



**FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2015**

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Members Present:

Dan Cole, Chair, County of Spotsylvania
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Angeline Crowder, County of Caroline
Joey Hess, County of Stafford
Chris Arabia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) (In at 9:25 a.m.)
Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
Cynthia Porter Johnson, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Scudder Wagg, Michael Baker International
Lora Byala, Foursquare ITP
Jason Robinson, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Evan Charles, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Jon Howard, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Staff Members Present:

Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Marti Donley, FAMPO
Nicholas Quint, FAMPO
Daniel Reese, GWRC
JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Robinson advised that Mr. Danny Reese would be leaving FAMPO and this would be his last Technical Committee meeting as he is going to begin working for Dominion Power. Mr. Robinson also introduced Mr. Nick Quint who has been hired as a Regional Transportation Planner for FAMPO.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

The Technical Committee agenda for June 8, 2015 was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2015

The Technical Committee agenda for July 6, 2015 was approved as submitted.

REVIEW OF FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 18, 2015

Mr. Robinson advised that the minutes are included in today's packet. Mr. Robinson provided the following highlights:

The June meeting was the first meeting where CTAG is now being represented at the MPO table as a non-voting member and that Mr. Guy Gormley was the CTAG member in attendance. Mr. Robinson advised that the new officers for the Policy Committee for the upcoming year will be Mr. Tim McLaughlin from Spotsylvania County as Chair and Mr. Matt Kelly from Fredericksburg as the Vice-Chair.

Mr. Robinson advised that the following Resolutions were unanimously approved by the MPO:

Resolution No. 15-14 authorizing the retention of Cambridge Systematics and Michael Baker companies as its on-call consultants

Resolution No. 15-15 amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that provides adjustments to various DRPT grants

Mr. Robinson advised that the following Resolutions were unanimously approved by the MPO, with the exception of Mr. Milde and Mr. Harf abstaining respectively:

Resolution No. 15-16 recognizing dedicated service of Mr. Paul Milde for service as Chair of the MPO for last year

Resolution No. 15-17, recognizing dedicated service of Mr. Al Harf for sixteen years of service as a member of the FAMPO Policy Committee

Mr. Robinson advised that discussion occurred on the following two items: Extension of I-95 Express Lanes from Exit 143 to Exit 126 and the upcoming Goals and Policy Workshop meeting. Mr. Robinson stated that specific notations regarding these two items are included within the minutes in today's agenda packet information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

a.) Resolution No. 16-01, Amending the FY2015-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Funds for Safety Improvements on I-95 – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that Resolution No. 16-01 is a request made from VDOT. The Resolution amends the FY2016-2020 TIP and will include new funding for safety improvements on I-95 in the amount of \$17.9 million dollars. Mr. Robinson advised that the new money will be used for making improvements and upgrades to the exit ramps at 130 and 133. Mr. Robinson relayed that this new funding does not take away from monies already allocated to other projects and that it is staff recommendation that it be endorsed.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Van Dussen, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-01 was endorsed as submitted with a recommendation that it be forwarded to the Policy Committee for adoption at their upcoming July meeting.

b.) Resolution No. 16-02, Endorsing a Project of Statewide Significance for Funding Under the HB2 Project Prioritization Program – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that under HB2 the Commonwealth has now adopted a project prioritization program whereby projects that qualify for statewide significance will be selected based on the project costs and the project's goals to reduce congestion, to improve safety, to improve land use efficiency, to promote economic development opportunities, etc.

Mr. Robinson stated that the region's highest scoring project with statewide significance that was adopted in FAMPO's 2040 LRTP was the I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing project. This project will entail improvements to exits 130 and 133 on I-95 and will provide for collector-distributor lanes between the exits and include new capacity across the Rappahannock River. Mr. Robinson relayed that it is staff recommendation that Resolution No. 16-02 be endorsed.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Hess, with Mr. Cole abstaining, and all others in consensus, that Resolution No. 16-02 be endorsed as submitted with a recommendation that it be forwarded to the Policy Committee for action at their upcoming July meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) GWRideConnect Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan FY2016-2021 – Lloyd Robinson, Diana Utz, and Ms. Lora Byala

Ms. Utz advised that GWRC has been working on the completion of its Six-Year TDM plan and once approved, the Plan will be updated annually. Ms. Utz stated that the draft reviewed today will be submitted to GWRC for endorsement at their upcoming July meeting. Ms. Utz advised that Ms. Lora Byala with Four Square Integrated Transportation Planning has been responsible for the TDM Plan update and will give an update at today's meeting.

Ms. Byala advised that TDM is a generic term for strategies that increase an overall efficiency of a transportation system that encourages citizens to shift from driving alone to using public transportation; to ride share; or by walking or biking to employment centers.

Ms. Byala stated that the impacts of TDM programming have been shown to improve a region's air quality, to have an efficient transportation system, and to improve the quality of life for both the residents and employees.

Ms. Byala relayed that the FAMPO region has the second highest growth rate state-wide and has population that has grown by 4.5% between 2010 and 2013. Ms. Byala stated that data shows that 43% of commuting residents from this region are commuting on a daily basis to jurisdictions outside of the George Washington Regional Commission and that 76% of those who commute to job-sites are driving alone.

Ms. Byala stated that GWRC's goal in helping to enhance a regional TDM Plan is to provide ride matching services to its residents; to provide van pool services such as van start and van save programs that are state-wide programs in place to assist van pool operators; to provide a state-wide AdVantage self-insured van pool insurance program; to provide Guaranteed Ride Home administration; and to lease additional commuter lots within the region that are not currently being serviced by one of the VDOT Park & Ride commuter lots.

