

**MINUTES  
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
MARCH 17, 2011  
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, Vice Chairman  
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem  
Bill Whiteheart, Commissioner, Forsyth County  
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County  
Dawn Morgan, Mayor, Town of Kernersville  
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville  
Charles Allen, Council Member, City of King  
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg  
Mike Horn, Council Member, Town of Lewisville  
George Byrum, Mayor, Town of Midway  
Randy Mendenhall, Council Member, Town of Walkertown  
Ralph Womble, Member, NC Board of Transportation

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS:**

Mr. C. Robin Dean

## 1. **Citizen Comments**

Mr. C. Robin Dean, 3523 Lawrence Street, Clemmons stated that tonight's resolution with respect to the purchase of right-of-way for the Northern Beltway is 15 years too late. The Highway Trust Fund signed into law in 1989 promised loops around North Carolina's 7 major cities which would be completed by 2002. If our local decision makers had made safety on US 52, interconnectivity with US 52 and I-40 and an environmentally legal F.E.I.S their priority, you wouldn't need tonight's resolution. Mr. Dean provided a copy of his comments for the record.

## **Action Items**

### 2. **Consideration of the February 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

Presented by Larry Williams.

Larry Williams stated that Item 7 requesting a "letter" be drafted should state that a "resolution" be drafted related to prioritization and funding of the Northern Beltway.

MOTION: Allen Todd moved approval of the corrected minutes.

SECOND: Dan Besse.

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

### 3. **Consideration of a Resolution on the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Prioritization of the Northern Beltway (Eastern Section) (I-74)**

Presented by Ralph Womble.

- The NCDOT has published its draft procedure for prioritizing urban loop projects throughout the State of North Carolina.
- The procedure utilizes a cost-benefit ratio to establish priorities.
- The Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO believes the process favors the selection of lower cost projects over larger ones.
- Because the Northern Beltway (Eastern Section) (I-74) is the most expensive single project in the list, it ranks last among projects to be funded.
- The beltway (I-74) is designated as a high priority federal corridor and is recognized as an important route to support economic development and logistics on a multi-state basis. In addition, all the necessary work to satisfy the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) has been completed and the necessary permits for construction issued.
- Allowing these permits and environmental documents to lapse will result on the loss of millions of dollars of work.
- The resolution requests that funding for the first segment of I-74, from Business 40 to Reidsville Road (US 158) be provided in the 2012-2018 STIP.

Allen Todd expressed concern with the NC 109 project. He further stated that citizens are complaining that it is taking too long for the route to be selected and requested that be reviewed.

A discussion ensued regarding to whom the resolution would be sent.

Dan Besse stated that he had been in Washington, DC to attend one of the League of Cities meetings and further stated that there was discussions regarding the needed reform of transportation policies to improve the efficiency of the process.

Bill Whiteheart stated that he was also in Washington, DC for the National Association of Counties meeting the week before and further stated that there is wide approval for change.

Larry Williams introduced Bill Whiteheart as the new Forsyth County Commission representative.

MOTION: Walter Marshall moved approval.

SECOND: Dan Besse

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. **Consideration of a Resolution for the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO to enter into an Updated Air Quality Interagency Consultation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Various State and Federal Agencies**

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1990 requires that States establish criteria and procedures for consultation with all parties involved in the transportation conformity process.
- The issuance of new pollutant standards and revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) require an updated Air Quality Conformity MOA. The signatories to an MOA include MPOs in maintenance/non-attainment for regulated pollutants, the NCDENR, the FCEAD, the NCDOT, the FHWA, the FTA, and the USEPA.
- The NCDENR drafted the updated MOA in coordination with all involved parties.
- The MOA establishes the process for conformity determinations; the procedures for conflict resolution; and the requirements for Interagency Consultation and Conformity Determination meetings, conformity analysis results/reporting, and conformity determination adoptions.
- The responsibilities of the MPO include cooperation with adjacent MPOs in the Conformity Determination process; coordination in the development and maintenance of the regional travel demand model and Long Range Transportation Plans; and concurrent submission of conformity determination.
- The MPOs are required to maintain public involvement procedures for conformity determination consistent with adopted Public Involvement Plans.
- To comply with CAA Amendments, the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO must adopt a revised Air Quality Conformity MOA and sign the associated signature page.

MOTION: Keith Snow moved approval.

SECOND: Randy Mendenhall

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

## **Information Items**

### **5. Review of the Federal Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)/New Freedom Funded Project Approval Process**

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- The Federal Transit Administration has issued a call for projects for the JARC, FTA Section 5316 and New Freedom Funds, FTA Section 5317 for 2011.
- The JARC program was established to address the unique transportation challenges faced by low-income persons seeking to obtain and maintain employment.
- The New Freedom formula grant program aims to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society.
- In 2008, the City of Winston-Salem became the designated recipient for human service transportation funding through the FTA.
- To date, the City of Winston-Salem has distributed a total of \$647,852 in JARC funding and \$458,539 in New Freedom to six transportation service organizations.
- The 2010 funding amounts will be \$129,000 for JARC and \$98,500 for New Freedom.

