



**FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2015**

[www.fampo.gwregion.org/fampo-technical-committee](http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/fampo-technical-committee)

**Members Present:**

Joey Hess, Chair, County of Stafford  
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg  
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg  
Dan Cole, County of Spotsylvania  
Chris Arabia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)  
Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)  
Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)  
Cynthia Porter-Johnson, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)  
Allison Richter, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

**Others Present:**

Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO  
Christopher Rapp, County of Stafford  
Ed Keasler, County of Stafford  
Dan Grinnell, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Rupert Farley, Citizen  
David Jackson, Cambridge Systematics

**Staff Members Present:**

Andy Waple, FAMPO  
Marti Donley, FAMPO  
Daniel Reese, FAMPO  
JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

**CALL TO ORDER**

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA**

The Technical Committee agenda for March 9, 2015 was approved as submitted.

## **APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2015**

The Technical Committee minutes from the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

## **REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

Mr. Waple advised that the minutes are included in today's packet. Mr. Waple relayed that Resolutions No. 15-02 (Reprogramming of Surplus CMAQ/RSTP funding from the Brooke/Leeland VRE Parking Expansion projects to FRED) & 15-03 (Recognition of service to Vanessa Griffith for her service on TAG as both Vice-Chair & Chair) were unanimously approved

Mr. Waple stated that discussion items occurred on the following items: HB2/1887 update; CMP update; RFP request for new contracts for On-Call Consultants; & Transportation Workshop forum. Mr. Waple stated that comments and discussion on each item are included within the minutes in today's agenda packet information.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Resolution No. 15-04, Adoption of the 2015 Update to the Congestion Management Process for the FAMPO Region – Andy Waple**

**Resolution No. 15-05, Authorizing staff to issue an RFP to hire new On-Call Consultants – Andy Waple**

**Resolution No. 15-06, Endorsing Stafford County's Grant Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation for FY2015-2016 for TMA funding – Andy Waple**

There was unanimous consensus from the Technical Committee to forward Resolutions No. 15-04; 15-05; & 15-06 to the Policy Committee for approval.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a.) **Stafford Parkway Feasibility Study – Joey Hess & David Jackson, Cambridge Systematics**

Mr. David Jackson with Cambridge Systematics, Inc. gave a presentation on the Stafford County Parkway Study. Mr. Jackson advised that they have been working with both Stafford County &

VDOT over the last year. Their objectives for the parkway study were to provide a planning level assessment for guidance regarding the following areas West of I-95 to Route 17.

Mr. Jackson advised that both the existing needs and the future transportation network for 2040 were studied. The study includes data on the existing corridors, purpose, and need. The study also provided insight into performances of various alternatives to include different approaches for managing access; tolling; etc. Mr. Jackson stated that also studied was roadway constructability; environmental impacts; & the feasibility of funding construction through toll revenue alternatives. Mr. Jackson stated that the study showed that Stafford County is the fastest growing area within the region. The study results indicate that currently Stafford County has 14,100 households & this number will increase by 178% in planning year 2040. The study area indicated that currently there are 10,200 jobs in Stafford County & this number would increase by 52% in 2040. The number of daily trips is currently at 293,000 & will increase by 170% and there will be an overall 61% increase in congestion growth.

Mr. Jackson stated that the feasibility of constructing a Stafford Parkway was the focal point; however intersection analysis was also completed. Mr. Jackson stated that the study showed that even if some type of a parkway was constructed that by year 2040, the Route US17 corridor will still degrade.

Mr. Jackson relayed that in order to accommodate the existing and future travel demands that all of the following may need to be considered to include: providing an additional east-west corridor for all vehicles giving direct access to I-95; providing improved access to the residential growth areas; to relieve projected congestion on US 17 and to the local roads within the study area; & to enhance access to alternative modes of transit.

Mr. Jackson stated that their study is not a NEPA analysis; however, environmental impacts were explored. Mr. Jackson also advised that the study did not specify a certain alignment of where a parkway should be built; however, did explore 4 different alternatives for parkway considerations.

Mr. Jackson advised that the study's scenario summaries are as follows:

2040 Baseline Scenario with a no-build option that coincides with FAMPO's 2040 CLRP would result in no type of parkway being constructed

Alternative 1 – Construction of a Stafford Parkway that provides limited access with access points only at Route 17 & Centreport Parkway; this would be a principal urban arterial that would potentially phase from 2 to 4 lanes & have limited access that would enhance regional trips & thru-truck traffic trips to I-95; Alternative 1 would not require a tolling component

Alternative 2 – Construction of Stafford Parkway with Partial Access – This would improve the study access area to I-95 & would provide alternatives to US17; this would be a minor urban arterial that would increase to 4 lanes; this would provide improved access at the following locations: US17, Truslow Road, Staffordshire, Halls Chapel Road, & Centreport Parkway; Alternative 2 would also not require a tolling component

Alternative 3 – Construction of Stafford Parkway with Limited Access & Toll funding components; Mr. Jackson advised that Alternative 3 is similar in design and accessibility to Alternative 2 but this scenario includes tolling as a possible revenue source

In summary, Mr. Jackson stated that the draft alternative analysis findings are as follows:

Each alternative will reduce parallel facility delays including US 17; however, the travel growth through 2040 study area will still exceed the system's capacity – with or without construction of a Stafford Parkway

Mr. Jackson stated that Alternative 2 would divert the most local traffic therefore reducing the greatest extent of the congestion on arterials & collector/local roads. Mr. Jackson stated that Alternative 2 would also be the most expensive option to consider. Alternative 3 diverts the least amount of traffic and the proposed tolling rates reduce the daily vehicular mileage by 1/3 when compared to Alternative 1

Mr. Jackson relayed that draft alternative comparisons showed the following data:

Alternative 1 – lowest environmental impact & has a middle level of benefit on congestion & accessibility; Alternative 2 – has the highest congestion & accessibility benefits & is the best alternative in coordination with the county's planned land use model; & Alternative 3 – is the least expensive but also has the least amount of congestion relief & accessibility benefits.

