



**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2015**

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

Members Present:

Mr. Paul Milde, County of Stafford (Chair)
Mr. Bev Cameron, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Matt Kelly, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Billy Withers, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Spotsylvania County
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Anthony Romanello, Stafford County
Ms. Laura Sellers, Stafford County
Ms. Betsy Massie, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) - Alternate
Ms. Marcie Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Others Present:

Mr. Hap Connors, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Mr. Chris Arabia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Ms. Wendy Kimball, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Mr. Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Mr. Jason Robinson, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Allison Richter, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star
Ms. Dawn McGarrity, Citizen
Mr. Claude Dunn, FAMPO Transportation Advisory Group (TAG)
Mr. Rupert Farley, FAMPO Transportation Advisory Group (TAG)
Ms. Fran Larkins, FAMPO Transportation Advisory Group (TAG)

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Andy Waple, FAMPO Transportation Administrator
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO
Mr. Tim Ware, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Mr. Milde 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. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Romanello, with all in consensus, the agenda was approved as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

None

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Milde advised that the FAMPO Policy Committee has some new board member appointments to include the following: Spotsylvania – Mr. Chris Yakabouski who will be replacing Mr. Doug Barnes; Stafford – Ms. Laura Sellers who will be replacing Mr. Cord Sterling & now Mr. Sterling will preside as the Alternate representative for Stafford County. Mr. Milde also relayed that Ms. Betsy Massie with PRTC is an alternate at tonight's meeting for Mr. Harf. Mr. Milde welcomed the new members.

ACTION ITEMS

a.) Approval of FAMPO Minutes of November 17, 2014 – Mr. Andy Waple

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Cameron, with Mr. Yakabouski abstaining, and everyone else in consensus, the minutes from the November 17th meeting were approved as submitted.

b.) Approval of Resolution No. 15-01, Authorizing a Call for Applications for Unallocated FY2015 & 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) TMA Funds – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No.15-01 is request for candidate projects for unallocated FY2015-2016 Federal TAP funds that are paired with a 20% locality match that can only be utilized for projects in the North Stafford TMA area. Mr. Waple relayed that per federal regulations, a 30-day project solicitation period, open to the eligible recipients of the TMA designated areas is required in order to collect candidate projects. Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No. 15-01 is advising that the 30-day project solicitation period will begin on Tuesday, January 27th and end on Wednesday, February 25th. Mr. Waple relayed that the Technical Committee will review the applications at its upcoming March meeting and will be presented to the Policy Committee for endorsement at the upcoming March meeting.

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Ross, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15-01 was adopted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) HB2 Update – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that included in tonight's agenda packet is a letter to Mr. Paul Milde, FAMPO Chair, from Mr. Nick Donohue; a list of questions & responses that have been submitted by FAMPO; and the HB2 presentation that was presented at the January 8th stakeholders meeting.

Mr. Waple relayed that the HB2 project's website is now up and available for those with interest to pursue. Mr. Waple stated that the HB2 Implementation Schedule is as follows:

Dec.2014/Feb. 2015 – Regional meetings across the State to develop process & measure recommendations

March 2015 – Release of Draft process & measure recommendations to the CTB

March-May 2015 – On-going public outreach opportunities

June 2015 – HB2 implementation procedures & CTB approval

August 2015 – December 2015 – Evaluation procedures & project submittals

January-June 2016 – Six-Year Program development evaluations

July 2016 – HB2 becomes effective according to CTB project selections

Mr. Waple reviewed the presentation that was given to the CTB in January; that funds to be prioritized will include both discretionary state & federal highway funds; & that the following funding options are excluded from the prioritization process that include: revenue sharing, Northern Virginia & Hampton Roads regional revenues; CMAQ & RSTP federal funds; highway safety federal funding; transportation alternative federal funding; secondary & urban formula funding, state mass transit capital & operating funds & FTA formula funding.

Mr. Waple relayed that HB2 has project regulations of projects that can be included as well as those which are excluded to include the following:

Included:

Highway Improvements (widening projects, operational improvements, access management projects, & turn lanes

Transit & Rail expansion projects

Transportation Demand Management projects that include van pools, park & ride facilities & telecommuting

Passenger Rail projects

Excluded:

Structurally deficient bridge replacements

Reconstructive paving projects

Routine maintenance

Transit & Rail State of Good repair projects

Mr. Waple stated that all projects will be screened for eligibility and only the projects that pass the screening will be ranked & scored. Mr. Waple relayed that projects will be screened to ensure it meets the capacity need as identified in VTrans 2040 in the following areas:

Corridors of State-wide Significance

Regional Networks

Mixed-use Transit improvement projects that promote Urban Development

Mr. Waple relayed that the current VDOT staff recommendation to the CTB is as follows: (1) only an MPO or PDC can submit for projects on Corridors of Statewide Significance. (2) MPOs and PDCs as well as local governments can submit projects on Regional Networks and (3) only local governments may submit projects that provide access to growth areas. In this region, FAMPO can submit project selections for the City of Fredericksburg & the Counties of Spotsylvania & Stafford & the PDC can submit on behalf of the Counties of Caroline & King George.

