



## Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2017

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### Members Present:

Mr. Matt Kelly, Chairman, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Tim Baroody, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Billy Withers, City of Fredericksburg  
Ms. Nancy Long, Caroline County (Non-Voting Member)  
Ms. Ruby Brabo, King George County (Non-Voting Member)  
Mr. Greg Benton, Spotsylvania County  
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County  
Ms. Meg Bohmke, Stafford County  
Mr. Paul Milde, Stafford County  
Ms. Laura Sellers, Stafford County  
Mr. Hap Connors, CTB Representative (Non-Voting Member)  
Mr. Chuck Steigerwald, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)  
Ms. Marcie Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

### Others Present:

Ms. Jennifer DeBruhl, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)  
Mr. Tim Roseboom, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)  
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Mr. Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star  
Mr. John Jenkins, King George Board of Supervisor  
Mr. Michael Smith, Stafford County Deputy County Administrator  
Mr. Rupert Farley, Citizen  
Mr. Todd Rump, Citizen  
Mr. Ryan Furgerson, Michael Baker International  
Mr. Paul Prideaux, Michael Baker International

### Staff Members Present:

Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO  
Mr. Nick Quint, FAMPO  
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO  
Mr. John Bentley, FAMPO  
Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC  
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC  
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRC

Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

### **CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman, Mr. Kelly, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and received acknowledgement that a quorum was present.

### **APPROVAL OF FAMPO AGENDA**

Upon request made from Chairman Kelly, Item 8e, Presentation from Ms. Jennifer DeBruhl, DRPT, was moved to occur before item 8a.

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, the FAMPO Policy Agenda for the June 19th meeting was accepted with the above revisions requested.

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Mr. Farley strongly encouraged the Policy Committee to place a new item at the top on their list of proposed legislative items: legislation giving our state and region the freedom to institute congestion pricing on existing highways, including all interstates and primaries. The goals of which would be threefold: congestion-free roads without expensive road expansions, residential developments built in walkable urban patterns that are less expensive to operate, and income to fund public transit operations.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Comments and questions from members of the public concerning the Draft Fiscal Year 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

No one from the public spoke at the public hearing and the public hearing session was closed.

Ms. Bohmke made the request for the following changes to be made to the Draft 2018 UPWP:

- Page 3, Number 9 – requested that Transportation Planning Board (TPB) be spelled out
- Page 7, Number 23 – sentence re-worded to reflect: Work with the FAMPO Policy Committee, the Commonwealth and other interests to study, analyze and discuss potential additional sources of transportation revenue including a regional motor fuels gas tax floor and a Regional Transportation Authority

### **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a.) Approval of Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2017 – Mr. Paul Agnello

b.) Approval of Resolution No. 17-37, Amending the Fiscal Years 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program to Update UPC 107463: CN Phase for Mine Road Sidewalk Project in Stafford – Mr. Nick Quint

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, items a & b from the Consent Agenda were adopted by the Policy Committee at the June 19th meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a.) Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board – Ms. Jennifer DeBruhl, DRPT

Ms. DeBruhl provided a presentation to the Policy Committee that is going to also be given to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) at their upcoming meeting. Ms. DeBruhl stated DRPT's Revenue Advisory Board has compiled the following questions to be asked at the CTB meeting:

- How much funding is needed statewide
- What are the potential funding sources
- Which projects should be funded
- How should funds be allocated towards capital projects

Ms. DeBruhl advised that the current transit capital revenue sources have come from the following areas:

- Transportation Trust Fund – 1986 Session (\$37M annually)
- Recordation Taxes (\$15M annually)
- Retail Sales/Use Tax (\$20M annually)
- Sales tax on Fuel (\$28M annually)
- CPR Bonds (\$110 M annually – however, actual allocations have exceeded 40%)
- Federal Transit Administration (\$41 M annually)

Ms. DeBruhl relayed that bond funding represents 44% of the FY2018 Transit Capital Funding allocations. Ms. DeBruhl advised that deficits statewide continue to increase and that DRPT has considered a lengthy list of revenue options for consideration in meeting the funding deficits.

Ms. DeBruhl stated that DRPT's recommendations for transit capital revenues are for the following to be considered:

- Consideration of a package that includes a variety of sources
- Consideration of a combination of statewide and regional options
- Consideration of incremental implementation of revenue enhancements with a 3-5 year phase-in payment established
- Consideration of implementing a floor on regional gas taxes
- Consideration of dedicating any additional Priority Transportation Fund (PTF) revenues to be allocated to transit capital projects

To remember that Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) needs are not fully factored into this analysis and may result in additional revenue needs being allocated

Ms. DeBruhl stated that the recommendations started with documenting the statewide needs back in 2015. From the 2015 allocations, \$130M is needed each year – not including WMATA’s needs – which results in a decrease in the amount of federal monies being delegated to Virginia. Ms. DeBruhl relayed that the Commonwealth has asked if there is a better system that could be implemented for prioritizing ideas/concepts that would seem to work. To date, Ms. DeBruhl stated the Commonwealth has not received any feedback on their question.

