

**MINUTES  
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
NOVEMBER 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  
Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem  
Robert Clark, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem, Alternate  
Evelyn Terry, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem  
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County  
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County  
Willa Lash, Council Member, Town of Bethania  
John Bost, Mayor, Town of Clemmons  
Dawn Morgan, Mayor, Town of Kernersville  
Mike Horn, Council Member, Town of Lewisville  
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg  
George Byrum, Mayor, Town of Midway  
Billy McHone, Council Member, Village of Tobaccoville  
Randy Mendenhall, Council Member, Town of Walkertown  
Chris Anderson, Commissioner, Davie County  
Leon Inman, Commissioner, Stokes County  
Ralph Womble, NCDOT Board of Transportation

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Larry Williams, Town of Rural Hall

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Stan Polanis, WSDOT  
Cary Gentry, FCEAD  
Pat Ivey, NCDOT  
Brent McKinney, PART  
Bill Marley, FHWA  
Greg Errett, WSDOT  
Fred Haith, WSDOT  
Kevin Edwards, WSDOT  
Wendy Miller, WSDOT  
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT  
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT  
Matthew Burczyk, WSDOT  
Dan Corder, Village of Tobaccoville  
Gary Looper, Village of Clemmons

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

**OTHERS:**

Secretary Gene Conti, NCDOT  
John Sullivan, FHWA

**CITIZENS:**

AC Reynolds, Jr.  
Richard Thomason  
Sonny Crews  
Gwen Reynolds  
June Reynolds  
Vincent Baker  
TJ Reynolds  
Pam Reynolds

Secretary Gene Conti addressed the TAC and stated that he had the opportunity to see what's happening and some of the transportation issues in Winston-Salem while attending the Arts Council Celebration. Secretary Conti stated that Governor Perdue has changed the way NCDOT does business. Now it's more open, honest, accountable and base decisions on fact and need. Initial objective is to restore trust and character and to be good stewards of the taxpayer's money. Want to set realistic goals, define accomplishments in timeframe stated. Previously NCDOT had a 50/50 record of delivery; want to establish a 90% record of delivery. NCDOT will be establishing a new work program to be approved by the Board of Transportation. The Board will review the work program every five years. NCDOT will provide information on its website, in public documents and be very public and open. Governor Perdue is working to establish an open book listing that contains all contracts and grants awarded. NCDOT is working to streamline process for quicker implementation.

There are lots of bridge replacement projects and NCDOT will be working with the Division Engineers to move forward on smaller bridge projects. NCDOT has created a Transportation Intergovernmental Advisory Group to work with MPO's, RPO's and DOT's to work together, will also monitor Federal funding process.

NCDOT has also created a loop prioritization process. Need to figure out greatest need and let people know when loops will be completed. Also reviewing prioritization process for other projects i.e. non-highway, transit, bike and pedestrian projects. NCDOT revenues are down, lost approximately \$150 million last year, laid off 1200 employees. ARRA funds allowing workload to continue. There are 125 highway and bridge projects under contract. Approximately 12,000 people working on ARRA recovery projects. One particular project is the I-85 corridor improvement project. Accidents and mortality rates are much higher on that stretch of roadway. Need \$300 million to get that project going. NCDOT is making application for additional funds, will find out results in January. NCDOT is preparing to receive bids to get that project underway.

There is \$8 billion available for inner city and high speed rail. NCDOT has been very active in the rail effort over the last 15 years and built a good base line to work from, particularly in the

Raleigh to Charlotte to corridor. NCDOT has put in an application for \$5 of the \$8 billion available. First focus would be to continue the Raleigh to Charlotte corridor and then would additional work from Raleigh to Richmond and extensions to Winston-Salem and Asheville. NCDOT will continue to pursue aggressively. Regarding the Winston-Salem loop projects, NCDOT has been through a very long process, hoping the federal judge will rule in NCDOT's favor soon and can start right-of-way acquisition and construction in the near future.

A question and answer session ensued prior to citizen comments.

