

**MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
JANUARY 19, 2012
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
Robert Clark, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem, Alternate
Denise Adams, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
John Bost, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Bill Whiteheart, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Tracey Shifflette, Alderman, Town of Kernersville, Alternate
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg
Norman Wilkes, Mayor, Town of Midway
Billy McHone, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville
Dan Pugh, Mayor, Town of Lewisville
Kenneth Rethmeier, Mayor, Town of Bermuda Run
Brent Rockett, Commissioner, Town of Bethania
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:

Cary Gentry, FCEAD
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Andy Bailey, NCDOT
Amy Crum, CCPB
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Fred Haith, WSDOT
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Matthew Burczyk, WSDOT
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT

OTHERS:

Willa Lash, Town of Bethania
George Byrum, Town of Midway
Mike Horn, Town of Lewisville
Doug Stimmel, Stimmel Associates, PA
Christy Turner, Stimmel Associates, PA

Larry Williams recognized Mike Horn, George Byrum and Willa Lash for their service to the TAC and presented each with a certification of appreciation.

Larry Williams recognized new TAC members: Billy McHone, Mayor of Tobaccoville; Norman Wilkes, Mayor of Midway; Kenneth Rethmeier, Mayor of Bermuda Run; Dan Pugh, Mayor of Lewisville; and Brent Rocket, Commissioner, Town of Bethania

Larry Williams also recognized Tracey Shifflette the alternate for Kernersville and Robert Clark the alternate for Winston-Salem.

1. Election of Officers

Presented by Larry Williams.

MOTION: Robert Clark moved that Larry Williams be nominated as Chairman and that Dan Besse nominated as Vice Chairman.

SECOND: Allen Todd

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

2. Citizen Comments

No one present.

Action Items

3. Consideration of the November 17, 2011 TAC Meeting Minutes

Presented by Larry Williams.

MOTION: Ralph Womble moved approval of the minutes.

SECOND: Allen Todd

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of a Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to Reallocate Surface Transportation Program – Direct Attributable (STP-DA) funds for a Roundabout on US 158 in the Town of Bermuda Run

Presented by Greg Errett.

- In November, 2009, the Winston-Salem Urban Area TAC allocated \$3,049,000 in STP-DA funds for intersection improvement projects for the MPO.
- One of the projects funded was for improvements at the US 158/NC 801 intersection in the Town of Bermuda Run at a total cost of \$510,000 (\$408,000 in STP-DA funds, \$102,000 in a local match by the Town).

- During the preliminary engineering for the project, it was determined by the NCDOT that the planned improvements for the intersection would provide minimal positive impact of traffic safety and circulation and that a much larger, more significant, and more expensive project would be needed there to address the traffic issues.
- Given that, with the construction of the newly widened Kathryn Crosby Bridge over the Yadkin River on US 158, the Town decided to address a more pressing traffic concern – traffic entering and exiting safely and efficiently at the BB&T Soccer Park and the Bermuda Run residential community main gate.
- The Town requested and received \$35,500 (\$28,400 in STP-DA funds) to hire Ramey Kemp and Associates to analyze this intersection thoroughly and determined that a roundabout would be the best solution.
- The Town requests that the \$510,000 of funds programmed for the US 158/NC 801 intersection be reallocated to the construction of a proposed roundabout on US 158 at the entrances to the BB&T Soccer Park and the Bermuda Run residential community main gate.
- An additional \$45,500 (\$36,400 in STP-DA funds, \$9,100 in a local match by the Town) have been programmed in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 UPWP to complete the detailed engineering and prepare construction plans for the proposed roundabout.

Larry Williams responded to Walter Marshall's questions stating that as long as he has been on the committee, he cannot recall ever transferring funds from one project to another.

A discussion ensued regarding the ranking system.

A discussion ensued regarding the frequency of ranking projects.

A discussion ensued regarding fairly distributing funds for all municipalities' traffic issues.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved to bring the item back in February with additional information from staff.

SECOND: Bill Whiteheart

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

Additional Item. Title VI Compliance Plan

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- Phillip distributed a Title VI Compliance Plan memorandum.
- The NCDOT has asked the Winston-Salem Urban Area to adopt Title VI Policy Statement.

