



FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015
www.fampo.gwregion.org/fampo-technical-committee

Members Present:

Dan Cole, Chair, County of Spotsylvania
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Angeline Crowder, County of Caroline
Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania
Brad Johnson, County of Stafford
Tim Roseboom, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
Cynthia Porter Johnson, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Others Present:

Ed Keasler, County of Stafford
Kasey Nabal, Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce (FRCC)
Evan Charles, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Dan Grinnell, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Sean Nelson, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Jason Robinson, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Rupert Farley, Citizen

Staff Members Present:

Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Marti Donley, FAMPO
Nicholas Quint, FAMPO

CALL TO ORDER

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Upon request made by Mr. Agnello, the VRE presentation was moved to occur after Item 5 – Public Comment. The request was unanimously adopted and the agenda was approved with the amendment.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2015

The Technical Committee minutes from the July 6th meeting were approved as submitted.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 20, 2015

Mr. Agnello advised that the minutes are included in today's packet. Mr. Agnello provided the following highlights: actions were taken on the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 16-01, Amending the FY15-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Funds for Safety Improvements on I-95 – Mr. Agnello advised that this Resolution was requested from VDOT and is for safety improvements to the I-95 ramps at Exits 130 & 133 in Stafford County. This motion was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 16-02, Endorsement of Projects of Statewide Significance for Funding Under the HB2 Project Prioritization Program – Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-02 was not adopted at the July Policy Committee meeting and endorsement was deferred until the September 21st meeting. However, Mr. Agnello relayed that as endorsement came from both the Policy Committee and the July 13th workshop meeting that the region's number one priority project would be the I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing Project. Mr. Agnello advised that it was unanimous consent from the Policy Committee to instruct FAMPO staff to move forward in putting the application process together and to work with VDOT and DRPT to ensure that the application to be submitted is concise. As there were still unanswered questions at this time, Resolution No. 16-02 will be submitted to the Policy Committee for endorsement at the September 21st meeting.

Resolution No. 16-03, Recognizing Dedicated Service of Daniel Reese – This resolution was unanimously adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

- a.) **Resolution No. 16-04, Endorsing a VDOT Effort to Develop a Project to Address Existing Traffic Congestion and Safety Issues at the 95 Express Lanes Terminus North of Garrisonville Road** – Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-04 is a request made from VDOT. The Resolution is to address immediate traffic congestion issues at the 95 Express Lanes Terminus that have resulted since the opening of the 95 Northbound Express Lanes project.

Mr. Jason Robinson with VDOT stated that Resolution No. 16-04 is being submitted as a "quick fix" to the problems that have developed as a result of the HOT lane project and would occur at

no cost to FAMPO. Mr. Lloyd Robinson with FAMPO stated that VDOT has separated the initial project into two projects.

Mr. Nelson stated that he did not want support of Resolution No. 16-04 to be a precedent for support of a bigger project. Mr. Lloyd Robinson stated that he was not certain how the vote would go; however, the Resolution will be submitted to the Policy Committee for their endorsement at the upcoming September 21st meeting. Mr. Robinson stated that the general consensus is that the Policy Committee is also going to endorse support for the Transurban fix; however but will not support the general purpose lane project because this could then jeopardize the Rappahannock River Crossing project.

Mr. Lloyd Robinson stated that staff has issued a task order to the consultants for completion of a travel time data report that gives information on data before and after the opening of the northern I-95 express lanes. What was initially found was that the general purpose lanes in our region and the level of service measures in speed at Exits 126, 130, and 133 have not decreased; however beginning at Exit 136 a decrease begins and then there is a fairly dramatic decrease at Exit 143.

Mr. Lloyd Robinson stated that the task order just recently assigned is to look at the trips between Exits 126 and 170 in both the regular lanes and express lanes. Mr. Robinson stated that the results of this data should be available for review at the October committee meetings. Mr. Robinson stated that a new clause could be included into the existing Resolution No. 16-04 indicating that the Resolution of Support does not support the full project request. Mr. Agnello also stated that the Technical Committee could defer action today pending results from the task order and endorse in October.

