

**MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
NOVEMBER 30, 2006
4:15 P.M.**

FIFTH FLOOR, PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, CITY HALL SOUTH

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Larry Williams, Mayor, Town of Rural Hall
Ed Brewer, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
Charlie Wolff, Alternate, Town of Bethania
Margaret Bessette, City-County Planning Board, TAC Secretary
Ken Davis, Mayor, Town of Walkertown
Mike Horn, Council Member, Town of Lewisville
Larry Allen, Alternate, Davidson County
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
Walter Marshall, Council Member, Forsyth County
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Bobby Knight, Commissioner, Davie County
Curtis Swisher, Mayor, Town of Kernersville
Evelyn Terry, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville

PRESIDING: Larry Williams, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT:

Stan Polanis, WSDOT
Cary Gentry, FCEAD
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT
Lynda Schwan, CCPB
Tyrelle Evans, WSDOT
Fred Haith, WSDOT
Scott Rhine, PART
Connie Curtis, WSDOT

RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

GUEST: Jan Anderson, RS & H

1. Introduction of New City of Winston-Salem DOT staff .

Stan Polanis introduced Tyrelle Evans as the new Transit Planner for the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation.

Chairman Williams introduced Alternate Larry Allen representing Davidson County

Action Items

2. Consideration of the September 21, 2006 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved for approval of the minutes.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration for Designating STP-DA Funded Intersection Improvement Projects for Fiscal Years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar:

- In July 2005, NCDOT adopted the 2006 – 2012 STIP.
- The 2006 – 2012 is a comprehensive listing of all transportation projects programmed for the Winston-Salem Urban Area.
- When WSMPO was re-designated as a TMA, by virtue of a 200,000 population within the urbanized area, the MPO was given authorization to program STP-DA funds.
- The amendment will include the projects listed on the STP-DA Fund Intersection Improvement Project recommendations for 2006 – 2009 table.
- In September, staff requested projects for intersection improvements, total of 16 projects were submitted.
- First, each project was subject to a preliminary review to look at feasibility, construction ability and safety.
- Then a committee was organized to review each project and prioritize the projects.
- Four projects were eliminated prior to prioritization due to right-of-way and/or funding issues.
- Once item is approved, municipalities must submit a letter of approval for required 20% match and submit proof of right-of-way.

MOTION: Walter Marshall moved for approval.

SECOND: Curtis Swisher

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Dan Besse requested staff review the need for a signal at the west bound ramp of Bolton Street and Silas Creek Parkway.

4. Consideration of Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2006-2012 Metropolitan Transportation

Improvement Program (MTIP)

- a. Transfer Funds from the Hanes Mill Road Widening Project (TIP U-2729) to an Interim Traffic Signal System Upgrade Project for the City of Winston-Salem

Presented by Connie Curtis:

- On February 19, 2004 the TAC approved a list of transportation projects using available STP-DA fund for FY 2006-2012.
- One of the projects approved was to complete a small portion of the overall Hanes Mill Road widening project. \$1.1 million of STP-DA funds was programmed to add a westbound lane on Hanes Mill Road from University Parkway to US 52.
- The project was scheduled to be completed during FY 2005-2006, however, during the project scoping phase with NCDOT Division 9 staff, it was determined that the estimated cost of the proposed project would exceed the proposed budget.
- Since then, NCDOT moved the project's funds out of the STIP until it could be determined how the funds were to be used.
- The City of Winston-Salem requests that the \$1.1 million in STP-DA funds be designated for an interim traffic signal system upgrade project to begin this current FY 2006 – 2007.
- The existing traffic signal system of City of Winston-Salem was installed ten years ago.
- The traffic signal system software and signal controller are manufactured by different vendors.
- Over time, communication problems have developed with the software of the two systems and that has had a significant impact on the operation of the signals in the field.
- These impacts include poor progression along major corridors, increased vehicle delay and safety concerns.
- Also, new development has outpaced the ability to add new signals to the system causing the need for additional communication lines.
- The City proposes to purchase system software, computer hardware and signal controller hardware from the signal controller vendor and install an additional multi-cable trunk line.

A discussion ensued regarding cost of a full system upgrade (Greensboro is currently installing a new system for approximately \$22 million).

Connie Curtis responded to concerns that the needed work would not be completed by stating that the Hanes Mill Project is included in the TIP.