Ms. Sellers stated that she thought there was some confusion on the definition of urban development. Mr. Waple stated that the definition is defined within each locality's comprehensive plans and that now UDA's are optional.

Mr. Milde requested that the definition be re-defined and that clarification of projects to be considered are already included in FAMPO's TIP before a project is submitted for consideration. In regard to the weighting factors, projects submitted from a specific region will be reviewed against all other projects on a state-wide basis. Mr. Waple stated that the CTB may consider several options in regard to the weighting factors: urban & rural weighting; a PDC based weighting system; or a PDC/MPO based system.

Mr. Waple stated that as there are significant variances in regard to transportation needs across the state that using too many weighting frameworks would reduce the transparency and ease of use of the HB2 process. Mr. Waple relayed that if each MPO/PDC had its own weighting frameworks there would be 35 separate frameworks. Mr. Waple stated that by allowing MPO's & PDC's to select its own projects developed on 4 weighting factors to include population growth, density, safety, economic performance, pollution, etc. would be more beneficial. Mr. Waple stated that, the FAMPO region's preferred relative weighing system, as noted in the letter to Deputy Secretary Donohue (dated December 1, 2014) is most closely related to the proposed large urban weighting system.

Mr. Waple relayed that the potential measures for the factor areas are: safety, congestion, accessibility, environmental quality & economic development and pertain to land use and transportation coordination in areas with over 200,000 people.

Mr. Waple stated that at this time there has been no recommendation made by the CTB on how the measures will be scored. Ms. Parker advised that also to date there has been no decision made on who will be selecting the projects – whether this will be the position of the CTB or whether CTB will direct VDOT to make the selections. Mr. Waple relayed that the HB2 process will need to be finalized and adopted by the CTB in June.

It was consensus from the Policy Committee members that they would like to have Mr. Donohue come back to FAMPO to update the committee on the progress, status, etc. Mr. Waple stated that having Mr. Donohue come back before the April meeting would at this time only result in the same presentation that was presented to the CTB in January being given to the committee members. Mr. Kelly asked why we are doing this process in this manner. Mr. Waple stated that staff does not feel an influential impact can be made until the draft scoring criteria is presented to the CTB. Mr. Withers stated that it is hard to understand that as this region has the worst congestion issues across the state as to how the needs here could be ranked against another region state-wide. Mr. Milde asked Mr. Connors what questions should be asked to the CTB & how the questions should be asked so that proper representation and consideration is made known during the legislative sessions. Mr. Kelly asked how FAMPO could ensure that the best projects for the region continue to move forward.

Mr. Connors stated that now & continuing is the time to submit all comments, concerns, & questions to Mr. Donohue through the FAMPO staff, via the web-site, etc. & that “more” information being submitted is better than “less”. Mr. Milde asked Mr. Waple if at this time FAMPO staff can identify the projects that would have the highest regional weighting factors. Mr. Connors stated that FAMPO needs to focus on the I-95 corridor’s biggest projects & assign these the highest weighting factors. Ms. Richter stated that now VDOT is working with the state to get a clearer understanding and definition of the weighting factors and what they will mean to the a specific region. Mr. Connors encouraged FAMPO to continue conversation with other MPO’s to get a gauge on how other areas are reacting; the questions they have received; the plans they are going to submit; etc. and that the more involved you stay potentially the better the results & final determinations will be.

b.) Proposed Governor’s Transportation Package – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised a handout is included in tonight’s agenda packet that was submitted as a Legislative Update by Deputy Secretary Donohue at the January 13th CTB meeting. The Governor’s Transportation package addresses issues from public-private partnership deals from the past; amends the current transportation funding formula to provide local governments with transportation funding; fixes aging bridges & pavements; ensures that transit needs are being met; & to increase independence of the CTB.

Mr. Waple advised that the Omnibus Transportation Bill would eliminate secondary and urban funding allocation formula. Mr. Waple stated that this Bill would replace CTB formula funding and 40-30-30 formulas which will give money back to local governments; ensure funding for state of

good repair; & to increase transparency by having more funds to run through the formulas. Mr. Waple stated that changes in the funding formulas would become effective in FY2021.

