



**Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2015**

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Committee Members Present:

Mr. Art Snyder, Chairman, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Guy Gormley, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Claude Dunn, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Bill Milligan, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Dawn McGarrity, Stafford County
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large Member

George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) Staff:

Mr. Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

Others Present:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Transportation Advisory Group agenda for the February 11th meeting was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF TAG MEETING SUMMARY OF JANUARY 14, 2015

The minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – JANUARY 26, 2015

Mr. Robinson advised that Resolution No. 15-01 Authorizing Call for applications for unallocated FY2015-16 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) TMA funds was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Robinson relayed that discussion items occurred on the following topics: HB2 Update; Proposed Governor's Transportation Package; FY2016-2021 CMAQ/RSTP projects; Germanna-Wilderness Area Plan (GWAP); and Reprogramming of Surplus Funds remaining

from the Brooke/Leeland Virginia Railway Express (VRE) parking expansion projects. Mr. Robinson stated that there were specific comments made on both the HB2 Update and the Proposed Governor's Transportation Package and these comments are included within the minutes in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Robinson also stated that there were specific member comments which are also included within the minutes from tonight's agenda packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS (if any)

None

ACTION ITEMS

a.) Resolution No. 15-02, Reprogramming Surplus Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program Funds from the Brooke & Leeland VRE Parking Expansion Projects – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that Resolution No. 15-02 is strictly a housekeeping request. There is \$21,592 of surplus funds remaining from the completion of the Brooke/Leeland VRE Parking Expansion projects. These monies have already been allocated to FAMPO and if not used will be lost. The surplus funding will now be re-distributed to FRED which will cover the expenses of a shelter at the Germanna Community College bus stop & trash cans & benches installed at 3 other existing FRED bus routes. Mr. Robinson advised that these are the only projects within the region that the funding can be used for and are the only projects that are set and ready to move forward.

Resolution No. 15-02 was unanimously supported by TAG with a request that Policy Committee adopt at their upcoming March meeting.

b.) Resolution No. 15-03, Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Vanessa Griffin – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that Resolution No. 15-03 is self-explanatory and was a request made directly from the TAG committee at the January TAG meeting.

There was member discussion regarding whether the presentation of a plaque is actually the best type of recognition to be awarded. As the plaques are expensive and most people have limited space to display a recognition such as this, it was decided that some type of formal recognition would be given as situations arise; however, would be reviewed by the current members of TAG as to what type of recognition would be the most appropriate on a case by case basis.

Resolution No. 15-03 was endorsed unanimously by TAG with a request that it be forwarded to the Policy Committee for recognition to be made to Ms. Griffin at the upcoming March Policy Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) House Bill 2/1887 Update – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that HB 1887 was approved by the House today and is now the responsibility of the Senate to also approve or to veto. Mr. Robinson advised that included in tonight's agenda packet is a document that pertains to the 2015 Session. The amendments that have been submitted are notated in red within the handout. If the Senate approves, this will result in the Fredericksburg VDOT district office receiving an additional \$22 million dollars of funding.

Mr. Robinson advised that HB2 stakeholder's outreach workshop meeting for the Fredericksburg VDOT District office is scheduled for February 25th at 1:00 p.m. in the VDOT auditorium. Mr. Robinson stated that this is not a public hearing meeting format and is specifically designed for VDOT officials, locality representation, and staff from MPOs & PDCs.

Mr. Robinson stated that at the January meeting there were comments made that informational meetings were held & elected officials and TAG was not invited to participate. Mr. Robinson advised that VDOT has confirmed that local officials were actually invited to the last stakeholder's meeting; however, none of them choose to participate. Mr. Robinson inquired at the February Technical Committee meeting if the upcoming stakeholder's meeting on February 25, 2015 is in fact open to TAG members and citizens.

VDOT advised that the meeting is basically scheduled for staff representatives and is a workshop format and not a public hearing format; however, no one would be turned away if one wishes to participate. VDOT asked that pre-registration take place so that adequate seating arrangements will be accommodated.