Mr. Agnello stated that correspondence with the I-95 Express Lanes representative is that initially the project would have gone from Route 610 in Stafford to Route 126 in Massaponax. However, not much work has been completed south of Route 610 to date.

Mr. Agnello advised that response from the State from letter dated 09-14-15 indicates that no new funding has been allocated to the south bound segment of the project and that Resolution No. 16-04 is strictly addressing an extension of two miles from Exit 144 to Exit 142.

Mr. Nelson stated that his concern is that the initial analysis justified a super mega project and now the information being relayed is that a much smaller project is to move forward. Mr. Nelson stated that the original project has stopped in mid-stream and now VDOT is asking for support for a new project with no new analysis being provided or presented for review by FAMPO. Mr. Nelson stated it makes it hard to take the efforts from VDOT and the State seriously.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Johnson, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-04 was unanimously approved with the inclusion of a new clause to be added into the Resolution that states that endorsement of this project does not express support of extending the express lanes further south.

b.) Resolution No. 16-05, Directing that a Public Comment Period and Public Hearing be held prior to the Adoption of an Amendment to the 2040 CLRP to include the I-95 J-Ramp Project at Exit 126 in Spotsylvania County – Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No.16-05 has been requested through FAMPO from Spotsylvania County. Mr. Agnello stated that this Resolution is somewhat time sensitive due to the pending IMR and as FHWA will not approve without the amendment being included within the CLRP. Mr. Agnello stated that this amendment process requires a two month time frame.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Johnson, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-05 was endorsed.

c.) Resolution No. 16-06, Directing that a Public Comment Period and Public Hearing be held prior to the Adoption of an Amendment to the 2040 CLRP to include the VRE Rail Station in Spotsylvania County – Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-06 should have already been included within the CLRP and the reason it was not is that the completion date for the project kept changing. Mr. Agnello stated now the project is fully funded and is scheduled to be completed by November of 2015.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Ms. Utz with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-06 was endorsed.

d.) Resolution No. 16-07, Directing that a Public Comment Period and Public Hearing be held prior to the Adoption of an Amendment to the 2040 CLRP to include the Brooke and Leeland VRE Rail Stations in Stafford County - Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the total costs for the VRE station platform extensions at the Brooke and Leeland VRE Rail stations and the construction of a station platform to accommodate a third track are the results of Resolution No. 16-07. Mr. Agnello stated that currently these repairs will cost \$28.5 million dollars and to date there is \$18.5 million dollars allocated. Mr. Agnello advised that the State has requested that the MPO consider endorsing this project as an HB2 candidate project. Mr. Agnello stated that this project also has been endorsed by VRE.

Upon motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Nelson, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-07 was endorsed.

e.) Resolution No. 16-08, Directing that a Public Comment Period and Public Hearing be held prior to the Adoption of an Amendment to the 2040 CLRP to Include the I-95 Southbound General Purpose Lane Widening from Exit 143 to Exit 140 in Stafford County – Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello stated that this project has also been endorsed by the Stafford County Infrastructure Committee but has not been endorsed to date by the Stafford Board of Supervisors. Mr. Agnello relayed that the Stafford Board of Supervisors is expected to endorse the Resolution at their upcoming meeting on Tuesday. Mr. Agnello advised that the original project only included a south bound project but now is requesting both a south bound and north bound widening project which is why an amendment to the 2040 CLRP is needed.

Mr. Nelson stated as this Resolution is not coming from either VDOT or FAMPO and instead has come from a citizen's infrastructure committee in Stafford County that the Resolution should be deferred until the Stafford County Board of Supervisors has actually adopted the Resolution. Mr. Lloyd Robinson stated that there are five board members who serve on the infrastructure committee that also represent the Stafford Board of Supervisors but Mr. Nelson is correct in that the actual Board of Supervisors to date has not endorsed the Resolution and are expected to do so next week.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Cole, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-08 was deferred and will be re-addressed at the October Technical Committee meeting.

f.) Resolution No. 16-09, Authorizing Support of GWRC and FAMPO HB2 Projects – Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello stated that Resolution No. 16-09 came from results of the September 7th meeting in relation to the VTrans Needs Assessment which now has a new project screening process implemented. Mr. Agnello stated that the results of the Needs Assessment to staff from VDOT are that some of the original projects submitted now may not meet the criteria and/or could be re-qualified under the newly added Safety Category.

