



**FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2015**

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Members Present:

Joey Hess, Chair, County of Stafford
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Angeline Crowder, County of Caroline
Dan Cole, County of Spotsylvania
Brad Johnson, County of Stafford
Chris Arabia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) (in at 9:22)
Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
Allison Richter, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Rupert Farley, Citizen

Staff Members Present:

Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Daniel Reese, FAMPO
JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

The Technical Committee agenda for April 13, 2015 was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2015

The Technical Committee minutes from the March 9, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted with a minor edit requested by Mr. Van Dussen on page 4, under HB2/1887 update. The amendment was a typo-graphical error and not a content edit.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 16, 2015

Mr. Robinson advised that the minutes are included in today's packet. Mr. Robinson relayed that Resolutions No. 15-04 (adoption of the Congestion Management Process; No. 15-05 (authorization of Request for Proposals for On-Call consultants); No. 15-06 (endorsement of Stafford County's alternative funding grant application); and No. 15-07 (service recognition for Andy Waple) were all unanimously approved.

Mr. Robinson relayed that discussion occurred on the following items: House Bill 2/1887 update; FY2016-2021 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality/Regional Surface Transportation Program funding allocations; Transportation Problem-Solving Workshop; and FY2016 Rural Transportation Work Program. Mr. Robinson advised that re-cap of each discussion item is included within the minutes in today's agenda packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Farley stated that he had a recommendation for consideration by both the FAMPO Technical Committee and the FAMPO Policy Committee. Mr. Farley stated that his suggestion would result in no costs; however, may have benefit to the citizens who may not completely understand the transportation planning process.

Mr. Farley stated that within all of FAMPO's plans and documents including the Long Range Transportation Plan; the Transportation Improvement Program; the 6-Year Improvement Plan, etc. that a disclaimer statement should be added. Mr. Farley stated that the statement could include such as the following: "FAMPO realizes that the recommended projects included are not long-term solutions for the on-going transportation issues within the region; however, the projects offered are the best that can be considered with the current funding allocations that are available."

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No. 15-08, Directing that a Public Comment Period and Public Hearing be held prior to the Adoption of the FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Lloyd Robinson

Resolution No. 15-09, Allocating FY2016-2021 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds – Lloyd Robinson

There was unanimous consensus from the Technical Committee to forward Resolution No. 15-08 and Resolution No. 15-09 to the Policy Committee for adoption at the upcoming April meeting. It was noted that in regard to Resolution No. 15-08, there was a typo-graphical error that needed to be amended prior to it being forwarded.

Resolution No. 15-10, Requesting that the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Place the FAMPO Region in Category A of the Factor Weighting Frameworks for Project Ratings Under the New House Bill 2 Project Rating System – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that Resolution No. 15-10 comes as the result of the HB2 update meeting that was conducted on March 18, 2015. Mr. Robinson stated that Resolution No. 15-10 is asking that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) place the FAMPO region into Category A for the factor weighting frameworks for the project ratings under the new HB2 project rating system. Under the first draft proposal, the FAMPO region was weighted into Category B. Mr. Robinson advised that this presentation is included in today's agenda packet and he will re-cap it accordingly.

M. Robinson stated that HB2 update schedule is as follows: March/April – receive public comments on the draft proposal; May – CTB will present the revised process proposal; and June - CTB will finalize and adopt the process.

Mr. Robinson relayed that HB2 re-enacts 33.2-358 which established the highway allocation formulas for the \$500 million dollars of CTB annual allocations. Mr. Robinson stated that funds available for high priority projects and PPTA before 07-01-20 were designated as 50% for high-priority projects and 50% for highway construction district grant programs. However, for FY years after 07-01-20, the new allocations for the remaining funds will revert to the following breakdowns: 45% - state of good repair purposes; 27.5% to high-priority projects; and 27.5% to highway construction district grant projects.

Mr. Robinson advised that the VTrans 2040 needs will now become more consistent with HB2 project ratings. HB2 requires that each project address a transportation need that is identified in the VTRANS 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan within 1 of the 3 travel markets. These markets are: Corridors of Statewide Significance (COSS) – intercity travel; Regional Networks – intraregional travel; & Urban Development Areas (UDA) – local activity within a region's center market.

Mr. Robinson stated that there are still some grey areas and that more outreach over the next several months will be provided. Mr. Robinson stated that for this region, outreach opportunities will be made to FAMPO's 3 committees as well as asking for both participation from the Chamber and the University of Mary Washington. Mr. Robinson stated that for him personally, even though there still needs to be some issues resolved, that he does not feel that the process is in fact going to be a scary one for the region. Mr. Robinson stated that localities are eligible for submitting projects for funding allocations from all 3 of the categories as long as each jurisdiction has the support from its locality; however, the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Planning District Commissions (PDCs) can only submit projects for consideration that fall into either the Corridors of Statewide Significance (COSS) or Regional Networks system categories.

