



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2016

<http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/committees/policy-committee/>

Members Present:

Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Spotsylvania County (Chairman)
Mr. Matt Kelly, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Mark Whitley, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Billy Withers, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. David Ross, Spotsylvania County
Ms. Meg Bohmke, Stafford County
Mr. Paul Milde, Stafford County
Ms. Laura Sellers, Stafford County
Mr. Chuck Steigerwald, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Ms. Marcie Parker, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Allison Richter, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Ms. Fran Larkins, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Mr. Hap Connors, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
Mr. Tim Roseboom, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
Mr. Cheng Yan, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Others Present:

Mr. Wayne Federa, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Mr. John Simkins, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Mr. Craig Van Dussen, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Mr. Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star
Mr. Rupert Farley, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Mr. David Swan, Citizens Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO
Mr. Danny Reese, FAMPO
Mr. Nick Quint, FAMPO
Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC
Mr. Tim Ware, GWRC
Ms. Leigh Anderson, GWRC
Ms. JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL FAMPO MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. and received acknowledgement that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF FAMPO AGENDA

Mr. Agnello advised that per request of Mr. Kelly, that item 6h would be included which was discussion of SB742. Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Milde, with all concurring, the agenda was accepted as submitted with added discussion item.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Farley stated that he would like to reiterate again that he hopes the cost of sprawl is written on every wall where the political members meet and that the focus from all members would change. Mr. Farley stated that instead of continuing to invest in roads that he would like to see an investment in transit take place.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a.) Approval of FAMPO Minutes of December 14, 2015 – Mr. Paul Agnello

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Milde, and all concurring, with the exception of Ms. Bohmke, Ms. Sellers, & Mr. Whitley who abstained, the minutes from the December 14, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

b.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-20, Adopting the Joint GWRC/FAMPO Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan– Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-20 is endorsing the updated Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan that is in compliance with federal regulations. Mr. Agnello stated that the amended plan included administrative amendments only.

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-20 was adopted.

c.) 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. Marci Parker

Ms. Parker advised that the project location is at I-95 near the Garrisonville Road Interchange in Stafford County (Mile Marker 143). Ms. Parker stated that the project is a partnership between VDOT and Transurban.

Ms. Parker relayed that the project is a result of the congestion at the southern terminus of the 95 Express Lanes that opened in December of 2014. The congestion occurs on the northbound lanes in the a.m. peak hours and the southbound lanes in the p.m. peak hours.

Ms. Parker stated that the project includes construction of a 2.2 mile reversible lane to extend the 95 Express Lanes further south. New northbound and southbound ramps will be constructed between the 95 Express Lanes and the General Purpose Lanes as well as traffic devices (signage, cameras, gates, etc.) for reversible operation on the 95 Express Lanes.

Ms. Parker advised that construction is anticipated to occur within the VDOT right-of-way with the majority of the construction occurring in the median. Ms. Parker stated that no new tolling gantries are proposed; a new sound wall is proposed along the outer edge of the southbound general purpose lanes which is on VDOT property; and design elements such as overhead signs, etc. will be set outside the limits of the future project improvements.

Ms. Parker stated that the benefits of the project are as follows: reduced delays in the a.m. peak hours for the northbound general purpose lanes; reduced delays in the p.m. peak hours for the southbound express lane traffic; safety improvements to decrease the current amount of traffic weaving from either entering or exiting on the express lanes; & an overall increase in capacity while staying within the existing VDOT right of ways.

Mr. Milde stated that the modeling data is not being shown. Mr. Agnello asked if VDOT has the modeling results and if so would they provide the data to FAMPO staff.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Milde and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-21 was adopted.

- ii. **Approval of Resolution N. 16-22, To Amend the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include UPC 108315, 95 Express Lanes Southern Extension South of Garrisonville Road**

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers, and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, Resolution No.16-22 was adopted.

iii. **Approval of Resolution No. 16-23, Amending the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include PE AC & CN AC for Project UPC 13558 for the Construction of a 4th I95 SB Lane Between Rte. 610 (Garrisonville Road & Rt. 630 (Courthouse Road)**

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-23 was adopted.

d.) **Approval of Resolution No. 16-24, Authorizing FY17 MP TIP TAP Allocation Transfer for Stafford TAP Project – Mine Rd, Sidewalk – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-24 is endorsing the FY2017 Northern Stafford County TMA program funding for the Mine Road sidewalk project.

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-24 was adopted.