Mr. Gormley stated that clearly VDOT does not care about citizen input if they schedule a meeting on a Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Gormley stated that for commuters still in the work force, that a meeting in the middle of the week beginning directly after lunch is not one which allows for commuters to participate. Mr. Robinson reiterated that this meeting is basically designated for staff members and is not a public hearing meeting format; however, is open to anyone that is interested and able to attend.

Mr. Robinson advised that concurring with the finalization of HB2, VDOT is also developing a state-wide system plan. This plan is the VTrans 2040 Vision & Multimodal Transportation Plan (VMTP). This draft was submitted at the MPO/PDC planning meeting on February 4, 2015. Mr. Robinson stated that ultimately FAMPO's LRTP/TIP would be consistent and match VDOT's VMTP plan.

As one of the trends analysis recommendations, it states that a region needs to improve its efficiency of multimodal freight movement. Mr. Snyder stated that this would have a huge impact to the region. If truck traffic is diverted or alleviated off of the Route 17 corridor then the region's daily traffic congestion on the corridor would diminish and then SOVs would be better able to move from place to place.

Mr. Gormley stated that road construction and interchange projects are big topics north of the James River; however, this region is second to lowest in the amount of funding it is expected to receive. The region who will benefit the most will be Richmond with a probable largest amount of financial allocations being received into an area that needs much less.

Mr. Snyder stated that he had two separate points to make. The first is if one of the goals for VTrans 2040 is to get commuters off of the road by attracting the 21st century workforce, how much innovative thinking is going into this process. Mr. Gormley concurred that if companies do not keep up with the latest technological advances then the company will cease growing.

Mr. Snyder also stated that, even though still a futuristic thought process, however, increased mobility options needs to look at self-driven cars. If you have this in place, public transportation costs would decrease. Congestion would be reduced and personal SOV usage would decline.

Mr. Farley stated that the VDOT analogy that if "x" happens then you need "y" is typical VDOT analogy and is looking backwards at the real solution to the transportation problems. Mr. Gormley stated that everyone needs to remember though that bad transit decisions are not controlled by land use decisions.

b.) Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update– Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that work is on-going in regard to the CMP updates. Mr. Robinson stated that updates are required every four years. Mr. Robinson relayed that the seven corridors that congestion management will address are the following: Route 610 & Route 17 in Stafford County; Routes 3, 2, 1, and 301; and I-95.

Mr. Robinson stated that for each of the seven corridors, that the following data would be compiled: existing conditions; speed and travel times; volume capacity ratios; and crash rates.

Mr. Robinson advised that the updated CMP will also show the planned projects for a specific corridor; will include what projects are funded and will occur; what projects are planned to occur; and will show how the improvements to be made will improve the corridors.

Mr. Robinson stated that this update will also show a CMP interactive map access. Access will be available through the FAMPO website and should be up and running within the next several weeks. Mr. Robinson advised that data can be updated at regular intervals; days/times can be customized; and as V/C & crash data as updated by VDOT will also be linked to the FAMPO website.

Mr. Robinson stated that VDOT actually pays for the data so there is no expense to FAMPO. Data will be maintained & updated regularly by FAMPO staff. Data will be available for consumer review as generically or selectively as one desires – i.e. you can pick a certain day to review; you can look at just volume; you can look at an entire month’s worth of data; you can look at data for each category, etc.

c.) Request for Proposals for On-Call Consultants for General Transportation Planning – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that it is time for FAMPO to issue RFP’s for its on-call consultants. Mr. Robinson stated that the current contracts expire June 30th. The current contracts could be re-extended for an additional year and/or new contracts could be awarded. Mr. Robinson advised that this is an informational item only tonight and will be brought before the three FAMPO committees for adoption at the upcoming March meetings.

d.) Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funding Allocations – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that there are not expected to be any ups or downs within the funding allocations for the CMAQ/RSTP projects. This region should still receive approximately \$1.1 million dollars in RSTP funding & \$2.5 million dollars in CMAQ. Mr. Robinson relayed that it is the expectation that the same will occur, with no ups or downs, in the UPWP funding allocations as well. Mr. Robinson stated that this is also an informational item tonight and will be brought before the three FAMPO committees for adoption in April.

e.) Vanpool NTD Update – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that the NTD program was launched in October of 2013 after a MOU was executed by the three commissions that include: GWRC, PRTC, & NVTC. This program is one that is federally mandated that pays a region that registers and reports van pool data on a monthly basis.

