

**MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
MAY 20, 2010
4:15 P.M.
FIFTH FLOOR, PUBLIC MEETING ROOM,
BRYCE A. STUART MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Bessette, City-County Planning Board, TAC Secretary
Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
Denise Adams, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Willa Lash, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Bethania
John Bost, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
Myron Marion, Mayor Pro Tem, Village of Tobaccoville, Alternate
Leon Inman, County Commissioner, Stokes County
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg
Charles Allen, Council Member, City of King
Dawn Morgan, Mayor, Town of Kernersville
Randy Mendenhall, Council Member, Town of Walkertown
Mike Horn, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Lewisville
Tim McKim, Chairman, Forsyth County Airport Authority
George Byrum, Mayor, Town of Midway
Ralph Womble, NCDOT Board of Transportation

PRESIDING: Mayor Larry Williams, Town of Rural Hall

STAFF PRESENT:

Stan Polanis, WSDOT
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Cary Gentry, FCEAD
Bill Marley, FHWA
Andy Bailey, NCDOT
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Connie Curtis, WSDOT
Kevin Edwards, WSDOT
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT
Matthew Burczyk, WSDOT

RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

OTHERS:

Mark Freeman, Gibson Engineering
Nathan Phillips, Gibson Engineering

- Ralph Womble stated that the judge reviewing the beltway lawsuit has ruled in the favor of NCDOT and the 1999 and 2008 cases have been dismissed. A NCDOT Press Release titled, “Judge rules in favor of NCDOT in Winston-Salem Beltway Lawsuit,” was distributed to the TAC.
- Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Evelyn Terry, Former TAC Member and Winston-Salem City Council Member.

Evelyn Terry was not present.

1. Citizen Comments

No citizens present.

Action Items

2. Consideration of the March 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Presented by Larry Williams.

Margaret Bessette responded to Dawn Morgan’s request for clarification of the corrected February 18, 2010 minutes stating that the minutes should have stated that for Item 5, Dan Besse moved approval and Allen Joines seconded the motion. A copy of the corrected minutes will be included in the July meeting agenda booklet.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved approval.

SECOND: Dawn Morgan

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of Candidate Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Grants Funded List of Projects

a. Amend the Fiscal Year 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to Include JARC and New Freedom Funded Projects

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- Phillip Vereen distributed additional JARC and New Freedom information.
- The SAFETEA-LU, established two Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) human service transportation programs: the JARC, Section 5316 to provide transportation for low-income individuals who may live in the city core and work in suburban locations; and New Freedom Section 5317 to provide services and facility improvements to address the transportation needs of persons with disabilities.
- For both programs, the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO receives formula-based funding allocations that can be applied to projects after a competitive selection process.
- The collaborative efforts of local transportation service providers and human services agencies culminated in the adoption of the *Public Transportation-Human Services Coordination Plan* and competitive grant selection process by the MPO on March 20, 2008.

- For 2010, the Winston-Salem Urban Area Call for JARC and New Freedom Projects began on March 19, 2010, with the issuance of a request for projects and legal advertisements.
- Applications were due on April 19, 2010. Five projects were independently reviewed and evaluated by a special committee comprised of members of the Greensboro MPO staff and PART.
- In order to allocate the FTA funds, the 2009-2015 MTIP must be amended to show the projects selected for the Urban Area and the funding amounts.

Councilwoman Denise Adams raised several questions regarding the details on some of the services being funded with JARC and New Freedom funds. A recent FTA report completed by WSDOT Staff highlighting some accomplishments by agencies receiving FTA funds during the last year was distributed to the TAC. Councilwoman Denise Adams requested that staff provide more detail information in future reports to ensure the TAC is making decisions with all information before them.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: Denise Adams

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2009-2015 MTIP to Add:

a. Funding for the Proposed Research Parkway

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- Led by Wake Forest University, the Piedmont Triad Research Park is a growing urban-based, mixed-use biotechnology and related technology research park that is becoming a catalyst for economic recovery for the community, the Northwest Piedmont region, and the entire state.
- To spur this large development, there have been several important infrastructure projects that have been completed or are currently under construction including installing underground utilities including power and fiber optics, the newly designed storm-water retention pond and making a series of transportation improvements.
- Under MTIP Project Number U-4918, over \$11.8 million in funds were provided to make these transportation improvements.
- One of the biggest projects underway is the completion of the Norfolk Southern Railroad line relocation project, including a new bridge that will allow for the construction of the proposed Research Parkway.
- The Research Parkway is a four-lane median divided landscaped boulevard that will provide north-south access through the heart of the research park connecting with Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and US 52 to the north and Stadium Drive to the south.
- If the proposed Salem Creek Connector is funded and built, it will tie into the Research Parkway, providing a direct connection to US 52 to the south at the Vargrave Street interchange.
- Currently, there are insufficient funds to complete both the rail and roadway projects.
- An additional \$8 million is needed to build the parkway as planned. As proposed, \$4 million will come from the NCDOT's available Economic Development funds, and another \$4 million will come from the City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.
- This project will be identified as TIP Project U-4918a by NCDOT.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: Allen Todd