In regard to the accessibility measures that were received from feedback from the stakeholders, the current recommendation states that fairness of accessibility will be applied to a 45-minute commute to job sites. Ms. Richter advised that the 45-minute time frame is not realistic within

this region – even if being applied to reverse commute job opportunities. Ms. Richter recommended that the Technical Committee may want to consider removing a specific time frame and make the statement more generic than specific. Ms. Richter relayed that while not trying to override the system; however, at the same time with it being more specific than generic this ultimately could have a negative impact on the region’s ratings. There was considerable committee discussion and all were unanimous in that Resolution No. 15-10 should be amended to reflect the consensus.

As Resolution No. 15-10 is specifically asking that the Policy Committee endorse the region’s category classification from a “B” to an “A” rating, Mr. Robinson asked for and received consensus from the Technical Committee to forward this Resolution to the Policy Committee as it is for their approval. Mr. Robinson also stated that he would compile a new Resolution (No. 15-11) that would be forwarded to the Technical Committee members for their reviews, edits, & consensus that also addresses Ms. Richter’s point of being more generic, rather than specific, on the 45-minute time frame for commuting to job sites. Mr. Robinson advised that after member feedback has been received and the new Resolution amended as needed, that this too would be submitted to the Policy Committee for their endorsement at the upcoming April meeting. Mr. Robinson stated that this is the first cut process so if there are gaps, overlaps, omissions, etc. that the region still has plenty of time to make any necessary corrections prior to the final vote being taken in June by the CTB. Mr. Robinson stated that as there will be state-wide competition for funding allocations that multi-modal projects would improve the categories and ratings.

DISCUSSION ITEM

a.) HB2 Update – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that this item was discussed above in regard to Resolution No. 15-10 and there was nothing additional to add. Mr. Robinson did relay that Mr. Nick Donohue will be providing an update and presentation to the Policy Committee at the upcoming April meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Robinson advised that correspondence is included in today’s agenda packet and is self-explanatory.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Robinson advised that he would be attending the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) policy committee meeting in Washington, DC on Thursday, April 16th. Mr. Robinson relayed that in regard to the FAMPO Administrator’s position, that 10 applications have been received. Mr. Robinson stated that these applications will be reviewed by Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC Director, and three members from the FAMPO Policy Committee which are: Mr. Matt Kelly, Mr. Tim McLaughlin, and Mr. Paul Milde. Regarding the Regional Transportation Planner’s position, 30 applications have been received and these will be reviewed Mr. Dan Reese, Ms. Marti Donley, and Ms. Diana Utz.

Mr. Robinson advised that this Friday is the deadline for receipt of the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the on-call consultants. To date, we have not received any; however, Mr. Robinson stated that he has received several calls with specific questions. Mr. Robinson relayed that it is not uncommon to not receive any all along and that historically, they all will be submitted on Friday before the cut-off time expires. Mr. Robinson stated that the last time he thinks we received 8 different proposals and he knows of at least 5 that will be submitting a bid this time. Mr. Robinson stated that he will serve in an advisory capacity for the review of the submitted bids and that the following staff members will be on the review team which are: Ms. Marti Donley; Mr. Dan Reese; and Ms. Diana Utz. Mr. Robinson stated that Mr. Van Dussen will be serving from VDOT and Mr. White from FRED; and that a representative is still needed from each of the localities. The jurisdictional representatives will be: City of Fredericksburg – Mr. Erik Nelson; County of Spotsylvania – Mr. Dan Cole; & County of Stafford – Mr. Joey Hess.

MEMBER REPORTS

City of Fredericksburg: Mr. Nelson advised that the city's VCR trail was in hopes of being ready to open in the spring; however, the opening date has now been moved to the summer. Mr. Nelson stated that the trail is ready to go and usable; however, there is some needed signal equipment to complete the project that will not be ready until later in the year.

County of Spotsylvania: Mr. Cole advised that the VRE project in Spotsylvania is still underway and that the turn lanes and signal modifications have been completed.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation: Mr. Arabia advised that the draft improvement program will be ready to be released soon. Mr. Arabia stated that at the next GWRC meeting a presentation and update will be given to the Commission on the status of the higher speed rail project from Richmond to DC. Mr. Arabia also relayed that the 5303 grant application process is now open and the draft grants can begin being submitted to Olga.

Virginia Department of Transportation - Ms. Richter advised that VDOT's 6-year transportation planning meeting and HB2 update will occur on April 30, 2015 at Spotsylvania's Germanna Community College site.

CORRESPONDENCE

Included in packet and are self-explanatory

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY 11th, 2015/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 11th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for April 13th was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.