

DC-MD-VA TMA Planning Certification Review

**Plus Additional FHWA Virginia Division Comments and
Recommendations to the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan
Planning Organization and Virginia Department of Transportation**

May 20, 2019



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Certification

*The Secretary shall ensure that the metropolitan planning process of a metropolitan planning organization serving a transportation management area is being carried out in accordance with applicable provisions of Federal law.
[23 USC 134(k)(5)(A)(i) and 49 USC 5303(k)(5)(A)(i)]*



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Definition, Purpose and Frequency of Review

- What is it?** In depth, documented review of planning process
- What for?** To ensure the planning and program process is consistent with federal law and regulations
- How often?** At least every 4 years



Planning Certification Review

The Certification is not just a review of the MPO or its staff; rather, it is a review of the planning process conducted by all agencies (State, MPO, and transit operators) charged with carrying out the process on a daily basis. This shared responsibility is specifically addressed in the regulations:

The MPO, State(s), and the providers of public transportation shall cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process.

[23 CFR 450.314(a)]



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DC-MD-VA TMA Planning Certification Review

- ❑ **Date: April 10-11, 2019**

- ❑ **Participating Agencies and Groups:**
 - ❖ **Federal**
 - ❖ **State**
 - ❖ **Regional**
 - ❖ **Local**
 - ❖ **TPB CTAC**
 - ❖ **FAMPO CTAG (March 13, 2019)**



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Areas of TMA Review (Risk-Based)

- ❑ Risk-based review focuses on high-risk areas, both threats and opportunities, and does not attempt to cover every planning topic.

- ❑ Review Topics
 - Agreements/Contracts (3-C, PBPP, Coordination Agreement)
 - UPWP/Budget
 - Long Range Plan and TIP
 - Financial Planning and Fiscal Constraint
 - Transportation Performance Mgmt. (Target Setting and Performance Measures)
 - Performance Based Planning and Programming
 - Public Involvement, Environmental Justice, ADA, Title VI Civil Rights



CTAG and Public Meeting

Date: March 13, 2019

Citizen Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

Dave Swan, Chair, Stafford County

Dave McLaughlin, City of Fredericksburg

Neil Holloran, Spotsylvania County

Stan Huie, Spotsylvania County

Josh Templeton, Spotsylvania County

Morgan Burch, Stafford County

Glenn Goldsmith, II, Stafford County

Rupert Farley, At-Large

Larry Gross, At-Large

Melvin Allen, Stafford County

Others Present

Paul Agnello, GWRC

Briana Hairfield, GWRC

John Bentley, GWRC

Colin Cate, GWRC

Kari Barber, GWRC

Victor Austin, FTA (Phone)

Roger Hunter, Federal Aviation

Roger Hunter

Linda Seay

David Cooper, Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter

Linda LuSut, VDOT

Lyn Erickson, WASHCOG (Phone)

Ivan Rucker, FHWA



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CTAG and Public Meeting Comments

Public Input (1):

- Expand transit and improve routes and schedules to serve the region's disadvantaged and low-income.
- Lack of access to affordable housing within the MPO region. Enhanced transit routes and schedules to serve King George and Caroline County could help improve accessibility and quality of life experiences/opportunities – particularly for those transitioning out of homeless shelters.

CTAG comments:

- Praise for I-95 Express lanes/extension and the project's contributions to reducing congestion.
- Some would like additional focus on congestion pricing and travel demand management strategies.
- Great working relationship with the MPO Policy Board. Many feel as though they are being heard.
- Some members would like to expand CTAG's reach (i.e., opportunities to reach the public/take the meeting to the public).
- Some believe that the FAMPO region, considering the area's complexity and congestion issues, is being "shortchanged" thru the SmartScale funding process.
- Some shared concerns with Transurban Agreement.



CTAG and Public Meeting cont'd

CTAG comments:

- ❑ Kudos given to MPO staff's outreach efforts thru social media (26k members on Facebook).
- ❑ CTAG members very active at VDOT meetings regarding transportation projects in the region.
- ❑ Concerned with congestion/congestion levels exceeding capacity.
- ❑ Top 5 strategies for reaching the public and keeping them informed about transportation decisions impacting the region (Freelance Star, Social Media, WTOP advertising, attending meetings, Internet).



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DC-MD-VA TMA Comments and Recommendations

The following are the Federal Review Team comments and recommendations that are pertinent to FAMPO:

- ❑ TPB, FAMPO, State, and providers of public transportation, develop agreed upon specific written provisions for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to transportation performance data, the selection of performance targets, the reporting of performance targets, the reporting of performance to be used in tracking progress toward attainment of critical outcomes for the region of the MPO, and the collection of data for the State asset management plan for the NHS. [23 CFR 450.314(h)(1)(iii)]
- ❑ TPB and FAMPO update the 2004 TPB/FAMPO MOU to reaffirm and validate the mutually agreed upon roles of each MPO and in consideration of the passage of multi-year Federal surface transportation legislation to ensure that ongoing roles and responsibilities are consistent with regional, State and Federal expectations. [23 CFR 450.314(g), 23 CFR450.314(b)]
- ❑ The planning process for the FAMPO region outside of the TPB TMA area will be reviewed as part of a finding (23 CFR 450.220(b)) that is part of the review and approval of the STIP by FHWA and FTA. As necessary, FHWA and FTA may conduct a review to verify compliance of the transportation planning process and the UPWP in the FAMPO region.



Additional Comments and Recommendations

The FHWA Virginia Division staff comments and recommendations are based on the following and will be considered during our review of FAMPO's Transportation Improvement Program submittal:

- 1) FAMPO Desk Review as part of TPB Certification Review
- 2) Staff comments shared as part of TPB Certification Review
- 3) Review of FAMPO's 2018 , 2019, 2020 Work Program
- 4) Review of FAMPO meeting minutes and FHWA Policy Board attendance
- 5) Communications with GWRC staff, VDOT, and Policy Board members
- 6) Public meeting with FAMPO CTAG
- 7) Review of FAMPO and GWRC agreements (including PL and SPR agreements)



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Comments and Recommendations (Agreements)

- ❑ FHWA requests that FAMPO and the officials of public agencies that operate major modes of transportation in the metropolitan area, update and resubmit a 3-C Agreement to the Secretary of Transportation. [23 CFR450.314(a)]
- ❑ FHWA recommends that the 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 contained in the agreement. VDOT should conduct a comprehensive review as necessary (FHWA available to assist).



Comments and Recommendations (Work Program)

- ❑ 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).

- ❑ FHWA requests that FAMPO remove the GWRC's rural Federal SPR and State matching funds from the Work Program/Budget.

[23 CFR 420.117(b)(1); Agreement for the Utilization of Federal and State Funds to Support Metropolitan Planning in the Fredericksburg Area, GWRC/VDOT Rural Agreement]



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Comments and Recommendations (Work Program) Cont'd

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ 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.



Thank You!



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