Ms. DeBruhl stated that DRPT feels it is possible and desirable to prioritize the transit capital projects by using both quantitative and qualitative measures. Ms. DeBruhl stated that prioritization policies should be developed by the CTB. Ms. DeBruhl stated that this would be in a manner similar to the Smart Scale process upon approval by the board. Ms. DeBruhl stated that developing transit partners would be a solution, and this would allow for input to occur throughout the improvement process.

Ms. DeBruhl relayed the next steps for DRPT are as follows:

- July 2017 – CTB Resolution endorsing final draft with Legislative Recommendations
- August 1, 2017 – Final report due to the General Assembly

b.) Approval of Resolution No.17-40, Approving the Slate of Officers to Serve in Fiscal Year 2018 – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised the slate of officers for FY2018 are as follows:

- Mr. Paul Milde – Chair
- Mr. Tim McLaughlin – First Vice-Chair
- Mr. Matt Kelly – Second Vice-Chair

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all in consent, Resolution No. 17-40 was adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the June 19th meeting.

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

With the edits to be made that were requested earlier in the meeting requested by Ms. Bohmke, upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 17-36 was adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the June 19th meeting.

d.) I-95 SB Rappahannock River Crossing Change – Ms. Michelle Shropshire, VDOT

Ms. Shropshire advised that the original I-95 SB Rappahannock River Crossing Project scope has changed. Ms. Shropshire stated the changes have been made as a result of citizen feedback received at the public meeting indicating a concern for the original weaving traffic patterns. Ms. Shropshire relayed that VDOT engineers re-evaluated the design and are now recommending a new design for approval. Ms. Shropshire stated that even though the design has changed, there is no change in the total funding needed for the project.

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

Mr. Quint stated that Resolution No. 17-38 is as a result of the scope of the project being amended as was discussed above.

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Ross, with all concurring, Resolution No. 17-38 as adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the June 19th meeting.

- ii. Interstate 95 & Route 3 Safety Improvements Project Public Information Meeting – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that a citizen information meeting will be conducted by VDOT regarding the Route 3 Safety Improvements Project. The meeting will be held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House on Wednesday, June 28th from 5-7 p.m.

- e.) Summary of State Staff Recommended Changes to Smart Scale – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the recommended changes to the Smart Scale process were developed as input for the CTB retreat scheduled for June 21st. Mr. Agnello advised that the CTB has the final decision on implementing any changes to the Smart Scale process. Mr. Agnello stated that input received to date indicates that any recommended changes that will occur will be minor.

Mr. Agnello relayed that some changes are expected to occur with the actual application process, including:

- Start of application submittal period moved from August 1st to March 1st
- Limits to be set on the number of applications that could be submitted (a total of five for FAMPO, GWRC, Stafford & Spotsylvania & a total of three for the City, Caroline, & King George)

Ms. Parker advised that VDOT does not think the localities are going to see any major changes occur with the process; however, they may see some tweaking made to the process. Ms. Parker also advised that CTB meetings are live-streamed for those who are interested and are not able to physically attend the session in Richmond.

- i. Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Presentation for June 21, 2017

Mr. Agnello stated that staff recommendations for improving Round 3 of the Smart Scale process are included in tonight's agenda packet for reference by the committee members; however, due to the lengthy report and the lateness of tonight's meeting, this would not be addressed in detail at tonight's meeting.

- ii. FAMPO Input to the CTB on Smart Scale

Mr. Agnello also advised that included in tonight's agenda packet is the letter sent to Honorable Aubrey Layne, Secretary of Transportation, from FAMPO. Mr. Agnello stated the letter cites the recommendations from the FAMPO Smart Scale Task Force. Mr. Agnello stated that FAMPO divided its recommendations into two categories: recommendations on the process and

recommendations on the prioritization methodology. Mr. Agnello advised that the report is included for committee review.

f.) Update on Transportation Funding & Potential Sources for Additional Revenues – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello stated that even though progress is being made throughout the region, deep holes still occur in having necessary funding available to fulfill all of the needs within the region. Mr. Agnello stated that even with the recent progress, there is still an estimated \$1.6 billion in unfunded and critical transportation needs within the region.

Mr. Agnello stated that historically transportation was a pay-as-you-go system, with the federal and state gas taxes providing the funding necessary for transportation projects. However, the federal gas tax has not increased since 1993.

