

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2019

<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/technical-advisory-committee/>

Members Present:

Daniel Cole, Spotsylvania County
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg
Ciara Williams, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Michelle Shropshire, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Bryon Counsell, Stafford County
Rodney White, Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED)
Sonali Soneji, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Others Present:

Susan Gardner, VDOT
Linda LaSut, VDOT
Kate Gibson, George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
Brian Laverty, Sabra & Associates

Staff Members Present:

Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Mark McCaskill, FAMPO
Leah Vigil, FAMPO
Kari Barber, FAMPO
Matthew Lehane, FAMPO
Jordan Chandler, FAMPO

- 1. Call to Order** – Second Vice Chair, Mr. Daniel Cole
The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. with a Quorum present.

Introductions of attendants.

- 2. Approval of September 9, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion made to approve by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Counsell.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of TAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Gibson noted Ms. Anderson needed to be listed as “Member” and herself as “Other” for June 17, 2019 TAC Meeting. Ms. Anderson should be moved from “Other” to “Member” for July 8, 2019 TAC Meeting as well as all TAC Meetings to follow, and “TTM” should be corrected to “TDM.”

a. June 17, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

b. July 8, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Motion to approve amended minutes for June 17, 2019 and July 18, 2019 by Mr. Cole,
Seconded by Mr. White.

Motion approved without objection.

4. Review of FAMPO Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

a. July 15, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

b. August 5, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

c. August 12, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

d. August 19, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Agnello summarized meetings from August 5, 2019, and August 12, 2019 as cause for follow-up for the Certification Review which could not proceed until the FAMPO-GWRC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was approved on August 19, 2019. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) set June 2020 as the due date for the Certification Review.

5. Public Comment – None

6. FAMPO Administrator Report – Mr. Agnello

Mr. Agnello highlighted upcoming October FAMPO meetings:

- Lafayette Boulevard Multimodal Study for highway and transit
- September 25, 2019, from 1-3pm
- VDOT has a public hearing regarding Route 626 bicycle-pedestrian upgrades on October 3, 2019, at 5pm.

Mr. Agnello introduced new FAMPO staff:

- Mr. Mark McCaskill, Deputy Administrator
- Ms. Jordan Chandler, GIS Intern
- Ms. Leah Vigil, Administrative Assistant.

FAMPO looks to fill one or more positions by November 2019, for former staff member positions held by, Ms. Briana Hairfield, Mr. Colin Cate and Mr. John Bentley.

7. Discussion Items

a. I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing Project Update – Ms. Michelle Shropshire, VDOT

Ms. Shropshire provided updates on the project. See Meeting Packet for presentation materials. There have been increases in construction materials, such as steel, causing project changes. There are no operational differences.

i. *Free Lance Star (FLS) Article, “VDOT scaling back northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project,” by Scott Shenk - See Meeting Packet*

b. Update on 2019 Certification Review/FY-20 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello said the first version of this will be produced in October 2019 to provide transparency of FAMPO finances.

i. Approved 3-C Agreement

Mr. Agnello stated that this happened in July, as essential to any MPO. It ensures compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and current Federal regulations. The Rural Work Program item has been completed. There are two out of 10 items now completed for the Certification Review. A second Certification Review will occur in September 2020 by FHWA.

c. FY 21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello reviewed that this was presented to the Policy Committee last month as the short-range plan to complete federal standards. FAMPO needs to approve the TIP by April 2020. Deliverables were due in August. The state submits to FHWA in June 2020 and FHWA approves by September 2020. Public review is for 30 days. Air quality conformity analysis must be completed before approval of the TIP. The Public Comment period runs from February to March 2020, approval is in April.

Mr. Agnello reported that TIP funds regional projects: if there's a large, non-federal project, such as Fredericksburg Extension (FRED Ex), it will qualify for funding as regionally significant. Generally, projects greater than \$10M would fall in TIP. Ms. Gibson asked about GWRC-GWRideConnect funds and 5307 funds. Mr. Agnello stated that federal and regional programs generally are funded by the TIP; 5307 funds are federal and would be included as well.

d. I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program Update – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello stated that North Bethesda Transportation Center (NBTC) and Northern Virginia District (NOVA) are funding the program. The state has signed an agreement with Transurban, setting funds aside for I-395/95. It focused on NOVA but covers the District of Columbia (D.C.) and extends further south on the I-95 corridor to Exit 126 but must improve I-395/95 express lanes for eligibility. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will approve projects by mid-October.

i. NOVA I-395/95 FY20 Proposed Projects

Mr. Agnello reported that FAMPO submitted four for this region. The list scores projects and prioritizes accordingly. Mr. Counsell asked how projects are removed. Mr. White stated that FRED was asked to withdraw the proposal based on low ridership.

e. Final approved FAMPO/GWRC MOU from August 19, 2019 – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello reported that this was a year-long discussion between GWRC and FAMPO that finalized on August 19, 2019. The material is there for committee and public review.

f. FAMPO Meeting Calendar Update– Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello asked about the meeting on the following Monday after the 4th of July. The Committee requested that the July 2020 meeting for TAC be moved from July 6 to July 13, 2020 to allow for an extended Independence Day weekend. Mr. Agnello will have the calendar changed. Mr. Agnello reported that GWRC and FAMPO are considering moving meetings to VDOT facilities as a potential venue change, to accommodate attendance, as early as October 2019.

8. Correspondence

Mr. Agnello said letters were mailed to FHWA regarding the Certification Review. An email calling for the Policy Committee to meet August 5 regarding the same was included. The July 22 document was a grant application for NOVA and FAMPO funding for I-95 for advanced technologies for commuter lots to indicate parking availability.

Ms. Shropshire stated VDOT would follow-up to check on the status of grant approval.

Mr. Agnello stated that since the 2010 Census, Northern Stafford is part of the Washington MPO and Central and South Stafford are included in FAMPO. The 2020 Census might have different results that allow for North Stafford to connect, with many possible outcomes. Stafford decides. June 2020 is the deadline for the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and FAMPO for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Agnello: FAMPO is in the process of hiring new staff and will introduce them as they onboard.

Mr. Lehane reported the Lafayette Boulevard Study group is meeting September 25, 2019.

Mr. McCaskill reported work on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Planning (LRTP) form has begun.

10. Member Reports

Mr. Counsell, Stafford County: the upcoming November election will have a \$50M Transportation Bond that would implement a 2018 Roadway Analysis.

Ms. Soneji, VRE: a study by the TPB for demand in the region, including Fredericksburg, is underway.

Ms. Gardner, VDOT: October 1, is the new deadline for finalized applications. Billing invoices must be submitted regularly for reimbursement on approved projects.

Ms. Shropshire, VDOT: localities will receive status updates on projects and billing in the next month or two. Localities must have staff member certification for federally funded projects, by next year.

Ms. Barber, FAMPO: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications will also be due October 1, along with Revenue Sharing applications.

Mr. White, FRED: construction has begun on a transfer station at Goodwill on Spotsylvania Avenue.

Ms. Gibson, GWRC: GWRideConnect hired a new employee starting today. The FY20 DRPT Grant was signed. GWRideConnect data as of July is: 163 new applicants, 1 van pool form.

Mr. Cole, Spotsylvania County: TAC member Mr. Doug Morgan will vacate his job post September 20, 2019.

11. Adjourn Technical Advisory Committee Meeting / Next Meeting

The September 9, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:46 a.m. The next TAC meeting will be held on October 7, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

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