



## Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2016

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### **Members Present:**

Mr. Matt Kelly, City of Fredericksburg, (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr. Mark Whitley, City of Fredericksburg (Alternate)  
Ms. Ruby Brabo, King George County (Non-Voting Member)  
Mr. John Jenkins, King George County (Non-Voting Member)  
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County  
Ms. Meg Bohmke, Stafford County  
Mr. Paul Milde, Stafford County  
Ms. Laura Sellers, Stafford County  
Mr. Chuck Steigerwald, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)  
Ms. Marci Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Mr. Guy Gormley, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG), (Non-Voting Member)

### **Others Present:**

Mr. Stephen Haynes, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Ms. Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star  
Ms. Fran Larkins, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)  
Mr. David Swan, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

### **Staff Members Present:**

Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO  
Mr. Daniel Reese, FAMPO  
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO  
Mr. Nick Quint, FAMPO  
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC  
Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC  
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRC  
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

### **CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Mr. Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and received acknowledgement that a quorum was present. Chairman Mr. McLaughlin was excused.

### **APPROVAL OF FAMPO AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Ross, with all in consensus, the agenda was accepted as submitted.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Ms. Larkins asked that the Policy Committee thoroughly look at the upcoming designs as they become available for the Route 17 improvements. Ms. Larkins stated that as Route 17 is the largest truck/traffic route in the State she thinks it is critical that the plans be studied on how to best effectively have the truck traffic merge into the connecting Collector-Distributor (CD) lanes. Ms. Larkins asked that review also be given to the bridge repairs that will be needed for safety enhancements and that the infusion of the car traffic from the CD lanes be designed effectively.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Agnello advised that the public hearing scheduled for tonight is to obtain comments on the 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Kelly opened the floor for comments on the public hearing. There were no comments made from the public and the public hearing was then closed.

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

None

## **ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a.) Approval of FAMPO Minutes of April 18, 2016 – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers, seconded by Mr. Ross, with all others concurring, and with abstention by Mr. Whitley, the minutes from the April 18, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **b.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-32, Adoption of the FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that FAMPO's UPWP is the work document that outlines the duties that FAMPO will be performing and is an annual requirement to update. Mr. Agnello advised that to date, staff has received only a few comments. The comments received were a request from FHWA that asked that specific start and end dates be assigned to projects. Mr. Agnello advised that staff has made the revisions as requested and they are reflected in the copy included in tonight's agenda packet.

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Whitley, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-32 was adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Gormley stated that with the changes upcoming over the next several years with large segments of the Washington, DC Metro being shut down completely for the necessary safety repairs, he is requesting that the Policy Committee be proactive. Mr. Gormley stated that this is going to seriously impact a large percentage of the daily commuting base within the region. Mr. Agnello advised that Phase 2 of the I-95 Corridor Study is designed to address multi-modal transit issues and that staff can address transit reliability issues through existing UPWP activities.

**c.) May Transportation Update – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that the VDOT Spring Public Meeting for the Fredericksburg District was held on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The draft SYIP's expected release date will be at the upcoming CTB meeting in Staunton on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Agnello relayed that nine of the eleven projects submitted by the FAMPO region for HB2 project prioritization were recommended for full funding. Mr. Agnello stated that the deadline date for receiving comments to the Draft SYIP is May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Agnello advised that the I-95 Phase 1 Corridor Study group continues to meet monthly and a draft report is included in tonight's agenda packet for discussion later in tonight's meeting. Mr. Agnello stated that the second round of locality meetings will also occur in May. Mr. Agnello stated that staff continues to make preparations for the Round Two of this year's HB2 process.

**d.) Letter Providing FAMPO Comments on Transportation Projects that have been Scored and Recommended in HB2 Prioritization process – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that a letter to the Honorable Aubrey Layne, Secretary of Transportation, is included in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Agnello stated that the letter is expressing its appreciation of the CTB's recent funding allocations designated for nine of the eleven projects submitted for consideration from the FAMPO region.

Mr. Agnello stated that the letter also asks that consideration be given under Round Two of the upcoming HB2 process for the two projects that were not selected from the first Round of HB2 to be re-considered. Mr. Agnello stated that these two projects are: the I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project and the VRE Station Expansions for the Brooke and Leeland Road VRE Stations in Stafford County.

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Steigerwald, with all in concurrence, the FAMPO Policy Committee endorsed the letter as presented with a request that it be forwarded to Honorable Aubrey Layne.

Ms. Bohmke stated that the results from Round One of the HB2 process show that other localities asked for more projects and ultimately received more funding so would it be prudent for this region to do the same. Mr. Agnello stated that the region could have had more district grant projects for smaller projects submitted for consideration and this is something that could be looked at for the submission process for Round Two; however, the request would not apply to the larger projects within the region.

**e.) Update Concerning I-95/I-395 Study Process – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that included in tonight's agenda packet are letters that have been submitted by FAMPO and PRTC in regard to the membership representation by the region on the I-95/I-395 TDM Study; the response from the State to the FAMPO letters; and an updated presentation that was given by DRPT at the May Technical Committee meeting.

