

Minutes
FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Summary
February 18, 2016
<http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/technicalcommittee.html>

Members Present:

Dan Cole, Chair, County of Spotsylvania
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg
Linwood Thomas, County of King George
Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania (In at 1:45 p.m.)
Joey Hess, County of Stafford (In at 1:45 p.m.)
Tim Roseboom, DRPT (In at 1:45 p.m.)
Cheng Yan, FHWA
Rodney White, FRED
Diana Utz, GWRC
Cynthia Porter-Johnson, PRTC (In at 1:45 p.m.)
Allison Richter, VDOT (In at 1:45 p.m.)
Craig Van Dussen, VDOT
Sonali Soneji, VRE (In at 1:40 p.m. via conference call)

Others Present: None

Staff Members Present:

Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO
Daniel Reese, FAMPO
Nicholas Quint, FAMPO
JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Mr. Agnello advised that on Category 5 – Action/Discussion Items that item #5iii is on the agenda as an action item. Mr. Agnello relayed that this item would still be discussed at today’s meeting but as VDOT is awaiting endorsement on Resolution No. 16-23 from FHWA that the item will not be an action item at this time. There were no other agenda revisions and the agenda was unanimously endorsed with revisions.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2016

The minutes from the January 19, 2016, Technical Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Mr. Agnello advised that the Policy Committee did not meet in the month of January as their meeting date was cancelled as a result of the inclement weather.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a.) Update on 95 Express Lanes and Projects near Southern Terminus. Approval of Three TIP Amendments for Major Projects Along the I-95 Corridor in the Vicinity of Garrisonville and Courthouse Road – Mr. Paul Agnello & Ms. Allison Richter**

Mr. Agnello reviewed the presentation given by VDOT at the Public Meeting held on February 17th and the Power Point presentation is also included in today's agenda packet. Mr. Agnello stated that the three TIP Amendments for the major projects along the I-95 Corridor in the vicinity of Garrisonville Road and Courthouse Road are as follows:

- i. Resolution No. 16-21, Amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include PE, PE AC, RW, and CN For Project UPC 4632 for the Rte. 630 Courthouse Road Widening Improvements from 2 to 4 lanes**

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-21 above was already endorsed by the Technical Committee in January; however, as a result of inclement weather there was no January Policy Committee meeting held. Resolution No. 16-21 will be on the Policy Committee agenda for endorsement at the upcoming February 22nd meeting.

- ii. Resolution No. 16-22, Amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include PE, AC and CN AC for Project UPC 108315 for the extension of the 95 Express Lanes to About 1.5 Miles South of Garrisonville Road**

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-22 is a request from VDOT requesting a 2.5 mile long 95 Express Lane extension from the existing terminus at Garrisonville Road to an additional 1.5 miles south of the current terminus be constructed to help alleviate traffic congestion north of Exit 143.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Hess, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-22 was endorsed with request that it be adopted by the Policy Committee at their upcoming February meeting.

iii. Resolution No. 16-23, Amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include PE AC and CN AC for Project UPC 13558 for the Construction of a 4th I-95 SB Lane between Rt. 610 (Garrisonville Road) and Rte. 630 (Courthouse Rd)

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-23 is a request made from VDOT; however, it will require endorsement from FHWA before becoming finalized. Mr. Agnello stated that it is VDOT's desire to pursue this project; however, at this time it is for discussion purposes only as VDOT is still waiting for reply from FHWA.

Ms. Richter also relayed that if FHWA provides endorsement, that funding for this project would come from surplus funding remaining from the Rte. 630 Courthouse Road project. Ms. Richter requested that staff re-word the Resolution for clarity purposes. Ms. Richter stated that the current wording indicates that the project will proceed; however, this project will only proceed if FHWA approves and there is in fact surplus funding on hand after the Rte. 630 Courthouse Road project is completed. Ms. Richter stated that if good bids are received then the likelihood of having additional funding available is good; however, if bids come in high then the funding allocated would first go to the completion of the Rte. 630 Courthouse Road project.

b.) Review of Resolution No. 16-24, Endorsing the Allocation Transfer of Fiscal Year 2017 Northern Stafford County TMA Transportation Alternatives Program Funding to the Mine Road Sidewalk project in Northern Stafford County - Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-24 is an existing project that was submitted by Stafford County last fall and is the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for the sidewalk extensions on Mine Road. Mr. Agnello relayed that the northern Stafford County area is the only locality within the FAMPO region that is eligible for this grant application consideration and this was also the only project that was submitted by the region for funding. Resolution No. 16-24 is now requesting that the funds allocated be transferred to fully fund the project.

