



**Transportation Advisory Group Meeting Minutes**  
**June 11, 2014**  
[www.fampo.gwregion.org/transportation-advisory-group](http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/transportation-advisory-group)

**Committee Members Present:**

Mr. Art Snyder, Chairman, County of Spotsylvania  
Mr. Travis Bird, County of Spotsylvania  
Mr. Rupert Farley, County of Spotsylvania  
Mr. Larry Gross, County of Spotsylvania  
Mr. Bill Milligan, County of Spotsylvania  
Ms. Michele Trampe, County of Spotsylvania  
Mr. Guy Gormley, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Allen Ludwig, City of Fredericksburg  
Mr. Tom Carlson, County of Stafford  
Ms. Vanessa Griffin, County of Stafford

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Andy Waple, FAMPO  
Mr. Daniel Reese, FAMPO  
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

**Others Present:**

None

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

With a request from Mr. Reese to combine Action Item 8a with Discussion Item 9a as these items were one and the same, the Transportation Advisory Group agenda for June 11, 2014 was approved with amendments.

**APPROVAL OF TAG MEETING SUMMARY OF MAY 14, 2014**

The minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.

**REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 19, 2014**

Mr. Reese advised that the minutes from the May 19, 2014 Policy Committee meetings are included in tonight's agenda packet.

Mr. Reese relayed that the Chairman's comments included the following items – (2 as a result from the April meeting and 1 new item for May): April meeting: a briefing to be held to newly elected officials in regard to the transportation planning process and scheduling of a meeting for Policy Committee members to have a brainstorming session on regional transportation issues.

Mr. Robinson advised that staff has met and has looked at models across the country for comparison purposes. Staff feels that FAMPO has some good data to move forward on in regard to developing a packet of information to be given to newly elected officials.

Mr. Robinson stated that staff is also working on compiling a sheet that depicts all funding sources to include: state, federal & local allocations and how these funding sources come into play. Mr. Robinson stated that staff is also working with both VDOT and the Chamber of Commerce to provide a summary sheet that can be utilized by both elected officials as well as being given to the public and that hopefully a draft will be available for review in June.

Regarding the brainstorming meeting as requested from the Policy Committee members, staff has sent out a survey to the members to determine what dates/times to conduct this meeting as it was agreed that it should occur at an alternate night from the regularly scheduled Policy Committee meetings. To date, we have received feedback from only five members; one of which was Mr. Snellings who is currently no longer serving as a representative from Stafford County. Mr. Robinson advised that the survey would be re-sent, and Mr. Kelly encouraged the members to respond accordingly.

The new May item included a letter dated May 20<sup>th</sup> that was addressed to Secretary Layne. Mr. Kelly stated that there were some issues within the Plan whereby it was in conflict with the long-range transportation plans for the region. Mr. Kelly was asking in the letter that these conflicts be addressed within the final SYIP. The conflicts were regarding the Route 630 interchange project in Stafford County and the Rappahannock Parkway project in both the City of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County. Mr. Kelly stated that as the Policy Committee members had not expressed any dissent, that the letter would be signed and mailed after the conclusion of the May Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Reese relayed that the following Resolutions were unanimously approved: Resolution No. 14-09 – Adopting FY2015 UPWP; Resolution No. 14-10 – Setting Public Comment Period & Public Hearing Prior to Adoption of FY2015-2018 TIP; Resolution No. 14-11 – Task Order to Proceed with Scenario Planning Phase II updates; Resolution No. 14-12 – Completing FAMPO's work on the Jackson Gateway project; Resolution No. 14-13 – CMAQ/RSTP Funding Allocations; & Resolution No. 14-14 – Honoring Eight Years of Service to Mr. Cord Sterling for his representation as the region's CTB member.