Mr. Agnello relayed that now the state-wide situation has improved greatly and the Secretary's Office is taking a broader view of how to adapt the Needs Assessment to be applicable to the projects submitted. Mr. Agnello stated that there is a webinar scheduled on Thursday of this week and this will be set-up here for members to review and participate in if they so desire. Mr. Agnello encouraged all members to participate in this session, whether collectively at FAMPO or independently, as this appears to be the one opportunity that the Secretary's Office will be providing communication back to the MPO's, PDC's, and localities on the final Needs Assessment process.

Mr. Agnello advised that GWRC will be submitting three projects for endorsement. These projects include the following:

King George County – Turn lane extension/construction on Route 301 northbound at Gate B – Dahlgren Naval Base

Stafford County – I-95 Southbound widening project from 3 to 4 lanes from Garrisonville (Exit 143) to Courthouse Road (Exit140)

Stafford County – VRE Brooke & Leeland Station Improvements

Mr. Agnello stated that FAMPO will also be submitting three projects for endorsement and that the three candidate projects are:

Rappahannock River Crossing – Southbound

Rappahannock River Crossing – Northbound

I-95 southbound General Purpose Lane Widening from Exits 143 to 140 in Stafford County

Mr. Agnello stated that the first two Rappahannock River Crossing projects were approved as the region's top two priorities at the July 13th HB 2 priorities workshop and July 21st FAMPO meetings, but that the third project was new and had been submitted to FAMPO and Stafford for consideration by VDOT in late August. Additionally, an 8/31 e-mail from Mr. Jason Robinson of VDOT which is contained in the technical committee packet contains some information concerning the proposed project.

Mr. Jason Robinson stated that VDOT is continuing to work with both the consultant and Transurban to determine the exact location of where the immediate fix to I-95 will occur. Mr. Robinson stated that he hopes to have this final report available by the upcoming September 21st Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Agnello asked if there was committee consensus to recommend endorsement with a request that approval be given by the Policy Committee on September 21st.

Mr. Nelson asked for clarification on the new and third project that FAMPO will be endorsing. Mr. Nelson stated that this is a new project that is being submitted without any analysis and documentation. Mr. Agnello concurred and stated that the only information FAMPO had received was the 8/31 e-mail from Mr. Robinson which followed an original 8/26 request by phone from Mrs. Allison Richter. Mr. Nelson stated that he did not see either the Technical Committee or the Policy Committee endorsing a project that has no background analysis accompanying it. Mr. Nelson stated that there is definitely consensus for the first two projects but not for the third project.

Mr. Cole initially called for the vote with all six projects being endorsed (3 from GWRC & 3 from FAMPO), but Mr. Nelson motioned that the vote only include the first two River Crossing projects for FAMPO and the 3 from GWRC.. But there was no second voiced so the original motion failed. Mr. Cole then asked for a vote to be taken on the revised motion which was support for the three FAMPO projects and the three GWRC projects..

Upon motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Cole, all voted in favor of the resolution with the exception of the City of Fredericksburg which voted against it. , As a result, resolution No. 16-09 was endorsed for support of a total of six projects being submitted (3 from GWRC & 3 from FAMPO).

g.) Resolution No. 16-10, Appointing Staff as a Member and Alternate to the Virginia Association of MPOs (VAMPO) Board – Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-10 is requesting support for himself and Mr. Nick Quint to serve as FAMPO staff member and alternate to the Association of MPOs (VAMPO) Board. Mr. Nelson asked if rather than voting this item regularly as staff positions change, could it not be voted instead with generic representation to eliminate a new Resolution being needed when staff positions change.

Mr. Lloyd Robinson stated that the Resolution could read that the “FAMPO Administrator and designated staff member be elected to serve on the VAMPO Board”. Mr. Robinson advised that predominately state-wide a new Resolution is submitted noting specific staff members to serve as these members and positions change.