Upon motion by Mr. Hess and seconded by Mr. Nelson, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-24 was endorsed by the FAMPO Technical Committee with a request that it be adopted by the Policy Committee at the upcoming February meeting.

c.) House Bill 2 Updates and Draft Funding Plan – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that of the 321 applications that were submitted, 34 were not approved and 287 applications were scored. On January 19th project scores were released into a draft report and were posted on the HB2 website. Mr. Agnello advised that state-wide, the HB2 funding allocations increased from approximately \$1.2 billion to \$1.7 billion. Mr. Agnello stated that as these figures will not be finalized until June of 2016 so they are now still subject to change.

Ms. Richter stated that until June, nothing is in a finalized format but hopefully 19 of the 22 projects within the Fredericksburg district that have received initial endorsement will indeed receive the funding that has been allocated within the draft report. Ms. Richter stated that VDOT staff and Central Office

staff will be meeting with the CTB representatives from the districts to review and discuss the projects to ensure that the process flows smoothly from the draft concept to the finalized report.

Mr. Agnello advised that between now and June, the CTB will be continuing to meet; FAMPO will develop potential revisions needed to recommended scenarios; public hearings on scenarios will take place (and potential revisions as needed); revised funding scenarios will be developed if needed; and final adoption of the Six-Year Plan will occur. Mr. Agnello did relay that the projects that receive final approval in June will be fully funded.

Mr. Agnello stated that overall the FAMPO/GWRC region and the Fredericksburg District did well. Three of the five regional projects submitted by FAMPO/GWRC were selected; all eight of the FAMPO/GWRC district grant projects were selected; and that nineteen of twenty-two projects for the Fredericksburg District were selected. Mr. Agnello stated that on a per-capita basis, this region and district did better than any others state-wide. Mr. Agnello again thanked VDOT staff & localities for working together and meeting regularly to ensure that project applications were concise and complete before being submitted.

Mr. Agnello stated that the initial fear was that the Fredericksburg District would not be able to beat out the districts in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads but the recent efforts proved that this region could in fact beat out other regions on a state-wide basis. Mr. Agnello stated that for the size of the Fredericksburg District that it should have been ranked as #8 (out of 9 districts); however, it actually beat out the Richmond District and ranked #3 (out of 9 – Richmond ranked #4). Ms. Richter advised that the Fredericksburg District had more projects submitted that received approval in comparison to all the other districts state-wide (submitted 19 projects & 22 projects were approved).

Mr. Agnello stated that the three regional priority projects selected will cost \$141.8 million and the projects selected were two park & ride lot projects (1 new lot at Rte. 1 in Spotsylvania County & 1 expansion lot at Rte. 630 in Stafford County) which scored 2.9 and 2.5 respectively. The third project selected is the I95 SB Rappahannock River Crossing project and even though this project scored only at 1.0; however, it was still selected for approval.

Mr. Agnello stated that the two projects not selected were the I95 NB Rappahannock River Crossing project which scored at 0.6 & VRE Station capacity improvements at both Brooke & Leeland stations that scored 0.8. Mr. Agnello relayed that as there was little funding available, the region was not expecting the I95 NB River crossing project to receive approval from round 1 of the HB2 project selection process. However, the VRE station capacity improvements project was expected to receive funding. This project involved multimodal transit enhancements, and Brooke and Leeland stations are the only ones remaining on the Fredericksburg line that do not have money secured for platform extensions.

Mr. Roseboom with DRPT advised that the Potomac Shores project did not count against the two VRE projects as Potomac Shores was not factored in as a HB2 project. Mr. Roseboom relayed that DRPT and VRE are working together to see how projects like these could in fact result with higher scores being assessed. Mr. Roseboom stated also that both of the projects not approved in Round 1 from HB2 should be re-submitted for consideration in round 2 and that both should score better next year. Mr. Roseboom advised that funding this year was allocated to I-66 (\$300 million) and this project will not be competing

for funding in round 2. Mr. Roseboom indicated that in late spring, meetings are going to be held with VRE, Stafford County & FAMPO so that all parties can work together in submitting projects that will result in better scores for round 2 of HB2.