Mr. Reese stated that the following discussion items were addressed: FAMPO's Highway Prioritization Methodology; FAMPO Self-Certification process; Federal Transportation Reauthorization status; & upcoming FAMPO Administrator's position to replace Mr. Robinson.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

There was unanimous consensus to nominate Ms. Vanessa Griffin and Mr. Art Snyder to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively to TAG for the upcoming year.

## **NEW BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

Mr. Farley stated that TAG has discussed in the past that projects are put onto a list without either the public and/or elected officials being aware of these projects being added before-hand.

Mr. Snyder stated that just because a project is included on a project list that this does not make the project become a reality. Mr. Snyder stated that his question is at what time period TAG, FAMPO, etc. begin to notify the public. Mr. Snyder stated that if you inform the public too early and the project is years away from being implemented and/or does not ever get built, then you lose the public's interest. However, on the opposite side, if the public is not made aware and then suddenly a project materializes then the citizens are upset because they were not properly notified.

Mr. Waple stated that it is his personal opinion that maybe when funds actually get allocated to a specific project within the TIP that this would be the time to begin notifying the public to obtain their feedback and comments.

Mr. Snyder asked if the Public Notification Process could be included on the upcoming July agenda as a discussion item so that both FAMPO staff and TAG could have an opportunity to review the request and to determine a course of action to follow.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **a.) Resolution No. 14-14, Adopting the Fiscal Years 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Daniel Reese & Andy Waple**

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No. 14-14 in its draft format has been discussed and presented at previous meetings. Mr. Waple stated that the project list included within Resolution No. 14-14 has not changed. Mr. Waple relayed that the only change that has occurred is a project description change per request made by Mr. Trampe of Spotsylvania County at the May Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Waple stated that this Resolution depicts no funding changes. Mr. Waple advised that this Resolution would be endorsed in June and then in July the final copy which will include substantial differences in some funding allocation categories will also be adopted by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Snyder stated that he thinks it is a good practice to ensure that project descriptions are indeed standardized so there is no confusion to the public on a project that is included within the TIP.

Mr. Waple stated that the project description lists come from Richmond so there are in fact discrepancies among projects state-wide. Mr. Waple stated now that each MPO's TIP must coincide with the State's TIP so hopefully discrepancies will occur less frequently. Mr. Waple relayed that a region's CMAQ/RSTP funding allocations are set and then allocated to each respective CTB member for implementation.

Ms. Griffin asked if there was any way that a region could calculate how much staff time and staff hours are wasted by completing its own TIP and then discovering that it is not concise with the state-wide TIP.

Mr. Farley stated that as the TIP does not promote a sustainable transit based plan then it would be his recommendation that TAG not endorse the TIP.

Mr. Gross stated that the problem with the TIP is that this is the area's guide so if a TIP is not complete and/or concise then it should not be voted on until the TIP is completed. Mr. Gross stated that the VDOT

6-Year website link is much more user-friendly. Mr. Gross stated that he feels a Resolution cannot be approved if everything is not clearly stated and explained within it.

Mr. Waple stated that all documents from the Six-Year Plan (SYIP) are included within the TIP and the projects are complete. Mr. Gross stated that funding for federal projects needs to be clearly outlined, completed, and explained within the TIP.

Mr. Gross stated that the FAMPO website does not tell citizens how to look for and find changes; that it does not give an easily obtainable link whereby citizens can make comments; and the public comments received are not readily available for every citizen to review.

Mr. Carlson stated that he personally felt you could not ethically adopt the TIP prior to the conclusion of the public comment period expiring. Mr. Waple stated that this procedure occurs state-wide whereby an MPO adopts a TIP a few days prior to the public comment period ending as a result of Policy Committee meetings being held prior to. Mr. Waple stated that if there are any adverse comments received from June 16<sup>th</sup> until June 20<sup>th</sup> when the public comment period officially ends, then the TIP is brought back before the Policy Committee at its next meeting for review and re-evaluation. Mr. Waple stated that even though the public comment period extends past the night of the public hearing at the Policy Committee meeting that any and all comments received within that 4-day period are still included within the TIP.

