

**MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
MARCH 19, 2009
4:15 P.M.
FIFTH FLOOR, PUBLIC MEETING ROOM,
BRYCE A. STUART MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Bessette, City-County Planning Board, TAC Secretary
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Willa Lash, Council Member, Town of Bethania
Leon Inman, Commissioner, Stokes County
Dawn Morgan, Mayor, Town of Kernersville
Mike Horn, Council Member, Town of Lewisville
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County
John Bost, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
George Byrum, Mayor, Town of Midway
Thomas McKim, Forsyth County Airport Commission
Nancy Dunn, North Carolina Board of Transportation

PRESIDING: Mayor Larry Williams, Town of Rural Hall

STAFF PRESENT:

Stan Polanis, WSDOT
Connie Curtis, WSDOT
Bill Marley, FHWA
Greg Turner, City of Winston-Salem
Cary Gentry, FCEAD
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Fred Haith, WSDOT
Kevin Edwards, WSDOT
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT
Scott Rhine, PART
Gary Looper, Village of Clemmons
Tim Shields, Town of Kernersville

RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

By consensus, two additional action items were added to the agenda.

1. Citizen Comments.

No citizens present to speak.

Action Items

2. Consideration of the February 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Presented by Chairman Williams.

MOTION: Keith Snow moved approval.

SECOND: Leon Inman

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of the 2009 Transportation Needs Report

Presented by Fred Haith.

- a. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Lists of Projects in Priority Order**
- b. Approval of the Lists of Requested Transportation Projects in Priority Order**

- Every two years the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO develops a single prioritized Transportation Needs Highway Projects list and a Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects list for Forsyth County and its municipalities, the surrounding communities of Bermuda Run and King, and portions of Stokes, Davie and Davidson Counties to submit to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for potential funding in the STIP.
- Due to the scarcity of available funding, submitting bodies were required to submit only their highest priority Highway Program Project and Bicycle and Pedestrian Project. Each submitting body had the opportunity to submit one Highway Program project and Bicycle and Pedestrian Project per TAC voting member.
- Highway Program projects of regional significance were submitted in addition to each submitting body's project.
- The TAC has adopted a set of criteria and procedures to rank the Highway Projects into priority order by evaluating their benefits in improving air quality, reducing congestion, increasing safety and providing other transportation benefits to the community.
- The Bicycle and Greenway Planning Subcommittee approved a set of criteria and procedures to rank the projects into priority order by evaluating the provisions such as a project's overall network value and the amount of acquired easements and right-of-way.
- Acknowledging the difficulty of applying additional criteria to the prioritization process, the committee also included an average of individual rankings for the projects.
- The need to replace and expand Winston-Salem's Traffic Signal and ITS system to provide more efficient operation of the traffic signals in the region prompted the creation of a new Transportation Needs Category.
- The Congestion Management / Urban Mobility Transportation Needs category was created to ensure that the Winston-Salem's Traffic Signal and ITS system needs were documented.

Chairman Williams requested that “for endorsement” be removed from the last sentence of the resolution.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: Leon Inman

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of Items Related to Funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), aka Stimulus Funds

Presented by Stan Polanis.

a. Resolution Appointing the Winston-Salem City Manager as the Winston-Salem Urban Area Chief Executive for Certifying the Appropriateness and Use of Funding

- Provisions of the ARRA require that the funds provided are invested quickly, efficiently and in harmony with the job creating purposes of the act.
- To this end, recipients are required to appoint a Chief Executive to certify that the infrastructure investment has received the full review and vetting required by law and the Chief Executive accepts responsibility that the infrastructure investment is an appropriate use of the taxpayer dollars.
- MPOs have been told they must submit such certification by April 4, 2009.
- The City of Winston-Salem City Council is being asked to name the City Manager as their Chief Executive for the purposes of certifying the appropriateness and use of the taxpayer funding for any funds provided to the City of Winston-Salem.

MOTION: Dan Besse made a motion to change the last sentence in the resolution to state, “for the purpose of certifying that projects meet the requirements for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.”

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

b. Resolution Approving Percentage Distributions for Stimulus Funding

- In August 2008, the TAC approved a percentage distribution for an additional \$5.8 million in STP-DA to be programmed in Fiscal Years 2009-2015 in the STIP.
- Percentages were broken out as follows: 40% to Intersection Improvements, 35% to Greenways and Sidewalks, 20% to Transit, and 5% to Planning.
- Under the ARRA, Transit is being funded in a separate category. MPO staff feels Planning is already covered with existing funding.
- For Stimulus Funds, staff proposes to expand the Intersection Improvement category to Surface Street Improvements and to allocate the funding as follows: 60% to Surface Street Improvements and 40% to Greenways and Sidewalks.

- Staff is currently consulting with NCDOT as to whether a TIP amendment reflecting use of these is necessary. If determined necessary, staff will present a resolution at the April meeting which includes amendment of the TIP.

