



**Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2014**

<http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/transportation-advisory-group/>

**Members Present:**

Ms. Vanessa Griffin, Chair, Stafford County  
Mr. Rupert Farley, Spotsylvania County  
Mr. Art Snyder, Spotsylvania County  
Ms. Michele Trampe, Spotsylvania County  
Mr. Allen Ludwig, City of Fredericksburg  
Ms. Fran Larkins, Stafford County

**Staff Members Present:**

Mr. Daniel Reese, FAMPO  
Ms. Marti Donley, FAMPO  
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

**Others Present**

None

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Transportation Advisory Group agenda for the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF TAG MEETING SUMMARY OF JUNE 11, 2014**

The minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.

**REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2014**

Mr. Reese advised that the minutes from the June 16<sup>th</sup> FAMPO Policy Committee meeting are included in tonight's agenda packet. The recap is as follows: Public Hearing on draft FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Reese advised that 3 people spoke – Ms. Larkins & Mr. Farley from TAG, however, both were speaking as a citizen and not on behalf of TAG & Mr. Hendon representing the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Larkins stated she was in support of the Rappahannock River Crossing project as it would allow for additional collector/distributor lanes onto I-95. However, Ms. Larkins

stated that this project should only be the first step and she encouraged the FAMPO Policy Committee to pursue the development of an outer connector bypass project for the future.

Mr. Hendon stated that he was representing the Chamber and they were endorsing approval of both the draft FY2015-2018 TIP as well as the Rappahannock River Crossing project. Mr. Hendon stated that the Rappahannock River Crossing project would be a strategic effort in resolving some of the region's current transportation issues and will also be a vital project in encouraging continued commercial and tourism growth throughout the region.

Mr. Farley spoke in opposition of the draft FY2015-2018 TIP as he felt that 90% of the projects included in the TIP are just temporary fixes and do not solve the long term needs of the region.

Mr. Farley stated that he feels the transportation planners need to move more to a mass-transit based operating system in lieu of continuing to build new roads. Mr. Farley stated that he felt this was a missing component within the TIP.

Mr. Farley stated that he would like to see FAMPO have more involvement with legislatures at both the State & Federal levels to campaign for additional funding to be allocated to the region and that he would like to see this included as a component within the TIP as well.

Under the chairman's comments, Mr. Kelly thanked Mr. Robinson for his 8 years of service as serving as FAMPO's first Administrator and stated that his knowledge and expertise were going to be missed but wished him well on his retirement.

The election of officers was held and the chairman for the upcoming year will be Mr. Paul Milde from Stafford County and Mr. Tim McLaughlin from Spotsylvania will serve as the vice-chair.

Mr. Reese advised that the following Resolutions and actions were taken: Resolution No. 14-14, adopting the FY15-18 TIP was adopted with a 6/3 vote count; Resolution No. 14-15 appointing Mr. Hap Connors as an ex-officio non-voting member to the Policy Committee was unanimously approved; Resolution No. 14-16 certifying that the FAMPO 3-C Process is being carried out in accordance with federal requirements was unanimously endorsed; & Resolution No. 14-17 amending the FY12-15 TIP for transfer of funds from signal optimization projects on Route 3 to Route 1 was unanimously approved.

Regarding Resolution No. 14-14, Ms. Larkins stated that she wants to ensure that TAG's comments are accurately reflected within the minutes. She is requesting that a TAG representative attend each Policy Committee meeting and to have a 5-minute allocated spot on their agenda to highlight comments from TAG.

Mr. Farley stated that he thought having a TAG representative attend a Policy Committee meeting to speak on behalf of TAG is a positive effort; however, Mr. Farley stated that there are months whereby TAG does not have particular comments so he feels that if added to the Policy Committee agenda that it should be listed as TAG highlights (if needed).

Mr. Snyder concurred that he thought it was a good idea to have TAG represented monthly to the Policy Committee meeting; however, he reiterated that the summary to be given needs to be short, concise, and as needed.

