

**Minutes**  
**FAMPO Technical Committee Meeting Summary**  
**March 14, 2016**  
<http://www.fampo.gwregion.org/technicalcommittee.html>

**Members Present:**

Dan Cole, Chair, County of Spotsylvania  
Bassam Amin, City of Fredericksburg  
Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg  
Angeline Crowder, County of Caroline  
Doug Morgan, County of Spotsylvania  
Tim Roseboom, DRPT  
Rodney White, FRED  
Diana Utz, GWRC  
Allison Richter, VDOT  
Craig Van Dussen, VDOT  
Sonali Soneji, VRE

**Others Present:**

Dan Grinnell, VDOT

**Staff Members Present:**

Paul Agnello, FAMPO  
Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO  
Daniel Reese, FAMPO  
Nicholas Quint, FAMPO  
Leigh Anderson, FAMPO  
Fiona Curtis, FAMPO  
JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

**CALL TO ORDER**

The FAMPO Technical Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA**

The March 14<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee agenda was approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

The minutes from the February 18, 2016, Technical Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

## **REVIEW OF FAMPO MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

Mr. Agnello advised that the Policy Committee approved the following 3 TIP Resolutions (No. 16-21, No. 16-22, & No. 16-23) which all pertained to new projects in the Garrisonville Road area of Stafford County. Mr. Agnello stated that the minutes are included in today's agenda packet.

Mr. Agnello relayed that Resolutions No. 16-21 (2.2 mile extension south to mp142 for improvements to the 95 Express Lane) & No. 16-22 (Route 630/Courthouse Road Interchange) have both been presented to the Technical Committee for review. However, Resolution No. 16-23 was a request made to FAMPO staff from VDOT that was received after the Technical Committee had met in February. Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-23 would be discussed later within the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **a.) Update on 95 Express Lane Project – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello stated that a presentation was made last fall and it was determined by VDOT that a 2.2 mile extension would be constructed heading southbound to mp 142 for improvements to the current Express Lane project. This is the first of the 3 projects planned for the Garrisonville Road area and will be fully funded from partnerships between VDOT & Transurban at an approximate cost of \$54 million. Mr. Agnello stated that VDOT's analysis also determined that a 4<sup>th</sup> general purpose lane on I-95 in the outside median where the current Express Lanes ends to Exit 140 would also be beneficial in reducing the traffic congestion that regularly occurs. Mr. Agnello stated that the project is estimated to cost \$25 million and is currently unfunded. However, it is VDOT's desire that as bids are coming in lower than originally expected on other projects that the Courthouse Road project's bid will also be the same. Should this occur, then VDOT anticipates having enough surpluses remaining from Route 630 to fully fund the \$25 million needed for the 4<sup>th</sup> lane being made to I-95. The 3<sup>rd</sup> project is the 4-lane widening project at the Route 630 Courthouse interchange which will cost approximately \$36 million and will be funded with a 50/50 match between Stafford County & VDOT.

#### **i. Resolution No. 16-23, Approving an Amendment to the Fy2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Project UPC 13558: I-95 at Exit 140, Courthouse Road/Route 630 Interchange**

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-23 was unanimously adopted by the Policy Committee at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Mr. Agnello relayed that this Resolution endorses VDOT's option of including a 4<sup>th</sup> general purpose lane in the southbound direction between Exit 143 & Exit 140, provided that expected cost savings occur on other projects.

#### **ii. FAMPO Letter to the Secretary of Transportation**

Mr. Agnello advised that per request through FAMPO from CTAG, that it was requested that the Policy Committee endorse a letter of support for VDOT to perform modeling analysis that shows the impacts of extending the 95 Express Lanes from where it currently is today at mp142 to further south to mp 140

at Route 630 Courthouse road. A cost estimate was also requested from CTAG. The Policy Committee also endorsed the request and staff was asked to compile a letter to be submitted to the Secretary of Transportation's office. Mr. Agnello relayed that the State is in receipt of the letter and have relayed that a reply back will be provided by the April timeframe.

Mr. Van Dussen asked why the letter was sent to the Secretary of Transportation's office and not to just the VDOT Central office staff. Mr. Agnello stated that in the past, with all FAMPO Policy Committee directives, that letters and correspondence have been submitted directly to the Secretary of Transportation's office. Mr. Agnello asked VDOT staff to whom the letter to VDOT Central office should be addressed too. Ms. Richter stated that no one person would be required that as long as it was sent to VDOT Central office that the correspondence would be given to the appropriate team member.

#### **b.) Update on I-95 Corridor Study Phase 1 - Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that Phase 1 of the I-95 Corridor Study includes the I-95 corridor from Exit 143 at Garrisonville to Exit 126 at Massaponax. Mr. Agnello relayed that if ultimately funded, that Phase 2 of the I-95 Corridor study would encompass the following areas: re-evaluation of the original study area (Exit 143 to 126); further south to the Caroline/Hanover County line; Routes 301 & 207; VRE/AMTRAK; & additional areas that could alleviate traffic congestion along I-95 that provide parallel routes along I-95 – i.e. Route 1, Route 3, Route 17, etc. Mr. Agnello stated that FAMPO is in partnership with the State on these efforts and the timing of Phase II would be from the fall of 2016 to the fall of 2017.

