



**FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
September 08, 2014**

<http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/technicalcommittee.html>

Members Present:

Joey Hess, County of Stafford
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Angeline Pitts, County of Caroline
Dan Cole, County of Spotsylvania
Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania
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)
Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Chris Arabia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Tom Hickey, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Dan Grinnell, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ed Keasler, County of Stafford
Rupert Farley, Spotsylvania County

Staff Members Present:

Andy Waple, FAMPO
Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Marti Donley, FAMPO
Daniel 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 September 8, 2014 was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2014

The Technical Committee minutes from the July 14th meeting were approved as submitted with a minor correction requested by Mr. Tom Hickey from VRE.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 21, 2014

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

- Resolution No. 14-19 – Amending FY2012-2015 TIP to include FY2015 Federal Funding;
- Resolution No. 14-20 – Amending FY2012-2015 TIP to Close Out & Transfer Funds from Completed Projects to the Onville Road
- Project; Resolution No. 14-21 – Endorsement of FY2015 Transportation
- Alternative Funding Project for Rodney Thompson Middle School; &
- Resolution No. 14-22 – Service Recognition for Mr. Kelly's service as FAMPO Chair for 2013-2014.

Mr. Waple relayed that regarding Resolution No. 14-20, as a result of discussions held between VDOT and Stafford County, the Onville Road project is now going to be re-bid in the spring of 2015. Mr. Waple stated that the discussions have occurred after the vote was taken by the Policy Committee to adopt Resolution No. 14-20 so, if any further TIP amendments are needed, they will be forthcoming accordingly at a later date.

Mr. Waple stated that Mr. Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation gave a preliminary update on House Bill 2 and the 2040 VTrans update. Mr. Donohue relayed that the data gathering process is just underway so the FAMPO committees will be kept apprised as progression continues.

Mr. Waple advised that there was extensive discussion, comments and questions from the Policy Committee members and these are detailed in the minutes included in today's agenda packet.

Mr. Waple gave a brief overview on the Metropolitan Planning Rule Changes regarding MAP 21. Mr. Waple advised that the FAMPO committees will be kept apprised of the MAP 21 changes as they are implemented at FAMPO. Mr. Waple did relay that the public comment period was extended and this public comment period will now close on October 2nd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Farley asked that when the Technical Committee endorses projects to be moved forward for consideration by the Policy Committee that they also encourage the Policy Committee to form a legislative committee that lobbies at both the State level in Richmond and the National level in DC to effectively represent the transportation needs and the funding deficits that the region faces.

Mr. Farley stated that he realizes that the necessary tools – i.e. funding, etc. are not available to the region now, and that the region has to make the best use of the funding allocations it receives. However, as he would still like for the region to get to a transit-based transportation system instead of just making temporary fixes that do not have permanent results, he is asking that the Technical Committee consider making the Policy Committee aware that other alternatives do exist when endorsing projects to be forwarded to the Policy Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

a.) Resolution No. 14-23, Requesting that the Governor Restore Full Funding for the I95/Route 630 Interchange Project (UPC #13558) in Stafford County – Andy Waple

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No. 14-23 is endorsing full funding for the I95/Route 630 Interchange Project in Stafford County. Mr. Waple stated that this project was fully funded in the FY2014-2019 SYIP and now has a \$5 million funding deficit within the FY2015-2020 SYIP. As a result of the HB2 Legislation, the funding deficit thereby makes the project subject for consideration in the statewide project prioritization process.

Mr. Waple stated that the Public Meeting/Public Hearing for the Revised Draft of the FY2015-2020 SYIP for this region will be held on October 2nd at Germanna Community College. Mr. Waple also relayed that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors adopted a similar Resolution at their meeting held last week.

Mr. Waple stated that Resolution No. 14-23 is two-fold in nature. First, that the Governor is asked to restore the full funding back to the project within the revised FY2015-2020 SYIP and secondly, that if full funding is not restored back to the project, the I95/Route 630 Interchange project be exempt from the HB2 prioritization project process selection.

With Mr. Van Dussen and Ms. Richter abstaining, there was consensus from the Technical Committee to move forward Resolution No. 14-23 to the Policy Committee with a request that it be adopted at their upcoming September meeting.

b.) Resolution No. 14-24, Amending the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include Funding for Project UPC #105832 for the Installation of a Traffic Signal at US-1 and Massaponax Church Road (Rt. 608) – Andy Waple

Mr. Waple stated that Resolution No. 14-24 is a request for the Policy Committee to endorse the installation of a new traffic signal at Massaponax Church Road and US Route 1 in Spotsylvania County for inclusion into the FY2012-2015 TIP. Mr. Waple stated that this signal project will be funded by the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

There was unanimous consensus from the Technical Committee to move forward Resolution No. 14-24 with a request that it be adopted by the Policy Committee at their upcoming September meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) Virginia Railway Express (VRE) System Plan – Andy Waple & Tom Hickey, VRE Chief Development Officer

Mr. Hickey with VRE provided an overview on the VRE's System Plan for 2040. Mr. Hickey stated that VRE is the commuter rail system that services Washington, DC and Northern Virginia and currently has two lines that covers 90 miles and transports approximately 5 million riders annually. Mr. Hickey relayed that VRE owns none of the tracks and coordinates closely with CSX, Norfolk Southern & Amtrak.

