



FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2014

<http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/fampo-technical-committee/>

Members Present:

Mr. Joey Hess, Chairman, County of Stafford
Mr. Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Angeline Pitts, County of Caroline
Mr. Dan Cole, County of Spotsylvania
Mr. Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania
Mr. Ed Keasler, County of Stafford
Mr. Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Mr. Chris Arabia, Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DRPT)
Ms. Christine Hoeffner, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Mr. Michelle Kimble, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Gina Pelchat, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Allison Richter, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Jason Robinson, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Rupert Farley, Transportation Advisory Group (TAG)

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Andy Waple, FAMPO
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO
Mr. Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO

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 July 14, 2014 was approved as submitted with inclusion of Resolution No. 14-21 to be discussed as Item 6c under the Action Item category.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2014

The Technical Committee minutes from the June 9th meeting were approved as submitted.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2014

Mr. Waple advised that the minutes are included in today's packet. Mr. Waple relayed that there was a public hearing held for the Draft FY15-18 TIP and 3 people spoke. The first speaker was Ms. Fran Larkins who is a member of TAG representing Stafford County. Ms. Larkins stated that she was speaking as a citizen and not speaking on behalf of TAG. Ms. Larkins spoke in favor of the Rappahannock River Crossing Project. Ms. Larkins also encouraged the Policy Committee to still consider an additional outer connector by-pass project for the region as one for long-term congestion relief.

Mr. Dale Hendon, who was representing the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of both approval for the TIP and construction of the Rappahannock River Crossing project. Mr. Rupert Farley, who is a member of TAG representing Spotsylvania County, also spoke. Mr. Farley was also speaking as a citizen and was not speaking on behalf of TAG. Mr. Farley stated that he was not in support of the TIP as he felt that 90% of the projects included in it are just temporary fixes that do nothing to fix the long-term needs of the region.

Mr. Waple advised that the Chairman's Comments included recognition of Mr. Robinson's service of eight years for serving as the FAMPO Administrator. Mr. Kelly stated that Mr. Robinson's knowledge and expertise had been a true asset to the region.

Mr. Waple stated that the election of officers was held and for the upcoming year, Mr. Paul Milde from Stafford County was elected as chairman and Mr. Tim McLaughlin from Spotsylvania County was elected as the vice-chair.

Mr. Waple relayed that the following actions occurred on the Resolutions as noted below:

Resolution No. 14-14 – Approval of the FY15-18 TIP – this Resolution was adopted with a majority vote cast of 6 yes votes & 3 no votes.

Resolution No. 14-15 – Endorsement of Mr. Hap Connors to serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the FAMPO Policy Committee as Mr. Connors is the newly appointed CTB representative. This Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 14-16 – Endorsement of FAMPO's 3-c process which is completed every four years in conjunction with the TIP was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 14-17 – Endorsement of amending the FY12-15 TIP for transfer of funds between signal projects on the Route 3 & Route 1 corridors in the City of Fredericksburg. Resolution No. 14-17 was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Waple stated that the discussion item was regarding Mr. Robinson's last day as FAMPO Administrator which occurred on June 30th. Mr. Kelly made the recommendation to appoint Mr. Waple as interim administrator and to advertise the position in the newspapers and via the internet. Mr. Kelly suggested that a sub-committee be formed which would consist of one representative from each district and Mr. Tim Ware, Executive Director of GWRC. This motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Waple advised that Mr. Nick Donohue who is the Deputy Secretary of Transportation will be making a presentation to the Policy Committee at the upcoming July 21st meeting. Mr. Waple encouraged any Technical members to attend this meeting as well. Mr. Waple stated that Mr. Donohue would be giving an update on HB2 and V-Trans.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

a.) Resolution No. 14-19, Amending the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Update Fiscal Year 2015 Federal Funding – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No. 14-19 is the yearly Resolution that updates the FAMPO TIP to allow for funding changes and new funding allocations. Resolution No. 14-19 was unanimously endorsed and request made to forward to the Policy Committee for adoption.