Mr. Agnello stated that the state transportation funding levels increased in 2013 for the first time since 1986. Mr. Agnello stated that there appears to be little support for additional statewide increases occurring in the near future. Mr. Agnello advised that in 2017, state transportation tax dollars were significantly lower than most other adjacent states and the more populous states. Mr. Agnello stated that Virginia's gas tax currently ranks #39 in the nation at 22.4 cents per gallon.

Mr. Ross stated that if revenue factors are also not considered and included, then the numbers/rankings are irrelevant. Mr. Ross asked that staff provide the revenues for review at the next meeting.

Mr. Agnello stated that having problems of significant transportation needs with inadequate funding available is not unique to the FAMPO/GWRC region and is an issue faced by many. Mr. Agnello stated that other regions are considering the following:

- Option 1 – change land use patterns to move towards a more compact growth scenario focusing on multimodal options
- Option 2 – raise additional revenues to fund projects that would reduce congestion
- Option 3 – status quo – have congestion increase with the inability to pursue large projects that would address congestion concerns.

Mr. Agnello stated that some potential sources that could be available for the region to consider for increasing its transportation revenues could be:

- Legislatively updating the 1986 District Grant formulas for Smart Scale – having counties converted over to cities would provide more revenue
- Implementing a regional motor fuels tax floor (VRE gas tax) – this option would result in an estimated \$158M in additional revenue from 2018 to 2045
- Creating a regional transportation authority – this could generate an additional \$35M per year beginning in FY2018; between FY2018-2045, the revenue would be ~\$1.3B

Mr. Agnello stated that options 1 & 2 would help; however, option 3 could raise the amount of additional funding necessary to meet the \$1.6 billion in critical transportation needs.

Mr. Agnello stated that both the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) will be attending an upcoming FAMPO meeting to discuss their process for establishing an RTA. This will be followed by further discussion from the committee on whether this is a concept to pursue further for the FAMPO Region.

i. Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) White Paper

Mr. Agnello stated that traffic and mobility issues are well known concerns for the GWRC Region, and they continue to remain as the top citizen concern. Mr. Agnello stated that over the past ten years, significant discussion has occurred at FAMPO regarding forming an RTA.

Mr. Agnello stated that the General Assembly has control over the creation of any new RTA's, and in order to be granted approval for the formation of an RTA, there need to be at least two connecting municipalities.

Mr. Agnello advised that membership to an authority of where the taxes are to be applied must be named in the legislation submitted to the General Assembly. Mr. Agnello stated that once an RTA request is submitted to the General Assembly for approval, the process involves two years. Year one is the authorization from the advisory citizen votes and year two is the actual creation of the new authority.

Mr. Agnello stated that based on the existing Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) tax structure, if an RTA was formed in the George Washington Region that included Fredericksburg and the Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania & Stafford, approximately \$50 million in new transportation revenues would be generated over the next 25 years. Mr. Agnello stated that excluding highway maintenance, the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) shows the cost to meet needs for highway construction, re-construction, transit capital, transit operations, and bicycle/pedestrian improvements to be approximately \$10 billion.

g.) Proposed Legislative Items – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that there are five potential transportation legislation items for consideration by FAMPO for FY2018. Mr. Agnello stated that of the five items listed below, there is regional support for Items 1, 2, & 5. Regarding Items 3 & 4, Spotsylvania County indicated it is opposed. Stafford County indicated it is not voicing total support or opposition until after additional presentations, data, and information have been provided to the committee. The five items are:

1. Enabling additional rural multilane divided highways to potentially have a speed limit increase to 60 mph
2. Updating the 1986 District Grant formula for Smart Scale to be less focused on city/town populations within the District versus the total district population
3. Support of a regional motor fuel tax floor based on the statewide floor of \$3.17 per gallon
4. Support for the ability for adjacent localities, MPO's, or PDC's to create their own Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
5. Smart Scale changes to be submitted based on input received from the FAMPO Smart Scale Task Force

- h.) Approval of Resolution No. 17-39, Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Matt Kelly – Mr. Paul Agnello

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 17-39 was adopted recognizing Mr. Kelly's tenure as Chair for the FY2016-2017 year.

- i.) FAMPO Meeting Calendar – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised that an updated calendar depicting the next six months of upcoming FAMPO Committee meetings is available for pick-up by the members.

### **STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS**

Mr. Agnello stated that staff is glad to have Ms. Donley back and that two new employees have been hired who are working for Mr. Quint (Kari Barber & John Bentley).

### **MEMBER REPORTS**

None

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes from the FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) and Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) are included in tonight's agenda packet.

### **ADJOURN FAMPO MEETING/NEXT MEETING, JUNE 19, 2017**

The June 19, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. and the next meeting date will be August 21, 2017 at 7:15 p.m.