- The FHWA now requires large urbanized areas to adopt a Title VI Policy Statement. This is a new requirement; thus the NCDOT Department of Civil Rights and Compliance Office has been charged with assisting MPOs across the state with this endeavor.
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination by government agencies that receive federal funds.
- Agencies found in violation may lose their federal funding.
- NCDOT's Civil Rights Office completed its audit of the Winston-Salem Urban Area in December. The audit recommends the following corrective actions:
 - Title VI Policy Statement Assurances: Affirms commitment by the Winston-Salem Urban Area to fulfillment of the guidelines of the Title VI Policy.
 - Signed Title VI Policy Statement: A Title VI Statement signed by the MPO Chairperson.
 - Complaints Procedures: Establishes directives for citizens to file a complaint.
 - Complaint Form.
 - Complaint Log: Staff will maintain complaint log which include nature of the complaint, investigation and resolution.
- According to the City Attorney's office, there have been no complaints filed against the City of Winston-Salem for Title VI Violations.
- NCDOT will make final edits to the policies by the end of January.
- Staff will ask the TAC to adopt these policies in February.
- The final draft of the policy will be posted on the MPO website immediately following approval by the TAC in February.

5. Review of Amendments and Modifications to Projects in the Fiscal Year 2012-2018 MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination Process

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- The 2012 – 2018 MTIP amendments and modifications and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQCDR) is out for public review, along with the Federal and State funds obligated in 2011, from January 19, 2012 to February 20, 2012.
- The document is located in all municipal town halls, public libraries and at NCDOT Division 9 and Winston-Salem DOT offices.
- We will bring back any public comments we receive along with the MTIP amendment and AQCDR for adoption at the March meeting.

6. Presentation on the draft Salem Creek Connector Streetscape Design Plan

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- Wendy distributed a notice of combined public hearing for the proposed Salem Creek Connector from Rams Drive to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.
- Back on September 7th, Governor Perdue announced the acceleration of two major projects in our MPO – the Northern Beltway Eastern section and the Salem Creek Connector project.
- Part of the acceleration was to make the Salem Creek Connector a Design/Build project.

- In order to incorporate enhanced pedestrian, bicycle, transit and appearance elements into the corridor project, to continue the Piedmont Research Park Boulevard aesthetics and recommendations from the Creative Corridors Coalition plans for Business 40 and other major roads in the downtown area, a streetscape master plan and design specifications need to be included during the early stages of the project prior to a bidding package being issued by NCDOT to solicit proposals from qualified Design/Build contractors in March.
- In order to meet this very short time schedule, we hired Stimmel Associates, PA, to work with NCDOT, the City and the community to develop a streetscape master plan. Today we have Doug Stimmel and Christy Turner with us to present the draft proposals.
- Wendy introduced Doug Stimmel and Christy Turner with Stimmel Associates.
- Stimmel Associates, PA was hired by City of Winston-Salem to coordinate with NCDOT and C3 on implementation of an Amenities Master Plan to enhance the Salem Creek Connector and US 52 Roadway Corridors.
- The primary goals are to continue the high quality design elements of Research Park Boulevard and to incorporate the C3 design guidelines into the project.
- Project constraints include: accelerated schedule; budget for “betterments” undefined; roadway alignment and right-of-way set; NCDOT standards create challenges for streetscapes; coordination with multiple organizations and institutions; and new process including “betterments” for RFP by March 2012.
- Design elements include: bridges, streetscapes, sidewalks, crosswalks, medians, lighting, furnishings, signage, fencing, retaining walls, noise walls and art/sculpture.

7. Presentation of the Draft Greenway Plan Update

Presented by Amy Crum.