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

b. Costs of Intersection Improvements Projects

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- On November 20, 2008 the TAC approved the allocation of \$67,100 of STP-DA funds for the U-4742 JA Sprague Street at Kernersville Road right turn lane project.
- The original cost estimate for the Sprague Street project was based on using City forces for construction and was calculated prior to the enforcement of federal policy requiring contracting out of all construction work.
- On February 18, 2010 the TAC approved \$125,520 for the Sprague Street project to accommodate preliminary engineering and sidewalks.
- However, the original estimate was not adjusted to account for the exponential increase due to out sourcing all of the construction work.
- Since February, City staff met and scoped the project in more detail. A detailed cost estimate was calculated to account for contracting all construction work and consideration for pedestrian signals at this location.
- It has been determined that to include accommodations for the pedestrian signals and to meet the new MUTCD standards for the proposed signal modifications, the project estimate has increased from \$125,520 to \$184,800.
- Also since February, it has been determined that the funds allocated for two previously approved Winston-Salem intersection improvement projects may become available due to various project coordination issues.
- These programmed STP-DA funds will cover the increased cost for the U-4742 JA project. Staff is requesting that the new cost estimate of \$184,800 be approved and included in the Fiscal Year 2009-2015 MTIP for the Intersection Improvement projects in Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

After a brief discussion Larry Williams requested additional information in writing from NCDOT and FHWA related to use of force account work on federally funded projects.

MOTION: Willa Lash moved approval.

SECOND: Denise Adams

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

5. Discussion of a Request by the Greensboro Urban Area MPO to Adopt a Resolution in Support of North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Fully Funding the Greensboro Loop

Presented by Stan Polanis.

- The Greensboro MPO has requested that the Winston-Salem MPO adopt a resolution supporting funding of the Greensboro Urban Loop (I-785/I-840).
- The Greensboro MPO previously adopted a resolution supporting funding for the completion of a portion of Winston-Salem's Urban Loop, the Northern Beltway Eastern Section (I-74).
- This is a good example of regional cooperation when such support can be given for various projects.

Allen Joines made a motion to adopt a resolution of support for funding of the Greensboro Urban Loop (I-785/I-840). The motion was duly seconded by Mike Horn and unanimously carried.

6. Review of the Draft NCDOT 5, 10 Year Work Plans for the Fiscal Year 2011-2017 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Approval Process

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- The draft reformed STIP will not be ready until early July.
- The draft reformed STIP will be released for public review and the MPO One on One meeting will be scheduled in late July/early August.
- The Air Quality Conformity is on a 9-month schedule; deadline on the STIP is October 1, 2011.

7. Presentation of the Peace Haven Road at US 421 Interchange Traffic Study

Presented by Mark Freeman, Gibson Engineers.

- The intent of this study was to develop short term options to improve the level of service and reduce delay around the Peace Haven Road interchange with US 421.
- The goal was to develop alternatives that would service traffic through an interim design year 2015, but did not require the addition of lanes on the existing Peace Haven Road Bridge.
- Options were tested with Synchro and SimTraffic analysis software to determine level of service, and estimate overall operations with the exception of roundabout options analyzed in SIDRA.
- The alternatives presented for consideration in this report are as follows:
 - Provide hardwire connection between ramp junction signals and coordinate timing plans (Alternative 1)
 - Convert ramp intersections to roundabouts (Alternative 2)
 - Add turn lanes at the ramp junction intersections (Alternative 3)
 - Construct loops to convert left turns at ramp junctions to right turns (Alternative 4) - Recommended
 - Construct median u-turn to convert left turns at ramp junctions to right turns (Alternative 5)
 - Remove the ramp in the southwest quadrant (Alternative 6)
- Of these alternatives, the concept of constructing a loop in the southwest quadrant of the interchange, and converting the existing southbound left-turn movement (from southbound Peace Haven Road to the US 421 eastbound on-ramp) to a right turn, accessing US 421 from the new loop was most favorably received.
- However, this approach is not without design constraints. Notably, the bridge piers for the Peace Haven Road bridge over US 421 is located in the shoulder of US 421,

reducing the area available to construct the necessary on-ramp. Also, the area currently available between the US 421 eastbound off-ramp and US 421 may not afford adequate space to construct a loop with an acceptable radius.

