

FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2016
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Members Present:

Mr. Erik Nelson, Chair, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Dan Cole, County of Spotsylvania
Mr. Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania
Mr. Joey Hess, County of Stafford
Mr. Tim Roseboom, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Jitender Ramchandani, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Ms. Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Dan Grinnell, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Staff Members Present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Chairman Erik Nelson

APPROVAL OF FAMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

The September 12, 2016 FTC agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF FAMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 11, 2016

The minutes from the July 11, 2016 Technical Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON JULY 18, 2016

Mr. Agnello advised that the Policy Committee minutes are included in today's agenda packet and are self-explanatory. Mr. Agnello advised that public comments were received in regard to opposition of the Eastern Bypass Alternative. Mr. Agnello stated this is one of three alternatives being studied in the EIS conducted by DRPT for the DC2RVA High Speed Rail project. Mr. Agnello relayed that this item was added as a discussion item on the July agenda and that the Policy Committee added and voted on the item at the same meeting.

Mr. Agnello advised that staff was instructed to prepare a Resolution stating the region's opposition to the Eastern Bypass alternative only and was not in opposition to the entire project. Mr. Agnello stated that the vote count at the July meeting resulted in a 5-4-2 vote count; with five votes in favor; 4 in opposition; and 2 that abstained. Mr. Agnello stated that the Resolution approved is Resolution No. 17-05 and will be discussed later in today's meeting.

Mr. Nelson asked if the Policy Committee was considering the connections of the High Speed rail project in context with the overall improvements to the I-95 corridor. Mr. Agnello advised that the concerns stated by the citizens in attendance all involved their property rights. Mr. Robinson stated that there were a lot of complaints in regard to the NEPA process – i.e. that this process was three years in the works and now was just being released to the public. Mr. Nelson reiterated that the Technical Committee recognizes the significance of the High Speed Rail project being connected to the projects along the I-95 corridor and that he hoped the Policy Committee has the same thought process. Mr. Agnello stated that resolutions in opposition to the eastern bypass alternative have been endorsed by the Caroline County Board of Supervisors, the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors and the Stafford County Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a.) Resolution No. 17-06, Amending the 2040 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to include projects from Spotsylvania and King George Counties - Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 17-06 is a request to amend the region's 2040 CLRP and the LRTP to include a new project on Route 3 in Spotsylvania County that is now completed and ten new projects in King George County, mostly related to the Harry Nice Bridge project.

There was unanimous consent from the Technical Committee to endorse Resolution No. 17-06 with a request that the Policy Committee adopt at the upcoming September 19, 2016 meeting.

- b.) Resolution No. 17-07, Amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Provide Adjustments to Various DRPT Grants Affecting the FAMPO Region – Mr. Daniel Reese**

Mr. Reese advised that Resolution No. 17-07 is a request from DRPT for amendments to the FY15-18 TIP. Mr. Reese relayed that the Rappahannock Area on Aging (RAAA) and Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED) have adjustments that affect grants to the respective agencies in the FY15-18 TIP. Mr. Reese stated that the amendments to RAAA involve funding changes for new rolling stock and operations. The changes for FRED were just adjustments so an amendment was not required.

Mr. Roseboom with DRPT advised the requested amendments and adjustments have also been made in the SYIP which was also recently adopted.

There was unanimous consent from the Technical Committee to endorse Resolution No. 17-07 with a request that the Policy Committee adopt at the upcoming September 19th meeting.

c.) Resolution No. 17-09, Authorizing staff to Work with the Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning Consulting Team to Execute a Study of Bike Share Feasibility and Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 17-09 is authorizing staff to work with the Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning consulting firm to execute a study of bike share feasibility and bicycle infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Agnello advised that a new component with the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan requires a bicycle and pedestrian plan to be included. Mr. Agnello stated that the cost of this study is to be \$50,000 and will begin in October and conclude in August of 2017.

Ms. Utz advised that the study will be conducted in two phases. The first phase of the study will determine a bike study feasibility for a bike share program within the region. The second phase will look at where gaps are on the existing trails; determine what is already available; and provide insight as to what would be needed to complete the current gaps. Ms. Utz stated that initially the study would just focus on the core area in Fredericksburg and that as the study is new, we do not what the study results are going to recommend but it is felt by staff that this is a good starting point and whatever data is received will be positive for downtown Fredericksburg and the entire region.

Mr. Cole asked if the study would also include connectivity to the battlefields. Both Mr. Agnello and Ms. Utz stated that this would not be a request with Phase I but could easily be criteria request in Phase II.