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

Mr. Agnello advised that the Draft HB2 funding plan was released on January 19th and potentially is still subject to change by the CTB until May, 2016. Mr. Agnello stated that if projects are selected then the projects will be fully funded. Mr. Agnello advised that the CTB assumes an “all or nothing” approach and no partial project funding will be considered.

Mr. Agnello relayed that overall that projects submitted by both FAMPO & GWRC scored well. Mr. Agnello stated that 3 of the 5 regional projects that were submitted were selected; that all 8 of the district grant projects were selected; 11 of 13 projects submitted in GWRC were selected; & overall 19 of 22 projects submitted within the entire Fredericksburg District were selected.

Mr. Agnello stated that the observations from Round 1 of the HB2 scoring process are as follows: that smaller projects scored better than larger projects; that projects leveraging some non HB2 funding scored better than projects which had no existing funds; large highway widening projects scored poorly; multimodal projects scored well; bicycle and TDM projects scored well; & rail projects scored poorly.

Mr. Agnello relayed that some of the projects submitted for Round 1 that were not selected would be re-submitted for consideration again in Round 2. Mr. Agnello advised that the State has already recommended that the MPO's & PDC's begin now with the development of their project lists for Round 2. Mr. Agnello stated that July 1st is the opening date for the pre-application coordination period for HB2; that August 1st is the day that is the open period for when application submittals begin; & September 30th is the date when project applications will be closed.

f.) FY2017-2022 CMAQ/RSTP Process Updates – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the call for new FY2017-2022 CMAQ/RSTP projects ended on December 17, 2015. Mr. Agnello stated that four projects were submitted to staff for review and consideration. These projects are as follows: City of Fredericksburg (1) – Rte. 1 @ Augustine Avenue – Intersection Improvements; Spotsylvania County (2) – Courthouse Road @ Breckenridge Drive – Intersection Improvements & Harrison Road @ Lafayette Boulevard – Intersection Improvements; & GWRC RideCconnect (1) – Bikeshare and Bicycle Infrastructure Improvement Study in Fredericksburg.

Mr. Agnello advised that staff has met with all of the 3 localities in determining project applications for consideration. In late February the new CMAQ/RSTP funding allocations are expected to be released from the State for the FY2017-2022 years. Mr. Agnello stated that the funding allocations are expected to be very similar to what was authorized in the FY2016-2021 SYIP which would equate to funds for CMAQ/RSTP respectively of \$2.4 million/year & \$1.3 million/year.

Mr. Agnello stated that staff will be continuing to work with the State to perform the HB2 project development work between March & June; HB2 candidate projects will need to be ready to submit by July 2016; & the next round of HB2 applications begins on August 1, 2016.

Mr. Agnello relayed that the following two Resolutions are Action Items needed from the Policy Committee. The first Resolution (No. 16-25) creates a new CMAQ/RSTP UPC for regional priority projects & the second Resolution (No. 16-26) transfers up to \$260,000 in CMAQ/RSTP funding to new regional priority projects.

- i. **Approval of Resolution No. 16-25, Approving the Allocation of up to \$260,000 in Previous CMAQ/RSTP Funding to a New UPC for Regional Priority Projects**

Upon motion by Mr. Whitley and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-25 was adopted.

- ii. **Approval of 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 Programs**

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all concurring, Resolution No. 16-26 was adopted.

g.) Update on I-95 Corridor Study Phase 1 – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised that the study purpose and background is to address the severe and reoccurring traffic congestion along the I-95 corridor from Quantico to Massaponax. Mr. Agnello stated that the region needs to determine what I-95 project(s) should be submitted for Round 2 of HB2 considerations.

Mr. Agnello advised that the I-95 Corridor Advisory Committee has held its first meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 29th at 2:30 p.m. in the GWRC conference room. Mr. Agnello stated that the Advisory Committee is comprised of FAMPO staff; representation from the 5 localities within Planning District 16; representation from CTAG; & representation from agencies including the Chamber of Commerce, DRPT, FHWA, PRTC, & VDOT.

Mr. Agnello stated that at the next meeting the following topics will be addressed: identifying corridor deficiencies; developing a purpose and need statement; beginning the process of identifying potential alternatives; & beginning documentation of the existing & 2040 future no-build conditions.

