



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

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Committee Members Present:

Mr. Guy Gormley, Chair, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Claude Dunn, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Bill Milligan, Spotsylvania County
Mr. Art Snyder, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Adela Bertoldi, Stafford County
Ms. Fran Larkins, Stafford County
Mr. Rupert Farley, At-Large Member (Spotsylvania County)
Mr. Larry Gross, At-Large Member (Spotsylvania County)

Staff:

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

Others Present:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gormley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Mr. Farley stated that he realized there was a new member in attendance at tonight's meeting. At this time, Mr. Nick Quint introduced himself as FAMPO's new regional transportation planner. CTAG welcomed Nick on board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The CTAG agenda for July 8, 2015 was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CTAG MEETING SUMMARY OF MAY 13, 2015

The minutes from the CTAG meeting from June 10th 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 the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted: Resolution No. 15-14 (retention of GWRC on-call consultants); and Resolution No. 15-15 (amending FY2015-2018 TIP for adjustments to DRPT grants). Resolution No. 15-16 & 15-17 were service recognitions for Mr. Paul Milde as FAMPO chair and Mr. Al Harf for sixteen years of membership to the FAMPO Policy Committee.

Mr. Reese advised that the discussion items were on the extensions of the I-95 express lanes from Exit 143 to Exit 126 and the upcoming goals and policy workshop meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution No. 16-01, Amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Funds for Safety Improvements on I-95 – Daniel Reese

Mr. Reese advised that Resolution No. 16-01 is a request from VDOT that results in a TIP Amendment for adding additional funding to the safety improvement category for three ramp improvements at Route 3 and for one at Route 17. Mr. Farley stated that as this is basically a housekeeping issue, that he did not see why a Resolution was even needed. Mr. Reese advised that a Resolution is required because amendments will be made to the TIP.

There was unanimous consensus from CTAG to forward Resolution No. 16-01 to the Policy Committee for their endorsement.

b.) Resolution No. 16-02, Endorsing a Project of Statewide Significance for Funding Under the HB2 Project Prioritization Program – Daniel Reese

Mr. Reese advised that Resolution No. 16-02 is asking that FAMPO endorse a project of state-wide significance that will be forwarded to the CTB for consideration in the HB2 prioritization scoring process and funding allocations.

Mr. Gross asked if the HB2 scoring criteria are the same as FAMPO's scoring system. Ms. Donley stated that they are similar but not exact. Mr. Farley asked why only interstate projects were recommended within the Resolution. There was considerable CTAG discussion in regard to if four top regional projects are listed then why is only one being submitted for consideration. Mr. Snyder stated that as the Rappahannock River Crossing project has been both a top regional and state-wide project of consideration for some time so how does a project of this magnitude score only 75 points? Mr. Snyder stated that HB2 seems very politically motivated and he would like to know what type of major project is in fact submitted that would score actually at 90 or above. Mr. Gross asked that if

four projects are included and only one is being asked to receive approval on does that mean that the other three projects automatically stay in the queue for the next consideration.

Mr. Reese stated that he did not have answers to the specific questions but would relay this information to FAMPO for follow-up. Mr. Reese did advise that the project scoring in Resolution No. 16-02 is based on FAMPO's methodology and not HB2's and that this scoring is based on input within the 2012 LRTP. Mr. Reese stated that work is underway with updates to the 2045 LRTP so once this is on-going that scoring criteria and projects will be re-evaluated based on the recent population and transportation data.

It was CTAG consensus not to endorse Resolution No. 16-02 at this time as there were still many unanswered questions in regard to the process and it was felt that more information was needed before a decision could be made.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) FAMPO Priorities Workshop – Daniel Reese

Mr. Reese advised that the agenda is included within tonight's agenda packet. The workshop meeting is the second one held by both FAMPO/VDOT and is scheduled to occur on Monday, July 13th from 6-8:00 p.m. at the VDOT District Auditorium.

Ms. Donley stated that she hoped everyone here tonight would be able to attend the meeting. She said that it is hoped that regionally a consensus can be achieved on which project(s) will have regional support and backing and not be politically based by locality. Having regional consensus enhances the possibility of also gaining support by all entities to include the CTB, VDOT, and the State and makes for a unified request when the prioritized project(s) are submitted to HB2 for funding considerations.

Mr. Snyder stated that he has conducted many workshops professionally and the format for the upcoming workshop should not be classified as a workshop. Mr. Snyder stated that the meeting is set-up as a one-way communication opportunity for both FAMPO and VDOT. Mr. Snyder stated that as ample time is not designated for public comments (a 15 minute time period for receiving public comments on each session) that both FAMPO and VDOT actually do not want to receive public input and feedback. Mr. Snyder asked if there was a pre-sign-in sheet that is available during board of supervisor meetings whereby citizens are allowed to sign-up to speak and are each given the same set time to make their presentation. Ms. Donley stated that to her knowledge this format would not be part of the workshop meeting.

Ms. Donley stated that this is the first time that FAMPO has undertaken this type of meeting design but it is an opportunity to hear regional perspectives on projects of high importance; to seek regional concurrence on which project(s) to move forward; and to include all segments (elected officials, locality staff, FAMPO Technical Committee members; FAMPO CTAG members; & the general public) to participate.

b.) Bypass Alternatives - Mr. Daniel Reese

Mr. Reese stated that this was a topic that had been brought up by several CTAG members from the last two CTAG meetings so he turned the discussion over to Mr. Milligan. Mr. Milligan stated that an outer connector project is not his personal project as he is not an engineer, not a planner, and not a commuter. However, he stated that it appeared to be a majority consensus, other than Mr. Farley who opposed, from CTAG that an Outer Connector being constructed somewhere in the region was needed. Mr. Milligan stated that there have been several Outer Connector project options presented to the region in the past and he thinks with the continued growth and transportation congestion that possibly this group wants to re-address some of the previous sites to see if they still make sense to pursue. Mr. Milligan stated that CTAG could review all previous options and/or supply new possibilities that could in fact be presented to the Policy Committee for their consideration and hopeful endorsement at some later time in the future.

Both Mr. Gormley and Mr. Snyder stated that in order for an outer connector bypass to be successful that the bypass needs to have easy access back to I-95. Mr. Snyder stated that consideration should also be given to a southern connection that if you divert traffic too far to the east/west that too much travel time will be lost. Mr. Snyder stated that internal bypasses may become more feasible whereby you have local and express lanes that essentially become a bypass option may be a project that will be more politically viable. Mr. Farley stated that an outer connector project has huge river problems to overcome and Mr. Gormley stated that the further west you go the more historical problems you would need to overcome. Ms. Larkins stated that the truck traffic and vacation travel are constant issues on Route 17 and that you need data on where the traffic is coming from and where it is going too. Mr. Farley stated that congestion pricing on I-95 would solve the problems. Mr. Milligan asked if you have a bypass in place is it legal to force trucks not to utilize it. Mr. Gormley stated that this is done in other areas such as in New York. Mr. Gross stated that whatever improvements are made you will not be able to abandon I-95. Mr. Snyder stated that properly graded CD lanes and fly-overs for express lane traffic may be a better option for consideration. Mr. Dunn stated that before you can solve a problem, you need to specifically identify what the problem is and where the problems exist. Mr. Farley stated that mass transit is the only viable solution and that people need to work where they live. Mr. Gormley stated that even if CTAG provides viable options for consideration that unless there is enough political participation and support that the wheels will just be spinning. Mr. Gross stated that the concepts need to be visible and more apparent.

After the discussion items mentioned above were noted, it was CTAG recommendation that this item be tabled until the upcoming September meeting with a request for the following things to occur: that FAMPO provide both hand-out copies of maps; that larger display maps be on the easel board; and that VDOT provide FAMPO with the maps, handouts, data, etc. that Mr. Jason Robinson indicated was available and on-site at VDOT at the June CTAG meeting.

There were also requests made from CTAG that the following items be addressed for further information and clarification: why only one major project is being submitted to the CTB; why only interstate projects are being submitted; why a project as significant regionally and state-wide as the Rappahannock River Crossing project is scores only 75 points; request that within the scoring process categories that comparisons are given to show the high and low number of points per category – i.e. if a project scores 75 points – is this 75 points out of a 100; clarifications and updates from VDOT in regard to the current concept and design of the Rappahannock River Crossing project; and request that a VDOT representative come to the September CTAG meeting to discuss where the \$18 million

dollars of safety money came from (this is being used to cover the expenses of the improvements to ramps at Route 3 & Route 17). CTAG felt that the suddenness of the “mystery” money that VDOT has now come up with to remedy some of the problems being experienced further south of Route 610 as a result of the HOT lanes project opening in December needs to be explained and clarified.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Reese advised that Mr. Paul Agnello, who has been hired as FAMPO’s new administrator, will be on board on Monday, July 13th. Mr. Reese relayed that this will be his last CTAG meeting as he has accepted a position with Dominion Power in Richmond. Ms. Donley reminded CTAG of the FAMPO transportation project priority workshop meeting that is scheduled for Monday, July 13th from 6-8:00 p.m. at the VDOT District Auditorium and encouraged everyone to attend. Ms. Donley advised that the upcoming July Policy meeting will be held on Monday, July 20th at 7:15 p.m.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Farley stated that he was pleased to see a slight glimmer of light in that the Pope recently spoke in favor of a transit-based system whereby we can all become better stewards of the planet.

Ms. Larkins asked Mr. Snyder for specifics on the new committee that he has recently been appointed too in Spotsylvania County. (Earlier in tonight’s meeting, Mr. Snyder referenced the Spotsylvania Only Transportation Board of which he is now a member). Mr. Snyder stated that this is not a regional committee and only pertains specifically to Spotsylvania County but as he was appointed by his current supervisor to serve as a member to CTAG that it made sense to have him also serve on the county’s transportation board so that both committees could be working together.

Ms. Larkins also inquired as to whether on Route 1 near the Ulman’s BBQ restaurant if there are any plans for improvements turning off of Route 1 into Ulman’s. Ms. Larkins stated that as people use that road as a cut-through in addition to getting to the businesses that it is a very unsafe access road. Mr. Reese stated that this would be a City of Fredericksburg project and that previously improvements here had been included into the regional transportation plan; however, the money has since been re-allocated elsewhere within the City and currently there have not been any new submissions made to this project.

Mr. Snyder wished Mr. Reese good luck with his new position and thanked him for all of his efforts in directing CTAG over the years. Both Mr. Gross & Mr. Gormley concurred with Mr. Snyder’s comments and CTAG stated that they were going to miss Mr. Reese’s leadership and appreciated him presiding over their meetings.

Mr. Gross stated that he had attended the recent VDOT meeting held at James Monroe High School on the 24th of June. This meeting was the design hearing for the potential Rappahannock River Crossings project. Mr. Gross stated that this concept and design has changed pretty drastically from its original

presentation. Mr. Gross encouraged CTAG to go on VDOT's website to look at the new proposal. He also encouraged members to provide feedback and comments to VDOT staff via email as he has personally done this and has in fact received comments back from VDOT so he can say that the emails are being looked at and answered.

ADJOURN

The July 8th meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2015.

Meeting Minutes completed by JoAnna Roberson