



**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
April 20, 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)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Others Present:

Mr. Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
Mr. Hap Connors, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Ms. Allison Richter, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) (In at 7:35 p.m.)
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star
Mr. Rupert Farley, FAMPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Ms. Dawn McGarrity, FAMPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Mr. Donald Hickman, Rinker Design Associates

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO
Mr. Danny Reese, FAMPO
Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER

Chair, 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 Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, the agenda was approved as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Farley stated that in regard to the HB2 document that has been made available, he stated that he felt the Policy Committee was taking an inappropriate approach in regard to the document. Mr. Farley also stated that he was dismayed to find the same attitude expressed by the FAMPO Technical Committee. Mr. Farley was speaking as a citizen and was not speaking as a representative from the FAMPO CTAG Committee. Mr. Farley stated that he felt the State has created a document that will treat all regions state-wide in a fair and equitable manner. Mr. Farley stated that he felt that instead of this region going with the flow and dealing with the weighting factors that have been assigned, that instead FAMPO was trying to circumvent the HB2 provisions and make them fit what they want it to say. Mr. Farley stated that he was strongly encouraging the Policy Committee to vote against adoption of Resolution No. 15-11 and instead to focus efforts on congestion relief. Mr. Farley stated that he felt congestion relief should not even be on the list as a determining factor; however, it is included so he would rather see the Policy Committee exert efforts in making the point clear to the General Assembly that congestion relief should not be a factor of consideration.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Milde welcomed Mr. Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation to tonight's meeting and advised that Mr. Donohue would be giving an HB2 update/presentation later in tonight's meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

a.) Approval of FAMPO Minutes of March 16, 2015 – Mr. Lloyd Robinson

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Ross abstaining with everyone else in consensus, the minutes from the March 16th meeting were approved as submitted.

b.) Approval of Resolution No. 15-08, Directing that a Public Comment Period & Public hearing be Held Prior to the Adoption of the FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Mr. Lloyd Robinson

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Romaello, with everyone in consensus, Resolution No. 15-08 was adopted.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Romanello and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with everyone in consensus, Resolution No. 15-09 was adopted.

d.) HB2 Update – Mr. Nick Donahue

Mr. Donahue advised that a HB2 draft was released in March and the State is aware that it requires updates. Mr. Donahue stated that the comments that have been received across the State will be brought before the CTB at their upcoming May meeting. Mr. Donahue relayed that it was felt it was best to keep this as a single document until the public comment period ends and then all changes will be incorporated at one time.

Mr. Donahue advised that the HB2 legislation requires the CTB to adopt a state-wide prioritization process to evaluate projects to receive funding. This process must be developed & implemented into the FY2017-2022 Six-Year Improvement Plan.

Mr. Donahue stated that this process applies to flexible funds that are used to enhance or expand the transportation capacity and does not apply to maintenance, major rehabilitation or specialized programs.

Mr. Donahue advised that the CTB is required to consider six factors when it weights projects state-wide, as follows: congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, environmental quality and land use coordination (only for areas with over a population of 200,000). Each project submitted will be weighted and given a separate score in each of the categories mentioned above.

Mr. Donahue stated that significant public outreach has been undertaken that includes him personally having made a presentation to every MPO and many PDCs state-wide. Eighteen CTB hearings have been held; nine regional stakeholder meetings held; meetings have been held with all fourteen Virginia MPO's and many planning districts; presentations are being given at numerous state-wide conferences. Mr. Donahue advised that the public comment period is still open and that the Board will continue to seek additional public feedback over the next month. Mr. Donahue advised that there still are nine additional CTB hearings scheduled over the next four weeks.

Mr. Donahue advised that the State has allocated 4 categories of weighting frameworks state-wide ranging from Category A to Category D. Mr. Donahue stated that currently the Fredericksburg region is assigned to a Category B rating. Mr. Donahue advised that he and the State are aware that the FAMPO region has requested its re-classification be changed from a Category B rating to a Category A rating. (Mr. Robinson advised that there is a Resolution asking for this re-classification that will be brought up before the FAMPO Policy Committee tonight for their endorsement).

Mr. Donahue advised that in the State's project scoring category, project benefits are being examined relative to a project's cost. The Board is considering whether total funding or only HB2 eligible funds should be considered in the final determinations. Mr. Robinson asked what costs are actually being considered – i.e. if a region has a \$100,000 project for consideration and has \$50,000 of funding accrued to go to the project does the project cost get computed at \$50,000 or \$100,000. Mr. Robinson stated that it is felt for regions across the State that do not have money allocated to a project that their project may not be weighted as high because one project could be completed for \$50,000; whereas, another project's cost would be the total \$100,000. Mr. Donahue stated that this is a factor that has not been finalized by the State to date.

