



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2017

<http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/committees/policy-committee/>

Members Present:

Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Vice-Chairman, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Tim Barody, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Billy Withers, City of Fredericksburg
Ms. Nancy Long, Caroline County (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. John Jenkins, King George County (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Paul Trampe, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Jack Cavalier, Stafford County
Mr. Bob Thomas, Stafford County
Mr. Chuck Steigerwald, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. David Swan, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

Others Present:

Ms. Susan Gardner, VDOT
Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, VDOT
Mr. Michael Smith, Stafford County
Mr. Rupert Farley, CTAG
Mr. David McLaughlin, CTAG
Mr. Curry Roberts, Fredericksburg Regional Alliance (FRA)
Mr. Kyle Allwine, Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Tom Foley, Stafford County
Ms. M.C. Morris, Citizen, Stafford County

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Mr. Nick Quint, FAMPO
Mr. John Bentley, FAMPO
Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair, Mr. McLaughlin, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and received acknowledgement that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF FAMPO AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded by Mr. Cavalier, with all concurring, the agenda was accepted as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

None

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a.) Approval of Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2017 – Mr. Paul Agnello
- b.) Resolution No. 18-03, Endorsing City of Fredericksburg's Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation for Fiscal Year 2019 Transportation Alternatives Program Funding (TAP) – Mr. Nick Quint

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded by Mr. Trampe, with Mr. Cavalier, Mr. Steigerwald and Mr. Thomas abstaining, and all others concurring, the consent agenda was approved.

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) I-95 NB River Crossing Study Opportunity – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that a recent INRIX study found the I-95 NB corridor in the FAMPO Region to be the 7th worst traffic hotspot in the United States. The study analyzed traffic congestion for weekdays and weekends.

Mr. Agnello advised that before the I-95 NB River Crossing project can be resubmitted for Smart Scale, should the committee choose to do so; an Interchange Modification Report (IMR) would need to be completed. Mr. Agnello relayed that an IMR was completed for the River Crossing projects some time ago, but the data from that study is outdated. Mr. Agnello stated that approximately \$250,000 is needed by VDOT's Fredericksburg District office to complete the IMR, and if the study is not completed, this project would not be eligible for consideration in round 3 of Smart Scale.

Mr. Agnello advised that the VDOT Fredericksburg District office has an opportunity to receive \$200,000 from the VDOT Central Office for the IMR study, if FAMPO is willing to contribute \$50,000 towards the study effort. Mr. Agnello stated that FAMPO does have \$50,000 in FY2018 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding available that could be applied. Mr. Agnello relayed that if the IMR is in place, this could be used as leverage for study funding within the Smart Scale process. Mr. Agnello stated that for VDOT to have enough time to complete the

study in time for Round 3 of Smart Scale, the funding for the IMR will need to be in place by the fall of 2017.

Mr. Steigerwald asked if there is any value in completing an IMR outside of the Smart Scale application process. Mr. Agnello advised that an IMR needs to have been completed before the project can move forward whenever funding becomes available.

- i. Resolution No. 18-04, Authorizing Staff to Transfer Fiscal Year 2018 RSTP Funding Allocations to Support a Virginia Department of Transportation I-95 NB River Crossing IMR Study

Upon motion by Mr. Steigerwald and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18-04 which authorizes FAMPO to transfer \$50,000 from FY2018 RSTP funding to be applied to the IMR for the I-95 NB River Crossing project was approved.

b.) Update on Smart Scale Round 3 – Mr. Paul Agnello

- i. Smart Scale Update – September 19, 2017

Mr. Agnello advised that of the six factors used for Smart Scale scoring, the Accessibility factor has the third highest weight for the FAMPO Region (15% of the total score).

Mr. Agnello stated there are three accessibility measures:

1. Access to jobs (60%)
2. Access to jobs for disadvantaged populations (20%)
3. Access to multimodal options (20%)

Mr. Agnello stated that measures 1 and 2 negatively impact the FAMPO Region because the current threshold is 45 minutes for highway trips and 60 minutes for transit trips, and commute times in this region typically exceed the 45/60 minutes respectively. Mr. Agnello stated that work trips above those times are not counted or considered. Mr. Agnello stated that since most commuters from this region commute to Northern Virginia or Washington, D.C.; all exceed the 45-minute rule and are therefore not counted in the commuter time analysis.

Mr. Agnello stated that the FAMPO Smart Scale Task Force identified the improvements needed to allow this region to be more competitive statewide. Regarding the Accessibility factor; two points were requested to be included:

1. Develop a decay curve for the Fredericksburg Region or group the Region with Northern Virginia in lieu of grouping Fredericksburg with the rest of the state.
2. Consider including bicycle trips for the first/last mile travel in the transit accessibility calculations. Mr. Agnello stated that currently pedestrian travel is included; however, bicycle travel is not included.

Mr. Agnello stated the following has transpired with the State:

- August 11th – The State responded to the April 17th FAMPO letter indicating the first accessibility measure identified by FAMPO would be changed.

- August 29th – At the Fall Transportation Meeting for the Fredericksburg District, the State presented a proposed Smart Scale change which included the Accessibility Measure issue change.
- October 3rd – unexpectedly, an email was received from the State regarding Smart Scale, and the 45-minute highway and 60-minute transit commute time caps were restored.

Mr. Agnello advised that the public comment period on the Draft Smart Scale Technical Guide ends October 20. Mr. Agnello stated the Draft Technical Guide was released for public comment on August 21, and the changes were announced via email on October 3.

Mr. Agnello stated there is significant concern from several MPO's regarding the October 3 Smart Scale changes, and many MPO's have written letters. Mr. Agnello stated that the Virginia Association of MPO's has also written a letter requesting an extension of the public comment period and a delay in CTB action on the new Technical Guide from October 24 to December 6. Mr. Agnello stated that to date, no notification from the State has been given whether consideration to extend the public comment period will be approved. Therefore, staff is adhering to the original October 20 deadline.

ii. Smart Scale Letter Regarding Application Limits

Mr. Agnello advised that at the September Policy Committee meeting it was requested that a letter be sent to the State expressing concern over the proposed application limits for Smart Scale applicants. Mr. Agnello said the letter from FAMPO stated the application limits were disproportionate for the localities, MPO's and PDC's compared to transit agencies. Mr. Agnello stated the letter relayed that the localities, MPO's, etc. have broader multimodal transportation planning responsibilities and asked that consideration be given to changing the number of applications from four to five. Mr. Agnello advised that to date, no response has been provided from the State regarding the changes cited above.

iii. Smart Scale Letter Regarding Proposed Scoring Changes

a. State Smart Scale Changes from October 3

Mr. Agnello stated that in response to the State's October 3 decision to restore the 45/60-minute cap for auto and transit job access respectively, FAMPO has a letter in tonight's agenda packet for the Policy Committee to approve. The letter would be submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for their consideration to approve a Fredericksburg and Northern Virginia decay curve.

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded Mr. Cavalier, with Ms. Parker abstaining and all others concurring, the letter to the CTB was adopted.

c.) **Employment Development Subcommittee Discussion**– Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. McLaughlin stated that at the September meeting, the Policy Committee decided to pursue looking at opportunities to have businesses and federal government agencies move from the beltway to our region. An initial subcommittee was comprised of Ms. Bohmke, Mr. McLaughlin and Ms.

Sellers to follow-up on this opportunity. FAMPO staff was tasked with developing a mission statement, member structure, working group, schedule and potential scope of work.

Mr. Agnello advised that a draft proposal is included in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Agnello stated the mission is to cooperatively work with FAMPO/GWRC members and partner organizations to increase employment in the George Washington Region, thereby increasing the Region's jobs/housing balance and reducing traffic on the I-95 corridor.

Mr. Agnello stated the recommendation for member composition includes:

- 2 members per GWRC jurisdiction from either the FAMPO or GWRC boards;
- Fredericksburg Area Association of Realtors (FAAR);
- Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce; and
- Fredericksburg Regional Alliance (FRA).

Mr. Agnello stated that the schedule is:

- form subcommittee and gather input on its scope in October/November;
- have working group perform initial research opportunities in November/January;
- conduct the first subcommittee meeting in February of 2018;
- have the subcommittee meet monthly for five consecutive meetings from February - June of 2018; and
- develop recommendations and proposals for presentation to FAMPO/GWRC in July of 2018.

Mr. Agnello stated the potential scope of work is:

- Investigate opportunities to move federal government employment centers to the GWRC Region
- Investigate opportunities to create increased flexibility in federal government telework options that will increase the ability of federal workers to telework
- Investigate ways to increase GWRC's ability to attract millennial workers by developing new employment and economic development opportunities
- Improve affordable housing
- Improve regional transportation access to the arts, entertainment, and tourist sites

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he would like to have an organizational working group meeting scheduled within the next few weeks. He also asked that each locality provide FAMPO staff with the names of their members who will serve on the subcommittee. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the first meeting will determine who will compose the committee; how to go about executing the federal agency contact list; provide contact names/numbers from the local delegates; etc. Mr. McLaughlin stated that at this time there is not going to be a limit set on the number of subcommittee members. However, several board members stated that it is better to limit the number of participants so the committee does not become too large.

Mr. Swan stated that several federal agencies were previously utilizing space in the Quantico Corporate Center but have since moved out. Contact and research needs to be gathered from those entities to determine why they left and what it would take to bring them back.

Comments were made to not limit the workers the region would be trying to attract to only millennials. Recommendations were also made to gather input from the University of Mary Washington, Germanna Community College, local hospitals, etc. because they too may have ideas on what is needed to draw employees to the region.

Mr. McLaughlin advised that FAMPO staff would be setting an organizational subcommittee meeting date over the next several weeks. Once the meeting date and time is set, the information will be forwarded to the committee members and other partners.

STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS

None

MEMBER REPORTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Agnello noted that the Fredericksburg Region DC2RVA public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18. The meeting will be held at James Monroe High School with an open house/public comment/display time from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Public comments can be submitted during this time. At 7:30 p.m. the public hearing will begin.

FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the Technical Committee and CTAG are included in tonight's agenda packet.

ADJOURN FAMPO MEETING/NEXT MEETING, NOVEMBER 20, 2017

The October 16, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. & the next meeting date will be on November 20, 2017 at 7:15 p.m.