



Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2020

Call to Order

Mr. Agnello called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was confirmed.

Voting Members Present

Alfred Durante (Lee Hill District Representative), Chris Yakabouski (Battlefield District Representative), David Goosman (Livingston District Representative), Hamza Atif (Representative), John Winkler (Chancellor District Representative), Lisa Phelps (School Representative), Richard Thompson (Courtland District Representative), Shawn Richey (Salem District Representative), Timothy McLaughlin (Chancellor District Representative)

Others Present

Paul Agnello (staff), Rodney White (staff), Wanda Parrish (staff), Leon Hughes (staff), Bonnie Jewell (staff), Lynne Keenan (Residency Administrator-VDOT), Donna Mayfield (staff)

Minutes

The minutes from January 23, 2020 were reviewed. Mr. Goosman made a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Phelps seconded the motion. Three members abstained from voting. The minutes were approved.

Public Comment

None

Business

Transportation Funding Update - Ms. Jewell gave an overview of the process for requesting funds. She shared a handout that showed what is in the Capital Improvement Plan. She stated that all county projects have to be prioritized, but the transportation committee especially need to prioritize the transportation projects. She emphasized that we are not able to sustain the current transportation portion of the Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Jewell suggested that we move forward with making recommendations to the Board for the Smart Scale Plan which will become the basis of the Transportation CIP.

Smart Scale Round 4 Updates - Mr. Agnello gave a brief overview of the Smart Scale application process and timeline and stated that most projects are about 10 years from the pre-application

to completion. Two major updates that came about as a result of the February 3rd meeting with VDOT are that both the Rt. 1/Market St. and Hudgins Rd. improvements between Lafayette Blvd. and Rt. 1 projects have been removed from this Smart Scale Round due to VDOT's recommendations. The State instead recommends that the Committee pursue fully funding the Rt. 1/Market St. project with available VDOT funds and potential FAMPO funds. The State also stated that the Hudgins Rd. improvements between Lafayette Blvd. and Rt. 1 do not satisfy project readiness criteria for Smart Scale. Mr. Agnello went over the State I-95 Study; when and how the State funds are dispersed. The funds are divided between Northern Virginia (beginning at Prince William County and Stafford going North) and Southern Virginia (including Spotsylvania, Richmond and rural areas). Our portion of I-95 is approximately \$40 million a year. There's also \$44 million a year, statewide for interstates excluding I-81. We are competing mostly with Richmond for these funds. Some of those funds are going to be available this year. The state plans to use \$60 to \$68 million dollars of FY20-22 funds towards I-95 traffic operational improvements. The first funds for capacity improvements will be FY23. The CTB will likely make a decision on how to use these funds for the six year plan this summer. Our biggest need is to widen I-95 between exit 130 and exit 126. The Interchange Improvements and Exit 126 STARS Study Improvements made it on the state list. If projects didn't make the list, then they're not eligible for funding. The state came up with two lists: 1) List for Recommended Improvements, and 2) Recommended Improvements for Further Study. Items for study include bi-directional flow for the express lanes and extending the express lanes down to Rt. 3. Mr. Agnello discussed how VDOT estimates for cost are for future prices, not current day prices, since projects are up to 10 years away from completion. Mr. Agnello also stated that local money is spent first on a project, then State money is spent next. Any extra money goes back to the State to use in future Smart Scale rounds.

Local Projects for Smart Scale Round 4- Mr. Agnello presented the five proposed options for local projects in the next Smart Scale Round:

- 1) Rt.2/17: Widen 2 to 4 Lanes from City Line to Joseph's Mill Dr./Bowman Center with Shared Use Path-cost estimate is \$20.9 million. This was an unsuccessful project from the last round. The County did a study on this project about 2 years ago they recommend widening from the City line to where Rt.2/17 ends.
- 2) Rt.2/17:
 - Option 1: Same as #1 plus widen 1 to 2 lanes SB only from Bowman Center to Shannon Airport-cost estimate is \$33.2 million
 - Option 2: Same as #1 plus widen 2 to 4 lanes from Bowman Center to Shannon Airport -cost estimate is \$44.3 million. This is the most desirable option, but, do we have enough leverage funding for this project? There is a proposed \$1 million proffer that could come about from the proposed Bowman Center Development. There's also \$10.5 million in county funding allocated for this, for a total of \$11.5 million in leverage funding for this project.Mr. Agnello asked those in attendance which two of the above three options for Rt.2/17 do members think are priority for this Smart Scale Round. He stated that this next round of Smart Scale is expected to be more competitive than the last round was. The Committee picked numbers 1 and 3 for this round.
- 3) Harrison Rd. Shared Use Path: Harrison Rd. Park to Hazelwild. In a statewide study, Harrison Rd. bike/ped was picked as only one of three chosen in Spotsylvania County. Mr. Agnello believes this project will score well in Smart Scale and probably wouldn't need any addition leverage funding. There is a Transportation Alternative application

that could be added to this. There are also some proffers that could potentially add to the leverage funding.

