



FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2016

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Members Present:

Mr. Erik Nelson, Chair, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Dan Cole, County of Spotsylvania
Mr. Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania
Mr. Joey Hess, County of Stafford
Mr. Christopher Rapp, County of Stafford
Mr. Tim Roseboom, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Ms. Susan Gardner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Todd Horsley, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Jay Evans, Cambridge Systematics
Rupert Farley, Citizen

Staff Members Present:

Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Marti Donley, FAMPO
Nick Quint, FAMPO
JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair, Mr. Nelson.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

The November 7th Technical Committee agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 3, 2016

The minutes from the October 3rd, 2016, Technical Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 17, 2016

Mr. Agnello advised that there was considerable discussion on both the VRE presentation of the Fredericksburg line and the Smart Scale application requests, which specifically included the support from GWRC for the applications submitted by Stafford County.

Mr. Nelson asked if there is any record or notification submitted to the Policy Committee that indicates that these issues have been previously reviewed and endorsed by the Technical Committee. Mr. Agnello stated that reference is made verbally that both the Technical Committee and/or CTAG have concurred or not endorsed an item in question and that copies of the meeting minutes are also included within the monthly FAMPO agenda packets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a.) Update on I-95/I-395 Transit/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study Results - Mr. Todd Horsley, DRPT

Mr. Horsley stated that by 2021, there will be an 84-mile seamless network of express lanes in place on I-95/I-395 that will provide for faster and more reliable trips to drivers, carpoolers, vanpoolers, and transit providers.

Mr. Horsley advised that the five components of the study include the following:

I-95 Express Lanes (currently operational) with a 10.5-mile southern extension planned (2 miles currently under construction)

I-495 Express Lanes (currently operational)

I-395 Express Lanes – Northern Extension (planned)

Transformation of I-66 – Inside the Beltway (currently under construction)

Transformation of I-66 – Outside the Beltway (planned & procurement has been completed)

Mr. Horsley stated that the goal of the Commonwealth is to maximize person throughput, not vehicular throughput, in the Express Lane project corridors. Mr. Horsley relayed that the funding for multimodal solutions from toll revenues is an objective from the Commonwealth for eligible projects that would expand a Regional Express Lane Network in Northern Virginia.

Mr. Horsley advised that the five projects cited above are either currently under construction or will have construction started by 2018, and the tolling revenues for the Commonwealth will begin to be expended in 2021. Mr. Horsley stated that the benefits of the multimodal improvements include: improved mobility along the corridors; provide new and diverse travel choices; and to provide an enhanced transportation safety and travel reliability system.

Mr. Horsley stated that the Comprehensive Agreement executed in 2012 for the 95 Express Lanes project planned for potential future development of the northern Express Lanes along the I-395 corridor. Per the agreement content, Transurban has the first right of refusal; however, it also states that if the current agreement does not materialize with Transurban, the State can look for other private/public entities. Mr. Horsley advised that the decision should be available whether Transurban will be the vendor or whether another vendor is chosen by the spring of 2017. Mr. Horsley stated that VDOT is finalizing the scope and the planned improvements will be largely built within VDOT's current right-of-way.

Once the tolling is operational, Mr. Horsley stated that the Commonwealth has committed that at least \$15 million will be provided annually from the toll revenues for the I-95/I-395 transit and TDM project initiatives.

Mr. Horsley stated that DRPT is leading the development of a new I-95/I-395 TDM study in coordination with the eleven stakeholders (City of Fredericksburg, Prince William, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties; PRTC; VRE; the City of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax counties, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority).

Mr. Horsley advised that the study will identify the transit services and TDM project enhancements that could be funded from the annual transit payments that will be allocated. Mr. Horsley relayed however that the stakeholders will make recommendations only and will not make final decisions on which projects would move forward. Mr. Horsley relayed that the final decisions on projects that will be supported will be made by the Commonwealth.

Mr. Horsley stated that after the CTB selects the projects, the eligible projects will increase mobility and the person throughput along the I-95 and I-395 corridors and must benefit the toll payers within the I-395 corridor.

Mr. Horsley advised that some of examples of projects that could be considered are as follows: enhanced services on current and existing transit routes; the possibility of new local and commuter bus services; transit capital projects for the bus and rail; expansion or new construction for Park and Ride lots; enhancement of TDM programs; and technology improvements that would support both transit and TDM.

