

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PROCESS

The Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) began public review of the existing 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) on March 13, 2008. The MPO newsletter announcing the various documents for review was mailed and e-mailed to neighborhood associations, churches, various minority and civic groups or organizations, as well as individuals through the Legacy or area planning process or transportation related businesses. An announcement was placed in all local newspapers serving the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO asking citizens to comment on the existing document, which was available in all Public Libraries, Town Halls, City/County Planning Board, and Winston-Salem Department of Transportation (DOT). The plans and maps for review included:

1. Update of the LRTP to 2035,
2. Draft 2009 – 2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program,
3. Conversion of the Thoroughfare Plan to the North Carolina mandated Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Street and Highway Map
4. New CTP draft maps for Public Transportation, Rail and Bicycle modes
5. Environmental Justice maps for the LRTP

The Draft 2035 LRTP draft mapping and contact list was sent to all State and Federal environmental agencies for preliminary regional review. A full discussion of the environmental consultation is in the Environmental section of the document and appendix. The MPO Newsletter, the advertisement published in all local newspapers and a summary of the meeting comments are in the Appendix. The Winston-Salem DOT and City/County Planning Board staff reviewed each section of the existing LRTP and all information including each transportation mode was updated to comply with SAFETEA-LU requirements and to reflect the changes that have occurred since the development of the 2030 LRTP adopted in July 2005.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation issued the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in October 2007. The Interagency Consultation Partners for Air Quality Conformity worked through the summer to meet conformity for the region with the 2035 LRTPs. As an interim step, the MTIPs were evaluated with the existing 2030 LRTPs. The NCDOT conducted an air quality conformity analysis and determination in July 2008. The 2009–2015 MTIP was found conforming with the existing 2030 LRTPs and a public comment review period on the 2009-2015 MTIP and CTP Street and Highway map conversion and table was held from July 17th through August 15, 2008 with a special public meeting in the Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building Building on July 17, 2008. The 2009-2015 MTIP, Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report and Determination and the CTP Street and Highway map were adopted at the Transportation Advisory Committee on August 21, 2008. The 2009-2015 MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report and Determination is in the Appendix.

On November 26, 2008, a final Draft 2035 LRTP document was distributed to each library and Town Hall in the MPO, NCDOT Division 9 offices, and members of the TCC and TAC for public review. In addition, the document was available on the City of Winston-Salem website: dot.cityofws.org. The announcement was placed in the local newspapers for the Winston-Salem Urban Area. The 2035 LRTP and other transportation issues were the focus of two Winston-Salem TV13 programs broadcast throughout the months of November, December and January. Also, an MPO Newsletter in English and Spanish was mailed and e-mailed to announce the availability of the 2035 LRTP for public review and to notify the public of meeting dates, times and locations. There was a 43-day public review period for the document from December 1, 2008 through January 12, 2009.

During the public review period, seven full day/evening meetings were held throughout the MPO at Winston-Salem City Hall, three YMCAs, the Clark Campbell Transportation Center, the Forsyth County Public Health Department and Marketplace Mall. Spanish language translation was available at the Transportation Center, Public Health Department and Marketplace Mall meetings. In addition, a Spanish language hotline notice is published on the cover of the document and was available throughout the public review period. During the public involvement period, over 120 people signed in, stopped by to ask questions and identified their special transportation concerns. Twenty-eight comment sheets, eleven calls to the Spanish translation hotline, and several letters and e-mails were submitted and responded to by Transportation Coordinating Committee staff. All comments and responses are located in the Public Participation section of the Appendix. A summary of the 2035 LRTP comments includes:

- Requests for expansion of local bus service
 - Sunday service, more weekend and night routes and service, lengthen existing routes, more bus shelters, additional stop requests
- Desire for regional bus and light rail service
 - Request for Clemmons/Davie County route and park and ride
- Additional bicycle lanes, greenways and bike racks
 - Connections between greenways and neighborhoods
 - Requests for bike facilities and concerns about specific locations
- Additional sidewalks
- Better land use and transportation planning to prevent sprawl and congestion
- Traffic safety and roundabouts
- Federal and State agency comments on the CMP and Environmental Consultation Chapters

The Draft LRTP document and the public comments were presented to the City-County Planning Board on January 22, 2009. The City-County Planning Board voted to endorse the 2035 LRTP document sections including Comprehensive Planning, Trends and Socioeconomic Data, and Goals and Objectives. On January 29, 2009, the TAC found the 2035 LRTP to be in conformance with the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (SIP) and approved the 2009 update of the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO 2035 LRTP. Copies of the document were sent to State and Federal agencies for their review and approval by January 31, 2009. Federal approval of the 2035 LRTP was received on March 6, 2009.