

## **FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

**July 11, 2016**

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

### **Members Present:**

Erik Nelson, Chair, City of Fredericksburg

Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg

Angeline Crowder, County of Caroline

Jack Green, County of King George

Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania

Joey Hess, County of Stafford (In at 9:14)

Tim Roseboom, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) (In at 9:12)

Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)

Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)

Cynthia Porter Johnson, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

### **Others Present:**

Cheng Yan, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Rupert Farley, Citizen

### **Staff Members Present:**

Paul Agnello, FAMPO

Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO

Marti Donley, FAMPO

Daniel Reese, FAMPO (via Conference Call)

Nicholas Quint, FAMPO

Leigh Anderson, GWRC

JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVAL OF FAMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA**

The July 11, 2016 FAMPO Technical Committee agenda was accepted as presented.

## **APPROVAL OF FAMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2016**

The minutes from the June 13, 2016, Technical Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

## **REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 20, 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 conditions and needed repairs to the Chatham Bridge, which is scheduled to be rehabilitated in fiscal year 2020. Mr. Agnello relayed that VDOT would be giving an update on this project at the upcoming July 18<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Agnello also stated that there was discussion about going to electronic agenda packets in lieu of printed ones. Mr. Agnello advised that the Policy Committee voted to try a paperless process for six months and then to re-evaluate to see if this would become a permanent meeting agenda process. Mr. Agnello also relayed that this item is on today's Technical Committee agenda for consideration as well.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- a.) Resolution No. 16-37, Amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Update Fiscal Year 2016 Federal Funding - Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-37 is the result of the I-95 safety improvements to be made on Route 3. Mr. Agnello stated that this project was submitted to the Technical Committee for review and comments at the April meeting.

Ms. Gardner advised that this design/build project is scheduled to be released for bid in September so the Resolution needs to be adopted in July. Mr. Robinson asked for clarification if the Resolution was just for the Route 3 safety improvements or for all of the proposed TIP amendments. Ms. Gardner confirmed that the request is just for the Route 3 safety improvement project. Mr. Robinson stated that the Resolution does not indicate that, and staff needs to update the Resolution accordingly before it is presented to the Policy Committee for endorsement. Mr. Agnello concurred with Mr. Robinson's comments.

There was consensus from the Technical Committee to endorse Resolution No. 16-37, pending revisions, with a request that it be adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- b.) High Speed Rail Update – Mr. Tim Roseboom, DRPT

Mr. Agnello advised that Mr. Roseboom with DRPT was scheduled to be in attendance at today's meeting. Mr. Agnello relayed that he would provide a brief re-cap of Mr. Roseboom's presentation. Mr. Agnello stated that included in today's agenda packet is a map that depicts a potential Fredericksburg Bypass rail alternative.

Mr. Agnello advised that this project concept is strictly in the planning stages at this point. Mr. Agnello relayed that adjoining property owners in the Counties of Caroline, Spotsylvania and Stafford have received initial information from DRPT in regard to potential new rail alignments. Mr. Agnello stated that an informational meeting is scheduled for tonight for the purpose of hearing citizen concerns, etc. Mr. Agnello relayed that the meeting will be held at the Fredericksburg Christian High School campus from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mr. Agnello stated that should an eastern bypass project be completed, 2/3 of the trains that run through the city now would be diverted to the bypass.

Mr. Nelson stated that an article had recently run in the Free Lance-Star which indicated that the existing train tracks within the City would no longer be able to accommodate the continued rail growth. Mr. Nelson advised that it is the City's request that an eastern bypass alternative be considered as this is a preferred and better option for the trains and existing tracks; however, a third line could in fact be accommodated by the City at the existing station.

Mr. Roseboom advised that currently DRPT is looking to provide an updated presentation to the FAMPO Policy Committee in September. Mr. Agnello stated that a rail bypass alternative is now just in the EIS phase to determine study impacts. Mr. Roseboom relayed that public hearings and public comment opportunities will occur in early fall and that the EIS phase will be completed in the fall of 2017.

Mr. Robinson asked if there was an approximate project cost estimate available to date. Mr. Roseboom stated that to date, no project cost is available. Mr. Robinson stated that not only is the location of the project critical to the residents but the costs involved are just as important. Mr. Roseboom concurred and stated that tonight's meeting is simply the informational meeting start-up process and that there will be continued opportunities for comments and feedback at future upcoming meetings and Mr. Roseboom stated that he is hopeful there will be initial cost estimates available by the September presentation as well.