b.) Resolution No. 14-20, Amending the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to close out and transfer funds from completed projects and to transfer funds to award the construction of the Onville Road intersection improvement project (UPC 93225) – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple stated that Resolution No. 14-20 includes a number of projects that have been completed and still have small funding balances remaining. This Resolution is requesting that remaining balances be transferred from one project to another. Mr. Waple relayed that the spreadsheet included in today's packet gives the original project description, the balances remaining, and lists the new project that is already included in the TIP that the remaining balances will be applied too. Resolution No. 14-20 was unanimously endorsed and request made to forward to the Policy Committee for adoption.

c.) Resolution No. 14-21, Endorsing the Thompson Middle School Sidewalk Project for FY2015 Transportation Alternatives Funding – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple stated that Resolution No. 14-21 was a request from VDOT earlier this a.m. so the Resolution is not included in today's agenda packet and if endorsed by the Technical Committee it will be prepared and included with the agenda packet for the upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Waple relayed that Resolution No. 14-21 is a request to approve a transportation alternative project for sidewalk construction at Rodney Thompson Middle School in North Stafford County. Mr.

Waple stated that the project costs are approximately \$12,000. Resolution No. 14-21 was unanimously endorsed and request made to forward to the Policy Committee for adoption.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) House Bill (HB) 2 Update – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that he attended the VAMPO conference last month and a presentation was given by Ms. Diane Mitchell who is the program development manager for VDOT. Mr. Waple stated that the presentation is included in today's agenda packet but he will highlight some of the important parts of the presentation.

Mr. Waple stated that it has been expressed at the Policy Committee as well as at TAG in seeing a print-out that depicts the funding allocations and the funding process of how it all works. Mr. Waple stated that the flowchart does a good job in depicting the complexity of the process. Mr. Waple relayed that he has requested Ms. Mitchell to send a copy of the flow-chart to him in another format rather than the slide option utilized at the AMPO meeting. Once this is received, it will be distributed to all committee members.

Mr. Waple relayed that HB2 that was passed unanimously requests that the CTB develop a state-wide prioritization process. This process must be in place by the FY17-22 six year plan which will be developed and adopted in June of 2016.

Mr. Waple stated that the prioritizations will consider the following components: congestion, economic development, accessibility, safety, and environmental quality. It is required that each factor be weighed by construction district. It is our understanding that as areas like Fredericksburg, where they are both urban and rural settings, that there will actually be two weighing factors utilized.

Mr. Waple stated that discretionary state/federal highway funds which include NHPP, CTB formula funds, are required to be prioritized. The following funds are excluded from the prioritization process to include: HSIP, revenue sharing, CMAQ/RSTP, and TA funds.

Mr. Waple advised however that in the Resolution that was passed, there was a caveat included that states the CTB, at its discretion, can develop a prioritization process for the use of CMAQ, HSIP, revenue sharing and TA funds, so this could be significant to the region if it moves forward.

Mr. Waple stated that the screening process for projects that meet requirements outlined in the V-Trans 2040 update process will be prioritized according to the corridors of state-wide significance, regional network and for improvements that promote urban development areas, highway transit areas, rail, road, operational and TDM projects all have to be considered.

Mr. Waple relayed that three different work groups will be formed to develop recommendations for funding, developing measures and weighting criteria. Projects that are not exempt from the process will be de-funded; so if a project has an NHPP or CTB formula funds allocated to it, that project will be put into a list and subsequently be de-funded for the time being.

Mr. Waple stated that at the last Policy Committee meeting, a comment was made that if a project was fully funded, then it would be exempt from the prioritization process. Mr. Waple stated that he asked this question at the VAMPO conference and found out that was not true. If a project is through the NEPA phase and a phase is already underway, then that specific phase will be safe. However, projects approved through PE & R-O-W phases then the year-out construction years could in fact become defunded. Mr. Waple stated that it is not to say that funds will not be added back after the prioritization has occurred, but this could be significant. Mr. Nelson stated that as NEPA is only valid for a certain time period that this could have serious effects.

b.) MAP 21 Metropolitan Planning Rule Changes – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple stated that the public comment period is ongoing and began on June 2nd and will conclude on September 2nd. Mr. Waple advised that the FHWA posted a state-wide, and metropolitan planning rule that resulted in the following changes and these changes were triggered by the MAP 21 legislation.