Mr. Donahue stated that currently 39 real projects are being rated state-wide and even though the projects are real projects, they are anonymous to the staff so that knowing what a specific project is does not guarantee it will be rated higher based on personal or political feelings toward a project. All projects are either projects completed to a specific phase of development or projects that are under construction.

Mr. Donahue advised that the HB1887 implications have currently developed a percentage chart for district grants state-wide. Currently, the Fredericksburg region has received a 6.9%. Mr. Donahue stated that they are aware that the FAMPO region feels this is a low and inaccurate rating. Mr. Donahue relayed that this chart is a sliding scale, and as new data is continually received you could see changes occur on a regular basis on the current percentages now assigned to a region.

In closing, Mr. Donahue stated that the plan is in no way finalized to date and that each region needs to continue to engage concerns, submit comments, etc. Mr. Donahue advised that in April/May public comment on the draft plan will be sought at the upcoming Six-Year Improvement Program hearings. In May, the CTB will be presented with the pilot test results and process revisions. In June, the CTB will receive the final process from staff and will take final action at that time.

e.) 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 HB2 Project Rating System – Mr. Lloyd Robinson

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Ross, with Mr. Harf & Ms. Parker abstaining and everyone else in consensus, Resolution No. 15-10 was adopted.

f.) Resolution No. 15-11, Requesting that the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Reconsider the Forty-Five Minute Commute as the Standard When Evaluating HB2 Projects for Congestion Mitigation – Mr. Lloyd Robinson

During discussion, Mr. Harf suggested that Resolution 15-11 be amended to state that FAMPO recommends the Commonwealth test several commute times, other than just forty-five minutes, in order to demonstrate the effects of these alternative times have on different project ratings throughout the Commonwealth.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Harf, with Ms. Sellers voting no and Ms. Parker abstaining and everyone else in consensus, Resolution No. 15-11 was adopted, as amended.

g.) Other HB2 Implementation Issues

Following considerable discussion from committee members it was also the consensus of the Policy Committee that staff drafts a letter reiterating the concerns, comments, and feedback to be submitted to the State & to the CTB. Mr. Robinson was asked to compile the letter, include the bulleted items, distribute to committee members for feedback and edits and then to forward to the FAMPO Chairman for his signature before submitting the letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Secretary and the CTB members.

DISCUSSION ITEM

a.) New Approaches to Solving Transportation Problems Workshop – Mr. Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that staff & VDOT have been diligently working to come up with presentation materials for the Transportation Problems Workshop that was a request made by this committee. To date, after at least two email notifications, staff has only heard back from four2 of its voting members in regard to dates/times that would be convenient for them to participate. Ms. Donley was asked to forward the email out again asking for member replies so that a date for this workshop could be finalized.

FAMPO CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence is included in packet & self-explanatory.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Robinson advised that the close-out date for receiving RFP's for on-call consultants ended last Friday and six individual firms submitted a bid. Mr. Robinson stated that a selection committee comprised of FAMPO staff, locality representatives from the Technical Committee, and representation from FRED & VDOT will be reviewing the bids received. The committee will make recommendations on which firms to hire and provide this to the Policy Committee at an meeting for endorsement.

In regard to the regional transportation planner's position that is now open, Mr. Robinson relayed that there were twenty-three resumes received and that the review process will be conducted by FAMPO staff. Both telephone and personal interviews will be scheduled with a short list of people.

In regard to the FAMPO Administrator's position, Mr. Milde advised that the review committee has received five resumes. These too will be reviewed internally, and three of the five will be contacted for further interviews.

MEMBER REPORT

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) - Ms. Parker advised that VDOT's 6-Year Planning Meeting will be held on April 30th at the Germanna Community College satellite location in Spotsylvania County.

Mr. Ross asked Ms. Parker if there is any modeling data available in regard to the HOT lanes. Mr. Ross stated that for him personally, on a daily basis, his commute from Route 126/130 to Route 152 has increased in both the a.m. and p.m. time frames since the HOT lanes have been open. Mr. Ross asked if VDOT has any plans of extending the entrance/exit points further down. Mr. Ross stated that he would like to review data on what the projections were versus what is actually occurring.

Mr. Romanello concurred with Mr. Ross's comments and stated that Stafford County staff has expressed the same concerns. Ms. Parker advised that she will bring data back for review at the upcoming May meeting.

FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) and the Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) meeting minutes are included in packet.

ADJOURN

The FAMPO meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. The next meeting will occur on May 18, 2015 at 7:15 p.m.