A discussion ensued regarding right-of-way issues and the scope of the project changing due to NCDOT.

Allen Joines requested Council Member Burke be notified of the change of work for the Hanes Mill project.

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved for approval.

SECOND: Mike Horn

VOTE:

FOR: Larry Williams, Ed Brewer, Charlie Wolff, Allen Todd, Ken Davis, Mike Horn, Larry Allen, Bobby Knight, Richard Linville, Allen Joines, Curtis Swisher, Dan Besse and Evelyn Terry.

AGAINST: Walter Marshall and Keith Snow

- b. Designate the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) as the Recipient of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the Union Cross Road Regional Transit Service Expansion Project (C-4976)

Presented by Scott Rhine:

- On January 27, 2005, the TAC approved the use of CMAQ fund for 4 transportation projects in the Winston-Salem Urban Area. The projects were programmed and included in the FY 2006 – 2012 MTIP.
- One project was for the PART to provide regional transit services to the new Dell Computer plant and the US 311 Business Park. The TAC approved the programming of \$200,000 annually in CMAQ funds to PART for FY 2006 – 2008.
- However, it is designated in the 2006 – 2012 MTIP as TIP project “Union Cross Road Regional Transit Service Expansion” as funds for Winston-Salem, not PART.
- Currently, PART cannot apply for these funds through the FTA since Winston-Salem is listed as recipient. PART is the provider and received this allocation to implement the service through the MPO.

A discussion ensued regarding the cost of providing transit service to the Dell Computer Plant and the US 311 Business Park for 12 riders.

Chairman Williams stated that the funds have already been spent and this item is simply so PART can collect previously approved funds.

Dan Besse requested PART provide a report on new routes.

MOTION: Curtis Swisher moved for approval and requested a report on the timetable for change of route at the next TAC meeting.

SECOND: Ed Bewer

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

5. Update of the Draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Governing the Development, Maintenance, and Usage of the Piedmont Triad Regional Travel Demand Model

- a. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Report

Presented by Scott Rhine:

- The Piedmont Triad Regional Travel Demand Model is in the calibration and validation stages.
- There will be a meeting on December 1, 2006 to discuss the final MOA.
- Agreement will be structured so all involved know responsibilities and financial responsibilities for upkeep.
- New PART route on US 52 is seeing great participation as ridership continues to increase.
- Davie County will be sworn in as a new member of PART at the December meeting.

6. Review of the Draft 2007-2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Process for Developing the Metropolitan TIP (MTIP)

Presented by Wendy Miller:

- The Draft TIP was issued in October.
- On October 31, the Interagency Consultation was held to review compliance, compliance was met.
- Now only need to do a finding of conformity.
- NCDOT's TIP Public Hearing will be held on December 4, 2006.
- The "One-on-One" meeting will be held on December 8, 2006.
- Documents will be available for public review from January 4 – February 5, 2007.
- The funding allocations received in the past week will be included in the public review.

Stan Polanis stated that a meeting may be necessary to clean up the TIP.

7. Discussion of Possible Additional Modifications to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the MPO
 - a. Discussion of Task Force Regarding the TAC Voting Structure
 - b. Discussion of Options to Require Municipalities/Counties to Contribute to the Local Match for Transportation Planning (PL and Section 5303 Funds), and Supplemental Planning Projects (STP-DA Funds)

Presented by Margaret Bessette:

- The Voting Structure Task Force has met a couple of times since the last TAC meeting.
 - Several options are being discussed; one option is tying votes and membership to participation in local match.
 - The task force will continue to meet in January with possible recommendations being presented to the TAC in February.
 - TAC task force members are: Chairman Williams, Vice Chair Linville, Mayor Joines and Council Member Horn.
8. Presentation on the Results of the Business Interstate 40 (US 421)/Downtown Winston-Salem Origin/Destination (O/D) Study

Presented by Jan Anderson with RS&H:

- DOT is looking at options for the reconstruction of Business 40.
- Options for reconstruction include: close one lane in each direction during construction, which would take 6 or more years to complete; or, completely close Business 40, which would take 1 year to complete reconstruction and would require preparation of a traffic control plan to redirect Business 40 traffic.
- The reconstruction project is from US 52 east to Peters Creek Parkway.
- The survey method used was an Origin/Destination (O/D) Study, which consists of distributing postcards that can be mailed back or filled out online.
- The survey was taken in the spring from April 17 – May 5.
- More than 16,000 card were distributed with more than 4,000 returned. There were more than 3,600 useable results.
- Traffic counts were also taken at US 52 ramps and one mainline location.
- Intersection counts were taken at 71 locations.

