



**Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2017**

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Committee Members Present:

Mr. Todd Rump, Chair, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Dave McLaughlin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Tim Davis, Caroline County
Mr. Michael Wood, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Dawn McGarrity, Stafford County
Mr. David Swan, Stafford County
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Michele Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) Staff:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rump called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Gross, with all concurring, the June 19th agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CTAG MEETING SUMMARY OF MAY 10, 2017

Mr. Rump requested an edit to comments he made on page 3. The comments requested were clerical in nature and not in context. Upon motion by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Gross, with all

concurring, the May 10th minutes were approved with the understanding an amendment would be made after the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 15, 2017

Mr. Agnello advised that VDOT provided an update for a new design for the I-95 SB Rappahannock River Crossing project. Mr. Agnello advised that Ms. Shropshire from VDOT will be giving the same presentation tonight later in the agenda.

Mr. Agnello advised that there was lengthy discussion from the Policy Committee on the pros and cons of considering forming its own Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). This is an additional revenue source that other regions have implemented that would result in additional dollars being brought into the region. Mr. Agnello relayed that the Policy Committee has requested staff to provide more data on this funding option, and the item will be readdressed at upcoming meetings.

Mr. Agnello relayed that on June 1st the Chamber of Commerce hosted a transportation forum, and the public was invited to participate.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a.) I-95 SB Rappahannock River Crossing Change – Ms. Michele Shropshire, VDOT

Ms. Shropshire stated that as a result of citizen feedback received at VDOT public meetings regarding the I-95 SB Rappahannock River Crossing project, a new design is being considered by VDOT engineers. Ms. Shropshire stated that there were safety concerns regarding the original concept that involved the weaving of traffic from one lane to another. Ms. Shropshire stated the new design, which as of this point has not been finalized, will allow for an additional travel lane. Ms. Shropshire stated that there is no cost savings with the new concept; however, it does add an extra lane and decreases the weaving and associated safety concerns.

Mr. Davis asked if at an upcoming meeting that VDOT staff could explain how a model is chosen; how it plays into a project moving forward; etc. Mr. Davis stated that for him personally, the hand-out in tonight's agenda packet was very confusing and he does not feel it depicts the real impacts of what

the project is desired to accomplish. Mr. Davis stated that the map made much more sense after hearing Ms. Shropshire's presentation.

Ms. Shropshire advised that VDOT uses the FAMPO Travel Demand model but feels that between both FAMPO staff and VDOT staff a more in-depth modeling presentation can occur.

Mr. Wood stated that it appears that 91% of traffic data focuses on traffic that is passing through the region versus the number of those traveling from one county to the next. He stated that he too would like to receive a presentation on the traffic volumes and how they are being calculated.

Ms. McGarrity asked if the planning that is ongoing now for the I95 SB River Crossing project also includes a future potential NB project. Ms. Shropshire advised that the new Route 3 safety improvement project design includes a potential for a NB project, so VDOT is trying to ensure that all approved projects will also have the capability to tie into other future projects.

Mr. Swan stated that he is aware that VDOT uses the FAMPO Travel Demand Model; however, he wondered if additional models are used for comparison. Mr. Swan stated the model on the New Jersey turnpike would be a good one for comparison purposes. Mr. Swan stated that currently the FAMPO model does not use weekend data in its counts. Mr. Swan relayed that the model used in New Jersey depicts existing traffic counts on a daily basis; seasonal traffic counts; and includes Sunday through Sunday traffic analysis. Mr. Swan stated that if an overlay of the New Jersey model could be taken and put over the Fredericksburg region model, he thinks the data collected would be a confirmation of the consistent transportation issues the region faces.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if regional input at the upcoming June 28th meeting would include facts, figures, heat charts, etc. Ms. Shropshire stated this type of detailed information is not included in an IMR.

Mr. Davis asked how VDOT determines if a project is a good or better project. Ms. Shropshire stated that VDOT is using the 2040 model and feels that adding an additional travel lane on I-95 will accommodate the increased traffic expected through 2040. Mr. Davis asked if a discussion at a later meeting could also occur that explains the project process from start to finish.

