



Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
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Tim McLaughlin
FAMPO Chairman

Paul Agnello
FAMPO Administrator

June 7, 2019

RE: Request to Meet with FHWA/FTA management to discuss Mr. Ivan Rucker's additional recommendations to FAMPO and VDOT

Dear FHWA/FTA partners:

We are writing to request a meeting with FHWA/FTA management for the DC-MD-VA TMA Certification Review to discuss FAMPO concerns regarding Mr. Ivan Rucker's additional recommendations to FAMPO and VDOT in his presentation to FAMPO on May 20, 2019.

We are concerned that Mr. Rucker's recommendations cover several issues not discussed in any of the DC-MD-VA TMA Planning Certification Review meetings or previously discussed with FAMPO management. Several of Mr. Rucker's recommendations delve into FAMPO/GWRC issues which are in the process of being resolved with a targeted deadline of June 30, 2019. Mr. Rucker told the FAMPO policy committee on May 20, 2019 that he developed these additional recommendations from conversations with only one GWRC staff person and one GWRC board member. FHWA/FTA have recommended that the planning process for FAMPO outside of the TPB TMA area be reviewed as part of a finding (23 CFR 450.314(g), 23CFR450.314(b)) that is part of the review and approval of the STIP by FHWA and FTA. As a result, we feel it would be more appropriate to wait until this review process to investigate any issues beyond those identified in the DC-MD-VA TMA Certification Review with the exception of the 3-C agreement update and removal or the Rural Work Plan from the FAMPO UPWP which FAMPO is in the process of doing.

We take our metropolitan planning process responsibilities seriously and welcome FHWA/FTA assistance based on the DC-MD-VA TMA Planning Certification Review in improving processes to ensure our processes are consistent with federal law and regulations.

We would like to meet with you to discuss our concerns via web meeting or teleconference before June 17th. Please contact Mr. Paul Agnello, to set up this meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim McLaughlin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Honorable Tim McLaughlin
FAMPO Chairman



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Tim McLaughlin
FAMPO Chairman

Paul Agnello
FAMPO Administrator

June 27, 2019

RE: Response to Mr. Ivan Rucker's additional recommendations to FAMPO and VDOT

Dear FHWA/FTA partners:

As a follow up to our meeting on June 17, 2019, we are writing to document our concerns regarding Mr. Ivan Rucker's seven additional recommendations to FAMPO and VDOT in his presentation to FAMPO on May 20, 2019.

We concur with the first recommendation regarding the 3-C agreement and the fourth recommendation regarding the removal of the Rural Work Plan from the FAMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Both of these items are scheduled to be completed by July, 2019.

As discussed at our June 17th meeting, we are concerned with the remaining five recommendations from Mr. Rucker which cover issues not discussed in any of the DC-MD-VA TMA Planning Certification Review meetings, not previously discussed with FAMPO management, and that do not appear to pertain to the DC-MD-VA TMA Planning Certification Review as confirmed by Ms. Sandra Jackson at our June 17th meeting. These five recommendations are numbers 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 and are listed below:

#2: FHWA recommends that GWRC review the Agreement for the Utilization of Federal and State Funds to Support Metropolitan Planning in the Fredericksburg Area and ensure proper internal controls and reporting structure exist to deliver on requirements contains in the agreement. VDOT should conduct a comprehensive review as necessary (FHWA available to assist)

#3: FHWA requests that VDOT provide copies of quarterly FAMPO performance reports for Federal PL, SPR, and RSTP funds that contain:

- a) Comparison of actual performance with established goals;*
- b) Progress in meeting schedules;*

- c) *Status of expenditures in a format compatible with the work program, including a comparison of budgeted (approved) amounts and actual costs incurred;*
- d) *Cost overruns or underruns;*
- e) *Approved work program revisions; and*
- f) *Other pertinent supporting data (as determined by Policy Board or VDOT).*

#5: FHWA requests that VDOT, as part of the next Title VI Review of the GWRC and in consideration of the statewide and metropolitan planning regulations, GWRC agreements with the VDOT, and the GWRC Title VI Assurance, review all MOUs between the GWRC and FAMPO for appropriateness.

#6: FHWA recommends that the GWRC's Fiscal Agent, in cooperation with the VDOT District office, provide enhanced oversight and review of the accounting of federal and state matching funds contained in the FAMPO UPWP.

#7: The FAMPO has an adopted project selection and scoring methodology process for the use of RSTP and CMAQ funds. As part of the VDOT and FHWA FY2020 UPWP approval process, FHWA requests a meeting with VDOT and FAMPO staff and Fiscal Agent, to better understand the MPO's project selection and scoring methodology process and subsequent RSTP-funded planning tasks and activities contained in the FY2020 UPWP.

These five recommendations from Mr. Rucker delve into FAMPO/GWRC issues which are in the process of being resolved in FY-20 by either the development of a new FAMPO/GWRC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) clarifying FAMPO and GWRC roles and responsibilities or FAMPO selecting a new fiscal agent. Mr. Rucker presented these recommendations to the FAMPO policy committee on May 20, 2019 as directives and said that he developed these additional recommendations from conversations with the GWRC Executive Director and one GWRC board member without any discussion with FAMPO. We are also concerned that Mr. Rucker has made these recommendations despite having not been an active participant in the FAMPO process over the last four years.

FHWA/FTA have recommended that the planning process for FAMPO outside of the TPB TMA area be reviewed as part of a finding (23 CFR 450.314(g). 23CFR450.314(b)) that is part of the review and approval of the STIP by FHWA and FTA. As a result, we feel it would be more appropriate to table these five recommendations at this time and wait until after this review process to investigate any additional issues beyond those identified in the DC-MD-VA TMA Certification Review.

We take our metropolitan planning process responsibilities seriously and welcome FHWA/FTA assistance based on the DC-MD-VA TMA Planning Certification Review to ensure consistency with federal law and regulations.

We would like to meet with you to discuss our concerns documented in this letter via web meeting or teleconference in July. Please contact Mr. Paul Agnello to set up this meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Honorable Tim McLaughlin
FAMPO Chairman