### **i. State Response to FAMPO and PRTC Letters**

Mr. Agnello advised that both FAMPO and PRTC have submitted letters to the Honorable Aubrey Layne, Secretary of Transportation, citing their concerns that the Fredericksburg regions and FAMPO were not included as members to the TDM Study team. Mr. Agnello stated that the letter referenced the 84-mile seamless network of express lanes throughout the Northern Virginia and Fredericksburg regions. The original TDM Study committee was comprised of representatives from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, NVTC, Prince William and Stafford County.

Mr. Agnello stated that FAMPO is in support of the Commonwealth's efforts to move forward with the two referenced express lane extension projects and the Commonwealth's efforts to further extend the I-95 express lanes to Route 17 in Stafford County. Mr. Agnello stated that the Fredericksburg region's constituents are major users of the I-95/I-395 express lanes and contribute financially to the toll usage in these express lanes. Mr. Agnello relayed that as the City of Fredericksburg, FAMPO, and Spotsylvania County were not included within the stakeholder member committee roster, that this region is inadequately being represented at the meetings. Mr. Agnello stated that the letter submitted by PRTC reiterated the region's concerns.

Mr. Agnello stated that response submitted to FAMPO from the State includes the following:

1. the key stakeholder group is comprised of local jurisdictions and regional entities that are physically located in the study corridor area;
2. a broader-based committee known as the Regional Stakeholder Technical Advisory Group will also meet monthly to be briefed on progress of the study and be given an opportunity to provide guidance and feedback to DRPT. This committee will now include membership from both Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania; however, not FAMPO or GWRC, as FAMPO and GWRC are being represented by PRTC

### **ii. State Presentation to FTC on May 9th**

Mr. Agnello advised that the presentation from DRPT included the following points:

1. by 2021, there will be an 84-mile seamless network of express lanes that will provide for faster and more reliable trips for drivers, carpoolers, and transit/vanpool users in Northern Virginia;
2. the projects included will be the I-95 Express Lanes that are currently operational in Stafford County with a 2-mile Southern Extension planned; the I-495 Express Lanes that are also now Operational; the planned I-395 Express Lanes Northern Extension; and the planned transformations on I-66, both inside and outside the Beltway

Mr. Agnello stated that the goal of the Commonwealth is to maximize the person throughput and not the vehicle throughput within the Express Lane projects along the corridors. Mr. Agnello stated that DRPT relayed that guaranteed funding for multimodal solutions from revenues from the tolls is a priority for the Commonwealth for all of the projects mentioned above.

Mr. Agnello advised that the benefits of the now operational and the planned projects will improve the mobility along the project corridors; will provide new and diverse travel opportunities; and will enhance the transportation safety and travel reliability data.

Mr. Agnello stated that DRPT is leading the TDM Study in coordination with the key stakeholders. The Study will identify transit services and the TDM program enhancements that could be funded with the Annual Transit Investment payments. Mr. Agnello stated that the key stakeholders will not make the decisions on which projects will be funded and the Commonwealth will make future determinations on who will ultimately make the decisions on the projects that will be funded.

Mr. Agnello relayed that the study will be completed by December of 2016 and that the projects that will be eligible for funding will increase mobility and person throughput along I-95 and I-395; however, they must benefit the toll payers on the I-395 corridor.

Mr. Agnello stated that the types of projects that will be eligible for funding include new bus and rail service, park and ride lots and TDM enhancement programs. Mr. Agnello relayed that the study area will extend the entire length of the I-95/I-395 network of the Express Lanes from Eads Street in Arlington to Stafford County and will include parallel commuting corridors, routes and alternate modes of transportation opportunities.

**f.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-33, Letter, and TIGER Grant Application for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Atlantic Gateway Program – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that VDOT will be submitting a FASTLANE application for the Atlantic Gateway project and the letter and TIGER grant application were included for review in the April Policy Committee agenda packet. Mr. Agnello stated that Resolution No. 16-33 is asking for endorsement of the Letter and TIGER grant application to be moved forward.

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Steigerwald, with all in concurrence, Resolution No. 16-33 was adopted by the FAMPO Policy Committee at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**g.) Update of FY2017-2022 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Process – Mr. Daniel Reese**

Mr. Reese advised that the Draft FY2017-2022 CMAQ/RSTP budgets were received by staff on April 18<sup>th</sup> and the Resolution was adopted by the Policy Committee at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Reese advised that the projected CMAQ budgets were less than what the region anticipated; however, the RSTP budget allocations were greater than originally thought.

Mr. Reese advised that staff updated the CMAQ/RSTP project list and all projects that were already fully funded will remain fully funded. Mr. Reese stated that the funding years may have changed from the fiscal year initially assigned; however, the overall funding for the projects either stayed the same or increased. Mr. Reese stated that VDOT has asked staff to apply any remaining funding allocations towards phases of projects that could become fully funded. Mr. Reese stated that staff allocated the funding so that the PE phases on all projects was fully funded; then if additional funding remains it will be assigned to fully funding Right-of-Way phases on all projects and lastly to the Construction phases to the projects.