Mr. Robinson asked of Ms. Soneji with VRE if they have an operational budget in place. Mr. Robinson said that getting funding for capital projects is one thing; however, if you do not have an operational financial plan in place the capital budgets will not align. Ms. Soneji stated that VRE has addressed these concerns and they have a meeting scheduled tomorrow to meet with the financial staff for the purpose of developing different strategies and funding sources for maintaining the operational budget.

Mr. Agnello stated that the observations from round 1 of HB2 were: the smaller projects overall scored better than larger projects; projects leveraging some non-HB2 funding scored better than projects with no alternative funding sources applied; large highway widening projects scored poorly; multimodal projects, bicycle projects & TDM projects scored well; and rail projects did not score well.

Mr. Agnello stated that for round two of HB2, that the State has recommended that the MPO's & PDC's begin developing their project lists now. On July 1st the pre-application coordination period will begin; on August 1st the open period for allocation submittals begins; & September 30th is the cut-off date for submittal of project applications.

d.) FY2017-2022 CMAQ/RSTP Process Update – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that beginning last November/December that round 1 for meetings with each of the 3 localities began, and these meetings were for the purpose of calling for new projects. In December/January FAMPO staff completed the scoring methodology. In late January, round 2 of locality meetings were held.

Mr. Agnello stated that in late February it was expected that VDOT would be in receipt of the new RSTP/CMAQ funding allocations and funding levels that were to be granted by the State. Mr. Van Dussen stated that VDOT staff was meeting with the State tomorrow, and once he got a revised date he would forward it to staff. However, the expectations for FY17-22 are expected to be similar to what was allocated in FY16-21 which were: CMAQ - \$2.4 million a year & RSTP - \$1.3 million a year.

Mr. Agnello stated that in March draft allocations will be available on the FY17-22 funding, and these will be reviewed by both the FAMPO Technical & Policy committees. Mr. Agnello advised that FY17-22 funding recommendations will be presented to the Policy Committee at the March 21st meeting for their endorsement. Mr. Agnello relayed that all new projects for consideration need to be submitted to staff by the end of February so that they can be endorsed by the Technical Committee at the upcoming March 14th meeting. Mr. Agnello stated that as a result of the FY2017-22 CMAQ/RSTP process that the following two Resolutions will need to be endorsed. Mr. Agnello also relayed that there is approximately \$260,000 of funds that are surplus from other projects completed and/or not moving forward. If this funding is not reapplied to other projects then the funds would just be reverted back to the State. Mr. Agnello relayed that by transferring these funds, there are several additional projects within the FAMPO/GWRC region that can complete operations studies which will be completed in time for the next round of HB2 and will increase the chances of HB2 funding. There was discussion from the committee in regard to whether the Resolutions should in fact be combined into one or whether the

approvals should be reversed & have Resolution No. 16-26 become 16-25 and vice versa. Mr. Yan with FHWA was going to get with his financial counterparts and reply back to staff as to how the Resolutions should be presented. VDOT staff also stated that they were going to check with their counter parts as well and provide feedback to staff.

- i. Resolution No. 16-25, Approving the Allocation of up to \$260,000 In Previous CMAQ/RSTP Funding to a new UPC for Regional Projects**
- ii. Resolution No. 16-26, Approving the Creation of a New UPC for Regional Priority Projects for use in Project Development for HB2 and other State and Federal Transportation Funding**

There was a motion made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Cole, with all in consensus, that the Technical Committee was endorsing either/or of the above two stated Resolutions depending on whether re-wording, combining, or reversing will be required after feedback is received from both FHWA & VDOT.

e.) Update on I-95 Corridor Study Phase I – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the second I-95 Advisory Committee meeting will be held here on February 29th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mr. Agnello stated that at the last meeting committee members were asked to bring three potential concepts per locality to the next meeting so that all ideas, alternatives, can be reviewed, discussed, or discarded. Mr. Agnello stated that these concepts need to be submitted to FAMPO staff by February 23rd.

CORRESPONDENCE – In packet and self-explanatory

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Agnello advised that Ms. Donley who has been out on sick leave is recovering and hopes to be back in the office sometime in March.

MEMBER REPORTS

GWRC

Ms. Utz advised that two grants have been applied for by FAMPO/GWRC. The FAMPO grant is for a bicycle improvement study within the City of Fredericksburg, and the grant by GWRC is the annual rideshare grant.

NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 14th, 2016/ADJOURN

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday March 14th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for February 18th was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.