



FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2014

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Members Present:

Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Angeline Pitts, County of Caroline
Dan Cole, County of Spotsylvania
Joey Hess, County of Stafford
Brad Johnson, County of Stafford
Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
Allison Richter, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Dan Grinnell, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Wendy Kimball, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Chris Arabia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Nick Alexandrow, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Christine Hoefner, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Ed Keasler, County of Stafford
Craig Reed, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Nutau Paude, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Jason Robinson, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Staff Members Present:

Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Andy Waple, FAMPO
Rodney White, FAMPO
Marti Donley, FAMPO
Dan Reese, 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 February 10, 2014 was approved as submitted with inclusion of an additional item requested by Mr. Robinson for Discussion Item 5C for Jackson Gateway Discussion.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2014

The Technical Committee minutes from the January 13th meeting were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) Regional Scenario Planning, Phase II Scope of Work - Lloyd Robinson and Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that this item was discussed at the last Technical Committee meeting and to date staff has received limited feedback. Mr. Waple relayed that the consultants will be providing documents on how to update the Regional Scenario Plan and as reports are provided to staff they will be brought before the Technical Committee for review and comments. Mr. Waple stated that staff plans to submit this to the Policy Committee at the February 24th meeting for their review with a request that they endorse at the March meeting.

b.) FY15-FY20 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Projects – Rodney White

Mr. White provided handouts regarding CMAQ/RSTP funding allocations. Mr. White relayed that across the board both the CMAQ/RSTP categories will experience state-wide funding shortfalls. For CMAQ, the total shortfall for FY2015 for the FAMPO region will be \$147,642; and for the FY2016-19 years, the shortfall will be \$73,716 for each extended year out. Mr. White stated that the RSTP funding allocations will experience a \$60,818 funding shortfall in FY2015. For FY2016-19 years, the shortfall will be \$30,410 for each extended year out.

Mr. White also distributed a print-out that shows all of the FAMPO CMAQ/RSTP projects and advised that the projects listed show last year's funding and do not show the funding shortfall that we just discussed or the FY20 funding allocation because we just received the funding allocation late last Friday. FAMPO staff will be meeting with VDOT staff to discuss project schedules and funding allocations to projects in FY20. Mr. White stated that out of the seventeen projects included, that seven will be fully funded in the FY2015-20 years.

c.) Jackson Gateway Discussion – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that the project inception and development from FAMPO's perspective regarding the Jackson Gateway study is now in the final phase. Mr. Robinson stated that this study originated in 2008-2009 when Spotsylvania County and VDOT asked FAMPO to conduct a study of the I-95 interchange at Exit 126 to determine feasibility of different solutions in correcting the bottleneck that currently exists.

Mr. Robinson relayed that the FAMPO Policy Committee pledged \$600,000 of RSTP funding for consultant costs to complete an IJR Interchange Study which was in compliance with all State and Federal requirements. Mr. Robinson stated that a Technical sub-committee comprised of FAMPO staff and representatives from Spotsylvania County, VDOT, & FHWA was formed. Input was also obtained from local land owners and others who were in the affected study areas.

Mr. Robinson advised that early in 2012 the sub-committee agreed on a short list of project solutions that had been analyzed and ranked that would improve the current congestion on the Jackson Gateway corridor. The project solutions were endorsed by both the FAMPO Policy Committee and the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors and addressed both short-term and long-term problems on this intersection.

In early May/July of 2012, VDOT provided the sub-committee with a revised set of proposals that provided alternative solutions. These alternatives are referred to as the VDOT Super Ramp proposal and even though not a complete fix, would in fact provide congestion relief at a reduced project cost.

Mr. Robinson advised that in August of 2012 the sub-committee met and revisited the list of alternatives previously selected and also reviewed the new alternatives provided by VDOT. It was committee consensus to recommend near term fixes to Exit 126, construction of CD lanes, improvements to the local roads and the I-95 south-bound access improvements at Exit 126. The sub-committee also included the VDOT alternatives into the Appendix within the project report and agreed to recommend project phasing of the preferred alternative to reduce the overall project costs.