Mr. Agnello advised that the schedule from now until June will include the following:

- March – Finalization of Alternatives for Modeling Evaluation
- April – Evaluation of the effectiveness of the alternatives
- May – Development of a preferred alternative
- June – Finalization of Study documentation

h.) SB742 – Mr. Matt Kelly

Mr. Agnello advised that a hand-out was distributed at the beginning of the meeting which pertains to the one-page letter. Mr. Agnello stated that Mr. Kelly was going to address the letter regarding the SB742 action.

Mr. Kelly stated that with the State funding infusion decision from a few years back, one of the things the State did was set a gas tax floor. In a report to PRTC, one of the House of Delegates representatives who also serves on PRTC, mentioned that it was an “oops” on behalf of the State to not also include a floor on the regional gas taxes. Mr. Kelly stated that was initially asked for was that the original “oops” be corrected.

Mr. Kelly stated that now all of the jurisdictions between here and Northern Virginia, that PRTC has lost \$24 million. The way that funding issues currently exist and with future projects and VRE impacts and other projects that the money that is expected to be used will now take a big hit.

Mr. Kelly stated that the Senate has passed its version which essentially does two things: it does exactly what was requested to set the gas tax floor. Mr. Kelly stated that, based on February 2013 gasoline prices, the original gas tax floor was at 2.1% & it shifted to 3%. However, the 3% cost will be statewide for regular gasoline prices only (the 2.1% previously included all types of gasoline from premium to regular) which equates to a wash and is not in fact an actual increase.

Mr. Kelly stated that the second thing it did was put this region in line with the Hampton Roads area who wanted to go with a cent per gallon factoring, which gives a much more stable revenue source than from percentage factoring.

Mr. Kelly advised that NVTC, PRTC & VRE unanimously voted to support this effort and it has passed the Senate and now headed to the House. The House has now gotten cold feet about the endorsement. The House is willing to set a floor; however, they want to set the floor based on the current gasoline prices so again we get nowhere when it comes to funding.

Mr. Kelly stated that the request being made tonight is asking that FAMPO endorse setting a gasoline tax floor and that a letter be written by staff and signed by the FAMPO Chairman which essentially is a duplicate letter of the one that has unanimously been supported by NVTC, PRTC, & VRE.

Mr. Milde stated that he supports this motion because the letter does not imply that a tax increase is being requested. The letter simply endorses a gasoline tax floor being set and it gives latitude to our region for endorsing a state-wide tax floor being implemented.

Mr. Ross stated that he would not support this as how it has been described is this is how you would go about actually getting a tax increase. Mr. McLaughlin asked for clarification on the current percentage as being 2.1% and the request that this percentage amount be increased to 3% for a gallon of gasoline and asked if the percentage increased, then how is this not a tax increase?

Mr. Kelly reiterated that this is just a wash and was used as an easier method in computing the mathematics. Mr. Kelly stated that it is not representing an increase of funding of .9%. Mr. Steigerwald with PRTC stated that the 2.1% is calculated on the state-wide average of all blends of gasoline from premium to regular and is based on the wholesale prices. The SB742 request changes the calculations to 3% (not 2.1%) but these prices apply only to the cost of regular unleaded gasoline and the state-wide calculations did not include the more expensive gasoline prices for gasoline types other than regular unleaded gasoline.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that when gas prices increase from \$1.35 to what they are right now then you will also see an increase in the gasoline taxes. Mr. McLaughlin stated that if gasoline prices increase to \$3.00 a gallon then you will get a higher percentage of increase based on the \$3.00 amount versus the current \$1.35 amount.

Mr. Milde stated that whether the motion was supported tonight or not, the percentage will go from 2.1% to 3%. Mr. Steigerwald stated that setting a floor is for the price per gallon of gasoline from February 2013 which is what SB742 proposed. Mr. McLaughlin asked if we are paying 2.1% of this amount or are we paying 3%?

Mr. Steigerwald stated that under SB742, if enacted and signed, we would pay 3% of the price per gallon of unleaded regular fuel only. Mr. McLaughlin asked then how does that not raise the price of a gallon of gasoline today. Mr. Steigerwald stated that it does. Mr. McLaughlin stated then this was in fact a tax increase.

For clarification, Mr. Milde asked if Mr. McLaughlin is saying that today's prices of 2.1% per gallon of gasoline for all types of gasoline from premium to regular is the same as paying 3% for just regular gasoline.

Mr. Steigerwald stated that the important thing is to set a floor. Mr. Milde stated that the letter specifically states a floor needs to be set and a tax increase is not being asked for. Mr. Milde stated that something needs to be done.

Mr. McLaughlin stated then that FAMPO is being asked to endorse a letter that contains no specifics and also why would we not ask the riders who are almost 100% subsidized to pay for this off-set. Mr. Milde stated again that the letter is asking that a floor be set.

Ms. Sellers stated that for the counties of Stafford and Spotsylvania and the City of Fredericksburg that the way these regions do things is a lot different than the way they are done further north of Stafford in Prince William County so she understands why they are asking for a tax floor and why it is more important to the north. Ms. Sellers stated that she sees in some ways why we are asking for it to be implemented here as well; however, this region pays for other things. Ms. Sellers stated that when you get down to what money gets used for is where she is not in support of a tax floor being set.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the letter is asking that the residents of this region, Spotsylvania, Stafford, & Fredericksburg, subsidize even more of the VRE riders to the north. Ms. Sellers stated that she agreed with Mr. McLaughlin's comment.

Mr. Milde stated that all of the other issues can be discussed but the letter simply states that a floor is requested to be set. Mr. Milde stated that the letter does not say they want a floor based on three years ago; or two months ago, etc. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the letter needs to be sent back instructing that specifics be included.

Mr. Kelly stated that transportation in the State and at the Federal level is pretty disastrous when it comes to funding projects and to the processes involved. Over the next few years, funding will continue to decrease; roads will become more congested; we will continue to lose business opportunities; etc. For the City, and some of the localities, and what Stafford/Spotsylvania needs to understand is that the portion of sponsorship to VRE continues to go up as ridership continues to increase. This is why the small amount of money we have to put on projects that we want to get accomplished at the local level for our jurisdictions is important. However, the money goes away if we do not get a floor set.

Mr. Kelly stated that you will not only be looking at the loss of money from the gasoline taxes but also with a reduced amount of funding from the State over the next five years. Mr. Kelly stated that a lot of projects have been submitted that want to get accomplished to include two new interchanges; CD lanes to the end of the Spotsylvania County line; projects in Stafford County; etc. so please tell him how these projects are going to be paid for.

Mr. Ross asked Mr. Kelly how he would pay for them because this is not going to do it. Mr. Kelly stated that setting a floor will only stop us from going further down a negative financial trail. Mr. Milde

stated that this does not raise anything and that a floor means a plan and how this can be twisted into a tax increase is beyond him.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that this is stating we need \$24 million dollars. Mr. Milde state that it does not say we need \$24 million dollars but instead says we lost \$24 million dollars. Mr. McLaughlin said the discussion is ended and Mr. Ross said it was time to call for the question.

Mr. Whitley asked for clarification as to exactly what the motion on the floor is. Mr. Kelly stated that the motion is for FAMPO to send a letter of support for a tax floor being set on the gasoline taxes and that the letter is basically as outlined as the letter submitted that has been previously endorsed by NVTC, PRTC, & VRE. Mr. Milde also stated that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors has also endorsed a letter of support and this was unanimously adopted by their Board as well.

The motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Mile and was approved on a 6/4 vote count as follows:

Mr. Kelly; Mr. Milde; Ms. Parker, Mr. Steigerwald, Mr. Whitley & Mr. Withers – Yes
Ms. Bohmke, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Ross & Ms. Sellers – No

Mr. McLaughlin stated that as he was not in support, that this was a letter that needed to be signed by the Vice-Chairman. Mr. Milde stated to Mr. McLaughlin as FAMPO Chair that he wanted to be clear that Mr. McLaughlin was refusing to sign the letter that was endorsed by the FAMPO committee. Mr. McLaughlin stated that yes he was in fact refusing to sign the letter. Mr. Kelly stated that as the motion passed at tonight's meeting and as he serves as the Vice-Chairman for the FAMPO Policy Committee that he would sign the letter endorsing FAMPO's support.

FAMPO CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence is included in tonight's agenda packet and is self-explanatory.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Agnello advised that Spotsylvania County has nominated several new CTAG members to serve and that staff looks forward to working with them.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Ross stated that this meeting seemed to have a lot of bantering back and forth between several members. Per Robert's Rule of Order, he would ask that the committee be aware of this type of communication being excluded from future meetings as the other members in attendance have other things to do.

FAMPO COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Both the FAMPO Technical Committee (FTC) and the Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) meeting minutes are included in tonight's agenda packet.

ADJOURN FAMPO MEETING/NEXT MEETING, MARCH 21, 2016

The FAMPO meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. The next meeting will occur on March 21, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.