Mr. Nelson stated that if this was VAMPO request then he was fine with the Resolution. Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Johnson with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-10 was endorsed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) VRE Planning System Improvements – Paul Agnello and Tom Hickey, VRE

Mr. Tom Hickey with VRE gave an update on the Planning System Improvement for VRE. Mr. Hickey stated that the goals of the VRE System Plan are as follows: to provide passengers with rolling stock, stations, and services to be maintained by the highest quality; to improve and to expand service for the current VRE riders; to address emerging ridership markets; to advance VRE’s role as a participant within in a multimodal regional mobility network system; and to invest in partnerships that will add capacity on the rail corridors.

Mr. Hickey stated that since 2000, the VRE ridership has doubled now providing 19,000 weekday trips. Mr. Hickey relayed that in the proposed Phase I of the System Plan improvements that weekday passenger service will expand to 25,000. Mr. Hickey advised that when Phases II and III are completed that VRE service expansion will relieve operational bottlenecks; will add additional tracks throughout the corridor; and will provide ridership for 50,000 weekday passengers.

Mr. Hickey advised that as the planned system improvements are completed and new railroad agreements are implemented that VRE will gradually increase the number of weekday peak trains; initiate reverse-peak services; and expand off-peak service.

Mr. Hickey stated that the VRE System Plan Timeline is looking at the proposed service improvements:

Phase I – FY2014 to 2020 – provide more trains & provide for longer trains

Phase II- FY2021 to 2030 – provide 20-minute peak services; provide reverse-peak services; and provide more off-peak services

Phase III – FY2030 to 2040 – provide 15-minute peak services; provide 30-minute reverse peak services; and provide hourly off-peak service

Mr. Hickey stated that the proposed service improvements will require the following system investments:

Station and parking expansions; rolling stock and yard expansions; and for the Fredericksburg line a third track installed

Mr. Hickey relayed that the current ridership is concentrated in the core stations of L'Enfant, Crystal City, Union Station and Alexandria. Mr. Hickey stated that the Quantico station's ridership is close to the above core station in ridership. The ends of the Manassas line and the Fredericksburg line are getting most of the VRE riders and are attracting the largest amount of passengers.

Mr. Hickey stated that the 2040 System Plan depicts a 50% growth at the Spotsylvania, Leeland and Brooke Stations and a 25-50% growth rate at the Fredericksburg Station. The key to the VRE System Plan is to add additional rail capacity. Mr. Hickey stated though until capital improvements are made, that VRE is not allowed to add more trains. Mr. Hickey advised that between now and 2020, the trains will have longer run times; there will be more railcars; more station parking; more train storage tracks; and longer train platforms at all stations.

b.) Revenue Sharing and Transportation Alternatives Programs – Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that there are minor updates regarding deadlines for both programs that are coming up soon. Both the Revenue Sharing and Transportation Alternatives projects need to be submitted by October 30th.

Mr. Agnello stated that the Revenue Sharing program reflects the latest cost figures based on the estimate for this year (FY17-22) for \$150 million dollars. For the next plan, this figure is reduced to \$100 million dollars. The Transportation Alternatives program is currently at \$22 million dollars. Mr. Agnello stated that as this is a special program the funding is not expected to change drastically in size as a result of the HB2 changes. However, the Revenue Sharing program could become smaller as some funds that are discretionary from a State perspective could be shifted into the HB2 process.

Mr. Agnello stated that traditionally the MPO has provided a Resolution of Support in the past and are planning to submit the same this year. Mr. Agnello asked if there would be any locality projects submitted this year.

Mr. Nelson stated that he thinks the City will be submitting a couple of projects; Mr. Cole stated that Spotsylvania County does not plan to submit any at this time; Stafford County indicated that they would probably be submitting a couple and Caroline County stated they did not think they would be submitting any either but would confirm. Mr. Agnello asked if localities would provide the feedback to staff as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE

In packet and self-explanatory

STAFF REPORT

None

MEMBER REPORTS

None

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY October 13th, 2015/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for September 14th was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.