- Who uses Business 40?: 71% were commuters; 75% were commuters going to work; 74% are daily commuters and 82% drive alone.
- Where do they come from?: 47% were within the city; 20% came from the west and 20% from the east. Approximately 30% exit downtown and 70% is through traffic.
- Model will focus on downtown network, model validation and various scenarios.
- Currently there are several congested intersections on Business 40 at Stratford Road, Cloverdale Avenue, Peters Creek Parkway, Silas Creek Parkway and Miller Street.
- Public involvement was crucial to this project, there was a 30% return on surveys, and the public was informed via website and telephone contact.
- Media contacts included radio spots, newspaper and television.
- Information will be included in the model which will help with developing a traffic forecast for construction and testing alternative construction scenarios.

9. Update on the Draft Amendments to the Thoroughfare Plan Map and Technical Report

Presented by Fred Haith:

- The Davie County Interchange on I-40 at Redland Road is still under consideration.
- High Points' public meetings are complete.
- High Point will meet with each jurisdiction related to the Thoroughfare Plan adoption in December and January.
- High Points' North/South Connector is still under consideration.
- High Points' Piedmont Parkway feasibility study is concluding. As a result of the uncertainty related to the western end of the project, the phase of Piedmont Parkway at Johnson Street will be terminated and the extension to the west will remain on the Thoroughfare Plan.
- Kernersville Interchange on I-40 at Teague Lane discussions will take place during an upcoming Board meeting; there will be a public information session in December and the public hearing will take place during the Town's January Board Meeting.
- Consultants working on the Temple School Road Extension Feasibility Study will be present during the upcoming Kernersville public meetings to discuss the study.

10. Report on the Transportation Services Survey

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- In August, staff disseminated 8,000 surveys and placed the surveys online, held meetings and distributed to several interest groups.
- Over 1,500 surveys were received and that number represents over 48 zip codes.
- The response to, "Do you feel there are enough transportation options," was split 42/58; yes/no.
- The response to, "Overall, how would you rate the transportation system in Winston-Salem and surrounding areas," 62% selected either excellent, very good or good.
- 85% responded yes to, "Do you feel that the time it takes you to travel to each of the following locations is satisfactory?"
- The response to, "Are you satisfied with the conditions of transportation services and facilities in your neighborhood," was split 50/50.
- The survey showed that citizens feel it is very important to increase public bus services between Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point.
- The survey also showed that citizens consider the building of new sidewalks very important.
- Two items considered not important were the building of new major roads and the reduction of traffic and or speed on my street.

- Most comments regarded Transit but that maybe inflated due to the fact many surveys were handed out at the Transit Center.
- Comments/requests that can be processed now will be forwarded to the appropriate department.
- Lakesha thanked Fred Haith for his help with the survey process.

Dan Besse requested a detailed analysis of the surveys received and requested sidewalk and business information.

11. Bicycle Plan Implementation Report

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- The public meeting with the consultant was held November 16th.
- Over 100 people attended the public meetings, and over 80 calls/emails/written responses to the project were received.
- In general, the community is supportive of bike lanes, 13% were against bike lanes.
- The Ardmore Neighborhood Association has concerns and so do some of the merchants on Liberty Street.
- The plans are available for review in the WSDOT office

12. Greenway, Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Planning Report

a. Update of the Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Plan

Presented by Lynda Schwan:

Pedestrian Facility Plan - On November 14th, we held a meeting with department heads, town managers and outside interested parties to review the most recent draft. The meeting produced a multitude of comments/concerns which will be addressed before the plan goes out for public review. The plan should be completed by the beginning of 2007 and go out for review at that time.

Brushy Fork - Letter sent from Mayor Joines and Larry Williams to Norfolk-Southern encouraging a quick review of the survey. As a reminder, Norfolk-Southern's approval letter takes 50 signatures before it can be processed. Strategic Planning has asked for additional information. This additional information includes a detailed plan of the work we intend to do in the arch and the flow capacities for the two structures above and below the arch. Recreation and Parks is handling that request.