Mr. Agnello stated that FAMPO solicited input from VDOT, CTAG, and the localities on potential I-95 study candidate alternatives. Mr. Agnello stated that to date, we have received comments from each entity with the exception of the City of Fredericksburg. Mr. Agnello relayed that a meeting scheduled with them for today at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Agnello stated that the City will be able to submit 3 new alternatives and/or endorse 3 that have already been submitted.

Mr. Agnello relayed that the study schedule is as follows: now until March 28<sup>th</sup> – finalization of alternatives – the list received will be consolidated to include 5 alternatives that will be modeled in April. The 3<sup>rd</sup> advisory committee meeting is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>. In May, a presentation of the draft results will be given to the FAMPO committees as well as a second round of meetings with each locality; & June, the final study results and documentations for HB2 application considerations will be finalized.

Ms. Soneji, with VRE, asked that as Phase II is established, that it also reflect the new Spotsylvania station. Ms. Soneji stated that with the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of HB2 projects, that possibly the 395 study could provide some funding towards the cost of completing Phase II. Mr. Agnello asked what the time frame is for the 395 study being completed.

Mr. Roseboom, with DRPT, stated that the 395 study is a fast-paced study; however, it is not as pressed for timing in coinciding with the HB2 time lines. Mr. Roseboom stated that proposals are expected to be received today and that DRPT plans to begin the study process in April. Mr. Roseboom stated that the directions from the Secretary are to include both the counties of Stafford & Spotsylvania in the study process. (However, the City of Fredericksburg was not included).

Mr. Roseboom stated that in regard to the TDM components that DRPT has been directed to take the lead & VDOT will be completing the NEPA phase. Ms. Utz asked for clarification as to the fact that currently there is no money allocated & Mr. Roseboom concurred. Mr. Roseboom stated that currently DRPT is proceeding with the study as concessionary with the study amounts and project studies still being up for negotiations.

Mr. Roseboom relayed that currently now the Advisory Committee is meeting and will include representation from both PRTC & Stafford County; however, at this time, there is no GWRC/FAMPO staff selected to serve on the committee. Mr. Roseboom stated that the current member attendees come directly from the Secretary's appointments. Mr. Roseboom relayed that the Advisory Committee has been meeting approximately twice a month. Mr. Roseboom stated that as work progresses that more than likely the Advisory Committee will include a Steering Committee which could include members from GWRC/FAMPO, the City of Fredericksburg, etc. Mr. Roseboom stated that Mr. Nick Donohue is the current Secretary and he would be the one who should be approached with the desire that other entities be included as committee members.

**c.) Updated on Potomac Heritage Trail Planning Effort – Mr. Nicholas Quint**

Mr. Quint advised that planning efforts have been ongoing for several months and he was going to provide an update for today's meeting. Mr. Quint stated that the Potomac heritage Trail network consists of 710 miles from Pennsylvania to the mouth of the Potomac River. The trail allows for one to experience a rich variety of historic and natural landscapes. The 710 miles of trail consist of existing and planned trails that will be managed by the federal government, by each state, by localities & by non-profit sponsorships. Mr. Quint stated that the trail will encompass multi modes of availability for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking & fishing. Mr. Quint stated that currently there is a 60 mile gap in the connectivity that runs from Prince William County into Colonial Beach. Mr. Quint stated that this portion of the trail encompasses the GWRC region and staff from VDOT, King George & Stafford is on the committee.

Mr. Quint stated that the next steps in the process will be to have the localities update & amend their current comprehensive plans to include the trail and to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the committee and the National Park Service. Ms. Richter stated that VDOT has previous MOU's between their agency and the National Park Service. Mr. Quint asked if a copy of the MOU could be forwarded to him so that the committee could maintain consistency with the wording, etc.

**d.) Preparing for the Next Round of HB2 – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that Round two of HB2 begins August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Agnello stated that staff has reviewed the scoring from Round one. Mr. Agnello relayed that the State is planning to revise the HB2 policy guidelines that were used in Round one. The revisions are expected to be released by April, 2016. Mr. Agnello stated that staff is trying to maximize the scores and include the results within the FAMPO comprehensive plan. Mr. Agnello stated that staff is reviewing the projects that were submitted in Round one to determine what changes or modifications can be implemented for Round two in the hopes of getting some projects rated at a higher number.

Mr. Agnello stated that from Round one, projects that were included within a jurisdiction's comprehensive plan that were also included within the region's comprehensive plan tended to score higher. Mr. Agnello stated that projects that had additional funding from other sources also scored higher. Also, Mr. Agnello advised that regions who also submitted an Economic Development plan seemed to score higher. Mr. Agnello stated that with Round one, the FAMPO region did not submit an Economic Development plan; however, staff is working on establishing this plan that will be included with the Round two submissions. Mr. Agnello relayed that the Economic Development plan should be completed within a couple of months and will be presented to the FAMPO committees for review.

