the assumption that the Rappahannock River Crossing project would exist in both the northbound and southbound directions. The two hybrid alternatives from last month included Alternative 3c7b and Alternative 7a11.

Mr. Agnello stated that the recent analysis has shown that constructing CD lanes in Spotsylvania is going to be quite expensive. Mr. Agnello relayed that a new hybrid alternative, 7c11 is now being studied in more detail. Mr. Agnello advised that Alternative 7c11 was initially not a favorable consideration; however, now with the most recent modeling data completed, it is now highly preferred.

Mr. Agnello advised that even though being favorably considered, Alternative 7c11 is still in the conceptual phase only, and to date no data has been compiled on number of residential/commercial sites that would be affected, right-of-way acquisitions that would be required, etc.

Mr. Agnello stated that Alternative 7c11 would include the following: Express Lanes extension to Exit 133 (Route 17); the northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project; a new standalone access point at Harrison Road; and northbound and southbound General Purpose lanes between Exits 130 and Exit 126. The northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project would be modified to add a northbound auxiliary lane between Exit 133 and Exit 136. This alternative would involve widening of Harrison Road from two to four lanes to the east and possibly for more than four lanes to the west. This alternative is consistent with the Atlantic Gateway project and would not result in a new access point at Courthouse Road in Spotsylvania County. Mr. Agnello advised that FHWA has indicated that they are more favorable of Alternative 7c11 being moved forward for further study. Mr. Agnello stated that the current modeling data being studied is looking at 2040 as its baseline of comparison.

Mr. Agnello stated that the advisory committee will be meeting again on June 17<sup>th</sup>, and at that meeting the committee is expected to choose a final preferred alternative. In July, FAMPO will conduct outreach with jurisdiction to obtain feedback prior to the finalization of the I-95 Phase I Corridor Study report.

**f.) Discussion of I-95/I-395 Study Efforts – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that since FAMPO is not a member of the I-95/I-395 Transit/TDM advisory committee, staff does not attend the advisory committee meetings; however, included in today's agenda packet is a re-cap from the last meeting. Mr. Agnello stated that DRPT, FRED, PRTC, VRE, the City of Fredericksburg, the County of Spotsylvania and the County of Stafford have actual member representation, so Mr. Agnello asked for any member input for clarification if something is misstated.

Mr. Agnello relayed that the last advisory meeting was held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Fredericksburg VDOT Residency office. Mr. Agnello relayed that the geographic boundaries of the study areas are included in today's handout.

Mr. Agnello relayed that the markets that will be included within the study are as follows:

Transit services or ridesharing that originates in the study area that will directly utilize I-95 or I-395 Express Lanes and serve work destinations within the project study area inside the Beltway, which also includes downtown Washington, DC.

Express bus routes or VRE lines that will originate within the Fredericksburg area that also have a destination stop inside the Beltway.

Other transit services, ridesharing, or TDM programs in the corridor that could provide travel choices, increase person throughput, and/or provide direct access to services in the corridor.

New feeder bus service that provides access to VRE stations.

Mr. Roseboom with DRPT relayed that the revenue for funding projects would only be applied to projects on the I-395 corridor. However, as the Express Lane extension project currently goes to Exit 140 in Stafford County, projects from Exit 140 to the Pentagon could also be considered.

Mr. Nelson stated that it is understood that revenues need to be localized; however, the overall regional need still needs to remain evident. Mr. Roseboom stated that the committee is willing to make amendments and that VRE trips are being included within the corridor study report. Mr. Roseboom stated that park and ride lot expansions and new construction would also be considered even if they are located physically outside of the corridor study area.

Ms. Utz stated that the GWRC region is missing a big piece of funding pie if the corridor study does not include the park and ride lots within the FAMPO region. Ms. Utz stated that as a TDM agency, if park and ride lots do not get expanded then there would be nothing in place to subsidize the continued growth to the region.

Mr. Agnello asked if the State and DRPT would be providing updates in July, and if so would this be an appropriate time for an update to be given to the FAMPO committees. Mr. Roseboom stated that he feels scheduling updated presentations in September would be more beneficial.

#### **g.) HB2 Candidate Project Discussion – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that an updated HB2 presentation will be given to the FAMPO Policy Committee at the upcoming June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Agnello stated that the most recent updates indicate that Round two of HB2 funding will likely be less than what was allocated for Round one.

## **i. General Update**

Mr. Agnello relayed that the funding allocated from Round one was \$1.716 billion. Initially the allocations were expected to be \$800 million, so the increase just about doubled what was expected to be allocated. However, for Round two, \$297 million from FY2022 is estimated to be available, and to date there are no estimates released for FY2018-2021 and FY2023. Mr. Agnello stated that the figure for Round Two is probably not accurate and will be updated at a later time.

