

**MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
SEPTEMBER 15, 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
Dawn Morgan, Mayor, Town of Kernersville
Denise Adams, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Willa Lash, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Bethania
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg
George Byrum, Mayor, Town of Midway
Randy Mendenhall, Council Member, Town of Walkertown
John Bost, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
Ralph Womble, Member, NC Board of Transportation

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Stan Polanis, WSDOT
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Kevin Edwards, WSDOT
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Fred Haith, WSDOT
Matthew Burczyk, WSDOT
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT
Ryan Newcomb, WSDOT
Andy Bailey, NCDOT

OTHERS:

Robin Dean
Bill Marley, FHWA
Joe Geigle, FHWA
Harvon Savage, Intern, Mayor Joines' Office

Chairman Williams introduced Ryan Newcomb the New City of Winston-Salem Transportation Engineer.

Chairman Williams introduced Harvon Savage a UNCG graduate working in Mayor Joines' office.

1. Citizen Comment

Robin Dean, 3523 Lawrence Street, Clemmons, NC expressed his concerns regarding the Northern Beltway. A copy of his comments will be included in the file with the minutes.

Action Items

2. Consideration of the July 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Presented by Chairman Larry Williams.

MOTION: Allen Todd moved approval of the minutes.

SECOND: Dawn Morgan

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Highway Element Map and Technical Report Recommendations

a. Downtown Winston-Salem

b. Remainder of Winston-Salem Urban Area

Item was pulled off the agenda.

4. Consideration of Amendments to Public Transportation Projects in the Fiscal Year 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- On August 15, WSTA was awarded a \$349,000 technology grant from the NCDOT Public Transportation Division (PTD).
- The grant allows WSTA to implement a real-time passenger information system providing bus arrival information through a web interface at strategically located message signs.
- The grant will also fund the infrastructure needed to receive real time bus arrival information by phone or internet.
- Staff requests an amendment to the 2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Program to include this grant.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved approval.

SECOND: Walter Marshall

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- The 2012-2018 STIP adopted by the NCDOT Board of Transportation in July incorrectly omitted several projects and incorrectly listed the funding sources and amounts for several public transportation projects that were approved by the Winston-Salem Urban Area for the WSTA.
- Staff has worked with the NCDOT Public Transportation Division to identify the corrections needed.
- The NCDOT requests an amendment to the 2012-2018 STIP to reinstate and/or correct the funding status for the public transportation projects.

MOTION: Walter Marshall moved approval.

SECOND: Dawn Morgan

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

5. Discussion of the Strategic Prioritization 2.0 Project Evaluation Process

Presented by Fred Haith.

- Fred distributed handouts relating to the SPOT process.
- A total of 48 highway projects are being evaluated.
- Two projects were omitted from the list but will be added for consideration at the next meeting.
- The two projects omitted are beltway interchange projects.
- The final rankings will be available October 3rd.
- The committee will have until December to return all comments, which means this will have to be completed at the committee's November meeting.
- The rankings will be delivered prior to November 17 so the committee has enough time for review and to ask questions, but action will need to be taken on the rankings at the November meeting.
- The rankings will also include bike and pedestrian projects.

A discussion ensued regarding rankings.

Fred stated that he had noticed some discrepancies in some of the numbers and has contacted the State and is waiting for corrected information.

A discussion ensued regarding the short time in which the committee will receive the final rankings and have to vote on those rankings.

6. Presentations by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

a. Metropolitan Transportation Planning (MTP) Process

Presented by Bill Marley.

- The TCC provides a forum for technical staff to problem solve and advises the TAC on technical issues.
- MPO core functions: establish a setting; identify and evaluate alternative transportation improvement options, prepare and maintain a MTP; develop a TIP and involve the public.
- The UPWP which includes planning tasks, federally funded studies, funding sources and schedule of activities is a key document.
- The LRTP which includes policies, strategies and projects for the future; systems level approach by considering all modes; projected demand for transportation services for 20 years, regional land use, development, housing and employment goals and plans; cost estimates and reasonably available financial sources for operation, maintenance and capital investments and ways to preserve existing roads and facilities and make efficient use of the existing system in a key document.
- The TIP which includes minimum four-year period of investment; updated at least every four years; fiscally constrained; conforms with SIP for air quality in nonattainment and maintenance areas; approved by the MPO and the governor and incorporated directly, without change, into the STIP is a key document.
- Major policy and planning issues include air quality, congestion management process, financial planning and programming, freight movement, land use and transportation, performance measures, planning and environment linkages, public involvement, safety, security, system management and operations, Title VI/Environmental Justice and transportation asset management.

b. Congestion Management Planning (CMP)

Presented by Joe Geigle.