**b.) House Bill 2/1887 Update – Andy Waple**

Mr. Waple advised the 1887 Bill was passed in the House. Mr. Waple stated that the presentation included in today's agenda packet is the most recent one presented at the Stakeholder's meeting held a few weeks ago.

Mr. Waple stated that the Policy Committee had a lot of questions and comments from its March meeting and all of these concerns were addressed at the Stakeholder's meeting by either himself, Mr. Kelly or Mr. Withers.

Mr. Waple stated that there still are no federal re-authorizations, no new taxes, no dollar amounts allocated, etc. so there still remain a lot of unknowns for the region. Mr. Waple stated that there will basically be 4 funding allocation proposals; 2 for urban & 2 for rural.

Mr. Waple did advise that the Technical Committee needs to be more involved with the 2040 VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan. Mr. Waple stated that previously this plan has historically been just a policy document. However, the Technical Committee needs to now be involved with VTrans at the onset as both a region's transportation plan and the VTrans will be meshed and connected so the MPO's need to stay involved to ensure that the MPO is not overlooked or excluded from the plans.

Mr. Arabia advised that on March 16<sup>th</sup> in Richmond there will be a multi-modal transportation meeting whereby a draft version will be presented on the VTrans visionary plan and everyone is welcome to participate. Mr. Arabia stated that he will forward the meeting time and location to FAMPO staff so that it can be disbursed to all of the FAMPO committees.

**c.) FY2016-2021 CMAQ/RSTP Funding Allocations – Andy Waple**

Mr. Waple advised that a spreadsheet is included in today's agenda packet. Mr. Waple stated that to date, there are still no final CMAQ/RSTP funding allocations available so each project, funding available, completion years, etc. are listed but are currently using the old figures. The report will be updated with the new funding formulas once these become available.

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

Mr. Waple advised that per request from the March Policy Committee meeting, that staff was asked to set-up a four-hour educational workshop. Mr. Waple relayed that staff has met with VDOT who also help to facilitate the event. The meeting will be held sometime in April. The meeting/workshop will be broken down into a 2-hour segment on 2 different nights.

Mr. Waple stated that the first session will be educationally-based and will take a hypothetical project from its visionary stage to the final construction phase of completion. Mr. Waple stated that all funding resources, new funding opportunities, new approaches, etc. will all be discussed to reflect how a project gets into the FAMPO Tip and how it moves towards becoming completed.

Mr. Waple advised that the second 2-hour session will focus on a transportation "brainstorming" project wish list meeting. This will allow for discussion of adding new projects into the regional plan, how to utilize taxing authorities, TFA loans, etc. to get a project funded. Mr. Waple stated that this is actually a good time to undergo this type of exercise as the regional transportation plan update begins in July. Mr. Waple relayed that once the meeting dates & times are set that this information will be forwarded to everyone in attendance.

**STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Waple advised that if everyone is not aware, that this will be his last Technical Committee meeting at FAMPO as he will be re-locating back to Pittsburgh. Mr. Waple stated that he has enjoyed working with everyone here and he appreciates the friendships he has made since being here.

Mr. Robinson stated that during the interim process that he will be filling in as needed. The same committee, comprised of Mr. Kelly, Mr. McLaughlin, & Mr. Milde, who were the interview process team when Mr. Waple was hired, will again be serving in the same applicant review process this time as well.

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

**COUNTY OF SPOTSYLVANIA:** Mr. Cole advised that the county's monthly transportation meeting is set for March 12<sup>th</sup> and some topics that will be discussed are improvements to Route 606 at Thornburg and Eley's Ford road.

**DRPT:** Mr. Arabia advised that DRPT is in the process of completing the TDM applications for 2016. Mr. Arabia stated that recommendations are going to be made soon and by April the draft funding allocations should be available. Mr. Arabia stated that the funding allocations for next year should be finalized and distributed by week-end.

**PRTC:** Ms. Porter-Johnson advised that Mr. Harf will be resigning as director of PRTC effective July 2015 and that as he has been on board for some time that his expertise will be missed by the staff at PRTC.

**VDOT:** Ms. Richter stated that this year the Fredericksburg VDOT District office only received two TAF grant applications. Ms. Richter encouraged the localities to utilize this funding category as projects are eligible so that the region does not find itself in a situation where allocated money is lost due to no projects being submitted for consideration.

Ms. Richter also advised that the public hearing on the 6-Year Transportation Plan and the HB2 updates are scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>. At this time, the location and time has not been confirmed but Ms. Richter will update the committee accordingly as soon as this information is finalized.

**VRE:** Ms. Soneji advised that the public hearing regarding VRE fare increases will be held at City Hall on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 13th, 2015/ADJOURN**

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for March 09th was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.