Ms. Trampe stated that she too thinks it is a good idea for TAG to be represented; however, since it is the Policy Committee's agenda & not TAG's agenda that she thinks the Policy Committee needs to be asked if this is okay with them before TAG just starts showing up to speak at their meetings.

Mr. Ludwig concurred that he too thought it was a good idea for TAG's comments to be relayed to the Policy Committee as a significant comment was made.

Ms. Griffin stated that she would contact Mr. Milde to see if a standing 5-minute time slot could be included within the Policy Committee's agenda from month to month which would ensure that TAG does have a place on the agenda as significant comments, etc. arise that need to be directly relayed to the Policy Committee members.

Mr. Reese relayed that the following Discussion item was addressed which was in regard to the FAMPO Administrator. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Robinson is no longer the FAMPO Administrator. The Policy Committee unanimously was in support of the following recommendations: to appoint Mr. Andy Waple as Interim Administrator; to advertise the position in the newspapers & on the internet; & to establish a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Tim Ware, Executive Director of GWRC, and 1 representative from each of the jurisdictions who will review the applications, screen & interview the applicants, etc.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

None

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **a.) Resolution No. 14-19, Amending the FY12-15 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Update Fiscal Year 2015 Federal Funding – Mr. Daniel Reese**

Mr. Reese advised that Resolution No. 14-19 is a result of the CTB's allocations of funding to CMAQ/RSTP projects. TAG had questions regarding a project that is not fully funded, where do the funding balances needed to complete it come from. Ms. Trampe stated that she thought it would be helpful to have staff compile a one-page project list that details all of the significant projects within the region; lists the total cost of the project; lists the amount of funding already allocated to the project; lists how much funding comes from the localities, from the State, or from the federal government; shows the balance deficits; & shows where other alternative funding sources could come from.

There was TAG concurrence that all members would like to see a project print-out as described above. Mr. Reese stated that he would take this request back to staff to see if this can easily be created.

It was unanimous consent from TAG that no action would be taken by the committee regarding either endorsing or opposing Resolution No. 14-19.

**b.) Resolution No. 14-20, Amending the FY12-15 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. Daniel Reese**

There was unanimous endorsement from TAG in regard to Resolution No. 14-20 and was requested that Resolution No.14-20 be submitted to the Policy Committee with a request that it be adopted at the upcoming July meeting.

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

Mr. Reese relayed that the sidewalk project mentioned above is the only project that met the criteria and requirements for a Transportation Alternative Funding project for this year from the region. Mr. Reese relayed that the sidewalk repairs will cost approximately \$12,000. There was unanimous endorsement from TAG in regard to Resolution No. 14-21 and it was requested that this Resolution be submitted to the Policy Committee for their adoption at the upcoming July meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a.) House Bill (HB) 2 Update – Mr. Daniel Reese**

Mr. Reese advised that as a result of HB 2 being passed by the Virginia General Assembly that now requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop a statewide prioritization process for transportation projects. This process needs to be developed and incorporated into the FY17-22 Six Year Improvement Program that will be adopted in June of 2016.

Mr. Reese stated that the prioritization process must be objective, quantifiable, and needs to consider at a minimum the following factors: congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety & environmental quality.

Mr. Reese relayed that HB2 requires that the CTB weigh the factors differently within the different regions of the Commonwealth and at a minimum the factors must be weighed by VDOT planning districts.

Mr. Reese advised that HB2 requires that state and federal funding must be prioritized. The legislation excluded the following project types: repairs & reconstruction; certain state and

federally funded sourced projects such as revenue sharing; CMAQ/RSTP funding and projects that have secondary and urban formulas allocated.

Mr. Reese stated that HB2 does not change the allocation of funds and funds are currently distributed under the \$500M “CTB formula”. Projects will be prioritized within each allocated category on an individual state-wide basis. The CTB must consider the following types of projects: highway, transit, rail, road, operational improvements, & transportation demand management projects. The successful implementation of HB2 will result in the following 3 key goals: to promote performance for the selection of projects; to provide stability to the Six-Year Improvement Program; & to establish a project pipeline that will link planning to programming.