Mr. Waple relayed that performance-based planning on the both the State and MPO level is new. The MPO's that serve TMA areas must include members from public transportation on their policy committee boards. Mr. Waple stated that staff feels we are already in compliance of this new law as we already have representatives from both FRED/VRE as voting Policy Committee members.

Mr. Waple stated that another new rule change is for options of alternative scenario planning within the LRTP process and that staff is already incorporating this component into the Long-Range Plan process update. Programmatic Mitigation Planning is also a new component and this will be discussed later in more detail.

Mr. Waple advised that the general guidelines state that MPO's need to implement its performance targets to address the measures no later than 180 days after the State and Public transit providers establish their targets which are required to be in place no later than 2 years after the final ruling is approved. Mr. Waple stated that coordination for consistency between the state and public transit providers and attainment of performance outcomes for an MPO as they relate to the 7 national goals will be required.

To date, it is unknown what consequences will be imposed onto a region that does not meet its stated performance targets and as more information becomes available it will be relayed to the FAMPO committees.

c.) Bonus Obligation – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that according to VDOT there were no projects to be submitted for Bonus OA funds within the FAMPO region.

d.) FY2106 Transportation Alternatives Project Applications – Mr. Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that the FY2016 transportation alternative project application timeline is included in today's agenda packet. Mr. Waple stated that upcoming workshops will be held across the State. The workshop for the Fredericksburg region will be held on July 30th in Culpeper at the VDOT District office. Mr. Waple stated that there have been some minor updates to the project application and these involve more clarification updates than anything else. Mr. Waple stated that the updated application will be available on the VDOT website in the near future.

STAFF REPORT

None

MEMBER REPORTS

City of Fredericksburg: Mr. Nelson stated that the VCR trail is under construction and is expected to be completed by the fall of 2014. Regarding the Fall Hill Bridge replacement, this is currently still in the budget and currently looking at a November time frame for action. Mr. Nelson stated that the Fall Hill Avenue widening project is now under VDOT's jurisdiction.

County of Spotsylvania: Mr. Cole stated that the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors approved to advertise a bond referendum for, among other things, transportation improvements and the finalized amount will equal \$63 million dollars in improvements to the Route 118/126 interchanges; corridor improvements to Route 1, 2, & 17; & for other road improvements. The Bond Referendum will be voted on in the November 4th ballot by the citizens of Spotsylvania County. Mr. Morgan advised that the County has now in fact acquired the land needed for the VRE station.

Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DRPT): Mr. Arabia advised that DRPT should have the project list and project agreements for the FY2015 projects finalized very soon. Mr. Arabia stated that DRPT is working to finalize the contract for the rail study that will run from Richmond to the Potomac River. Once finalized and under contract, the time line will be established and staff will be making presentations to the MPO's within the study area.

Mr. Nelson asked what the nature of this contract is for. Mr. Arabia stated that the contract effort is a planning contract that is looking at the rail corridors from Richmond to the Potomac River to develop a better plan for a high-speed rail component. Ms. Hoeffner advised that VRE as a task force member working on this project as well. Mr. Van Dussen stated that a member of the VDOT staff will be meeting with the local planning directors within each district to ensure that local comprehensive plans are accommodating a high-speed rail component as well.

Virginia Railway Express (VRE): Ms. Hoeffner advised that VRE is making upgrades at some of the current VRE stations and for this region improvements will occur at the Route 630/Brook Road station. Ms. Hoeffner stated that VRE is in the process of purchasing 15 new cars.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 8th, 2014/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 8th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for July 14th was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.