Mr. Waple stated that for the Omnibus Transportation Bill, each district would receive the same shares that they would have received under the 40-30-30 formulas and that the Fredericksburg region would receive only 6.9% of the state-wide funding allocations.

Mr. McLaughlin asked what is FAMPO's role within the project decision making process. Mr. Waple stated that projects in the Omnibus Transportation Bill will not include revenue sharing projects and all projects that FAMPO considers are projects that are already included within the TIP and the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and are recommended according to those with the highest weighting factors. All projects that utilize federal funding and are regionally significant must be included in the TIP and the LRTP.

c.) FY2016-2021 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised the spreadsheet included in tonight's agenda packet gives an update to the projects in the region that are receiving CMAQ and RSTP funding from FY15 through FY20. Mr. Waple stated that 2 new projects were submitted for consideration in FY21 and these are VRE platform expansions for the Brooke & Leeland VRE stations in Stafford County and for intersection improvements at Courthouse Rd. and Hood Drive in Spotsylvania County. Mr. Waple relayed that each project is listed on the spreadsheet & gives project description; project costs; funds allocated; project status; etc. The FAMPO Policy Committee will be asked to vote on FY16-21 allocations at the April Meeting and there will be updates on the process from staff at each meeting until April.

d.) Germanna-Wilderness Area Plan (GWAP) Potential Impacts to Route 3 – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that in December, staff was asked to examine Orange County's Germanna-Wilderness Area Plan (GWAP) to assess any potential impacts to the Route 3 corridor in Spotsylvania County.

Mr. Waple stated that the purpose of the GWAP is to create a 50-year strategic planning vision for the primary development area in Orange County. Mr. Waple relayed that the plan is for a mixed use development area beginning at the Spotsylvania County line heading west on Route 3 to the Walmart located in Orange County.

Currently, the plan in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan for Orange County does not contain any population or employment projections. Mr. Waple stated that according to the 2010 census data and data from Weldon Cooper, that now Orange County's population is 33,481 and is expected to grow to 44,662 by the year 2040.

Mr. Waple stated that the current data shows that approximately 75% of Orange County's workforce population commutes out of the County for employment opportunities. Currently, 20% of the commuters from Orange come into the FAMPO region for employment. An additional 4% to 10%

may also be traveling through the FAMPO region for employment locations in both Fairfax & Prince William Counties.

Mr. Waple advised that currently the GWAP is still in its early stages and there are no figures that will indicate the number of housing units or square footage of commercial/office space that will be envisioned. Mr. Waple relayed that Planned Unit Development (PUD) which will serve as the zoning designation and the vehicle to implement all of the development has not as of now been incorporated into Orange County's zoning ordinance.

Mr. Waple stated that following the adoption of the GWAP by Orange County, they then will begin to develop a Transportation & Utilities master plan as well as provide major revisions to their county's zoning ordinance which would incorporate a Route 3 Corridor Overlay District. The Corridor Overlay District would address the access management and a Planned Unit Development (PUD) would address zoning densities and intensities.

Mr. Waple relayed that without any population or employment projections or the PUD zoning category that currently FAMPO is unable to, without a high degree of speculation; project any potential traffic impacts the development could have on the Route 3 corridor within the FAMPO region.

Mr. Waple stated that staff has met with the Orange County Planning Department, the Culpeper VDOT district office staff & the Fredericksburg VDOT office & will continue to monitor the development of GWAP. Mr. Waple advised that the FAMPO committees would be kept apprised as new developments and documentation becomes available.

Mr. Waple also advised that the Fredericksburg VDOT district office is currently undertaking an Access Management Plan in Spotsylvania County from Route 3/Gordon Road into Orange County Line. Mr. Waple stated that it is very unlikely that Route 3 west within Spotsylvania will not be widened because of the National Park Service properties on both sides of the road.

Mr. Ross stated that a development as this beginning on the county line of a neighboring county will have impacts to the FAMPO region. Mr. Ross requested that as plans become formalized and more information is made available that a representative from the Orange County Planning Department be asked to come to the MPO to give a presentation to the committee.

e.) Re-programming Surplus CMAQ from the Brooke & Leeland VRE Parking Expansion Projects – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that there is \$21,500 surplus funding remaining from CMAQ funds that were allocated to the Brooke/Leeland VRE station expansion projects. Mr. Waple relayed that the funds have already been flexed to FTA so must be used only for transit-related projects.

