



**Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2015**

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Committee Members Present:

Mr. Art Snyder, Chair, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Claude Dunn, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Bill Milligan, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Todd Rump, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Michele Trampe, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Fran Larkins, Stafford County
Ms. Dawn McGarrity, Stafford County
Mr. Guy Gormley, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large Member (Spotsylvania County)

George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) Staff:

Mr. Daniel Reese, FAMPO
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

Others Present:

Mr. Christian Deschauer, Transurban
Mr. Mike McGurk, Transurban
Mr. Jason Robinson, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The CTAG agenda for June 10, 2015 was approved as submitted, with request by Mr. Snyder to move Item 8B – Transurban 95 Express Lane Summary to occur after Item 3. This request was unanimously endorsed by all CTAG members.

APPROVAL OF CTAG MEETING SUMMARY OF MAY 13, 2015

The minutes from the CTAG meeting from May 13th were unanimously accepted as presented.



REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – MAY 18, 2015 – Daniel Reese

Mr. Reese advised that minutes are included in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Reese advised that there was considerable discussion in regard to completion of the southern segment of the I-95 Express Lanes and the individual member comments are included in the minutes in tonight's packet.

Mr. Reese relayed that Resolution No. 15-12, Adoption of the FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was unanimously approved.

Under the Discussion item category, Mr. Reese advised that the two requests made by CTAG that they are given a permanent non-voting seat on the Policy Committee and that they have a standing slot on the agenda to provide feedback on specific issues that come from the CTAG collectively and not from individual members were both unanimously adopted. The CTAG member representation will begin at the upcoming May 15th Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Reese advised that there was discussion on the first FAMPO workshop meeting that was held and specific comments are included within tonight's agenda packet. Lastly, Mr. Reese advised that Mr. Paul Agnello has been hired as the new FAMPO Administrator and he will be coming on board within the next couple of weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ACTION ITEMS

a.) Election of Officers – Daniel Reese

The new CTAG Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming year will be Mr. Guy Gormley and Mr. Todd Rump respectively. These appointments were unanimously endorsed by CTAG.

b.) Resolution No. 15-14, Recommending that GWRC authorize the retention of Cambridge Systematics and Michael Baker Companies as the On-Call Transportation Planning Consultants – Daniel Reese

Mr. Reese advised that six proposals were submitted for consideration and the selection committee interviewed four of the six and then selected two of the four that rated the highest in the scoring criteria process. As Resolution No. 15-14 was essentially a housekeeping Resolution, CTAG took no action.

c.) Resolution No. 15-15, amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to provide adjustments to various DRPT grants affecting the FAMPO region – Daniel Reese

Mr. Reese advised that Resolution No. 15-15 is a housekeeping issue and involved additional monies being awarded to FRED and to Rappahannock Area on Aging and did not have any effect on any other funding categories. As Resolution No. 15-15 was a housekeeping issue, CTAG took no action.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) Extension of I-95 Express Lanes from Exit 143 to Exit 126 – Daniel Reese

CTAG committee discussion occurred on this item. As it was consensus from all members that there are current issues with Segment 1 of the I-95 Express lane project that have not been corrected; and that data that is available is only six months old, CTAG was in agreement that they do not feel Segment 2 (Exits 143 to 133) or Segment 3 (Exits 133 to 126) of this project should move forward at this time.

Mr. Robinson advised that VDOT has been working with Transurban to hopefully come up with recommendations and solutions that will fix some of the current commuting issues being experienced from Route 3 to Route 610 where the HOT lane project begins. Mr. Robinson relayed that it is VDOT's desire to get people moving through the region faster and to get residents on and off access ramps in a more efficient manner. Mr. Robinson advised that regular traffic data counts are being done on a consistent basis by VDOT so they are aware of the additional traffic impacts on the secondary roads as well as the back-up delays occurring at Route 3. Mr. Robinson advised that there are some concrete plans being addressed and these should be available for citizen review and input by the summer.

Mr. Robinson stated that in FAMPO's CLRP that they have to take formal action to either keep current projects in the plan and/or to take projects out of the plan. Mr. Robinson encouraged the CTAG members to attend and participate in the upcoming FAMPO/VDOT brainstorming session that will be held sometime the first two weeks in July. Mr. Robinson relayed that this forum will be the time for citizens, elected officials, etc. to present new ideas; to determine which project should be the highest priority; to convey which projects are still considered to have regional significance; etc.

b.) Transurban 95 Express Lanes Report Summary Mr. Christian Deschauer & Mr. Michael McGurk

Mr. Deschauer and Mr. McGurk gave a brief overview of the data available for the I-95 Express Lanes project that opened at Route 610 in late December. There was lengthy discussion; concerns; comments; and suggestions made by the CTAG members. As some of the CTAG members are daily commuters, they did have first-hand knowledge of specific issues that need to be re-addressed by both Transurban and VDOT.