Mr. Agnello stated that important dates to remember for HB2 are:

July 11<sup>th</sup> – from 6-8:00 p.m. a regional HB2 priority workshop meeting will be held at the VDOT Fredericksburg District office

July 18<sup>th</sup> – concurrence needed from FAMPO on the regional HB2 projects to be submitted for consideration

August 1<sup>st</sup> – HB2 application process begins

August 15<sup>th</sup> – pre-application deadline date that will guarantee Technical Assistance from the State on submitted applications

September 30<sup>th</sup> – HB2 application process deadline

Mr. Agnello advised that the CTB meets on June 14<sup>th</sup> and the updated HB2 policy guide should be available for distribution after this meeting.

## **ii. Regional Economic Development Plan**

Mr. Agnello advised that a Regional Economic Development Plan will be submitted this year for Round two of the HB2 process. Mr. Agnello stated that scoring results from Round one indicate that those areas who submitted an Economic Development Plan received higher project scores than the areas who did not. Mr. Agnello stated that a draft of the region's Economic Development Plan is included in today's agenda packet for review by the committee.

## **iii. Constrained Long-Range Plan Update**

Mr. Agnello advised that local jurisdiction review of the draft project list is requested. Mr. Agnello asked for any comments to be provided to staff by June 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Agnello stated that the updates to the 2040 CLRP are being made by staff. A public comment period is planned to occur in July/August with a request that MPO action be taken in September. Mr. Agnello stated that projects included within a region's CLRP and a specific locality's comprehensive plan, regardless of whether the project was large or small, also received higher scoring considerations under the HB2 process.

## **iv. Discussion of Candidate Projects**

Mr. Agnello advised that currently there are five draft candidate projects that the region is preparing for submittal for HB2 Round two project considerations. These projects are as follows:

- 1 – Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing Project  
Currently a \$152 million project; however, if a fourth lane northbound (northern tail) is added then the estimated price would increase
- 2 – VRE Station improvements at Brooke and Leland  
Currently a \$13 million project
- 3 – Construction of a new Park and Ride lot on the Route 3 corridor in eastern Stafford County
- 4 – New bus transit options – i.e. new FRED circulator/feeder services
- 5 – Additional I-95 Study projects –  
Option 1: smaller projects from Phase 1 of the I-95 study – i.e. eastbound Route 3 to northbound I-95 flyover ramp; Route 610 direct connect ramp to the 95 Express Lanes;  
Option 2: additional funding that would be needed to fully fund the Atlantic Gateway project
- 6 – Other/New projects?

Mr. Agnello advised that projects number one and number two listed above were not funded under Round one of HB2; however, the region has been encouraged by the State to re-submit these two projects again for consideration under the Round two.

Mr. Agnello relayed that project number three (Route 3 east park and ride lot) is a project that FAMPO has been reviewing for several years. A commuter lot on the Route 3 east corridor is needed for the commuters going to Dahlgren. To date, three sites have been reviewed as potential park and ride lot options; however, all three have proven to not be a satisfactory fit. The land desired would need to ultimately allow for 500 parking spaces; however, at the on-set a lot would be built to allow for 250 spaces. Mr. Agnello stated that currently GWRC leases park and ride spaces on this corridor in three different locations. Mr. Agnello relayed that FHWA has asked that FAMPO look at resolving this issue as leasing parking spaces is not designed to be a long-term option for a region.

Mr. Agnello asked that any comments or feedback be relayed to staff immediately as the candidate project list will be submitted to the FAMPO Policy Committee for endorsement at the upcoming June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**h.) Resolution 16-35, Directing that a Public Hearing be Held Prior to the Adoption of an Amendment to the 2040 CLRP to Include Projects from GWRC Member Localities – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Cole, with all in concurrence, Resolution No. 16-35 was endorsed by the FAMPO Technical Committee with a request that it be adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the upcoming June meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**STAFF REPORT**

None

**MEMBER REPORTS**

**Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT):** Mr. Roseboom advised that the State's draft SYIP has been updated and this draft should be made available at the upcoming June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC):** Ms. Utz advised that GWRideConnect is advertising its summer campaign in the Free Lance-Star and on three separate radio stations. Ms. Utz relayed that they are also coordinating with Metro's Safe Track program to be kept updated on the status of their line improvements so this information can be forwarded to the car pool, vanpool and bus operators.

**NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, JULY 11th, 2016/ADJOURN**

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 11th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for June 13<sup>th</sup> was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.