- On March 16th, 2010, representatives from NCDOT, the City of Winston-Salem, and Gibson Engineers met to discuss the results of this study. After thorough discussion of the issues, and possible alternatives, the group concluded that the best course of action would be to separate this project from the Winston-Salem Beltway project, and to seek funding that would allow a project that increased the capacity of the bridge as well as improved operations at the adjacent ramp intersections.
- The next step in the process will be to have the MPO officially remove the Peace Haven Road interchange improvements from the Winston Salem Beltway project. Further, the MPO should coordinate with NCDOT to seek funding for the improvements to the existing Peace Haven Road bridge, as well as the adjacent intersections.

8. Review of the New Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

Presented by Connie Curtis.

- Connie distributed a new MUTCD handout.
- The MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways and private roads open to public traffic.
- The MUTCD is published by the FHWA under Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 23 Part 655, Subpart F.

Mike Horn requested additional information as to why the signal upgrade at Shallowford and Lewisville-Clemmons Road was necessary.

9. Piedmont Triad Regional Model (PTRM) Roadside Travel Survey

Presented by Fred Haith.

- PART in cooperation with NCDOT and the Triad MPO's is sponsoring a roadside travel survey on major roadways leading into the Triad Region.
- The survey is scheduled to take place at various locations beginning in late May, and ending in late June, 2010.
- The survey will be conducted between 7 am and 7 pm.
- The survey team will randomly stop motorists and ask questions about their origin, destination and general purpose of travel.
- Traffic delay should be minimal.
- The results will be used to update the Piedmont Triad Regional Model (PTRM).
- The PTRM is a computer program used to evaluate future transportation improvements for the region.

10. MPO Staff Reports – Questions for Staff

a. NCDOT Transportation Projects Update

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- Project U-4745 to replace the bridge over 20th Street on University Parkway will begin work on June 6, 2010. University Parkway will be closed for approximately two months while the work is being completed.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the recently approved project for University Parkway at Hanes Mill Road.

b. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Air Quality Notes & Report

c. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Projects Update

Presented by Matthew Burczyk.

- Selection committee for bike and pedestrian projects using STP-DA funds will meet next week.
- Final list of projects will be developed over the next 2 -3 weeks.
- Staff will mail the list for review prior to the July meeting so projects can be approved at July's TAC meeting.

11. Review of the 2010 MPO Calendar of Activities

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Next TAC meeting will be July 15, 2010.

12. Other Business/Adjourn Meeting

Additional Item: FHWA/FTA Livability Initiative

Presented by Bill Marley.

- Livable communities are mixed-use neighborhoods with public transportation and highly-connected streets promoting mobility for all users.
- From Secretary Ray LaHood: livability means being able to take the kids to school, go to work, see a doctor, drop by the grocery store or post office, go out to dinner and a movie and play with your kids at the park, all without having to get into your car.
- Six guiding principles are: provide more transportation choices; promote equitable; affordable housing; enhance economic competitiveness; target resources to existing communities; coordinate and leverage federal policies; and, investments and value unique characteristics of communities, no matter their size.
- The livable communities initiative provides transportation choices that promote placed-based transportation policies that are centered on people.
- Additional information can be found at www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/.

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant.

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- North Carolina will be eligible for 25% of the \$600 million available through TIGER grant funds, which will be \$150 million.
- This grant will not be like STP-DA funds or Stimulus funds.
- Funds will require a 20% match, however, rural areas may receive 100% Federal grant.
- Project types included highways, bridges and transit.
- \$35 million available for transportation planning; coordination with HUD for sustainable communities.
- Pre-application due July 16, 2010, application not available until June 15, 2010.
- Application is approximately 20 – 25 questions.
- Final application will be due August 23, 2010.

- Must be registered to submit grant through Grant.gov, will take 2 – 4 weeks to register; City may already be registered.
- Announcement of grant recipients will be after September 15, 2010, funds must be obligated by September 30, 2012.

Mobility Fund Legislation.

Presented by Ralph Womble.

- Ralph Womble distributed several handouts regarding the North Carolina Mobility Fund.
- The Senate did not remain firm on their commitment to the Governor to include the Mobility Fund legislation in this year's budget.
- House members are proposing to cobble together some funds to get started on Yadkin River Bridge and not remain firm on their initial pledge.
- The Governor is requesting committee members contact their local representatives to request the mobility fund be placed back in the budget.

A brief discussion ensued.

Ralph Womble made a motion to send a letter from Chairman Williams endorsing the Mobility Fund. The motion was duly seconded by Todd Allen and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT 6:08 pm.