- Joe Geigle with FHWA made a presentation on Interstate Access.
- Interstate purpose: to provide high levels of service in terms of safety and mobility; move freight and people efficiently and safely over long distances. It is FHWA's responsibility to protect both the structural and operational integrity of the Interstate system.
- Policy and guidance for Interstate Access can be found at the following website: www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/interstate.cfm. Inconsistencies from state to state led to an update of the federal regulations and policy.
- Application of policy will apply to any new or revised access to the Interstate system regardless of funding source.
- Requests for access will come from the NCDOT and must address and meet the requirements of all 8 policy points found in the policy.
- Policy Point 1: existing interchanges cannot accommodate, nor be improved to accommodate the design-year traffic demands and local roads and streets cannot be improved to accommodate design year traffic demands.
- Policy Point 2: the design-year traffic demands cannot be accommodated by Transportation management i.e. ramp metering, mass transit, HOV, etc.
- Policy Point 3: the proposed access does not have an adverse impact on interstate operations and the proposed access does not have any adverse impact on the safety of the interstate.
- Policy Point 4: shall connect to a public road only and shall provide for all traffic movement.
- Policy Point 5: proposed interchange must be included in the MTP, STIP and CMP and considers and is consistent with local and regional land use plans.
- Policy Point 6: in corridors where the potential exists for future multiple interchange additions, a comprehensive network study must be completed with recommendations that address all the proposed and desired access changes within the context of a longer-range network plan.

- Policy Point 7: when new development is the driving force behind the need for access, it is expected that the appropriate coordination and analysis between the development and any proposed transportation improvements is performed to achieve mutual benefits with minimal adverse impact on the Interstate travelers.
- Policy Point 8: the policy allows for a two-step approval process. The first step is the determination of engineering and operational acceptability and the final approval can be granted only after the NEPA process is completed.
- Re-evaluation of previously approved access request may be required if: the project must move to construction within 8 years of being deemed operationally acceptability by FHWA; and, the design or operations of a project that was previously accepted is significantly changed.

7. MPO Staff Reports

a. NCDOT Transportation Projects Update

Presented by Ralph Womble.

- With assistance from Governor Perdue the first section of the beltway has been re-prioritized.
- Right-of-way acquisition will begin in 2012.
- Pre-construction will begin in 2014, with construction beginning in 2015.
- No other project was delayed/eliminated to move up the beltway project.

A discussion ensued regarding the Hastings Hill Road bridge.

b. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation

No questions for staff.

c. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Air Quality Notes & Report

No questions for staff.

d. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Projects Update

Matthew Burczyk responded to Dan Besse's question stating that a crosswalk with pedestrian crossing signage would be installed on Old Vineyard Road at 421 bridge. Pedestrian crossing signs will be installed on Link Road at Way Bridge Lane to complement the existing crosswalk.

Allen Joines requested a map of Cedar Trail with regard to the Muddy Creek Greenway.

Ralph Womble thanked Matthew Burczyk for all his hard work regarding bicycling events.

8. Status of Major Transportation Planning Studies and M/WBE Contracting Efforts

Presented by Greg Errett.

- A request was made regarding the City's use of M/WBE businesses for planning studies.
- City staff does make a concerted effort to use M/WBE businesses whenever possible.
- Some of the M/WBE businesses staff uses for current planning projects are Judi Wallace Consultants, Susan Hatchell, Wetherill Engineering and Davenport Engineering.
- Mulkey Engineers which is a M/WBE business is being used for the Ebert Road/Stratford Road connector design plans.

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive corridor Streetscape Design Plan and Peters Creek Parkway Corridor Improvement plan are currently under contract.
- There are several street and highway projects that are in process or soon to be in process in Kernersville, Lewisville, Bermuda Run and Winston-Salem.
- The Urban Circulator Alternatives Analysis Streetcar project is also underway.

A discussion ensued regarding further breakdown of the minority end of the M/WBE program.

Allen Joines stated that where possible staff should use local firms.

9. Review of the 2011-2013 MPO Calendar of Activities

Presented by Greg Errett.

- The Step Up Forsyth Walking/Exercising Program will be from September 18 – November 12.
- The Go Expo at the Benton Convention Center will be on October 1 from 10 am – 5 pm.
- The NCAPA Annual Conference in Charlotte will be held October 5 – 7.
- The next TAC meeting will be November 17.

10. Other Business/Adjourn Meeting

Dawn Morgan stated that Kernersville will hold a luncheon regarding NC 811 on September 22 from 11:30 – 1:00 at the Kernersville Library. She further stated that for additional information the website is www.nc811pa.org.

ADJOURNMENT 5:50 pm