Mr. Farley asked where the new I-95 SB River Crossing Project concept come from. Ms. Shropshire stated the new concept was considered before; however, it was removed and is now being reconsidered. Mr. Farley asked if the new project concept includes future growth. Ms. Shropshire concurred that growth factors are included.

Mr. Farley asked if the Route 3 safety improvements are included in tonight's hand-out. Ms. Shropshire stated that the safety improvement projects are not depicted on the hand-out in tonight's agenda packet.

Mr. Davis asked if a “cause/effect” analogy could also be included that clearly shows a pro/con comparison for each project because he feels this information would be helpful for the citizens to better understand the concept.

Mr. Swan asked if any new bridges are included in the upcoming projects. Ms. Shropshire stated that the bridge at Route 17 is structurally deficient in the NB direction, so a bridge project is included.

Mr. Swan asked how many lanes can ultimately go into the median. Ms. Shropshire advised the new project concept will include an additional three lanes (six lanes total), and the design concept still allows for some additional growth.

Ms. McGarrity stated that even though the improvements will help, she feels the project is designed to help those who pass through the region as opposed to the local residents.

Mr. Gross asked for clarification on Route 17 as to how the east-bound truck traffic would connect with SB I-95 traffic. Ms. Shropshire stated that truck traffic heading south on I-95 from Route 17 would stay in the lanes that are there now, and the Route 3 Rest Area would stay the same. Ms. Shropshire stated that if you enter the lanes by accident, you can still exit.

i. Resolution No. 17-38, Amending the Fiscal Years 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Update UPC 101595 – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised that as a result of the design change for the I-95 SB River Crossing Project, a TIP amendment is needed. Mr. Quint stated the TIP amendment will adjust the project scope and move construction funding from FY2017 to FY2018.

Upon motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Swan, with Mr. Farley in opposition and all others in concurrence, Resolution No. 17-38 was endorsed by the FAMPO CTAG committee with a request that it be adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the upcoming June meeting.

b.) Proposed Legislative Items – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the potential draft transportation legislative items for FY2018 are as follows:

- enabling additional rural multilane divided highways to have a speed limit increase to 60 mph
- update of the 1986 District Grant formula for Smart Scale to be less focused on City/Town populations
- support of a regional motor fuels tax floor based on the statewide floor of \$3.17 a gallon
- support for adjacent localities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), or Planning District Commissions (PDCs) to create a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

Mr. Farley placed a motion to add as a fifth item adding congestion pricing to all roads. There was no second to the motion, so it was not added to the legislative items being considered for presentation later this year.

Mr. Agnello advised that recommended Smart Scale revisions are as follows:

- use total project cost instead of total public sector cost
- include weekend traffic counts in the analysis for all applicable metrics instead of using the current data for weekday travel congestion

Mr. Davis asked if any items/concerns are available for review that will be submitted from other regions. Mr. Agnello advised this would be the next step in the process. Currently there is no consensus on related issues across the state, and all entities need to submit their requests to the General Assembly by September. Mr. Agnello stated that after September, requests from other regions should be available for review.

c.) Election of Officers – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the rotation cycle for FAMPO officers for FY2017-2018 are as follows:

- Chair – Stafford County
- Vice-Chair – City of Fredericksburg
- Second Vice-Chair – Spotsylvania County

Mr. Agnello asked that CTAG members make their recommendations to fill the positions listed above and advise staff accordingly.

d.) 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 will end on Friday, June 16th. To date, limited comments have been received and none required content updates. The comments received were regarding clerical/housekeeping requests.

Upon motion by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Swan, with all concurring, Resolution No. 17-36 was endorsed by the FAMPO CTAG committee with a request that it be adopted by the Policy Committee at the upcoming June meeting.

e.) Update on Transportation Funding and Potential Sources for Additional Revenue – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the re-cap from the June 1st Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce Transportation forum are the following challenges for PDC 16:

- severe reoccurring congestion along the I-95 corridor
- congestion is hurting the existing and potential future economic development
- critical transportation needs are costly
- funding expected for transportation improvements from both the State/Federal levels is limited

Mr. Agnello stated that funding continues to decrease and necessary projects continue to increase. In order for regions to continue moving forward, they are going to need to implement alternate revenue sources. No longer are the state/federal revenues sufficient to meet the needs. Even though it is still in the discussion phase, there is not regional consent on the alternatives being considered. Mr. Agnello advised that the Policy Committee is considering the following transportation revenue options:

