

MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
JUNE 21, 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
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
John Bost, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
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
Randy Mendenhall, Council Member, Town of Walkertown

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Brent McKinney, PART
Toneq' McCullough, WSDOT
Cary Gentry, FCOEAP
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Fred Haith, WSDOT
Kevin Edwards, WSDOT
Matthew Burczyk, WSDOT
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT

RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

Larry Williams introduced and welcomed Ms. Toneq' McCullough, PE, the new City of Winston-Salem Director of Transportation.

1. Citizen Comments

No one present.

Action Items

2. Consideration of the May 17, 2012 TAC Meeting Minutes

Presented by Larry Williams.

MOTION: Kenneth Rethmeier moved approval of the minutes.

SECOND: Allen Todd

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Review of the MPO's List of Requested Transit Projects

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- Phillip Vereen discussed the list of candidate transit projects received during the STP-DA call for transit projects in April.
- He pointed out that Piedmont Authority Regional Transportation (PART) asked for both funding for the vanpools totaling \$300,000 and \$400,000 to be used for operating assistance.
- Since the May TAC meeting, staff has learned that STP-DA Funding cannot be used for operational assistance, therefore PART revised its request to cover Preventative Maintenance which frees up funds for operations.
- He also pointed that the resolution was modified to accurately reflect PART's request for preventative maintenance funds which are capital funds and not operating funds. Phillip distributed a revised resolution to TAC members.

a. Consideration of Programming Surface Transportation Program – Direct Attributable (STP-DA) Funds to the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) for the Purchase of Vans

Presented by Brent McKinney.

- Back in the 1980s the TCC and TAC committees took the lead and in 1997 developed PART.
- In September of 2002 PART began providing regional transportation to 5 counties.
- Ridership started out with approximately 6,000 monthly riders.
- In 2006 there was an increase in ridership due to county's adopting an Early Action Compact to address air quality.
- PART was to build 5 Park 'n Ride lots per year, now there are 23 lots.

- Surry County was included into PART.
- PART has continued to grow, the highest ridership was when gas when up to close to \$4 per gallon.
- Public transportation is not an alternative – many, many citizens depend on PART.
- Current ridership numbers are 40,000 +/- per month.
- When PART was created several ways were put forth for funding – all local.
- PART’s revenue mainly comes from a 5.5% tax on rental cars, which on average equaled \$3.6 million per year.
- Then the economy took a hit and those funds decreased to \$2.11 million in 2011.
- This decrease caused PART to have to dip into its funding reserves.
- PART is the only transportation service entity in the State that does not receive any kind of federal funding for operation costs.
- The PART Board met last week and adopted its 2013 budget.
- The 2013 budget was adopted with \$1.3 million in service reductions.
- Last year PART experienced a budget shortfall and received one-time funds from Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, Guilford County, Davidson County and Baptist Hospital.
- Greensboro pays PART \$80,000 per year on an on-going basis to operate a vanpool program in Greensboro. The bulk of the routes are in the Airport area.
- Reduced services will affect Winston-Salem routes and PTI routes.
- As part of the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO call for projects PART has requested replacement vans for vanpools that have exceeded their useful life cycle and operating funds to maintain service and re-establish service cuts.
- If these funds are allocated through the MPOs planned process, the funds will not be received in time to prevent the reduction of services, so PART is requesting the monies for the vans and preventative maintenance costs now to prevent the reduction in services.

A discussion ensued regarding what the \$400,000 request for funds covers.

A discussion ensued regarding the service cuts to Surry County.

Brent McKinney stated that fares collected account for 20% of PART’s budget and added that the average annual amount collected is \$1.21 million.

A discussion ensued regarding preventative maintenance.

A discussion ensued regarding prior funding for PART.

A discussion ensued regarding Davidson County ridership.

Brent McKinney stated that funding formulas are the reason PART is not eligible to apply for Federal funds. Brent added that next year PART will request that the MPO’s apply for 5307 and 5311 funds which should help PART obtain approximately \$400,000 in funding.

A discussion ensued regarding Charlotte’s transportation system.

A discussion ensued regarding the Triangle’s regional transportation system.

A discussion ensued regarding Federal formulas.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: Billy McHone

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

4. Update on the MPO's List of Other Requested Transportation Projects

Presented by Fred Haith.

- The STP-DA intersection improvement project selection committee met on June 13, 2012.
- Committee Members: Representatives of the Winston-Salem Urban Area TCC; City of Winston Salem Engineering and Transportation Departments; and NCDOT Division 9 Office.
- Project descriptions, location maps and conceptual designs were reviewed.
- A criteria matrix used to evaluate and rank the projects was discussed.
- Brett Abernathy (NCDOT Division 9) will filter the project list that the Division office submitted (He will also check on the possibility of the Division office providing the 20% match).
- A separate set of evaluation criteria will be used for the Needs projects.

Presented by Matthew Burczyk.

- \$18,300,000 worth of projects submitted by MPO communities.
- STP-DA project selection committee met on June 13 to review the projects and make initial recommendations for project rankings.
- Further evaluation of the projects is necessary to reduce the number of projects to fit the available funds.
- We will provide a list of funding recommendations as an information item in July.
- We will revise the list based on any feedback we receive.
- We will present a final list of funding recommendations as an action item in September.

5. Review of the MPO's Proposed Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) Based on the 2010 United States Census

Presented by Kevin Edwards.

- A preliminary recommended Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) has been created for the Winston-Salem MPO, but that recommendation depends on the resolution of four issues:
 - Extensions of the Winston-Salem Urbanized Area (UZA) into the current area of the Greensboro MPO in Guilford County – it has been agreed to leave the MAB boundary at the Forsyth/Guilford county line;

- Extensions of the Winston-Salem UZA into the current area of the High Point MPO in Guilford County, and extensions of the High Point UZA into the current area of the Winston-Salem MPO – it is intended that we leave these boundaries at their existing locations, but that has not been confirmed with High Point as yet;
- The Town of Wallburg is now almost completely within the Winston-Salem UZA – the 3 choices facing the Town are to remain split between the Winston-Salem and High Point MPOs, or to move fully into one or the other. It appears that the Town is inclined to remain in both MPOs, but a vote was not taken at their meeting in June. It is anticipated that a vote will be taken at the Town Council’s July 10th meeting; and
- The City of Lexington is now in the Winston-Salem UZA – the City needs to choose whether to join the Winston-Salem MPO or the High Point MPO. The City will discuss its options at its June 26th meeting, and it is anticipated that a vote will be taken at the August 13th meeting.
- At a meeting earlier this year, Greg Errett of the Winston-Salem MPO, David Hyder of the High Point MPO, and Phil Conrad of the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO discussed allowing Wallburg and Lexington to choose their MPO.

A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of Lexington and Wallburg joining the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO.

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

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Next Meeting July 19th

7. Other Business/Adjourn Meeting

- Greg Errett presented a table of available STP-DA funds with the Transit Projects included.

ADJOURNMENT 5:45 pm