The TCC made no recommendation related to the percentage distribution, due to the uncertainty of whether the TAC would accept NCDOT's proposal to swap Stimulus funds for traditional STP-DA funds.

Stan Polanis stated that PART has requested ARRA funds from NCDOT and each urbanized area of the Triad. PART is not a recipient of FTA formula funds. Therefore, any funding granted to PART will need to be allocated from the Triad MPO's urbanized area program funds, and the rural funds managed by NCDOT.

Pat Ivey distributed a spreadsheet with two proposed scenarios for use of the MPO's Stimulus Funding:

- Scenario A
 - The WSMPO directs its Stimulus DA funds to NCDOT for project R-2201, the King/Tobaccoville Road Interchange project.
 - \$11,147,741 in non-stimulus (traditional) DA funds, previously allocated to R-2201, would become available to the MPO for programming on other projects. These traditional DA funds would require a 20% match, but would not have a time constraint like the Stimulus DA funds.
- Scenario B
 - WSMPO does not direct its Stimulus Funds to R-2201. The \$8.2 million in Stimulus funds would be programmed by the MPO. The funds would not require a local match, but would need to be committed by October 1, 2009.

The TCC recommends that the Winston-Salem MPO take Scenario A and provide its \$8.2 million in Stimulus Funding to NCDOT to use on project R-2201 in exchange for the \$11.15 million in traditional (non-stimulus) DA funds previously allocated to project R-2201.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the various Stimulus funding scenarios.

A discussion ensued regarding the potential of the State seizing the Stimulus funds for other purposes.

A request was made that staff contact the NCDOT to request a letter assuring that the \$11.15 million in non-stimulus (traditional) DA fund would be available to the Winston-Salem MPO. When received, the letter should be sent to all TAC members via email who could provide comments to the Chairman.

The Chairman called a special meeting for March 26, 2009, if necessary, to discuss the NCDOT letter and Stimulus funding.

MOTION: Allen Joines made a motion for to accept NCDOT's offer to swap the MPO's \$8.2 million in Stimulus Funding for \$11.15 million in non-stimulus Direct Attributable (DA) funding, contingent upon assurance, acceptable to the Chairman, that the MPO will receive the \$11.15 million in traditional (non-stimulus) DA funds.

SECOND: Dawn Morgan

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous
AGAINST: None

Dawn Morgan requested that staff inform municipalities of the TAC's decision and the likelihood of a 20% match being required for selected projects.

A discussion ensued about the percentage distribution for Stimulus funds or funds in lieu of the Stimulus funds.

MOTION: Dawn Morgan made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the 60/40 percentage distribution with edits to the resolution to reflect the potential of the swap of Stimulus funds for non-stimulus DA funds.

SECOND: Dan Besse

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous
AGAINST: None

c. Update/Discussion on Stimulus Funding

- Project proposals under the Stimulus Call for Projects are due March 27, 2009. We will maintain this deadline, since the TAC's acceptance of the swap has a contingency.
- If the MPO keeps the \$8.2 million in Stimulus Funds, staff anticipates asking the TAC to approve projects to receive Stimulus Funding at a special called meeting in April, likely on Thursday, April 16.

A discussion ensued regarding qualifying projects.

Stan Polanis responded to Walter Marshall's questions stating that the project lists were not available, as they are not due until March 27 and would be presented at the next TAC meeting.

5. Consideration of List of Transit Projects for Funding Under the Federal Stimulus Program and Proposed Amendment to the FY 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program to Add Transit Projects

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- Phillip distributed an updated Transportation Advisory Committee Action Request and Resolution.
- The North Carolina Public Transportation Division requested a list of public transit projects funded for the Federal Stimulus Legislation be submitted to their office by March 6, 2009.
- Winston-Salem's total stimulus funding allocation for public transportation is \$3,810,207.
- The North Carolina Public Transportation Division has requested a resolution of support for the projects.
- Capital maintenance and the van replacement are not in the current 2009-2015 STIP.
- The TAC will be asked to amend the STIP to include capital maintenance and replacement vans and support the list of stimulus public transit projects.

A request was made for additional information regarding the high cost for the supervisor vans.

MOTION: Nancy Dunn moved approval

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Allen Joines, Dan Besse, Willa Lash, Leon Inman, Dawn Morgan, Mike Horn, Allen Todd, Keith Snow, Richard Linville, John Bost, George Byrum and Nancy Dunn
AGAINST: Walter Marshall

6. Consideration of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Five Year Planning Calendar

No presentation made, Greg Errett was available for questions.

MOTION: Nancy Dunn moved approval

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

7. Consideration of a Resolution Certifying the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO Transportation Planning Process

No presentation made, Greg Errett was available for questions.