Mr. Agnello stated that staff will be thoroughly reviewing all HB2 projects submitted for round two to ensure that the project submitted does the following: is listed in the specific jurisdiction's comprehensive plan; is submitted under the GWRC/FAMPO Economic Development Plan; & when applicable, submitted as a project of statewide high priority that is included within FAMPO's CLRP. Mr. Agnello stated that staff will be consulting with the localities to obtain necessary information and that this request will be compiled by the spring of this year. Additional information will be relayed at the upcoming April FAMPO meetings and the completion of the Round two study goals will be by July of 2016.

#### **e.) Federal Transportation Funding Opportunities – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that staff has been informed that there are currently 3 federal transportation funding opportunities available for the state to take advantage of. The first is the FASTLANE Federal Highway Freight program. This funding category was announced on February 26<sup>th</sup> and details are still emerging. For the FY2017 funding year, there is approximately \$800 million dollars that is available. In order for projects to be considered, they need to support increased truck freight mobility. A project that could be applicable for these funds within this region would be the I-95 northbound Rappahannock River Crossing project. The application deadline for project submissions is April 14<sup>th</sup>.

The second funding category is the TIGER funding. Mr. Agnello relayed that TIGER has been around for approximately 8 years but per announcement on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, that for FY2017, there is approximately \$500 million available. Historically, the awards distributed have equaled \$14.5 million. Projects for consideration within this classification need to have some NEPA work already completed. This category also appears to favor projects that are leveraged with other funds and those that have a multi-modal aspect. A project that could be applicable for TIGER funding within this region would be the I-95 southbound widening project in Stafford County. The application deadline for project submissions is April 29<sup>th</sup>. Currently, FAMPO does not plan to submit a project for consideration of TIGER funding.

Ms. Richter stated that VDOT is also looking at what opportunities could be earmarked into another funding classification. Ms. Richter stated that currently VDOT is looking at applying for funding from TIGER funds for one of the projects in Stafford County. Ms. Richter stated that should this materialize, that VDOT would be asking for FAMPO support so that both jurisdictions were not competing for the funding. Mr. Agnello stated that this should not be a competitive issue between FAMPO & VDOT as FAMPO did not plan to submit projects for consideration under the TIGER funding allocations anyway.

The third funding source is unused pre-2004 Federal Earmark Funding. Mr. Agnello stated that a lot of the funding surplus from this category is from where projects were either never begun and/or where projects were completed but had a leftover balance from the funds used that were initially allocated. Mr. Agnello stated that his program was announced in December of 2015 and that the estimated funds that the State of Virginia could be eligible for is \$60 million. These funds will come to Virginia through VDOT for potential utilization on a state-wide basis. The time frame for funding applications under this program will be later this year. Mr. Agnello stated that a requirement of usage for these funds is that a project needs to be within 50 miles of an original project – i.e. a project in Waynesboro would not be applicable for fund transfers to this region; however, a project in Northern Virginia could possibly qualify. Mr. Agnello stated that the amount of funding that could be utilized within this region, if projects meet criteria, etc. could be approximately \$12 million.

**f.) Fiscal Year 2017-2022 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funding Allocations – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello stated that to date, the actual funding allocations have not been distributed; however are expected to be released soon. It is the feeling that the numbers and funding levels should remain the same for the FY2017-2022 funding years. Mr. Agnello reiterated that as the actual figures have not been released; that the amount of monies allocated could go up or down somewhat.

Mr. Agnello stated that the initial staff review has resulted in minimal project changes. Most of the changes that have been initially applied on the draft report are for changes that affected funding years for the out years. It was staff approach to add new projects where old projects had been removed. Mr. Agnello stated that staff is looking for feedback and comments from the Technical Committee in regard to projects to add, to remove or to adjust and the comments are needed to staff within two weeks.

Mr. Van Dussen stated that prior to this morning's meeting; he had a telephone conversation with FHWA. Mr. Van Dussen was advised that the Advantage website seems good to go. However, FHWA stated that they do want a beginning & ending date for transit projects and programs. Also expressed concern over the region leasing parking spots for commuters. FHWA stressed that leasing parking spots is designed as a temporary solution. Mr. Van Dussen stated that FHWA was advised that the region is aware of these 2 points and are working towards pursuing permanent and long-term solutions beyond FY2021.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Agnello advised that Ms. Donley who has been out on sick leave is recovering and hopes to be back in the office sometime in April.

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

### **DRPT:**

Mr. Roseboom stated that DRPT is working on the grant process. Currently, the transit TDM plan is completed and undergoing review. Mr. Rosenboom stated that a draft should be forthcoming soon.

### **VDOT:**

Mr. Van Dussen advised that VDOT's spring meeting will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Germanna's Spotsylvania site.

### **NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 11th, 2016/ADJOURN**

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Monday April 11th at 9:00. The Technical Committee meeting for March 13<sup>th</sup> was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.