Mr. Hickey stated that the VRE Manassas line serves the I-66 corridor and covers 35 miles with 16 daily trains and averages approximately 9,000 riders daily. This form of commute results in a 45 minute trip into DC. The Fredericksburg line covers the I-95 corridor and covers 54 miles with 14 daily trains and averages approximately 11,000 riders daily. This results in an 84 minute trip into to DC. Mr. Hickey stated that an additional line will be added to Fredericksburg in the fall of 2014.

Mr. Hickey advised that the 4 highest destination points for where ridership ends are the following: L'Enfant Plaza, Crystal City, Union Station & Alexandria. Mr. Hickey stated that VRE is known for its safe operations, its high customer satisfaction, its quality of service, & its reliability. Mr. Hickey stated that typically the VRE exceeds a 90% performance rating.

Mr. Hickey stated that the issues for VRE are that this region has the congestion in the nation; the limitations of economic growth for the Northern Virginia region, that VRE is approaching capacity; and that an overall 20% to 30% employment growth is expected and a 40% - 90% regional population growth is expected to occur by the year 2040.

Mr. Hickey stated that VRE's long-term projects will cost an estimated \$2.7 billion dollars based on 2013 figures and includes the following projects:

- Long Bridge
- Gainesville-Haymarket Extension
- Potomac Shores Station
- Spotsylvania Station
- CSX 3rd/4th track installations

Mr. Hickey stated that the VRE stations need longer trains and platforms; additional parking capacity; and additional train storage facilities. Mr. Hickey stated that the new Potomac Shores development's station is being fully funded by the developer so opportunities do exist for private/public partnerships.

Mr. Hickey stated in closing that VRE is important to Virginia and to this region. Mr. Hickey stated that VRE is looking to obtain actionable long-range plans that have cost-effective investments. VRE is ready to expand the system and are looking for partners to allow for the expansion. Mr. Hickey stated that investments in the VRE system will provide for long-term dividends for future generations. Mr. Hickey stated that VRE reduces the congestion and capacity that is equivalent to 150 miles of lane traffic.

Mr. Hickey stated that VRE is looking at phase growth scenarios. Mr. Hickey stated that VRE ridership has already doubled in the first 10 years and that the projection is that there will be 48,000 riders utilizing VRE in 2025.

Mr. Hickey stated that VRE wants to add additional lines; wants to add express trains; wants to offer ridership opportunities on the weekends; and wants to increase the stations, parking, and storage facilities across the entire region.

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

Mr. Waple advised that VDOT will be issuing the draft revised FY2015-2020 SYIP at the September CTB Meeting, later this month. Mr. Waple stated that this draft plan will show all projects that are affected by the HB-2 Statewide Prioritization Process. The CTB will be voting on the Draft Revised SYIP at their November Meeting.

STAFF REPORT

None

MEMBER REPORTS

City of Fredericksburg: Mr. Nelson stated that the section of the VCR trail at the Blue/Gray Parkway will be coming on line on the 20th of this month. Mr. Nelson stated that the delay for this opening has been as a result of obtaining solutions for the safety of pedestrian and bicycle traffic crossings at the intersection. Mr. Nelson stated that solutions were also reached for the long-term crossings at Route 1 & Alum Spring Road as well.

GWRC: Ms. Utz advised that GWRC is still working on the I95 TBP marketing program which has resulted in the use of a lot of different types of social media. Ms. Utz relayed that utilization of these new social medias have provided for a higher percentage of commuter interest and contacts.

Ms. Utz stated that GWRC is finalizing the Advantage insurance web site and that the system has been checked state-wide for program glitches. Once the web site is ready to be released and utilized, that GWRC will then be responsible for the upkeep and the program. Ms. Utz stated that GWRC will be responsible for the program in all capacities with the exception of handling claims.

DRPT: Mr. Arabia advised that DRPT's web site is now up and operational and encouraged committee members to peruse it as time permits. Mr. Arabia stated that the transit meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday in Richmond.

VRE: Mr. Hickey advised that all new VRE cars have been purchased and are in use. Mr. Hickey stated that the RFP for the platform upgrades to the Brooke Road and Leland stations are ready to be bid and this phase of the update project will be for funding for the NEPA design phase.

County of Stafford: Mr. Johnson advised that Stafford County is in the process of updating the county's economic development plan and does include enhanced VRE options within it.

VDOT: Mr. Van Dussen advised that VDOT is working with VRE on the "RAPS" concept which is one that is dealing with the high-speed rail system. Mr. Van Dussen stated that this is three-year process and one of the primary requirements is that communication and coordination occurs with the communities that will be affected. Mr. Van Dussen stated that this study is ongoing.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 6th, 2014/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 6th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for September 8th was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.