- The purpose of the Greenway Plan Update is to continue the efforts of the 2002 Greenway Plan, expand on the recommendations of the 2002 Greenway Plan and establish a prioritized system of proposed greenways for construction over the next 10 – 15 years.
- Projects were ranked based on connectivity, feasibility and public support.
- The goal is to expand upon the existing network of greenways to create a greenway system that emphasizes connectivity, within a larger transportation network, provides recreational opportunities for the citizens and protects the County’s natural resources.
- Objectives are to: establish a method of review for proposed greenways that will identify construction challenges and community opportunities; create a prioritized system of proposed greenways; begin to shift to viewing greenways as an important element of broader multi-modal transportation network; and, create a system of greenways that provide connections to sidewalks, bikeways, destinations, employment centers, downtown and community facilities.
- The process started in the fall/winter of 2009.
- The Bicycle-Greenway Planning Subcommittee of the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO reviewed the proposed greenways and narrowed down the list to the top proposed greenways: Blanket Bottom Creek Phase 1, Brushy Fork Creek Phase 2, Buena Vista Branch, Grassy Fork Creek Phase 1, Little Creek Phase 2, Mill Creek North Phase 1, Mill Creek South, Muddy Creek Phase 2, Muddy Creek Phase 5, Peters Creek, Piedmont Regional Phase 2, Salem Creek Extension, Salem Lake Trail North Phase 1, Silas Creek North, Strollway South, Tomahawk Creek Phase 1 and 2, Wake Forest Connector and Waughtown Connector.

- The Subcommittee reviewed all proposed greenways on connectivity to schools, libraries, hospitals, parks and recreation facilities, retail centers, bike lanes and sidewalks, employment centers and neighborhoods. Also reviewed were demographics, acquired easements and historic designation.
- Greenways were also individually rated on connectivity, on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the most connected). Scores were averaged to get connectivity score.
- City Engineering Department completed preliminary feasibility studies on the top selected greenways.
 - Greenways were assessed by ADA accessibility, topography, flood plain, wetlands, bridges and culverts (existing and needed) and railroad and road crossing.
 - Each greenway was given a score for 0 to 100.
 - Seven greenways received a score of 0 which means they were unfeasible for construction as a traditional greenway.
- Eight public meetings were held between January and March 2011 to assess public interest and support.
- Final draft recommendations were determined through evaluation of connectivity ranking and the public's interest and support.
- Regional connections and urban trails include Muddy Creek and Abbotts Creek in Davidson County, Yadkin River Greenway, Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Piedmont Regional Greenway and Piedmont Triad Research Park Urban Trail.
- Upcoming public input meetings will be January 24, 6 pm at the Southside Branch Library; January 26, 6 pm at the Rupert Bell Recreation Center and January 31, 6 pm at the Bethabara Park Visitor's Center.
- Next steps will be to make revisions as necessary, planning board review and recommendations and elected body review and adoption.

8. MPO Staff Reports

a. NCDOT Transportation Projects Update

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- Project U-4909 Union Cross Road from Wallburg Road to Sedge Garden Road has been awarded.

b. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation

No one present from PART.

c. Forsyth County Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection Air Quality Notes & Report

No questions for Cary Gentry.

d. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Projects Update

No questions for Matthew Burczyk.

9. Review Changes to the Prospectus for Transportation Planning

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Greg distributed a prospectus of transportation planning handout.
- The last prospectus was adopted in January of 2004.
- Since 2004, Midway and Wallburg have been added to the MPO.
- The census could possibly add new territory to the MPO.
- Staff will be working with Andy Bailey on the prospectus.

10. Review Schedule of the Draft Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program and MPO Self Certification Process

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 will be used to complete the work.
- Staff is beginning to identify what transportation planning projects we need to complete through FY 2012-2013.
- Please submit any transportation planning projects or studies your community or agency would like to see completed next year by February 27, 2012.
- From those suggestions and requests the draft FY 2012-2013 UPWP will be developed and presented to the TCC and the TAC at the March 15, 2012 meeting and then sent to NCDOT and to federal agencies by Friday, March 30, 2012 for their review and comment.
- Approval of the FY 2012-2013 UPWP will be considered at the May 17 meeting.

11. Review of the 2012-2013 MPO Calendar of Activities

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Amy Crum already mentioned the meeting dates and times for the draft Greenway Plan Update public meetings.
- NCDOT Business 40 bridge and design working groups meeting at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts at 6 pm on January 26.
- The next TAC meeting will be held February 16, 2012.

12. Other Business/Adjourn Meeting

Dan Besse welcomed all new members.

A brief discussion regarding acronyms ensued.

Margaret Bessette suggested she include a “cheat sheet” for acronyms in the agenda packets.

ADJOURNMENT 5:58 pm