### **6. MPO Staff Reports**

#### **a. NCDOT Transportation Projects Update**

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- Pat Ivey distributed an information sheet on proposed bills that would cap or eliminate North Carolina's gas tax.
- The gas tax is the major funding source for NC's transportation system and is essential for keeping roads safe and helping to reduce traffic congestion.
- Capping the gas tax would only save the average driver about 20 cents per week while costing the state \$250 million over the next two years.
- The lost funding would result in almost 7,000 lost jobs.

A discussion ensued regarding funding amounts.

A discussion ensued regarding possible action.

Mike Horn made a motion to authorize Larry Williams to send a strongly worded letter stating the committee's opposition to bills eliminating or capping the gas tax. The motion was duly seconded by Allen Joines and unanimously carried.

Dan Besse thanked Pat Ivey for his help with moving some of the greenway projects forward.

#### **b. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation**

No one present.

#### **c. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Air Quality Notes & Report**

Cary Gentry responded to Larry Williams question stating that the EPA has delayed setting the new standard again until July. Cary further stated that the graph shows a "what if" scenario for the number of alert days with the possible new standard numbers that are being discussed.

**d. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Projects Update**

Dawn Morgan stated that Kernersville Middle School received a Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure grant to encourage kids to walk to school. Dawn further stated that the Aldermen passed an ordinance to drop the speed limit from 35 to 25 mph during school hours and are now awaiting a concurring ordinance from NCDOT.

Dan Besse thanked staff for all their hard work on the greenway meetings.

**7. Review of the Draft Recommended Programming of Available Federal Surface Transportation Program – Direct Attributable (STP-DA) Funds**

Presented by Greg Errett.

- The current funds are virtually the same table as presented in February.
- This is another opportunity to make comments on the suggested distribution.
- There are \$9.598 million available in STP-DA funds with \$2.4 million in local matches for a total of \$11.998 million in funding.
- The draft candidate projects remain the same and include Cloverdale Avenue Pedestrian Plan, improvements to University Parkway, Yadkin River Greenway, contract administration, possible free transit service and West Clemmons Road sidewalks.
- Projects need to be obligated and programmed as soon as possible.
- Projects will be included in the TIP and go out in May for public review.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Yadkin River Greenway and the necessity of the project.

**8. Review of the Draft Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Each year the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO is required to develop and approve a UPWP.
- The UPWP identifies what transportation planning projects and work tasks will be completed during the fiscal year and the amount of federal and State highway and transit planning funds that will be used to complete the work, plus the required State and local matches.
- Depending on the specific funding source, tasks funded through the UPWP are eligible for reimbursement of 80-90% of their cost from the FHWA and the FTA through the NCDOT.
- The Winston-Salem Urban Area UPWP identifies three (3) separate federal funding sources for conducting transportation planning. They include:
  - FHWA Section 104 (f) Funds – These funds are the primary funding source dedicated to the MPO to perform transportation planning as required by various State and Federal laws and regulations. These funds require a 20% local match.
  - FTA Section 5303 Funds – These funds are used for transit planning in the urban area. The FTA provides 80% of these funds with a 10% match from NCDOT and a local match of 10% from the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO.

- FHWA Surface Transportation Program – Direct Attributable (STP-DA) Funds – These funds are available to the MPO to supplement the Section 104 (f) funds and are shown in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The MPO has used these funds to conduct a variety of large projects and studies. These funds also require a 20% local match.
  - The Statewide Planning and Research Programs Funds – These funds are no longer being shown in the UPWP Table 1.
  - The funds are still provided to the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch to conduct work for the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO.
  - The local match requirements will be shared by all members of the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO as defined in the MOU.
9. **Review of the Draft Self-Certification Checklist of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Planning Process**

Presented by Greg Errett.

- CFR 450.334 requires the NCDOT and the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO to annually certify to the FHWA and the FTA that their planning processes are addressing the major issues facing the urban area and are being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:
  - Section 134 of Title 23 U.S.C., section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607); and
  - Section 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)); and
  - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VI assurance executed by each state under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794; and
  - Section 103 (b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (Public Law 102-240) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) in the FHWA and FTA funded planning projects; and
  - The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (Public Law 101-136) 104 Stat. 327, as amended and U.S. DOT regulations “Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities” (49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38).
- In addition, the following checklist was provided by NCDOT to help guide the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO as they review their processes and programs for self-certification.
- There are several transportation acronyms that have been defined above and several more that will be used frequently below including: CFR – Code of Federal Regulations; U.S.C. – United States Code; LRTP - Long Range Transportation Plan; CMP – Congestion Management Process/Plan; TIP – Transportation Improvement Program; TMA – Transportation Management Area; and, EO – Executive Order.

10. **Review of the 2011 MPO Calendar of Activities**

Presented by Greg Errett.

- NCDOT Division 9 will hold a Public Input Meeting on the FY 2012 – 2018 STIP at the Division Offices from 4 – 7 pm on March 28, 2011.

- The NCAMPO Conference this year will be held in Fayetteville from April 27 – 29, 2011.
- The public review period for the Draft FY 2012 – 2018 MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report will be from May 19 – June 20, 2011.
- The next TAC meeting will be held on May 19, 2011.

11. **Other Business/Adjourn Meeting**

ADJOURNMENT 5:08 pm