Mr. Horsley stated that the study area extends from the southern terminus of the I-95 Express lanes at Garrisonville Road in Stafford County north to the Potomac River and includes parallel commuting corridors such as Route 1, Columbia Pike, etc. Mr. Horsley stated that the current study also includes projects as far south as Massaponax in Spotsylvania County which also could be considered for funding opportunities.

b.) VDOT Update on Major I-95 Corridor Projects – Mr. Stephen Haynes, VDOT

With regards to the I-95/Route 630 Interchange and Widening project, Mr. Haynes advised that the construction will begin the spring/summer of 2017. Mr. Haynes stated that the I-95 Interchange and Park & Ride lot construction is slated to begin in 2018. The Route 630 widening/construction project will be completed in 2019 and by mid-year of 2020 all work on this project will be completed.

Mr. Haynes stated that the Southbound I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing project, which was a Smart Scale project, is scheduled to have construction begin in the summer of 2017.

Regarding the Route 3 Safety Improvement project at Ext. 130, the RFP was released on September 27th; proposals are due to be received by November 15th; a notice to proceed is expected to be released in February of 2017, with a project completion date of the fall of 2018.

Mr. Haynes stated that the new commuter lot project at Route 1 and Commonwealth Drive in Spotsylvania County was also an approved 2016 Smart Scale project. Mr. Haynes advised this project is currently in the PE Phase with an ad date of December 2020.

Mr. Haynes relayed that the Express Lanes Extension project is on schedule and construction is underway. The Southbound Ramp is scheduled to open in December of 2017 and the Northbound Ramp to open in August of 2018.

Regarding the Atlantic Gateway project, VDOT is kicking off the environmental work and traffic data collection and the study area includes both the NoVA and Fredericksburg Districts. The Atlantic Gateway Public Hearing for the Fredericksburg region is scheduled for November 1st.

Lastly, Mr. Haynes advised that the Caroline County Rest Area project construction is on schedule. Even though not part of the ongoing construction, VDOT is looking at adding a 50-space parking lot for tractor trailers heading in the southbound direction. Mr. Haynes stated that the parking lot expansion will be pursued after both the Southbound and Northbound rest area projects have been completed. Mr. Haynes relayed that the Southbound Rest Area is scheduled to open in December of 2016 and the northbound project in March of 2017.

c.) Resolution No. 17-17, Amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Funds for the Bike Share and Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements Study – Mr. Nick Quint

Mr. Quint advised that Resolution No. 17-17 is requesting to add \$40,000 in CMAQ funding for PE funds only to the FY2015-2018 TIP for a bike share and bicycle infrastructure study for the FAMPO region. Mr. Quint stated that the study will determine if bike share is feasible for the Fredericksburg region and what bicycle infrastructure improvements would be needed. Also, the study satisfies the requirements for the bicycle and pedestrian plan that is a component of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Quint stated that the bike share and bicycle infrastructure improvements study was presented to the Policy Committee in September for endorsement; however, at that time the Policy Committee had questions that they asked staff to provide answers on and voted to defer action until the November meeting.

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

d.) Resolution No. 17-18, Authorizing Staff to Work with Michael Baker International to Execute a Traffic Study of Lafayette Boulevard – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 17-18 is another study being considered by FAMPO. This is a long-standing CMAQ project that is a follow-up of an intersection study done on Lafayette Boulevard/Kenmore/Charles streets. Mr. Agnello stated that FAMPO completed a study in 2009 that identified safety concerns at this intersection. The 2009 study recommended a round-about at Lafayette Boulevard and Kenmore Avenue. The estimated project cost was approximately \$10 million which the City felt was too high to pursue and requested that FAMPO re-address the intersection and look at a project improvement that would be less costly. Mr.

Agnello advised that this request does not require a TIP amendment as the project is already included within the TIP.

Mr. Agnello advised that the revised project scope has been coordinated with the City, with VDOT and with FAMPO. Mr. Roseboom asked how many FRED stops are along the project study area. Mr. Rodney White with FRED stated that there are none within the immediate area and the two within the vicinity are the one in front of the GWRC and one at Cobblestone Apartments. Mr. White stated that the FRED buses go through the area but do not make stops in the planned study area. Mr. Roseboom stated that as the study is being re-vitalized that it may be a good time to also explore the current and possible new potential, bus stops along the route.

