

# FAMPO leader leaving his position

BY SCOTT SHENK / THE FREE LANCE-STAR | Posted: Monday, April 28, 2014 3:47 pm

The Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will have a new chief come July 1.

Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO administrator the past eight years, recently announced that he is stepping down.

“It’s something I’ve been thinking about for a while,” he said Monday. “I’m getting on in years.”

Robinson will stay on board as a part-time consultant for FAMPO, which is a federally funded organization that helps with the Fredericksburg region’s transportation planning. He said he likely will focus primarily on long-range planning, along with state and federal correspondence.

The 63-year-old Robinson has been in the transportation planning field for nearly 40 years. During that time he has worked for departments of transportation in Alaska, Vermont and Florida.

“He’s a wealth of knowledge,” said Matt Kelly, FAMPO Policy Committee chairman and Fredericksburg council member. “He knows transportation like the back of his hand.”

Robinson praised the staff, saying they have helped FAMPO produce important work during his time as administrator, including developing long-range plans and a project prioritization plan.

The latter could be important for the region under Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who plans to start weighing state transportation projects using a yet-to-be-created prioritization system.

Robinson said his stint as FAMPO administrator “has been rewarding, challenging in a fast-growing area like ours.”

The past two years have been particularly trying as FAMPO’s Policy Committee has battled over the proposed Rappahannock Parkway. Spotsylvania’s FAMPO representatives do not want the parkway, and that stance led to a feud with Stafford and Fredericksburg FAMPO representatives.

“It comes with the turf,” Robinson said of the political battles involved in transportation planning. “I think everybody in the process are well-meaning people.”

Robinson is a history buff, so he said he’ll use his new free time to dig more into that hobby. He also said he plans to pay more visits to his adult sons on the West Coast.

The Policy Committee will choose the next administrator for FAMPO. The new administrator must work for the George Washington Regional Commission, which serves as the staff for FAMPO.

Scott Shenk: 540/374-5436

sshenk@freelancestar.com