A discussion ensued regarding the lawsuit and the Northern Beltway.

## **1. Citizen Comments**

A.C. Reynolds, 6505 University Parkway, Winston-Salem, expressed concerns with the delays regarding the Northern Beltway and expressed support of the beltway. He also presented the committee with a petition signed by 600 residents in support of the Northern Beltway (filed with TAC minutes and sent to NCDOT).

Richard Thomason, 2120 Larkwell Drive, Pfafftown, stating discussions regarding the beltway have been going on for 45 years and it time to get it done, too many people in limbo for too long.

Sunny Crews, 5754 Stanleyville Drive, Winston-Salem, stated 20 years is too long to implement the beltway and stated that the money for the beltway needs to be found sooner versus later.

Owen Reynolds, 5402 Commerce Court, Winston-Salem, stated that he supports the beltway and state it should be a priority. Also stated concerns with property owners that are in limbo and unable to improve property or make renovations.

June Reynolds, 154 Densmore Street, Winston-Salem, stated that she works in the west side of Winston-Salem and lives in north Winston-Salem and expressed concerns with traffic on US 52. She stated that when the weather is bad, she refuses to drive US 52 and takes Silas Creek Parkway, which is like a swimming pool when it rains. The beltway is very important to help with traffic relief on other congested roads.

Vincent Baker, 8470 Whippoorwill Lane, Tobaccoville, owns property affected by beltway at 5040 Rachel Street, Kernersville. The property cannot sell because improvements can't be made, but the State is not moving forward, and at this rate the bank will own the property.

T.J. Reynolds, 8451 Reynolda Road, Pfafftown, Winston-Salem, stated that he owns a business on University Parkway. The State wanted to purchase the land, still has not been purchased. This has been going on since 1964.

Pam Reynolds, 8451 Reynolda Road, Pfafftown, stated that she is in favor of the beltway. Civil rights have been taken away due to the delays regarding the beltway. Excuses are too many.

Robin Dean, 3523 Lawrence Street, Clemmons, stated that he empathizes with NOW. People have been held hostage by NCDOT. Highway Trust Fund was mismanaged. NC elected officials and Division 9 MPO needs to change the handling of Highway Trust Funds.

Dawn Morgan thanked the citizens for their participation and said that she applauds their involvement.

## Action Items

### **2. Consideration of the September 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Presented by Chair Williams.

MOTION: Mike Horn moved approval.

SECOND: Allen Todd

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

### **3. Consideration of a Resolution Approving a Prioritized List of Candidate STP-DA Funded Intersection Improvement Projects for the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO**

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- In August 2008, the Winston-Salem Urban Area TAC adopted the 2009-2015 MTIP.
- Also in August 2008, the TAC approved the reallocation of funds from U-5022 (Winston-Salem Metropolitan Planning Organization DA Funds – reserved for future programming) and increased the fund allocation of U-4742 (Intersection Improvements at Various Locations – within the Metropolitan Planning Organization Area).
- This amendment will include the ranked list of projects in the attached table, *2009 Ranked Intersection Improvement Projects to Receive STP-DA Funding*, as eligible for funding under the STIP project U-4742 “*Intersection Improvements at various locations in the Winston-Salem MPO*”.
- The list of projects includes signal modification, turn lane installation, new signal installation, and widenings.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved approval.

SECOND: Robert Clark

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

## Information Items

### **4. Presentation on the Recent Rescission of Federal Transportation Funds for Transportation Planning and Projects and the Impact to the MPO**

Presented by Bill Marley and John Sullivan.

- The rescission of the SAFETEA-LU funds was unexpected.
- Congress established a record high level of authorization, over \$227 billion over a six-year period for highways, \$228 billion for that same six-year period for all of transportation.
- The obligation limitation that the Appropriation Committee set is what NCDOT uses to program projects in the STIP.
- There is a difference in the level of authorization and the obligation limitation; it builds an unused authorization, which is what was rescinded.
- Right now Congress is debating the appropriate spending level.
- The revenue in FY 08 was \$31 billion, the revenue for FY 09 is \$30 billion, what Congress authorized in spending was \$38 billion for FY 08 and \$40 billion for FY 09.