- Legislatively updating the 1986 District Grant formula for Smart Scale to be less focused on City/Town populations
- Setting a regional motor fuels tax floor which comes from the revenues generated by Virginia Railway Express (VRE) gas tax
- Creating a Regional Transportation Authority

Mr. Agnello advised that of the three options noted above, the one that generates the largest amount of revenue is forming a Regional Transportation Authority. Mr. Agnello relayed that both Hampton Roads and NoVA have an RTA established. Mr. Agnello stated that presentations from both of these localities will be given to the FAMPO Policy Committee at upcoming meetings. Mr. Agnello stated that if any of the alternate revenue sources are approved, it would take a couple of years to implement.

Mr. Davis asked if endorsement from CTAG would be beneficial to both the Policy Committee and each respective Board of Supervisors. Mr. Agnello stated that CTAG can present their input to the Policy Committee for their review; however, the support needs to come from the Board of Supervisors in each locality.

Mr. Rump stated that the consequences need to be stressed to the citizens, etc. Everyone agrees that they want to see things accomplished without raising taxes; however, if citizens feel this way then they need to be reminded that the region's congestion will continue.

Mr. Agnello advised this will continue to be discussed at upcoming Policy Committee meetings. Currently, the City of Fredericksburg, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), & VRE fully support; the counties of Stafford, Caroline and King George want additional information on how these have worked in other localities; and the County of Spotsylvania is adamantly opposed and have indicated that regardless of the additional information provided their decision will remain firm.

f.) FAMPO Meeting Calendar – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised that the FAMPO meeting calendar for the three FAMPO committees (Policy, Technical & CTAG) has been updated with meeting dates for the next year. Mr. Quint relayed that copies of the calendar are available at tonight's meeting.

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

Mr. Quint advised that Resolution No. 17-37 is a TIP amendment for the Mine Road sidewalk project that was added to the SYIP after it was selected for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Mr. Quint advised the TIP amendment will add funding to the construction phase of the project.

Upon motion by Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Gross, with all concurring, Resolution No. 17-37 was endorsed by the FAMPO CTAG committee with a request that it be adopted by the Policy Committee at the upcoming June meeting.

h.) Commonwealth Transportation Fund Revenue Report – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Mr. Gross provided a handout for tonight's meeting that is a Commonwealth Transportation Revenue report. Mr. Gross relayed the report is available on the State website. The report provides a summary of revenues received statewide from the following categories: Motor Fuels Tax, Motor Vehicle Sales/Use Tax, Sales Tax and Motor Vehicle License revenues. Mr. Gross stated that he thought this would be a great source of information if this could be generated to reflect revenue for this region as well. Mr. Gross relayed that it gives you information on where the state money received goes – i.e. 50% goes to maintenance/operation of road improvements, etc. Mr. Gross stated the report was generated by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Mr. Gross stated the report may be helpful for citizens to review so they are more aware of how funds are allocated.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Agnello advised that a citizen information meeting regarding the I-95 SB Collector-Distributor (CD) lanes for the Rappahannock River Crossing project is being conducted by VDOT. The meeting will be held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House on Wednesday June 28th from 5:7:00 p.m.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Agnello advised that Mr. Quint has been promoted to Principal Planner, and FAMPO has hired two new employees: Kari Barber & John Bentley.

Mr. Rump relayed that he was glad to see Ms. Donley back after being out for a medical issue. Ms. Donley stated that it was good to be back and she appreciated Mr. Rump's leadership as Chair over the last year.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Todd Rump advised that he would be stepping down from serving as a member from the Lee Hill District in Spotsylvania County. Mr. Rump relayed that he is running for the supervisor of that district and did not feel it was appropriate protocol to ask the incumbent to re-appoint him to serve on CTAG. Mr. Rump stated that he enjoyed his time serving on CTAG and enjoyed working regionally with the other localities. The CTAG thanked Mr. Rump for his service and commitment to CTAG and wished him well with his new endeavors.

ADJOURN

The June 14th meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m. The next CTAG meeting will be held on September 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes completed by Joanna Roberson