There was unanimous consent from the Technical Committee to endorse Resolution No. 17-18 with a request that the Policy Committee adopt it at the upcoming November meeting.

e.) 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Effort – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that staff is beginning the work on updating the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The 2040 Plan was adopted on April 15, 2013 and the 2045 updates are required by federal mandates by April 15, 2018. The 2015 base year and the 2045 horizon years will be utilized for the 2045 LRTP update. Within the FAMPO region, which includes the City of Fredericksburg and the Counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford, the projects included are fiscally constrained; however, in the rural areas for GWRC that include the Counties of Caroline and King George, projects are not fiscally constrained. Mr. Agnello stated that staff will be working on the 2045 updates beginning in the fall of 2016 and completing the work in the winter of 2018. Mr. Agnello relayed that monthly advisory committee meetings will occur from January to November of 2017 and that the Policy Committee will be establishing the advisory committee. Mr. Agnello stated that the Policy Committee will be selecting a member and an alternate from each of the three jurisdictions.

i. Resolution No. 17-19, Endorsing Future Year 2045 Population and Employment Controls for the George Washington Region for Use in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Mr. Paul Agnello

There was unanimous consent from the Technical Committee to endorse Resolution No. 17-19 with the methodology to adopt the 2045 population and employment control totals for the 2045 LRTP update and for the Policy Committee to adopt it at the upcoming November meeting.

f.) Smart Scale Update – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the Round 2 requests for Smart Scale project considerations resulted state-wide in a lot more projects submitted for consideration this time around with less money available for allocation.

Mr. Agnello relayed that VDOT is reviewing the applications submitted and the validation and screening process is approximately 95% completed. Mr. Agnello stated that VDOT expects the screening process to be completed by the end of October. Mr. Agnello relayed that the CTB still has the option of submitting up to two new/additional projects.

Mr. Agnello advised that the State anticipates receiving \$200-\$400 million annually from the State of Good Repair program. Mr. Agnello stated that \$600-\$800 million will be available from each cycle for the District Grant Program and High Priority Projects program. Mr. Agnello relayed that 50% of the money goes to the District Grant Program. Of that 50%, 6.9% (9422-\$26 million this round) is given to the Fredericksburg District. Mr. Agnello stated that there is some potential good news and that is that projected allocations for other projects now have surpluses remaining which may be transferred back into the Smart Scale funding source and allow for re-authorization to occur towards other approved projects.

g.) High Speed Rail Study Update – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that a public hearing meeting was held at Germanna Community College on November 1st. Mr. Agnello advised that a meeting was also held earlier in the day in the Hanover/Ashland area. Mr. Agnello stated that a lot of the citizens who attended the Ashland meeting also attended the fall transportation meeting held at Germanna to voice their concerns. Mr. Agnello stated that previously the State had indicated a draft release would occur in December; however, that date has been pushed back to early 2017. Mr. Agnello relayed that another change was that previously a 45-day public comment period was planned, but now the State is looking to extend this to a 60-day public comment time period. To date, there have been several regional and local concerns with proposed study alternatives in our region as well as in the Hanover/Ashland area and in Richmond. Mr. Agnello relayed that it is important that any comments that the MPO, PDC, localities, or the public have concerning the study be submitted in writing during the public comment period. Mr. Roseboom stated that Secretary Layne is trying to complete the process as quickly as possible; however, it is still a federal process. DRPT plans to attend the upcoming FAMPO committee meetings to provide updates. Mr. Agnello stated that at this time, the third track through Fredericksburg is being considered as the preferred alternative.

h.) Update Concerning NPRM on MPO Coordination – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that included in today's agenda packet is the letter submitted by FAMPO stating its opposition to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area reform. Mr. Agnello stated that in addition to FAMPO's letter that was submitted in August, that also VDOT, the State of Maryland, and regional MPO's have submitted letters of opposition. There is an upcoming meeting on December 6th and 7th and the item will be discussed in greater detail at that time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Agnello stated correspondence is included in today's agenda packet and is self-explanatory.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Agnello advised that Mr. Daniel Reese has resigned from FAMPO and has re-located back to his home town in Pennsylvania. Mr. Agnello stated that staff is in the process of interviewing for Mr. Reese's position and that also after the first of the year plan to have one or two interns on board to assist with day-to-day FAMPO duties.

MEMBER REPORTS

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT): Mr. Roseboom advised that DRPT is in the process of updating its FY2018-2021 TIP. Mr. Roseboom stated that Mr. Mark Berry will be the Fredericksburg/FAMPO contact and staff should be hearing from Mr. Berry by mid-December. Mr. Roseboom stated that Ms. Betsy Massey will still be the contact at VRE in regards to the SYIP updates.

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 9th, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday January 9, 2017. The November 7th meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.