



**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2015**

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

Members Present:

Mr. Paul Milde, County of Stafford (Chair)
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
Mr. Al Harf, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) - Alternate
Ms. Marcie Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Others Present:

Mr. Chris Arabia, DRPT
Ms. Allison Richter, VDOT
Mr. Craig Van Dussen, VDOT
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star
Ms. Unwana Dabney, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Mr. Chris Gay, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Mr. Rupert Farley, TAG
Ms. Dawn McGarrity, TAG

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Andy Waple, FAMPO Transportation Administrator
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO
Mr. Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Mr. Milde called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. and received acknowledgement that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF FAMPO AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, the agenda was approved as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Farley stated that at the last Policy Committee meeting when discussing HB2 that he felt the Policy Committee needed to apologize for their approach to HB2 allocations this region may receive. Mr. Farley stated that there was member discussion on how to basically “beat the system” to ensure the region receives fair funding towards regional projects. Mr. Farley stated that as the major projects are sprawl-based anyway that instead of discussing how to gain more credibility on the project ranking system that instead we need to focus on how to make sure HB2 priorities are fair on a state-wide basis.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Milde advised that Mr. Waple will be resigning from FAMPO and will be taking a position in Pittsburgh and will be leaving from FAMPO the end of March. Mr. Milde stated that the applicant review process committee would need to be re-established. Mr. Milde stated that the committee that was formed prior to hiring Mr. Waple included one representative from each locality and this committee seemed to work out well. Mr. Milde relayed that he would like to have the original committee members serve again. Mr. Milde stated that he has also talked with Mr. Robinson and Mr. Robinson has agreed to serve as needed during the transition process. Mr. Milde thanked Mr. Waple for his service to FAMPO and wished him well on his new position.

ACTION ITEMS

a.) Approval of FAMPO Minutes of January 26, 2015 – Mr. Andy Waple

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, and everyone else in consensus, the minutes from the January 26th meeting were approved as submitted.

b.) Approval of Resolution No. 15-02, Reprogramming Surplus Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program Funds from the Brooke & Leeland VRE Parking Expansion Projects – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No.15-02 was discussed at last month’s meeting and is requesting approval of re-allocating \$21,592 of federal surplus CMAQ money that has already been awarded to the region that will be lost if not utilized. Mr. Waple stated the surplus monies will be awarded to FRED for upgrades at multiple bus stops to include amenities such as a shelter, benches, & trash cans. Mr. Waple stated that these projects are all projects that are approved and ready to move forward.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he had two questions – is the money just being justified to move to other projects so that the region does not lose it & are the projects actually viable projects. Mr. Milde stated that this item was discussed in detail at last month’s meeting and the answer to Mr. McLaughlin’s two questions are “yes” & “yes”.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15-02 was adopted.

c.) Approval of Resolution No. 15-03, Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Vanessa Griffin – Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No. 15-03 is recognizing the volunteer service of Ms. Vanessa Griffin for serving as a member of the FAMPO TAG committee. Ms. Griffin served on TAG from 2012 to 2015 and served as both Vice-Chair and Chair during her tenure on the committee.

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15.03 was adopted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) HB2/1887 Update – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that the HB2 stakeholder outreach workshop meeting for the VDOT Fredericksburg District office is scheduled for this Wednesday, February 25th at 1:00 p.m. in the VDOT District auditorium.

Ms. Sellers stated that she wanted it to be known that a 1:00 p.m. meeting in the middle of a work-week is not an acceptable time frame for a meeting of this nature. She said those who scheduled this time frame did not give any consideration to those who not only work full-time but also for a majority of the region’s workers who work in Northern Virginia or Washington, DC.

Mr. Kelly stated that regardless of how much money the region ends up receiving that the system is still broken and the process is a total waste of time. Mr. Kelly stated that you will always have funding issues; you will always have projects that remain unfunded; the processes have not been reformed; & the current land use plans cannot be sustained.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the State needs to be mandated to approach any of the 50 or more federal agencies within the district about re-locating their offices in this region to set-up a reverse commute mode – i.e. in Caroline County – where you would eliminate the traffic back-up north of Stafford into the District; you would build facilities here in areas where cost to build, salaries, etc. could be shaved and reduced.

Mr. Yakabouski stated that he felt more effort needed to be placed on coordination of projects – i.e. if projects 7 & 8 are completed, then maybe you would find out that you actually don’t need projects 3,4, & 5.

Mr. Milde stated that he feels we need to add a per capita ratio into the region.

Mr. Kelly stated that he feels the State needs to know that we (FAMPO) do not want them picking a ranking for us that we want to be able to rank ourselves.

Mr. Harf stated that project cost benefits needed to be a consideration as well.

Mr. Harf stated that the questions need to be answered on where does cost of a project come into the mix of how it is weighted and if there is no synergy then how does the project cost serve as a counter balance.

Mr. Withers asked how does ranking of a project actually affect the project.

Ms. Sellers asked if areas such as Arlington who have alternative transportation options – i.e. metro, etc. in place but an area like here does not have those alternative transit modes how can the regions be weighted the same.

Mr. Waple advised that the website is up and available for anyone to submit comments accordingly; however, he is hoping that more answers to questions that have already been asked will be forthcoming at Wednesday's meeting. Mr. Waple stated that he would ask the questions expressed by members at tonight's meeting at the Wednesday meeting as well.

Mr. Waple relayed that the following factored categories are assigned and each region has been ranked accordingly. The factors are: congestion mitigation; economic development; accessibility; safety; environmental quality; & transportation land/use coordination. State rankings were assigned to the top 3 categories. Categories A/B ratings are assigned to MPO's & Categories C/D ratings are assigned to rural areas within the State. Mr. Waple stated that the most recent amendments rate the FAMPO region as a Category B and the top 3 weighted factors would be: Accessibility; Congestion Mitigation; & Land Use.