Mr. Robinson stated that between June and December of 2013, the consultant work was modified to reflect an IMR which met both State and Federal requirements. However, in January of 2014, the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors requested that VDOT come before them to present the new alternatives. This presentation was made and the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors favored the VDOT alternatives at this time.

Therefore, as a result of the VDOT presentation, it is now unclear as to which Jackson Gateway alternative the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors will adopt and they have a work session meeting scheduled for February 11th for resolution on this item. It is still unclear as to whether VDOT continues support for the phasing of the original preferred sub-committee's alternatives.

Mr. Robinson relayed that within a month's time frame the original task assigned to FAMPO will be completed and the allocated budget has been fully expended in completing the scope of work it was assigned. Therefore, Mr. Robinson is going to recommend that the report completed be utilized by both Spotsylvania County and VDOT as a resource and informational document. By providing utilization of the completed report, this will allow both the County and VDOT to use the report and data as they pursue funding for the new alternative IMR that would need to be paid for by either the County of Spotsylvania or by VDOT. The data already completed is an initial requirement regardless of which alternative the County of Spotsylvania chooses to endorse. Mr. Robinson stated that this option will be presented to the FAMPO Policy Committee at the upcoming February 24th meeting for their approval.

Mr. Nelson asked how long the data that has already been completed would still remain current. Mr. Robinson stated that the work already completed does not have a long-term shelf life but will still

remain valid for at least two more years. Mr. Johnson asked if a Technical Analysis has been done between the original project request and the new alternatives. Mr. Robinson concurred that a Technical Analysis has been completed.

Mr. Nelson asked for and received unanimous consensus from the FAMPO Technical Committee to concur with Mr. Robinson's recommendations for the data already completed to be utilized as an informational and resource document. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Policy Committee for their endorsement at the upcoming February 24th meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Robinson advised that Ms. Vanna Lewis who was the Fredericksburg District's FHWA representative has been transferred and Mr. Elliott Moore who is currently serving in the Bristol District will become the new FHWA representative for the FAMPO region.

Mr. Robinson advised that he had attended the annual VADCP meeting that was held in Richmond. Mr. Robinson stated that Mr. Aubrey Lane gave a presentation. Mr. Robinson stated that the overall feeling from the representatives at the conference was that no substantial changes will occur until the July 2015 summer meeting and basically things will continue as is until next year.

MEMBER REPORTS

Virginia Railway Express (VRE):

Ms. Hoeffner advised that the VRE board adopted its long range plan and the summary is available and will be forwarded to Ms. Donley and available for members to review. Ms. Hoeffner relayed that for anyone who is a member of the VRE board that as of now there are no action items pending so it appears that the February meeting will be canceled.

George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC):

Ms. Utz advised that the annual grant has been submitted to DRPT for their review. Ms. Utz stated that the grant amount requested was the same amount that was submitted this past year. Ms. Utz advised that the new Commute Fairy radio advertisement is ongoing and this ad has a winter Olympic theme. This ad features local radio commentary by both Mr. Danny Reese of FAMPO and Mr. Jacob Pastwik of Spotsylvania Planning Department.

City of Fredericksburg:

Mr. Nelson advised that work will begin on the Fall Hill Avenue bridge on Wednesday, February 12th and that these repairs will be ongoing for approximately nine months.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT):

Ms. Richter advised that the public hearing to discuss VDOT's Draft 6-Year Plan will be upcoming on May 12th and to date the location has not been determined. However, Ms. Richter stated that this meeting will occur in another region within the State – i.e. the Northern Neck area, etc. and as this

meeting is a good time to make comments that maybe arrangements can be arranged so that members can commute to the site together.

Ms. Richter also introduced new VDOT staff members who will be attending the Technical Committee meetings and they are Mr. Jason Robinson and Ms. Nutau Paude.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 10th, 2014/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 10th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for February 10th was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes completed by JoAnna Roberson