



Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
(540) 373-2890
Fax (540) 899-4808
www.fampo.gwregion.org

The Honorable Matthew Kelly
FAMPO Chairman

Paul Agnello
FAMPO Administrator

October 24, 2019

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Shannon Valentine
Patrick Henry Building, 4th Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: FAMPO Input on Interstate 95 Corridor Improvement Plan

Dear Secretary Valentine:

We are writing to provide FAMPO input on the Interstate 95 Corridor Improvement Plan request for October 10th to 31st public comment. We greatly appreciate the work the Commonwealth of Virginia is doing to improve mobility and safety for the I-95 corridor.

We have listed our comments on the materials presented at the Fredericksburg area meeting on October 9th on Attachment 1 of this letter. We value your consideration of this input and are interested in having some of our representatives meet with you and your staff to discuss. One possibility could be on November 12th, before the Fall Transportation Meeting for the Fredericksburg District.

We look forward to conversing with you on this matter. Please contact Paul Agnello to schedule a day and time at (540) 642-1564 or agnello@gwregion.org. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment as we continue working with the Commonwealth of Virginia on this important study effort.

Sincerely,

Matthew Kelly
Chairman

Attachment:

Input from FAMPO Policy Committee

cc: FAMPO Policy Committee
CTB Members
State Delegation
Ben Mannell

Attachment 1: Input on the Interstate 95 Corridor Improvement Plan from the FAMPO Policy Committee

The FAMPO Policy Committee's comments are focused on the section of I-95 from milepost 125 to milepost 137 and include endorsement of the following improvements and improvements for further study:

Potential Improvements:

1. A fourth southbound lane from Exit 130 to Exit 126 ([I-95 Phase 2 Corridor Study -12/06/18](#))
2. A southbound deceleration lane at Exit 126 ([I-95 Phase 2 Corridor Study -12/06/18](#))
3. Exit 126 improvements documented in a previous VDOT study, e.g. "Super Ramp"
4. Commuter bus from Spotsylvania Route 3 corridor to NOVA/DC ([I-95 Phase 2 -12/06/18](#))
5. Exit 136 southbound offramp improvement. ([I-95 Phase 2 Corridor Study -12/06/18](#))

Potential Improvements for Further Study:

6. Stafford Beltway/Connector Options
7. New interchanges: e.g., Harrison Road or Central Park
8. Express lane extension to the Massaponax Area



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Dear Secretary Valentine,

The Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) Policy Committee has recently discussed the fact that the I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing Project (Project) does not include adequate pedestrian accommodations in the scope of the base-bid for the Project. This area is heavily traveled by pedestrians, and since May of 2019, five pedestrians have been struck because of inadequate pedestrian accommodations. Reconstructing this intersection without adequate pedestrian accommodations will continue to perpetuate a public safety issue.

In addition, the FAMPO Policy Committee discussed the fact that the Project does not include, as part of the base-bid, the reconstruction and raising of the Collector and Distributor Bridge at the intersection of I-95 and Route 17. As you may be aware, The I-95 northbound and southbound bridges are currently being reconstructed and raised to a new height to avoid vehicular hits. This change will expose the existing Collector and Distributor Bridge, which is currently listed by VDOT as being in fair condition, to increased vehicular hits. This will shorten the lifespan of the Collector and Distributor Bridge and continue to pose a threat to public safety.

The FAMPO Policy Committee respectfully requests that VDOT be required to include both adequate pedestrian accommodations, and the reconstruction and/or replacement of the Collector and Distributor Bridge as a part of the base-bid of the I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing Project.

Sincerely,

Matthew Kelly
Chairman

cc: FAMPO Policy Committee
CTB Members
State Delegation
Ben Mannell

VA finally accepting proposals for stalled Fredericksburg hospital

- [By CATHY JETT THE FREE LANCE-STAR](#)
- Oct 26, 2019
- https://www.fredericksburg.com/business/va-finally-accepting-proposals-for-stalled-fredericksburg-hospital/article_3a1e5f56-c206-52bd-a1a1-87df34776478.html

The federal government is requesting proposals to build a new VA hospital in the shaded area.

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Friday that it is finally accepting lease proposals for a VA hospital that will be built in the Fredericksburg area.

“The deadline is Dec. 23 at 4 p.m., which is a pretty quick turnaround,” said Bill Freehling, Fredericksburg’s Department of Economic Development and Tourism director.



The city has been working on getting the Hylton Tract ready to be considered as a possible site since the VA began advertising in December of 2017 that it was seeking “expressions of interest” for outpatient clinic space in an area stretching from Stafford County to Spotsylvania County, mainly along the Interstate 95 corridor.

The 90-acre undeveloped tract lies east of Interstate 95 between State Route 3 and Cowan Boulevard. City Council has rezoned the property, and city staff are working with the tract's owners on extending Gateway Boulevard through it from Cowan Boulevard to State Route 3.

"I think the groundwork that we've done in the past year and half ... will serve us well," Freehling said.

Stafford and Spotsylvania counties have locations that could qualify as well.

The clinic was one of 28 leased projects that Congress authorized funding for in fiscal year 2017—the largest lease procurement the VA has ever undertaken. Then progress on the projects for both the Fredericksburg and Hampton areas stalled.

Sen. Mark Warner, D–Va., eventually became so frustrated by what he's called "the glacial pace" of the two proposed veterans' health care projects in Virginia that he fired off a letter to the heads of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the GSA in July demanding an expedited timeline for them. He also made multiple calls and sent a letter to the Office of Management and Budget pushing the agency to swiftly review and approve the leasing prospectus in their possession.

Warner said the hospitals are essential for veterans in Virginia who face long wait times due to insufficient capacity at existing VA medical facilities and a fast-growing veteran population. The new facilities will enable the VA to expand primary care, mental health and specialty care services, among other services to veterans.

"Our veterans deserve access to top-quality medical care," he said Friday. "After successfully pushing OMB and the congressional committees to expeditiously approve the Fredericksburg outpatient clinic prospectus, I have continued to put pressure on the Department of Veterans Affairs and the General Services Administration to get this long-promised facility up and running.

“While this announcement is an important step towards the progress of this critically needed facility, I remain committed to seeing through the completion of this project.”

The earliest the Fredericksburg facility could open would be 36 months from the date of the lease award or upon acceptance of space, whichever is later, according to the lease proposal. It is expected to bring hundreds of jobs to the area, Freehling said.

The VA will lease the new outpatient clinic from whoever builds it for a maximum of 20 years. The lease prospectus calls for a building with a maximum of 426,722 square feet of space, along with 2,600 parking spaces. The hospital will replace and consolidate the two area community-based outpatient clinics, which offer primary care services to local veterans.

One is located at 130 Executive Center Parkway near Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg. The other is on the third floor at 10401 Spotsylvania Ave., which is in the Lee’s Hill Medical Plaza. They have a combined total of 21,551 usable square feet.

The lease prospectus also allows the VA to lease interim space until the new outpatient clinic opens. It recently signed a 10-year lease with a Vakos Cos. affiliate for a third community-based outpatient clinic that will open in Vakos’ former headquarters in the Southpoint I commercial development in Massaponax.

Cathy Jett: 540/374-5407

cjett@freelancestar.com