Both Mr. Waple & Ms. Johnson stressed that the MPO's needed to re-focus on the VTrans Plan. Ms. Johnson stated that previously VTrans was used as just a policy document; however, now this plan has become much more important.

Mr. Waple stated that the regional input is timely now. The draft to the CTB is in March; then goes to the Secretary's office with state-wide meetings being held; & finally goes to vote by the CTB in June. Mr. Waple stated that it is still felt that projects on corridors of state-wide significance will still be rated highly. Mr. Waple said that there are still a lot of unknowns because there have not been definitive answers received from the State to date. Mr. Waple stated that FAMPO's CLRP will be where the long-range projects are pulled from.

Mr. Waple stated that he hopes a lot of the unanswered questions will in fact be addressed at the stakeholder's meeting scheduled for Wednesday. Mr. Waple stated that how projects are to be submitted; who can submit projects; etc. are still unanswered questions.

b.) Congestion Management process (CMP) Update – Mr. Andy Waple & Mr. Chris Gay

Mr. Waple advised that the CMP update is a federal requirement that FAMPO needs to comply with every four years. Mr. Waple stated that Mr. Gay with Parsons Brinckerhoff will be giving tonight's presentation.

Mr. Gay advised that they are completing the final phase of the task order from FAMPO in regard to the final report and findings for the Congestion Management Process update. Mr. Gay stated that this report contains the CMP corridors; the existing conditions; the CMP strategies; & a CMP interactive map demonstration.

Mr. Gay stated that included in the data for today's existing conditions, you will have the miles per hour under the posted speed limits; the volume-to-capacity (v/c) ratios; the transit ridership; the carpool/vanpool usage in the region; the crash rates; the planned & programmed regional projects; & a project list of completed projects that have occurred within the region since 2010 so you can gauge how a completed project has had positive impacts on the corridors.

Mr. Gay stated that INRIX data is being utilized for vehicle probe projects (vpp) for all corridors with the exception of Route 610. However, Mr. Gay stated that with this updated version that Route 610 is now included. Mr. Gay advised that the data is owned by VDOT.

Mr. Gay relayed that the data will cover 7 individual corridors and data is available, as recent as yesterday's data, for any of the corridors. The corridors include; Route 610; Route 630; Route 17; Route 3; Route 1; Route 208; & newly added for this update is Route 301.

Mr. Waple stated that FAMPO has purchased all of the software data and it will be maintained and updated regularly internally. Projects, travel times, project descriptions, crash rates, etc. are all data that can be changed, updated & revised as needed or requested.

Mr. Gay stated that the software package that FAMPO has purchased that it also allows access through the FAMPO website as a CMP interactive map capability. Mr. Gay stated that this map is updated annually by VDOT in regard to V/C and crash data. It is updated at regular intervals to include specific days/times, etc. by FAMPO staff.

Mr. Ross asked if additional roads could be added to include Harrison Road, etc. Mr. Waple stated that no that only limited corridors are eligible through the software package FAMPO purchased. However, if a locality wants to add data for a specific corridor or road they can contract with VDOT to purchase the roads they want included and then they will have the same accessibility to daily, weekly, monthly, etc. data input as the need arises.

c.) Requests for Proposals for On-Call Consultants for General Transportation Planning Services– Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that the contracts for the on-call consultants are scheduled to expire on June 30th. Mr. Waple relayed that the RFP's are ready to go and will be released for consultant solicitations for 30 days. Once the application process has ended, the consultants applying will be reviewed by both FAMPO & VDOT staff and recommendations will be made on who should be awarded the

contracts. The recommendations selected will be presented to the Policy Committee at the May meeting for their approval and endorsement.

d.) New Approaches to Solving Transportation Problems Workshop – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that per request from last month's Policy meeting that staff was tasked with setting up a 4-hour workshop meeting for the Policy Committee members that would be scheduled at a separate time from the monthly FAMPO Policy Committee meetings. Mr. Waple stated that this request was also initially discussed last spring and when staff initiated meeting time options there was limited feedback.

Mr. Waple asked the committee what end results did they wish to see accomplished from a workshop setting. Mr. Waple stated that it was staff recommendation that the workshop should be designed to serve as an educational process and a regional project "wish list" strategy discussion. Mr. Waple stated that staff would be working with VDOT staff to prepare handouts, charts, visual materials, etc. on the transportation process. Mr. Waple also stated that these same materials could be made available for the public, & for both the Technical & TAG FAMPO committees.

It was committee consensus that they would prefer two 2-hour work sessions in the evening as opposed to a 4-hour session on a Saturday morning. Mr. Waple stated that staff would be coordinating the event with VDOT and would be looking at a mid-April time frame for them to occur.

Mr. Waple stated that the first work session would consist of the educational components to include how the TIP is developed; how local comp plans are utilized; funding mechanisms that are available; funding resources currently not being utilized throughout the region, etc. Mr. Waple stated that staff would recommend developing a hypothetical project and taking this project from start-up to completion.

The final 2-hour work session would consist of a "think" tank concept where new projects are discussed; how to amend project listings already included within the TIP; presentation of new concepts; etc.

Mr. Waple stated that staff will send out a notice to all members so that days, dates, & times can be selected so the dates that best suit can be planned for. Mr. Waple advised that staff will coordinate with VDOT to establish meeting locations, facilitators, display materials, etc. Mr. Waple asked that the committee members respond back as quickly as they can with calendar availability.

FAMPO CORRESPONDENCE – Correspondence is included in packet & self-explanatory.

STAFF REPORT & MEMBER REPORTS - None

FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – TAG & Tech included in packet

The FAMPO meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. The next meeting will occur on March 16, 2015 at 7:15 p.m.