Mr. Snyder asked when does the provision become effective that falls back on the State if the HOV/HOT lanes project does not in fact exceed user expectations. Mr. Deschauer stated that he did

not have that date readily available; however, would check the contract and submit this information to FAMPO staff so that it can be sent to the CTAG members.

Mr. Farley stated that he had read the contract and that it clearly stated that if the ridership does not exceed the operational costs of the project that the taxpayers would become responsible for the deficit. Mr. Deschauer stated that this was absolutely incorrect. He advised that Transurban is completely responsible for the risks, for the cash up front, and for the on-going debt. Mr. Deschauer advised that in the first year that Transurban has already put up an additional \$180 million dollars to cover project costs. Ms. Trampe asked if Transurban ever defaults on the bonds does then the State become responsible for the deficit. Mr. Deschauer stated that if this were to happen the liability falls to the stockholders and not to the State. Mr. Deschauer stated that there are strict performance requirements in place and that the success or failure is being closely monitored. Ms. Larkins asked when the revenue sharing with the State would begin and how much money would this generate. Mr. Deschauer stated that he did not have this information available yet but advised that he would forward regular updates to FAMPO to be sent out to the committee members as they occur to keep everyone informed.

There were considerable comments made in regard to the daily commute time being increased by 15-30 minutes daily since the HOT lanes opened and that the signage is not effective. Comments were made indicating that congestion pricing cannot be met or controlled. Mr. Deschauer advised that even though some of the issues and concerns expressed tonight were being heard by him for the first time that the feedback would be taken back for review and follow-up. Mr. Deschauer stated that the data they have obtained indicates that the commute times have in fact decreased. Mr. Snyder asked that Transurban pull data from the Beltway southbound to Fredericksburg for comparison. Mr. Deschauer stated that he would in fact do this and would forward it to FAMPO for distribution.

Mr. Snyder stated that he thinks the data needs to reflect two things: what does the consumer actually pay and what are they actually buying. Mr. Snyder also stated a concern that the billing system is broken and ineffective. He states that when he makes an international credit card purchase it shows up within 48 hours; however, when he has a toll cost to his Smart Benefit cards the transaction does not show up for two weeks. Mr. McGurk stated that the system was initially taking that long because they wanted to insure that the consumers were being billed correctly. Mr. McGurk stated that currently he believes the delay is down to 4-5 days before being reflected.

It was CTAG consensus that they would like to receive regular updates as progress occurs; they would like signage issues addressed; they would like options to be addressed to fix the back-ups being experienced at Route 3; and that they would like to receive both north-bound and south-bound data. Mr. Deschauer advised that these requests would be taken back and that this information would be forwarded to FAMPO for distribution.

c.) Bypass Alternatives – Daniel Reese

Due to the lateness of tonight's meeting, the Bypass Alternative Discussion Item was unanimously agreed on by CTAG to move this item to next month's agenda for more in-depth conversation and discussion.

Mr. Milligan stated that he felt that other than Mr. Farley who has stated his opposition, that the majority of CTAG agrees that the region needs an outer connector/by-pass project constructed somewhere within the region. Mr. Milligan stated that he is neither a commuter nor a planner; however, he wants to poll resources from CTAG members for possible alternatives for consideration.

CTAG was asked to review the maps that were distributed tonight and to come up with possible alternatives that can be explored and presented to the Policy Committee for consideration. Ms. Trampe stated that she thinks it would be important for CTAG to have each member establish goals and determine what they would like to see get accomplished.

Mr. Robinson advised that VDOT has maps available that he will provide to FAMPO for presentation at the upcoming July CTAG meeting. Mr. Robinson stated that these maps focus on the sixteen different alternatives that VDOT received and reviewed and these were included within the presentation given to the CTB in 2013.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Reese advised that correspondence included in tonight's agenda packet and is self-explanatory.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Reese advised that he would be moderating two upcoming conferences that FAMPO hosts and that staff is working with VDOT to finalize a date for the second session of the FAMPO Transportation Workshops.

Ms. Donley advised that the second workshop meeting, even though at this time dates are still not confirmed, however, will be scheduled to occur between the July 6th & July 15th time frame. Ms. Donley relayed that a new transportation planner has been hired and will start on June 22nd.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Gormley thanked Mr. Snyder for his service as CTAG chair for the last year and for fulfilling the term held by Ms. Griffin after her resignation from CTAG. There was unanimous endorsement of Mr. Gormley's recognition to Mr. Snyder.

ADJOURN

The May 13th meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2015.

Meeting Minutes completed by JoAnna Roberson