Ms. Trampe asked what would be considered as an adverse comment. Mr. Waple relayed that comments to projects that could present environmental issues/concerns, projects that present safety issues/concerns, etc. would be those considered to be adverse in nature.

Mr. Snyder asked if there is a user-friendly tab on the website that says “Public Comments”. Mr. Snyder stated that if this was available it might help to simplify and answer new questions from citizens that may have already been asked and answered previously. Mr. Snyder stated that if the web-site offered the capability of hitting a tab that says “Public Comments Received to Date” and then lists each question and each response that this may make endorsement of the TIP process easier to understand for citizens.

As each TAG member had a specific concern regarding the TIP, TAG took no action. TAG stated that they would like to go on record for the Policy Committee’s review that they neither approved nor vetoed adoption of Resolution No. 14-14.

**b.) Resolution No. 14-15, Appointing Henry “Hap” Connors as an Ex Officio Member of the FAMPO Policy Committee – Daniel Reese**

Mr. Reese stated that Resolution No. 14-15 was unanimously endorsed by TAG with a request that the Policy Committee adopt at the upcoming June meeting.

**c.) Resolution No. 14-16, Certifying that the FAMPO 3-C Process is Being Carried Out in Accordance with Federal Requirements for a Comprehensive, Continuous and Coordinated Transportation Planning Process in the Urbanized Area – Daniel Reese & Andy Waple**

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No. 14-16 contains the statement and check list of federal requirements for the states and MPO’s to follow in regard to 3-C Process being implemented.

Mr. Gormley stated that it appears the region talks only about transportation and that too much time is spent on roads. Mr. Gormley asked when time will allow for a region to discuss other components in addition to just transportation issues.

Mr. Snyder stated that as funding is siloed, other components are mentioned within the TIP, etc. but unless funding is allocated towards something specific no activity occurs. Mr. Waple stated that once the Constrained Transportation Plan is a finalized document then maybe this would be the time to add any additional perimeters.

There was unanimous consensus to endorse Resolution No. 14-16 with a request that the FAMPO Policy Committee adopt it at the upcoming June meeting.

**d.) Resolution No. 14-17, Amending the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Transfer Funds from Project UPC #93962 (Route 3 Signal Optimization) to Project UPC #93963 (Route 1 Signal Optimization) – Daniel Reese**

Mr. Reese advised that Resolution No. 14-17 is a request from VDOT to transfer allocated funding from one signal optimization project to another. Mr. Milligan asked what the cost associated with these projects actually covers.

Mr. Waple stated that signal light optimization within the counties is mandated by VDOT; however, within the City, the City maintains its own signals. Mr. Waple stated that the dollars associated with these projects covers the cost of upgrading equipment, the hiring of consultants who set the different optimization perimeters, etc.

There was unanimous consensus to endorse Resolution No. 14-17 with a request that the FAMPO Policy Committee adopt it at the upcoming June meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a.) Draft FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comments – Daniel Reese**

This item was already discussed and included under Action Item – 8a.

**STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Waple advised that the Scenario Planning Phase II work is underway and that a conference call was held earlier today to begin this process.

Mr. Reese advised that he would be participating in a VDOT sponsored bicycle/pedestrian event held in Arlington. Mr. Reese stated that he would provide a recap of this event at the July meeting.

Ms. Trampe stated that a couple of questions had arisen from their focus groups held with the citizens of their district in regard to the bicycle/pedestrian trails and asked if Mr. Reese would ask these questions on their behalf.

Ms. Trampe advised that the first question involved the personal safety of those citizens who choose to utilize a bike/pedestrian trail – what personal safety features would be included as the trails are being

developed; and would additional law enforcement staff be needed to maintain and regularly patrol these trails.

