



**FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2014**

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Members Present:

Joey Hess, Chair, County of Stafford
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Angeline Crowder, County of Caroline
Dan Cole, County of Spotsylvania
Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania
Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Chris Arabia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Others Present:

Cynthia Porter Johnson, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Rupert Farley, Citizen

Staff Members Present:

Andy Waple, FAMPO
Marti Donley, FAMPO
Daniel Reese, FAMPO
Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

The Technical Committee agenda for November 10, 2014 was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2014

The Technical Committee minutes from the October 10th meeting were approved as submitted.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2014

Mr. Waple advised that the minutes are included in today's packet. Mr. Waple relayed that the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolution No. 14-25, Appointment of Mr. Waple & Mr. Ware respectively as member and alternate to the Virginia Association of MPOS (VAMPO) Board

Resolution No. 14-26, Amendment of the FY15-18 TIP to authorize an amendment to the scope of work for the Route 1 Signal Optimization Project in the City & to switch the Allocation Years for funding between the US-1 Signal project and the Route 610/Onville Road intersection project

Resolution No. 14-27, Endorsing Stafford County's Grant Application to VDOT for FY2016's Transportation Alternatives Funding projects

Mr. Waple relayed that the following discussion items were addressed: DRPT Southeast High Speed Rail from Richmond to Washington, DC Corridor Tier II EIS Update (Ms. Stock gave the same presentation to Policy that was given to the Technical Committee) & dialogue and member comments are included within the minutes in today's agenda packet; HB2 Update; SIR Telephone Research Survey; & the 2014 Federal Certification Review update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Farley relayed that in regard to HB 2 factor weighting document that it be taken back to the drawing board for the Policy Committee to revise and review. As the CTB is tasked to weight factors within each of the Commonwealth's State Highway Construction district that this weighting factor needs to be based on the individual needs for each district and not based solely on a state-wide model across the board. Mr. Farley stated that he feels from what he has read that the wrong types of structures are being considered. Mr. Farley asked that the Policy Committee take another look at the request as the only way this region can substantially recover is if the weighting factors are revised accordingly.

ACTION ITEMS

- a.) **Resolution No. 14-28, Amending the FY15-FY18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Funding for the Preliminary Engineering Phase of the Chatham Bridge Replacement Project (UPC #105535) – Andy Waple**

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No. 14-28 is a request from VDOT. Mr. Waple stated that as a result of the Chatham Bridge being structurally deficient, VDOT is requesting that the current FY2015-2018 TIP be hereby amended that will now include funding for the PE Phase of the Chatham Bridge replacement project.

There was unanimous consensus from the Technical Committee to forward Resolution No. 14-28 to the Policy Committee for their endorsement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a.) **Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ/Regional Surface Transportation program (RSTP) Call for Projects – Andy Waple**

Mr. Waple advised that the schedule is included in today's agenda packet. The scoring process has been revised and is included. Mr. Waple advised that all of the forms are currently on line on the FAMPO website under the TIP page icon.

Mr. Nelson asked for clarification that all projects already in the TIP would in fact remain and this process is just for new projects for consideration. Mr. Waple concurred.

b.) 2014 Federal Certification Review – Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that FAMPO staff attended the 2014 Federal Certification Review session recently held in Washington, DC. on October 28 & 29th. Mr. Waple stated that everything went well and there was good dialogue and good insight into the review process from a federal perspective. Mr. Waple stated that staff would be surprised if this region receives any corrective actions this year. Mr. Waple relayed that the region may receive minimal recommendations but nothing significant and we were essentially in good shape overall. Mr. Waple stated that a final report should be available within 90 days and once staff receives this information, it will be forwarded to the FAMPO committees for their review.

c.) Southeastern Institute of Research (SIR) Telephone Research Survey – Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that results from the data collected from the last 2 surveys are included in today's agenda packet. Mr. Waple advised that this was presented for consideration at the October Policy Meeting and will be voted on at the upcoming November meeting. Mr. Waple relayed that the Policy Committee had requested staff to provide more survey feedback before they vote on this topic at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Nelson asked specifically how the surveys have helped FAMPO in the past and if they were federally required. Mr. Waple stated that the completion of the surveys is not a federal mandate and that in the past staff had used the survey data to determine how & what the citizens feel are the biggest problems facing the region as well as to validate the planning assumptions in FAMPO's Long-Range Plan.

Mr. Waple stated that with this new survey, that also data would be obtained on specific feedback from citizens in regard to the significance of the larger transportation related projects that are currently within the TIP and LRTP as well as whether citizens are for or against these projects.

d.) House Bill (HB) 2 Update – Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that staff, with assistance by the FAMPO localities and VDOT have completed a relative weighting for the six HB-2 factors and that staff had given direction by the the Policy Committee that to base the weighting of the six HB-2 factors off of FAMPO's adopted project prioritization methodology.

Mr. Waple stated that FAMPO Project Prioritization Methodology is based on the following factors & classifications:

Congestion Relief –	30 points
Safety & Security -	30 points
Environmental Impacts –	16 points

Public Support -	8 points
Funding Considerations -	8 points
Smart Growth -	8 points

Mr. Waple stated that staff has ranked the categories below as the most significant to this region & they are as follows:

Congestion Mitigation -	High
Safety -	High
Accessibility -	High
Economic Development -	Medium
Environmental Quality -	Medium
Land Use -	Low

Mr. Waple relayed that it is not that staff did not feel that the land use factor is not important; the reality is, that in Virginia, state and regional entities have no say into land use decisions and exercise no control land use policies Mr. Waple stated that land use and transportation planning coordination is very important; however, FAMPO has no control over these factors so it was staff recommendation to rank them as lowest concerns for the region in relation to the six HB-2 factors.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Waple advised that Ms. Donley would be attending the upcoming public scoping meeting on Wednesday in regard to the DC to Richmond high-speed rail project. Mr. Waple stated that Mr. Reese attended the TAG meeting and that TAG members have voiced some concerns on the direction in which TAG should be proceeding.

Mr. Reese stated that in January TAG is going to re-visit its Bylaws, re-determine its purpose, & are also considering changing the name of their group. Mr. Reese stated that Ms. Donley is checking with other MPO’s to see how their citizen advisory groups are set up so that TAG can have comparison on the other groups across the State.

MEMBER REPORTS

City of Fredericksburg:

Mr. Nelson advised that the Fall Hill Avenue bridge project is now open and working and that the opening so far has been a smooth transition.

Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED):

Mr. White stated that FRED is continuing work on a real time system and that currently staff is completing some initial testing with the actual drivers.

County of Spotsylvania:

Mr. Cole advised that the election results for the County are that 3 of the 5 bond referendums were passed which include the bonds for improvements to schools, safety & transportation.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT):

Mr. Arabia advised that DRPT has 2 public meetings scheduled on the high-speed rail project and the 2 meetings for this region are scheduled for November 12th at Quantico and November 13th in Arlington. Mr. Arabia relayed that DRPT transit grants for next year will be opening up next month. Mr. Arabia stated that the Express Lanes project is still on schedule and expected to open mid-December and that for utilization all commuters will need to have an EZ Pass or an EZ Pass Flex in order to utilize the express lanes.

Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC):

Mr. Hess introduced Mrs. Porter Johnson as the new PRTC representative to the FAMPO Technical Committee. Ms. Porter-Johnson relayed that PRTC has completed its annual survey on October 1st and that data is being compiled and once this has been completed, the FAMPO committees would get a copy for their review.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 12th, 2015/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for November 10th was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.