Mr. Reese stated that staff has seven operational studies that have been submitted that with the CMAQ/RSTP funding allocations all seven will be funded for the PE phase of development. The seven studies include the following: roundabout for Lafayette Boulevard; widening of Butler Road from two to four lanes; intersection improvements at US Route 1 and Route 628; and intersection improvements on Route 208 Courthouse Road and Route 636.

Mr. Reese relayed that the following three new projects were also included and they are as follows: intersection improvements at Beulah/Salisbury Drive; Harrison Road/Lafayette Boulevard turn lane improvements; and intersection improvements to Courthouse Road/Breckenridge drive.

Mr. Reese advised that the final project costs are expected to be provided to staff by VDOT by the end of June and that a contingency funding was established this year in case the estimate allocated towards a specific project increases. Mr. Reese stated that once staff receives the actual dollar amounts for the projects noted above that the CMAQ/RSTP project listing will be updated as needed and a final report should be available for review at the upcoming June/July FAMPO meetings.

#### **h.) Update on HB2 Preparations – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that preparations for Round Two of the HB2 project process is fully underway. Mr. Agnello stated that just as a reminder to the localities if a project is being submitted for consideration to ensure that the project is also within the locality's comprehensive plan. Mr. Agnello stated that if a project is submitted by a locality that is not included within their comprehensive plan that it can make a difference on how the project gets scored by the CTB.

Mr. Agnello relayed that in order to position GWRC/FAMPO HB2 projects for them to maximize the highest project scores assigned, that the candidate projects need to be included within the following plans/documents:

1. FAMPO CLRP (Statewide High Priority Candidate Projects Only)
2. GWRC/FAMPO Regional Economic Development Plan
3. Local Comprehensive Plan(s)

Mr. Agnello advised that the project submission list needs to be finalized by the June/July timeframe and that staff will be meeting with each of the localities to obtain the necessary information needed. Mr. Agnello stated that staff will be submitting the region's projects prior to September 30, 2016. Mr. Agnello stated that based on last year's scoring process, projects that were included within the Economic Development Plan scored higher than those that were not part of this plan. Mr. Agnello stated that for projects that were in a local comprehensive plan the project received full credit; if the project was consistent with the local comprehensive plan, the project received half credit; and if the project was not included within the local comprehensive plan, the project received no credit.

#### **i. Draft Results from I-95 Phase I Corridor Study – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that the purpose of the I-95 Corridor Study Phase 1 is to develop a highway masterplan for I-95 between mile posts 145 and 125; to identify potential projects and phasings; and to develop smaller projects that could be potential candidates for HB2 considerations.

Mr. Agnello relayed that the data compiled to date, makes the following overall alternative comparisons to include the following points:

1. The northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project (alternative 4) is included in all five of the alternatives currently modeled and would greatly reduce the northbound I-95 congestion at the river;
2. The express lane alternatives (9a and 11) are the highest-performing alternatives in throughput and delay for both the a.m. and p.m. peak times;
3. The general purpose lane widening alternative (3c) was also effective; however, but due to the design would only provide one new lane capacity in any peak direction during any peak time period; and
4. The CD lane alternative (7a) has value in the segments where it exists; however, is penalized by the fact that it does not include any new improvements for segments to the north which thusly creates new choke points

Mr. Agnello advised that the Advisory Committee will be meeting again on May 31<sup>st</sup> and the following goals are hoped to be achieved:

1. Selection of preferred alternatives to study further for additional analysis;
2. Locality and MPO input to be provided;
3. Cost Estimates (planning level status) for comparison of the varied alternatives – i.e. Express Lane, versus General Purpose Lane, versus CD lanes, etc.  
Provide additional analysis of potential design challenges that have physical constraints – i.e. right-of-way cost, bridge repairs, etc.
4. Provide additional data that will analyze express lane versus general purpose lane improvements for Stafford County that also will include modeling data for both a week-day study versus a peak non-holiday weekend traffic count and Route 17 truck traffic; and
5. Selection of two alternatives to request consideration of moving forward.

## **FAMPO CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence is included in tonight's agenda packet and is self-explanatory.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Agnello advised that staff is happy to report that Ms. Donley is back in the office after recovering from her foot surgery.

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

Ms. Brabo advised that discussion had occurred at tonight's GWRC meeting in regard to making the agenda packets available electronically rather than via a Xeroxed packet. Ms. Brabo stated that Mr. Ware is going to provide costs allocated currently for the use of Xerox paper, toner, cartridges, staff time, etc. and make comparisons on whether it would be less expensive for them to purchase ipads instead. Ms. Brabo stated that Mr. Ware is going to provide the updates at the upcoming June meeting and the item can be discussed in more detail at that time.

## **FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Both the FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) and the Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) meeting minutes are included in tonight's agenda packet.

### **ADJOURN FAMPO MEETING/NEXT MEETING, MAY 16, 2016**

The FAMPO meeting for May 16th was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. The next meeting will occur on June 20, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.