Ms. Byala advised that the mission of GWRideConnect is to promote, plan and establish transportation alternatives that encourage a decline in the use of single occupant vehicles. Ms. Byala stated that there are three goals and these are: Goal 1 – Quality of Life – providing access to transportation resources that will provide alternatives to driving alone; Goal 2 – Choices – to make it practical and easy for citizens to share a ride or to take transit within and beyond the GWRC region; and Goal 3 – Culture of Support – to integrate support for programs such as TDM, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian components within the planning process for the GWRC region.

Ms. Byala stated that a Six-Year TDM Plan is required by DRPT and the Plan is to help programs improve themselves by identifying the needs and resources for maintaining, modifying or enhancing its TDM services.

Ms. Byala advised that GWRideConnect has three primary funding sources which are as follows: DRPT Rideshare Grant – 58%; Local Funding for a 20% match – 14%; and federal congestion mitigation and air quality funds (CMAQ) – 28%. Ms. Byala stated that GWRC probably could receive an increase in its current funding sources; however, this would be contingent on the local jurisdictional matches also increasing.

Ms. Byala stated that currently GWRC has a mixture of outcome measures already being implemented that are components of a TDM Plan that monitors and evaluates a Plan's success. So moving forward, GWRideConnect will continue to seek alternative funding sources that allows for continual program enhancements; will update the TDM Plan annually and make adjustments as needed; and will continue to provide commuting options to the residents of this region.

b.) VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan (VMTP) Regional Network Needs Analysis – Lloyd Robinson, Scudder Wagg, Michael Baker International and Ms. Kelli Nash, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI)

Mr. Wagg with Michael Baker, Inc. updated the Technical Committee on the VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan. Mr. Wagg reviewed the VMTP project status and needs assessment process. Mr. Wagg stated that as HB2 projects will be prioritized on a state-wide basis that it is important that planning districts ensure that its needs are defined and specified within the VTrans Plan which will be submitted for approval by month-end.

Mr. Wagg advised that results of the detailed surveys that have been completed indicate that businesses are looking for better connection options between the transportation needs versus the business needs. Connectivity and quality of transit options near the work force are top concerns. Mr. Wagg stated that previously the needs focused on location and now the trend is towards the workforce.

Mr. Wagg stated that the economics will work itself out; however, if you do not have the skilled workforce and the location is not one that is conducive to recruiting the skilled workforce the work site will not survive. Mr. Wagg advised that in addition to connectivity investment that long-term planning should be prioritized and focusing on ways to attract and retain the workforce for now and for the future.

Mr. Wagg advised that VTrans is completing its data and analysis for finalization of an economic and transportation profile and are in the process of completing the needs assessment. Mr. Wagg stated that the next regional forum meeting is scheduled to occur in Fairfax on July 29th from 1-4:00 p.m. It was requested by FAMPO staff to see if participants from this region could in fact participate in this meeting forum via conference call technology.

Mr. Wagg stated that they are requesting that the Fredericksburg region provide feedback to them by close of business on Wednesday, July 15th of the region's possible transportation needs that are based on the economic and transportation linkages. Mr. Wagg advised that the list to be submitted needs to describe the type of need and how the need affects the region. Mr. Wagg relayed that the list of needs submitted by FAMPO will be compiled with those received from all stakeholders and the input will be validated against the economic and transportation data and will be presented in draft form at the upcoming July 29th meeting.

c.) Regional Transportation Funding Priorities Workshop – Lloyd Robinson

Mr. Robinson advised that the second session of the FAMPO Priorities Workshop meeting will be held on Monday, July 13th from 6-8:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Fredericksburg VDOT District Auditorium. The meeting information has been forwarded to the Policy Committee, to the Technical Committee, to CTAG for participation and will also be advertised so that the public can attend as well.

Mr. Robinson stated that the meeting will have two-fold significance; with the first being the desire for consensus to be obtained on one or two of the most important and larger regional projects to be moved forward. The project(s) selected will then be forwarded by FAMPO to the CTB with a request that when HB2 priority projects are selected that funding allocations awarded to this region will be applied to the project of highest ranking. Mr. Robinson relayed that the second significant component of the meeting will be to certify the jurisdictional representatives in regard to the grant application data training process.

Mr. Jason Robinson, with VDOT, advised that the meeting on July 13th is actually going to serve as only an informational meeting to the region's localities and does not in fact certify those who attend. Mr. Robinson advised that the mandatory application base training will be a web-time application process. Mr. Robinson relayed that each jurisdiction needs to ensure that they have at least one representative who actually participates in the training in order for the locality to be certified for the submittal of grant applications. Mr. Robinson advised that the first web base certification class will be held at the VDOT District Auditorium on July 20th; with a make-up date scheduled for August 5th.

CORRESPONDENCE

In packet and self-explanatory

STAFF REPORT

None

MEMBER REPORTS

George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC):

Ms. Utz advised that work is being finalized on the Six Year TDM plan and that officially GWRC has now taken over the upkeep and maintenance of the state-wide Advantage Vanpool Insurance Program.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT):

Mr. Arabia advised that DRPT is preparing to send out grant agreements for FY2016. Mr. Arabia stated that agencies have ninety days for submitting final invoice payments for FY2015 and that an extension form needs to be completed if an agency needs to request unused monies to be rolled over into the new fiscal year.

Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC):

Ms. Porter Johnson advised that PRTC will be having its ground-breaking ceremony for the new bus/maintenance facility on July 14th at 11:00 a.m.

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, JULY 13th, 2015/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for July 6th was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.