Mr. Robinson stated that there are currently over 400 van pools registered in the program and this is a state-wide program, not just a regionally based one. Mr. Robinson stated that of the 400 van pools registered, that 51% of them come from the Fredericksburg region. The monthly data that is reported generates additional 5303 funding to an area. The break-down for how much is distributed is as follows: 50% to NVTC; 25% to PRTC; & 25% to GWRC. PRTC manages the program and provides in-house staff to oversee it.

Mr. Robinson stated that the program began enrollment in October/November of 2013 with 207 vans enrolled; the program enrollment continues to increase with an additional 10 new vans each month; & the program has consistently experience growth each month since its inception.

Mr. Robinson stated that to date, 940,000 passenger trips have been reported and there are over 30 vendors participating to include van pool companies that have over 30 vans to van

pool operators who own 1-2 vans. To date, 5.9 million revenue miles & 41.1 million passenger trips have been accounted for. In addition to program maintenance expenses, the van pool operators are each paid \$200.00 per month per van reported for their incentive to participate in the program by providing the monthly required data. Mr. Robinson advised that the 400 van pools from this region carry an equivalency rate of passengers that the VRE daily lines carry.

Mr. Robinson stated that there was an initial investment by GWRC of \$100,000 which was completely paid for from CMAQ funding. Mr. Robinson advised that there is also a two-year lag time on when data is submitted versus when funds are returned to the area.

Mr. Robinson advised that the total local contributions are projected to be \$800,000. NVTC & PRTC are fronting GWRC's portions of the local expenses on an interest-free loan repayment program. The net earnings will begin to be received by both NVTC & PRTC in FY2017 & GWRC's first net earnings will be in FY2018.

Mr. Robinson stated that the revenue dollars can be used for transit related projects to include: transit capital, VRE stations, park & ride lots, TDM program, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, etc.

Mr. Robinson advised that the program is a good one & has continued to exceed initial expectations. The program on an annual basis will continue to accrue additional 5303 funding that after all initial up-front investments have been paid back will be a significant wind-fall to the regions who participate.

f.) Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) Analysis – Lloyd Robinson

As there were a number of TAG members absent tonight, Mr. Milligan made a request that this item be deferred until the March meeting. Mr. Milligan also requested that the item be addressed earlier within the agenda and not have it towards the end of the meeting.

There was committee consensus concurring with Mr. Milligan's comments. It was unanimous from those in attendance that this item would be better addressed when there were more members present. This would allow for feedback from the majority to be compiled for a better analysis.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

STAFF REPORT

None

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Dunn asked as we continue to talk about tele-working and how this saves on congestion is there any way this technology could be used to conduct TAG meetings? If members were

able to connect via satellite options & conduct the meeting from their homes without coming into the office the meeting would still occur & traffic would be reduced.

Mr. Gormley advised that he has received notification that Mr. Ludwig would be resigning from serving on TAG as a representative from the City of Fredericksburg as he currently has too many other duties & obligations. Mr. Gormley relayed that Mr. Ludwig had indicated that if any specific rail-related topics came before the TAG that he would be more than happy to attend a specific meeting to provide input as a need should arise but could no longer continue to commit to serving on an on-going monthly basis.

Mr. Snyder advised that he would like to express thanks to Ms. Donley for the name plates that were available at tonight's meeting. As there are now new TAG members serving, Mr. Snyder stated that this makes it easier for everyone to get to know each other. Mr. Snyder also thanked Mr. Robinson for presiding at tonight's TAG meeting as Mr. Reese was not available due to another work conflict.

ADJOURN

The February 11th meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2015.

Meeting Minutes completed by JoAnna Roberson