MOTION: Nancy Dunn moved approval

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Additional Agenda Items:

Approval of a Resolution in Support of ARRA Discretionary Funding for a New I-85 Bridge Over the Yadkin River in Davidson County.

Presented by Stan Polanis.

- Stan distributed a Transportation Advisory Committee Action Request and Resolution for consideration.
- The 50-year old, multi-lane I-85 bridge over the Yadkin River between Davidson and Rowan Counties is in need of total replacement at an estimated of \$300 million.
- I-85 is a critical transportation route for the region, the State and the eastern United States.
- Allocation of sufficient funds through the statewide equity distribution formula would take all of the construction funds for all projects allocation to Division 9 for the entire seven-year TIP program.
- Recognizing the critical need for the project and the funding complexities, Governor Bev Perdue is seeking federal economic stimulus package funding for the bridge project.
- At its March 11, 2009 meeting, the PART Board of Trustees passed a resolution in support of Governor Perdue and the grant application of \$300 million from the ARRA Discretionary Fund for construction of a new I-85 Bridge over the Yadkin River in Davidson County.

- PART’s resolution encourages all local government agencies in the region to support Governor Perdue’s effort to secure stimulus funds for the bridge project.

MOTION: Leon Inman made a motion to adopt the resolution with the addition of a sentence stating that the new I-85 bridge should be funded outside North Carolina’s statewide equity distribution formula.

SECOND: John Bost

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Adoption of a Resolution Supporting the Purchase of Two Large Hybrid Buses for the Winston-Salem Transit Authority Using STP-DA Funding.

Presented by Philip Vereen.

- Philip distributed a Transportation Advisory Committee Action Request and Resolution for consideration.
- In August, the TAC approved a resolution granting approval for programming of Federal STP-DA Funding for specific categories including transit projects.
- In September, the TAC approved a resolution amending the MTIP to match the STIP in order for FTA funds to the agencies administering public transportation programs within the MPO.
- In December, WSTA submitted a request to the NCDOT for \$1,150,000 for the purchase of 2 large hybrid buses.
- The NCDOT is requesting a resolution supporting the use of \$1,150,000 in STP-DA Funds for the purchase of the two hybrid buses.

MOTION: Nancy Dunn moved approval.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

8. Presentation of the Draft Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certification Review Report of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Presented by Bill Marley, FHWA.

- Pursuant to 23 U.S.C.(i)(5) and 49 U.S.C. 1607, the FHWA and the FTA must certify jointly the Federal metropolitan transportation planning process in TMAs at least every four years.
- A TMA is an urbanized area with a population greater than 200,000, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Certification Reviews generally consist of three primary activities: 1) an on-site visit, 2) review of planning products, both prior to, and during the Review, and 3) preparation of

a Certification Review Report, which summarizes the Review and contains findings, including commendations, recommendations, and corrective actions.

- Certification Reviews address compliance with Federal regulations; challenges, successes, and experiences of the cooperative relationship between the MPO, NCDOT and Transit Operators in the conduct of the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) metropolitan planning process.
- Joint FHWA/FTA certification review guidelines afford agency reviewers flexibility in designing the Review to reflect local issues and circumstances.
- The certification review process is one of several methods used to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the local metropolitan planning process, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, and level and type of technical assistance required to enhance and support the MPO planning process.
- Other activities provide opportunity for this type of review and comment, including the UPWP, the multi-modal long-range transportation plan, the metropolitan and statewide transportation improvement programs, and air quality conformity determinations (in non-attainment and maintenance areas).
- A range of other formal and less formal contact provides both FHWA and FTA an opportunity to comment on the planning process.
- The results of these other processes are considered in the certification review process.
- While the Planning Certification Review Report may not fully document those intermediate and ongoing measures, the findings contained in the report are based on the cumulative analysis of the entire review effort.
- The review process is individually tailored to address topics of significance in each transportation management area. Federal reviewers prepare certification reports to document the results of the review process.
- The reports and final actions are the joint responsibility of the appropriate FHWA and FTA field offices, and content will vary to reflect the planning process reviewed.
- To foster public understanding and input, FHWA and FTA will continue to improve the clarity of the certification review reports.

9. NCDOT Reports

a. Division 9

b. Transportation Planning Branch

No reports presented due to the lateness of the hour.

10. Public Transportation Planning Reports

a. Regional/PART

b. Local/WSTA

No reports presented due to the lateness of the hour.

11. Discussion of a Proposed Process to Administer STP-DA Funded Projects

No report presented due to the lateness of the hour.

12. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department Air Quality Report

No report presented due to the lateness of the hour.

13. Bicycle, Greenway, Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Planning

No report presented due to the lateness of the hour.

14. Review of the MPO Calendar of Activities/Potential Special April Meeting

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Special meeting will be held March 26, 2009.
- Next meeting will be May 21, unless a special meeting is called in April, likely for April 16.

15. Other Business

ADJOURNMENT 6:32 pm