A brief discussion ensued regarding funding.

## **5. Overview of the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP)**

Presented by Brent McKinney.

- PART is currently working on three studies, regional transportation, local transportation, para-transit and rail transportation in this region.
- The first study will review a regional transportation plan for the urban area of this region.
- Will complete a study for transit for Clemmons, Lewisville, Rural Hall, Walkertown, Kernersville and additional lines in Winston-Salem.
- The second study will review the eight rural counties that surround Forsyth County for transportation needs and impacts.
- Study will get underway in January and should be complete in July.
- The scope of the study comes from requests from local representatives.
- The third study is an environmental study to undertake an environmental impact study on the East/West corridor from Clemmons all the way to Burlington.
- The studies will be paid for from a grant fund, with a 10% local match.

## **6. MPO Staff Reports**

- a. NCDOT Transportation Update
- b. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Air Quality Notes & Report
- c. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Update

Dan Besse requested the preliminary list for installation of bike racks for the downtown area be emailed to him.

## **7. Discussion on the Programming Options of Available Federal Surface Transportation Program – Direct Attributable (STP-DA) Funds**

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Greg Errett distributed a Winston-Salem Urban Area STP-DA Funded Programmed Projects and Additional Funding Options for FY 2010 – 2015 handout.
- Currently, there is approximately \$13.4 million available in STP-DA funding to be programmed.
- Current categories for programmed STP-DA funds include supplemental planning, bicycle and pedestrian, intersection improvements and WSTA transit projects.
- Funds can be distributed in the same percentages that were previously established by the taskforce, and adopted by the TAC.
- Other categories could also be added, i.e., traffic signal system, Winston-Salem streetcar planning and Union Station are all eligible projects to receive STP-DA funds.
- Staff will bring additional information to the January 2010 meeting.

## **8. Update of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) Bus Stop Evaluation Project**

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- Phillip Vereen distributed the *Moving Times Newsletter*.

- This summer and fall, the WSDOT, in cooperation with the WSTA and the PART, is conducting a comprehensive Transit Stop Inventory and Assessment of over 1,000 transit stops in the Winston-Salem Urban Area.
- This project involves three main stages including data collection, the analysis of the data collected, and policy recommendations that will guide what types of improvements may be needed.
- The primary goal of this project is to improve the overall infrastructure of the transit system to make the system as efficient, safe and user friendly as possible for the riders of the system.
- During the data collection stage, two summer interns and various other City staff have examined each route in the system.
- The data collection has involved indentifying each location with GPS equipment that may be used in the City's GIS system, taking multiple photographs of each transit stop from various angles, performing an infrastructure assessment for each stop (what is there and what is not present at the bus stop) and creating a unique identifier for each transit stop by labeling each transit stop sign.
- Upon completion of the data collection stage, WSDOT, WSTA and PART staff has begun to analyze each stop to identify what improvements may be needed and what follow-up work must take place before any changes occur to the stop.
- Specifically, the staff will look at the placement and condition of existing infrastructure and determine what types of future infrastructure such as sidewalks, bus shelters, benches, bus stop placement, bike racks, streetlights and other related transportation infrastructure may be needed.
- The final stage will be to rank the routes and stops that need the most improvements, identify the costs of these improvements, make any policy changes as to stop locations and to guide decision makers with this infrastructure planning.

**9. Review of the 2009-2010 MPO Calendar of Activities**

- a. Review of Proposed 2010 TAC Meeting Dates and Times

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Next TAC meeting will be January 21, 2010.
- Refer to the *Moving Times Newsletter* for upcoming transportation meetings.
- The call for bicycle and pedestrian projects ends January 11, 2010.

**10. Other Business/Adjourn Meeting**

ADJOURNMENT 6:15 pm