Little Creek - Three property owner meetings need to take place. Recreation and Parks staff will arrange for those.

Muddy Creek - Phase I (Meadowlark) - Handicap parking spaces have been paved.

Muddy Creek - Phase II (to Robinhood) - Construction plans are complete for this phase. City and outside attorneys are working on the paperwork for the Wheeler property.

Muddy Creek - Phase III (to Philips Bridge) - Recreation and Parks and I have held three of the four property owner meetings; waiting on the fourth meeting until we have lined up the initial three. We are

still in the negotiation phase. NCDOT is working on transferring their property at Philips Bridge Road to the City. This phase is being funded with STP-DA and is in process for the Municipal Agreement.

Salem Creek-Southeast Gateway - Catlett property closed on November 17th. Bids for bridge construction were taken on November 21st.

Waughtown Connector - Construction bids were taken on November 21st. The bids range from \$1.4 to \$2.8.

Piedmont Regional Greenway - HDR Engineering requested cross section information at right-of-way, at 50 feet from culvert and 100 feet from culvert. That information will be sent to HDR by the end of November. We should be seeing the hydrology study information after the first of the year.

Salem Creek Extension - Nothing new to report.

Shallowford Park - Warren Park Greenway Connector - Still negotiating easement with property owners.

b. Results of the Safe Routes to Schools Program Workshops

Presented by Lynda Schwan:

Safe Routes to School: We had 132 in attendance at the Safe Routes to School state-wide training held in Winston-Salem in September. The grant applications will be coming out soon. The five local schools that participated: Latham, Speas, Kimberly Park, Whitaker, and Sherwood Forest will be eligible to apply for a grant.

c. Status of CMAQ and STP-DA Sidewalk Projects

Presented by Lynda Schwan:

Winston Salem - Carver School Road and Peace Haven Road are in the bidding process. Silas Creek Parkway is still under study

Rural Hall - Their engineer is working with NCDOT on the right-of-way issues. The State has earmarked their funds/project for next year

Clemmons - They have hired an outside engineering firm to handle their NEPA and right-of-way issues. Once the right of way issues have been resolved (hopefully by the end of November) Clemmons will decide if the construction is feasible.

13. NCDOT Division 9 Report

Presented by Pat Ivey:

- Hanes Mall Road Bridge Construction and Roadway Widening – construction started on this project on November 2, 2005. The contractor has completed the culvert extension and

the sewer line relocation. The contractor has decided to start the retaining wall in front of the Target shopping center in January 07, after the holidays. Project is currently 7% ahead of schedule with a completion date of November 1, 2007.

- I-40/Harper Road Interchange – The contractor has opened the relocated section of Fair Oaks Drive, and only has some incidental work remaining to this section that will likely be performed as the project nears completion. Currently, the project is .4% ahead of schedule with a completion date of July 1, 2008.

14. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department Air Quality Report

Presented by Cary Gentry:

- Ozone non-attainment effective date has been deferred by USEPA, as proposed, until April 15, 2008.
- State recommendations on PM2.5 non-attainment boundaries are due December 2007 based on 2004 2006 data.
- Final PM2.5 designations will not occur until December 2009
- Will allow states the opportunity to submit the 2007 – 2009 data for the final PM2.5 designations.
- At this time, NCDAQ projections are showing that all areas in NC will be below both standards in 2009, so NCDAQ hoes n areas are designated in NC.
- Draft 2007 – 2013 Interagency Consultation Meeting was on October 31, 2006.
- Reviewed changes to the 2006 – 2012 TIP and identified regionally significant projects.
- Ozone forecasting is complete until April 1, 2007.
- There were 6 orange days during this years season (April – October).
- PM2.5 had 2 orange days (would have been 10 orange days with the new PM standard).
- 2006 data through October is below the 3 year average.

15. Review of Calendar of Activities

a. Proposed 2007 Meeting Schedule

Presented by Stan Polanis:

- Note the TIP Public Hearing will be held December 4, 2006 at the Village of Clemmons Town Hall.
- Note the “One-on-One” meeting will be held on December 8, 2006.
- Note the next TAC will be held on January 18, 2007.

16. Other Business/Next Meeting

ADJOURNMENT 6:00 p.m.