There was unanimous consent from the Technical Committee to endorse Resolution No. 17-09 with a request that the Policy Committee adopt at the upcoming September 19th meeting.

d.) Update on High Speed Rail Effort – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that a copy of Resolution No. 17-05 is included in today's agenda packet and this is the resolution that was adopted by the Policy Committee at the July 18th meeting stating the region's opposition to the eastern bypass alternative being considered for the DC2RVA project.

Mr. Roseboom stated that DRPT continues to meet with MPO's to discuss the alternatives being studied. Mr. Roseboom advised that DRPT staff is aware that public feedback will be received that will state specific opposition to the eastern bypass alternative; however, it is expected that this option will remain as consideration within the EIS study process. Mr. Nelson asked if this is designed to be a multi-modal transportation alternative, is it related too and connected with other projects that are already pending within the region. Mr. Roseboom advised that some components are included within the Atlantic Gateway project.

Mr. Roseboom advised that this item is going to be discussed at the upcoming CTB meeting held in Fredericksburg on September 20th and 21st. Mr. Roseboom relayed that during this meeting there is a scheduled time to receive public comments and public comments can be made during this meeting in regard to the High Speed rail projects; however, the public hearing scheduled for the meeting is not specifically designed as a High Speed Rail public hearing.

e.) Letter to Docket Concerning National Planning Rule Making (NPRM) – Mr. Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that at the request from the Secretary of Transportation, that the FASTACT and MAP 21 had data included that had to be implemented in order for it to be in compliance. Mr. Robinson stated that a new insert to these requirements was discussed at the last meeting which could require regions to merge. If there are MPO's in a TAZ designated region that do no merge then projects would begin being competed against others within the same MPO.

Mr. Roseboom also relayed that a joint letter from VDOT/DRPT has been posted on the website which also hones in on the intended consequences of having MPO's merging. Mr. Robinson stated that there is no idea where the comments that have been made will lead; however, other MPO's have asked for extensions that have been denied. Mr. Robinson stated that if the measures were implemented that it would be a two-year process before it begins.

Mr. Robinson stated that the letter submitted by FAMPO addressed four points that are similar to others submitted nationally. Mr. Robinson stated that FAMPO is one of the MPO's that is directly affected by the proposed rule.

Mr. Robinson stated that FAMPO has serious concerns about the ruling and request that it be cancelled for the following reasons:

1 – No Statutory Relevance: MAP-21 and FAST ACT were recently enacted into Federal Law and neither measure provided any legislative changes requiring the action so what is the basis for the rule:

2 – No Documentation of Existing Coordination Problems: We are aware of no documentation of any existing coordination problems. Mr. Robinson stated that specifically for FAMPO, we have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with our adjoining MPO and the Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The MOU was adopted by both MPO's after the 1990 census, in which a portion of Stafford County was attached to the TPB's urbanized area (UZA) in Washington, DC. The MOU requires that FAMPO and the TPB fully coordinate its efforts within the

areas of long range planning, TIP development, Title VI compliances and other areas. Mr. Robinson stated that our latest joint Certification Review which was completed in 2015 which contains recommendations for areas of our programs but contains no recommendations or corrective actions for the ongoing coordination efforts so what actual problems will this rule solve?

3 – Additional Coordination Already Occurring: In addition to the MOU cited above, FAMPO and the TPB already have coordination specified and are already above requirements in compliance. Mr. Robinson stated that FAMPO and the TPB also coordinate closely in the areas of major corridor planning, demographic projections and modeling. Mr. Robinson cited that FAMPO and TPB recently coordinated with VDOT in the Commonwealth’s application for FAST LANE grant fund improvements to the Atlantic Gateway project. Mr. Robinson stated that support of this project will request funding that will supplement other Federal, State and private sectors that will make needed improvements to roadways on the I-95 corridor so what additional coordination efforts are required?

4 – Potential Loss of Local Voices in Major Project Planning and Funding: The rule requires that MPO’s in the UZA be forced to merge, unless issues of size and complexity make this unrealistic. This provision has been in Title 23 for decades. However, the rule further requires that whereby MPO’s do not merge, then they must adopt single long range plans and single Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP’s). Mr. Robinson stated that this requirement would undermine the ability of local elected officials and the public in large UZA’s to represent their policies and priorities through an MPO process. So, in summary, FAMPO is requesting that the US DOT office cancel the proposed rulemaking and rethink how to make an MPO coordination and cooperation become more effective.

Mr. Robinson stated that three things could happen with the new ruling: 1 – it does not happen; 2 - if gets implemented, then either Congress or the next administration could veto it; or 3- the language could be implemented that no dollar figures be allocated.

f.) Review of 2015 Socioeconomic Data – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that included in today’s agenda packet is a copy of the FAMPO TAZ 2015 Socioeconomic Data development from Cambridge Systematics. Mr. Agnello asked that the Technical Committee review the document and provide comments prior to the next Technical Committee meeting on October 3rd. Mr. Agnello stated that this document is the first step in developing the technical data for the 2045 population, household, and employment forecasts for the region that will be supported in FAMPO’s 2045 LRTP.

Mr. Agnello stated that the region continues to experience growth and we are still the second fastest growing area in the State; however, we are not growing as fast as was expected from the 2010 census data. That data projected the region would have a population of 375,642 when actually we have 350,000.

Mr. Nelson asked if the data from the study varies does the data obtained from Weldon Cooper override the census data. Mr. Agnello concurred that if discrepancies occur, that Weldon Cooper’s data would be the data utilized.

Mr. Agnello stated that even though the recent data suggest that the population has not increased as significantly; however, the employment opportunities have increased from what was projected in the 2010 census data. Mr. Robinson stated he would like to see the new study reflect what types of jobs and employment has become more readily available for the region.

g.) Update Concerning Atlantic Gateway Program FASTLANE/TIGER Grant Funding Requests – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the updates to the Atlantic Gateway and TIGER grant applications that were submitted by the State and VRE are in. The state received \$165 million from the FAST GRANT; however, received nothing from the TIGER grant.

Mr. Roseboom also advised that the TIGER grant submitted by VRE did not qualify either.

h.) Updates Regarding Smart Scale Process and FAMPO/GWRC Applications – Mr. Paul Agnello

i. Update regarding planning FAMPO/GWRC regional projects

Mr. Agnello advised that three agencies are submitting projects for consideration under the Smart Scale submission process and these are from FAMPO, GWRC, & NVTC. Mr. Agnello stated that the project listing could still change until September 30th when the application process date ends.

Mr. Agnello stated that the projects submitted for this round have doubled from last year and funding is expected to be less – so you have more projects submitted and less money to fund so the process is even more competitive.

Mr. Haynes advised that VDOT is in receipt of updated information and he will forward the latest release to FAMPO. Ms. Soneji also stated that VRE would need letters of support for the VRE projects from the City of Fredericksburg, the County of Spotsylvania and the County of Stafford. Ms. Soneji stated that VRE would be requesting these resolutions in October.

ii. Resolution No. 17-10, Authorizing support for the GWRC/FAMPO Smart Scale candidate projects

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 17-10 is asking for endorsement of the Smart Scale projects that are being submitted by FAMPO and GWRC. There was unanimous consent from the Technical Committee to endorse Resolution No. 17-10 with a request that it be adopted by the Policy Committee at the upcoming September 19th meeting.

iii. Resolution No. 17-11, Authorizing Staff to Transfer CMAQ/RSTP Funding Allocations to Support FAMPO/GWRC Regional Projects – Mr. Daniel Reese

Mr. Reese advised that Resolution No. 17-11 is asking for endorsement for CMAQ/RSTP funding to be reallocated for three projects shown in the FY2017-2022 SYIP. FAMPO has received updated cost

estimates from VDOT for five Smart Scale projects in the Fredericksburg region as well as new projects that have been added to the CMAQ/RSTP project list. The updated allocations will allow the projects submitted to become more competitive for this round of Smart Scale considerations.

Mr. Reese stated that \$256,000 of previous CMAQ/RSTP funds that were previously allocated be reassigned to the following three projects: \$114,317 in CMAQ funding now allocated to the Lafayette Boulevard/Kenmore Street intersection improvements; \$131,317 in RSTP funding being allocated to the I-95 Harrison Road Interchange Justification Report (IJR) and \$10,000 in RSTP funds being allocated to the Fredericksburg Regional Bike Study.

There was unanimous consent from the FTC to endorse Resolution no. 17-11, with a request that the Policy Committee adopt at the upcoming September 19th meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

In packet and self-explanatory

STAFF REPORT

None

MEMBER REPORTS:

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT): Mr. Ramchandani advised that he is now the alternate member to serve on both the FAMPO Technical Committee meetings and Policy Committee meetings in Mr. Roseboom's absence. Mr. Ramchandani stated that he looked forward to participating in the meetings.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): Ms. Gardner advised that the upcoming Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting on September 20th and 21st will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Fredericksburg. On Tuesday the 20th, the workshop meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting on Wednesday the 21st, will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Virginia Railway Express (VRE): Ms. Soneji advised that on October 5th VRE will be conducting its Master Agreement survey that will allocate dues to the region. Ms. Soneji stated that the survey counts will begin that morning at 4:30 a.m. and again VRE appreciates the staff assistance provided from the local jurisdictions. Ms. Soneji relayed that this will be the first survey that will now include the data for the new Spotsylvania VRE station.

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 3, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. /ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday October 3, 2016. The September 12th meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.