Mr. Reese stated that as the process moves forward, that there will be significant public input sought through public meetings, MPO & PDC meetings, and other public events to solicit input prior to any recommendations being made to the CTB.

**a.) MAP 21 Metropolitan Planning Rule Changes – Mr. Daniel Reese**

Mr. Reese relayed that there is a handout included in tonight’s agenda packet that explains MAP 21 as well as an application that details an applicable project for the TAG to review. Mr. Reese advised that more information would be forthcoming regarding MAP 21. Mr. Farley stated that he felt TAG should go on record asking that the MPO get input from the citizens regarding the rules and regulations that public comments should be encouraged.

Both Mr. Farley & Ms. Larkins asked that as this moves forward, that they would like to receive feedback on the following items: what are the specific FAMPO concerns with MAP 21, when is it to be adopted, & when will the MPO be asking for citizen feedback.

**b.) Best Practices for MPO’s to Engage Public Involvement – Mr. Daniel Reese and Ms. Marti Donley**

Ms. Donley advised that included in tonight’s packet is information regarding what is Public Involvement, Public Involvement strategies, and a spreadsheet that compares the FAMPO region to other areas in regard to who is doing what with public outreach opportunities.

Ms. Donley asked if TAG members have additional recommendations on how to get information out to the public to please forward these to her. Ms. Donley also stated that if anyone has contact to local home owners’ associations that this list would be helpful as well. After reviewing the spreadsheet, TAG stated that FAMPO was doing considerably more in regard to outreach opportunities than many other areas are and they thanked Ms. Donley for all of her diligent efforts and hard work.

Ms. Larkins stated that each TAG member needed to continually encourage the supervisors to seek new members to fill vacant slots that exist within the TAG group as new TAG members are always needed.

Ms. Trampe stated that if you are able to find just one topic – i.e. HOT lanes to get someone’s input on of a topic of interest for them specifically that then you can get citizens more interested and more involved by explaining other topics and asking for their input.

Ms. Larkins asked if a record is available that shows attendance and public participation that has occurred at previous public hearings, public comment periods, etc. Ms. Donley stated that she has a record of all of this data and can forward this information to the TAG members.

Mr. Farley stated that if annually FAMPO could print 2 maps to run in the paper and post on the website that shows all of the region’s projects that are forthcoming and all that already approved that once people actually see a boundary line of how it affects their property lines that citizens may be more inclined to attend meetings to voice their concerns. Mr. Snyder concurred and stated that having added web sites available whereby citizens can voice their comments would also be helpful as a lot of people no longer subscribe to the local newspapers.

Ms. Griffin stated that information again can be compiled by FAMPO so it can be distributed and circulated through the farmer’s market at the Stafford Hospital. Ms. Griffin stated that she was sure the same type of distribution process could also occur at both the Fredericksburg Market & the Spotsylvania Markets.

Both Ms. Griffin and Ms. Trampe stated that the new local cable television station goes live this coming Monday and this can be used to run public service announcements, conduct interviews with VDOT/FAMPO on upcoming projects, etc. so this would be an additional avenue to utilize.

Ms. Donley stated that she appreciated the input received tonight and that at any time TAG had new resources, contacts, etc. to please forward them to her.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Reese stated that he attended the VDOT field trip to look at the bicycle/pedestrian pathways in Arlington County. Mr. Reese stated that this was just a preliminary step in the development of future regional bicycle/pedestrian pathways. Mr. Reese stated that this type of data will be incorporated into planning processes so as more information and data becomes available this will be relayed to the FAMPO committees.

### **MEMBER REPORTS**

Ms. Trampe stated that she is continuing to do more research regarding the solar roadways that she mentioned several meetings ago. She stated that she actually hopes to meet with the developers of this concept while on vacation this summer. Currently, this concept is working well in Idaho. Mr. Snyder encouraged Ms. Trampe to not only get research data but to also obtain technical data as the Department of Energy explored this concept over 30 years ago but never ending up pursuing it.

## **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 July 16th meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 10, 2014.

*Meeting Minutes completed by JoAnna Roberson*