**c.) Smart Scale Regional Priorities – Mr. Paul Agnello**

r. Agnello advised that a meeting will be held tonight at the Fredericksburg VDOT District Auditorium that will be for accepting comments on the potential projects to be submitted by the region for the Smart Scale project submission process for 2016.

Mr. Agnello stated that in today's agenda packet is the listing of regional projects and locality projects that are being considered. Mr. Agnello advised that there is regional consent and political support as well as modeling data from the Phase I I-95 Corridor Study that supports the Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project as the top priority for the region. Mr. Agnello stated that this project, which has an estimated cost of \$152 million, was submitted for Round I of last year's HB2 project submission process. Mr. Agnello relayed that modeling data received from the I-95 Corridor Study showed that there was also a need for the "Northern Tail" project to be included in the original

Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project, and the \$152 million cost figure does not include the “Northern Tail.”

i. VRE Fredericksburg Line Capacity Expansion – Ms. Sonali Soneji, VRE

Ms. Soneji with VRE advised that the VRE 2040 System Plan for adding rail capacity is the key focus of their proposed Smart Scale submission. Ms. Soneji stated that Phase 1 of this plan is being looked at for this round of Smart Scale, and it is considered a smaller project; whereby Phases 2 and 3 are larger, long-term projects. Ms. Soneji stated that most of the projects listed in Phase 1 have now been completed, and VRE is looking to submit the larger projects for consideration of this round of funding. Ms. Soneji advised that Mr. Tom Hickey will be on-site at tonight’s meeting to provide more information on VRE’s Smart Scale application plan for 2040.

d.) Paperless Agendas – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the FAMPO Policy Committee discussed having agenda packets provided electronically at their June meeting. Mr. Agnello stated that it was the request from the Policy Committee that a minimum amount of printed packets still be made available for the public, as well as printed agendas for all committee members. Mr. Agnello stated that agenda packets would be made available electronically, and members can print the packet/specific sections of the packet before coming to a scheduled meeting.

Mr. Agnello stated that the Policy Committee was going to test the “paperless” approach for six months and then re-evaluate to see if this meeting agenda method is as effective. Mr. Agnello relayed that the same request is being given to both the Technical Committee and the CTAG for their discussion and comments.

There was concurrence from the Technical Committee to endorse a “paperless” agenda packet process which will begin at the upcoming September meeting. Mr. Agnello stated that most PowerPoint presentations would not be printed; however, if there is something urgent and critical or something that has changed from the previous documents, these meeting materials would still be provided in a printed format for members’ review.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence is in packet and is self-explanatory.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Agnello advised that directly after the conclusion of today’s Technical Committee meeting will be a webinar on the new StreetLight modeling data that will be utilized with Phase II of the I-95 corridor study. Mr. Agnello stated that the kick-off meeting for Phase II will be held this Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, at FAMPO and will begin at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Agnello advised that all Technical Committee

members were invited to stay after the conclusion of the Technical Committee meeting to participate in the StreetLight webinar.

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

*Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT):* Mr. Roseboom advised that there have been new assignments in regard to DRPT staff. Mr. Agnello asked that an updated staff contact list be provided to staff. Mr. Roseboom stated that he would follow-up with the request.

*Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC):* Ms. Porter Johnson advised that this will likely be her last Technical Committee meeting and that Mr. Chuck Steigerwald will begin attending the FAMPO Technical Committee meetings representing PRTC. Ms. Porter Johnson also relayed that PRTC will be starting its new planning survey, and the Spotsylvania Station will be the destination of origin. PRTC will again be requesting volunteers from the FAMPO region to assist with the survey counts, data collection, etc.

*Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT):* Mr. Haynes advised that there are two new VDOT representatives at today's meeting as well, and these are Ms. Susan Gardner and Ms. Linda LaSut. Mr. Haynes relayed that Ms. Gardner will be in charge of the financing department for project funding allocations. Mr. Haynes stated that Ms. LaSut will be involved with the Planning Department. Mr. Haynes relayed that Ms. Michelle Shropshire will still be the planning director.

## **NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.** **/ADJOURN**

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday September 12, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Agnello advised that beginning in October, the Technical Committee will begin meeting on the new date and start time each month, which will be the first Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The Technical Committee meeting for July 11<sup>th</sup> was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.