Mr. Waple advised that FAMPO received a posted notice in regard to an MPO's planning process from both FHWA/FTA. As the status of state authorizations are still unknown, the MPO's need to be careful, selective and competitive in order to continue to compete with other regions on a state-wide basis. Mr. Waple relayed that each region wants to "sell" its projects to ensure consideration and funding will be allocated to a specific region.

Mr. Waple stated that now with MAP-21, approval of projects will focus more on a performance-based process. Mr. Waple stated that the report includes a 60-page document that staff is currently reviewing. Mr. Waple relayed that both FHWA/FTA are using a metric-based and measurement-based process for approving projects. Mr. Waple stated that a re-cap of this document will be presented for review by TAG at the upcoming July meeting.

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

Mr. Ludwig stated that he wanted to reiterate what Mr. Gormley had mentioned earlier in that citizens are in fact concerned about other issues that do not involve transportation. Mr. Ludwig stated that he lives in Cobblestone and that its residents are definitely interested in seeing more bicycle, pedestrian and trail projects.

Mr. Gormley stated that a pedestrian access project by either construction of a bridge or tunnel, etc. for access over the Route 1 link would be desirable.

Mr. Bird stated that from a law-enforcement prospective, that trail bridges are more likable in lieu of tunnel access and links.

Mr. Snyder stated that he had two issues of concern. He stated that he has ordered his HOT lane Fast Flex Pass and that the instructions included with it are not accessible with new automobiles. Mr. Snyder stated that the instructions for adhering the passes relate to vehicles from the 1960's and he thinks the instructions need to be updated to make them applicable for today's commuters. Secondly, Mr. Snyder stated that the new Flex passes also do not adhere properly to a vehicle that has handicapped tags/passes that are displayed inside the vehicle. Mr. Snyder stated that he was finally able to make accommodations to install the Flex passes; however, he thinks the implementation process needs to be fine-tuned to better accommodate the commuters who will be using this commuting option.

Mr. Carlson advised that effective tonight, that this would be his last TAG meeting. Mr. Carlson relayed that he had enjoyed serving on the committee with his fellow members and that due to medical issues; his doctor has told him he needs to modify his daily schedule.

Ms. Trampe stated that she had received some information on solar roads. Ms. Trampe stated that initially she was very skeptical of this concept. However, she has done research and she sees it having great possibilities. Ms. Trampe stated that she has been advised by Ms. Donley that Virginia has not at this time pursued this option. Ms. Trampe stated that it is just definitely a new concept to consider and is something that she would like to ultimately see Virginia test. Ms. Trampe stated that you could invest some money upfront to test a small area – i.e. a park & ride lot, etc. and if it proves to be as effective as it appears, that ultimately this would save a large amount of funding that is currently being allocated for road repairs, re-surfacing, etc.

Mr. Gross stated that he would like to thank both Mr. Waple and Mr. Reese for the work they perform at FAMPO. Mr. Gross stated that transportation planning is not an easy task and they diligently continue to work through the grueling process to keep the TIP, the Transportation Plan, etc. updated.

Ms. Griffin stated that she first would like to wish Mr. Carlson well and stated that TAG would miss his participation on the committee. Ms. Griffin also stated that she would like to thank Mr. Snyder for serving as Chair of TAG for the last year and she appreciates his leadership and willingness to have served.

Mr. Milligan stated that at the last meeting Mr. Ludwig had expressed some questions in regard to length of term for committee members to serve. Mr. Ludwig referred to a document created by the Policy Committee that indicated TAG committee members served a two-year time period. However, Mr. Snyder stated that the TAG By-Laws only specify a membership period for the Chair and Vice-Chair. It was committee consensus that TAG members continue to serve until either they decide to step down and/or until an elected official makes a new re-appointment.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

### **ADJOURN**

Upon motion and seconded, with all concurring, the June 11th meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. The next meeting will be held on July 16, 2014.

*Meeting Minutes completed by JoAnna Roberson*