Mr. Waple stated that this is a discussion item for tonight's meeting and will be brought back to the Policy Committee at the February meeting for Resolution & adoption. Mr. Waple relayed that the surplus funding will be transferred over to FRED for installation of a shelter, benches and trash cans at the Germanna bus stop; and benches and trash cans at Dixon Street stop; & the Princess Anne Street stops.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if there were any other projects within the region that the surplus money can be re-allocated too. Mr. Waple stated that the projects have to be transit-related projects and have to be projects that are ready to go and just need funding.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that as the new VRE station is getting ready to open up in Spotsylvania County in the spring that he felt the funding could be re-assigned to something more significant than benches or trash cans and asked that staff check to see what other projects could be included.

FAMPO CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence is included in tonight's agenda packet and is self-explanatory.

STAFF REPORT

None

MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Sellers:

Ms. Sellers stated that she wanted the committee to also evaluate secondary projects for consideration as she does not want the committee just focusing on high-dollar mega projects.

Mr. Milde:

Mr. Milde stated that he does not want to see the region and/or this committee have existing projects for consideration being bumped and/or removed for review of new projects that have not been previously voted on.

Mr. Yakabouski:

Mr. Yakabouski stated that we currently have no overall plan of what the State will be doing or how the weighting factors will be assigned. Mr. Yakabouski advised that in Spotsylvania County they are now working on a long-term master transportation plan. Mr. Yakabouski relayed that once this has been completed the Plan will be submitted to this committee to see if regional opportunities exist.

Mr. Ross:

Mr. Ross stated that he actually had a question to address with VDOT in regard to the Jackson Gateway project. Mr. Ross asked if the J-ramp/Super ramp project is still moving forward and what options could be examined for Exit 123.

Ms. Parker advised that IMR did not proceed for Exit 123 as it would require CD lanes and this would then make the project not feasible. Ms. Parker stated that this was when VDOT & Spotsylvania County agreed to match the project by developing it into phases.

Mr. McLaughlin:

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he wanted to know specifically what does a locality have to do to get FAMPO to consider adding a new project into its long-range plan. In regard to the Jackson Gateway project, he stated that both the County & VDOT have put up \$160 million dollars developments of the J-ramp & super ramp phased portion of the total project. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he does not feel that a project that has been previously discussed should be arbitrarily taken off of the table for discussion and further study. Mr. McLaughlin stated that in regard to Exit 123, he wants to know how you go about putting the study of CD lanes to Exit 123 into FAMPO's plans.

Mr. Milde:

Mr. Milde asked what the shelf life is before an IMR/IJR expires – Ms. Parker advised that they are good for 5-10 years before they are then outdated.

Mr. Waple stated that FAMPO will begin the process of updating the 2045 plan in July and that projects that are included within the TIP can be reviewed and designated as study only projects; Mr. Waple stated that per federal regulations, that projects included within the CLRP must be completely funded up to and including the construction phase of the project.

Mr. Kelly:

Mr. Kelly stated that in order for projects to be included within the CLRP, that you are obligated to show where the money for the project is coming from – i.e. regionally, locally, revenue sharing, regional transportation funds; etc.

Mr. Kelly stated that as the region is still facing many unknowns in regard to HB2 – i.e. not knowing the weighting factors; not knowing how this region will match up to others on a state-wide basis; not knowing exactly how much funding the region will receive; etc. that he thinks it is important for the committee to schedule a “brain-storming” meeting. This meeting should be held at a time apart from the monthly scheduled FAMPO meeting and should be a time where each locality brings up “wish” list projects that are brought to the table and discussed in length. Mr. Kelly stated that he feels it is easy to get caught up in the process and we then lose the overall perspective on regional transportation needs. Mr. Kelly asked that a “brain-storming project discussion” meeting be scheduled and asked that FAMPO staff coordinate the scheduling of such a meeting.

Mr. Connors:

Mr. Connors stated that he had a couple of points. Mr. Connors stated again that “more” information being presented to the CTB is better than “less” information. He feels after February would be a good time to have an updated discussion from the CTB. Mr. Connors stated that he thinks maintaining regular contact with the Secretary of Transportation as well as with himself are avenues that a region should not ignore. Mr. Connors stated as state-wide funding allocations are more than

likely going to be less, that a region needs to discuss all types of alternative funding – i.e. partnerships, transportation districts, tax revenue sources, etc. and do not just limit themselves to funding resources that have available in the past.

FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Both the FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) and the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) meeting minutes are included in tonight's agenda packet.

ADJOURN FAMPO MEETING/NEXT MEETING, January 26, 2015

The FAMPO meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m. The next meeting will occur on February 23, 2015 at 7:15 p.m.