- 4) Rt. 1/208: Four Mile Fork Intersection Improvements with Supporting Multimodal Improvements- this was an unsuccessful Round 3 project which has an estimate for the base project at just over \$12 million. It has \$4.12 million in draft CIP funding. Mr. Agnello reminded the committee members that adding a feeder bus to the nearby Park and Ride lot will likely give this project an advantage over other projects in our district. Multimodal elements would also give this project an advantage. Staff is investigating possible CMAQ funding for Rt. 208 PNR Express VRE Bus.
- 5) Rt. 1/208 same as #4 plus Rt. 208 Operational Improvements from 2016 VDOT Study with Supporting Multimodal Improvements. Mr. Agnello stated that this project is a longer shot in Smart Scale than #4. The Committee chose to move forward with this project in the next Smart Scale round.

It is estimated that our projects need to be in the top 175 to be accepted. The amount of leverage funding that staff estimates we need for the projects is \$42 to \$44 million. Members need to decide which projects we choose for this round of Smart Scale. Mr. Agnello reminded the members that multi-modal projects give more projects more leverage in the Smart Scale process. The decision on how much funding Spotsylvania wants to spend on these projects doesn't have to be decided until June of this year. Mr. Richey asked how the five Local projects were chosen. Mr. Agnello stated that staff and the Committee came up with the projects together. Mrs. Phelps also stated that it began with Mr. Skinner.

FAMPO Regional Pre-Applications – Mr. Agnello briefly went over the three regional projects. We have no GWRC slots for this Smart Scale round, but we have two FAMPO slots this round. Mr. Agnello stated that highway needs without leverage funding have little or no chance of being selected in this round. Even if a project is submitted but isn't chosen, you do get a VDOT cost estimate for it. Mr. Agnello stated that the Super Ramp project could be used for the number five slot even though it doesn't have a good chance at being chosen. It does have the potential for being chosen someday. Mr. Agnello stated that the list of projects will be longer for the next round.

- 1) Exit 130 to Exit 126 I-95 Improvements – Mr. Agnello stated this project would include widening I-95 from 6 to 8 lanes between Exit 130 and Exit 126, a 5th deceleration lane for I-95 SB at Exit 126, and the Exit 126 STARS Study improvements.
- 2) Exit 126 STARS with VRE Feeder Bus from Rt. 208 PNR lot to Fredericksburg VRE: Mr. Agnello stated that VDOT supports this project. This project is probably a long shot.
- 3) .
- 4) Exit 126 Super Ramp Project
- 5) Lafayette Blvd Study Multimodal Improvements (City/Spotsylvania) Base Project-Only Transit and Bike/ped: Sidewalk is the major element of this project. This project has a very high chance of being selected in the next Smart Scale round.
- 6) Rte. 1 at Augustine Ave intersection improvements (City)

Smart Scale Analysis Tool- Mr. Agnello updated the committee on the Smart Scale Analysis Tool. It will go before the Board of Supervisors on February 25. It has a cost of \$110K and would help predict how a project would score in Smart Scale.

Update on Spotsylvania Towne Centre Area Improvements- Mr. Agnello stated that staff have been working with Mr. Ross and Mr. McLaughlin on potential improvements around the mall. The next step is to see what the Mall is willing to contribute to this project. This project has come about as a result of a new project, Aura Apartments, that is coming in where the Sears used to be. VDOT has stated that a traffic study with an estimated cost of \$120K will be needed to advance any new concepts for these improvements.

Informational Items

Report any problems with roads to staff. They will compile them and submit them to VDOT.

There was an update to the Transportation Committee meeting schedule. Mr. Agnello proposed that the Committee meet on April 16 instead of the 9th due to scheduling conflict with the Supervisors. The Committee agreed to meet on April 16.

Discussion of Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Mr. Jett has made a request to discuss some issues with rural secondary roads at the March 12 meeting.

Staff wants to talk about how to fund the County's sidewalk needs.

Mr. Agnello stated that we need to talk about the Major Thoroughfare Plan update for the Comprehensive Plan. There was a request to look at the Southwest quadrant of the outer connectors regarding connecting Spotsylvania Parkway to Rt. 3, as well as, some changes to the I-95 project and some secondary roads. Staff would like to get the Committee's input on these projects. The Plan is for the Board of Supervisors to be done with the update to the Comprehensive Plan by the middle of this year.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm.