

MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
JULY 21, 2005
4:15 P.M.
FIFTH FLOOR, PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, CITY HALL SOUTH

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Willa Lash, Mayor, Town of Bethania
Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
Fred Terry, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Robert Griffin, Council Member, Town of Bermuda Run
Ed Brewer, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
Larry Williams, Mayor, Town of Rural Hall
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Margaret Bessette, City-County Planning Board, TAC Secretary
Curtis Swisher, Mayor, Town of Kernersville
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville
Bobby Knight, Commissioner, Davie County
Nancy Dunn, Member of NC Board of Transportation
Larry Sowers, Council Member, Town of Lewisville, Alternate
Horace Warner, Council Member, Town of Walkertown, Alternate

PRESIDING: Larry Williams, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT:

Stan Polanis, WSDOT
James Upchurch, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Cary Gentry, FCEAD
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Greg Venable, WSDOT
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT
Wendy Miller, WSDOT

RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

OTHERS:

Guy Cromer,
Jim Sparks, The Winston-Salem Journal

Action Items

1. Consideration of the May 19, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Larry Williams stated that Willa Lash was in attendance at the May 19, 2005 TAC meeting.

Chairman Larry Williams requested that additional information be added to Item 3 regarding the NCDOT public comment session held in Kernersville and where he asked for continued beltway support, expressed concern regarding the delay in the Western section of the beltway and asked if it would be appropriate for the TAC to send a letter stating its frustration.

MOTION: Allen Joines made a motion for approval of the amended minutes.

SECOND: Fred Terry

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

2. Consideration of Project Priorities for the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program – Work Task III-D-3, Special Studies

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Each year the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to develop and approve a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- The Fiscal Year 2005 - 2006 UPWP was reviewed and approved by the Transportation Advisory Committee on March 31, 2005.
- The UPWP includes \$60,000 for Special Studies. Under Special Studies, the work task is generally defined in the UPWP to “Complete STP-DA Funded Special Studies and Projects.”
- Staff has identified 3 small transportation planning and engineering studies which could be completed for approximately \$60,000.
- Conduct a Feasibility Study and Functional Design for the proposed Peace Haven Road/Styers Ferry Road Connector in the Village of Clemmons.
- Provide financial support to the City-County Planning Board (CCPB) to complete small area plans for the proposed Northern Beltway interchanges.
- Conduct three roundabout Feasibility Studies in the City of Winston-Salem at Five Points, Peters Creek Parkway at the First/Second Street intersection and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive at Patterson Avenue intersection.

Stan Polanis responded to Dan Besse’s question stating that the areas selected for the roundabout study were through staff investigation and operational and safety analysis. Mr. Polanis further stated that the roundabouts are from the Downtown Plan and at two of the chosen sites, there are operational and safety problems that could be addressed.

Stan Polanis responded to Dan Besse’s additional question regarding safety issues stating that there is a right angle accident problem at the Peters Creek and 1st Street intersection that has yet to be resolved, and there are right angle accident problems at the Five-Points intersection which staff has tried to resolve and has made some improvements but problems still continue.

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved approval.

SECOND: Fred Terry

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of a Resolution Requesting NCDOT to Modify the Northern Beltway's (Eastern Section) Construction Segment Limits

Presented by Greg Errett.

- The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has completed the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Northern Beltway.
- The draft EIS recommends that the construction alternative for the Northern Beltway's Eastern Section (N2S1) is the best alternative for the Urban Area and will have the least amount of negative impacts on the overall community.
- In April, 2005, NCDOT released the draft FY 2006 – 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for public review and comment.
- The draft STIP recommends that the Northern Beltway's entire Eastern Section (U-2579) be funded and implemented first.
- In review of the draft STIP and the proposed design for the Northern Beltway's Eastern Section, some of the identified segments for the beltway appear to be illogical in the sequencing and should be modified.
- For U-2579, Segment "B" is the first segment planned to be constructed. Its limits extend from south of Business 40 to South of the Reidsville Road interchange with no points of access in between. Segment "B" will be built first, finishing in FY 2012, years before Segments "AB" and "C" are scheduled to be completed. Therefore, Segment "B" will be built but will provide no traffic service.
- A review of the Northern Beltway's Eastern Section sequencing should be completed to assure road segments will provide traffic service upon their completion.
- TAC requests NCDOT to re-examine the proposed project limits and sequencing of construction for all of the Northern Beltway's Eastern Section's segments "AA" through "F", and modify those segments on the plans within the draft STIP.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: Curtis Swisher

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report and Conformity Determination for the Amended Winston-Salem Urban Area 2030 Transportation Plan

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- On March 31, 2005, the TAC adopted the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2030 LRTP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Report, and on May 28, 2005, the US Department of Transportation approved the documents.
- In April, 2005, the NCDOT issued the draft 2006-2012 STIP with revised funding schedules and time frames for several projects in the Winston-Salem Urban Area.
- The provisions of the CAAA and TEA-21 require that a new air quality conformity analysis and determination be performed when there are revisions to regionally significant projects with the LRTP.
- NCDOT, in cooperation with DENR, FCEAD and WSDOT, has completed a new air quality conformity analysis and determination.

- The report demonstrates that amendments to the 2030 fiscally-constrained LRTP for the urban area eliminates or reduces violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and accomplishes the intent of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (SIP).
- Based on the regional emissions budget test documented in this report and compliance with other requirements for conformity, the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2030 LRTP conforms to the purpose of the North Carolina SIP.
- As required by the Public Participation Policy, the draft air quality report was available for public review and comment for thirty days.
- All comments on the draft air quality report and the staff's responses to the comments are available.

MOTION: Fred Terry moved approval.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

5. Consideration of Amendments to the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2030 Transportation Plan

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) requires that all urbanized areas develop a long range multi-modal transportation plan (LRTP) and update plans on a regular basis.
- The LRTP must have at least a twenty year planning horizon, include both long-range and short-range strategies/actions that lead to the development of an integrated transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods, and shall be reviewed and updated at least three years to confirm its validity and its consistency with current and forecasted transportation and land use conditions and trends.
- On March 31, 2005, the TAC approved the 2030 LRTP.
- The 2030 LRTP was approved by the US Department of Transportation on May 28, 2005.
- In April, 2005, the NCDOT issued the draft 2006-2012 STIP with a revised seven-year funding schedule for all modes of transportation.
- The draft 2006-2012 STIP changed the time frames on several regionally significant projects in the Winston-Salem Urban Area. These changes triggered a revision to the 2030 LRTP and a full Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report and Determination.
- The 2030 LRTP revisions include six projects moving from the 2014 to the 2020 time frame, two projects moving from the 2020 to 2014 time frame, adding the TransAid Community Transportation Improvement Plan, revisions to the Revenue Projections and Cost Estimates Tables and a revised list of Exempt Projects that would receive federal funding in the event of a conformity lapse.
- A public review of the amendments to the 2030 LRTP was provided from June 16 – July 18, 2005.
- Comments received from the public have been summarized and distributed to you for your review.
- The amendments to the 2030 LRTP must be reviewed and approved by various federal agencies by September 30, 2005.

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved approval.

SECOND: Curtis Swisher

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

6. Consideration of the Fiscal Year 2006-2012 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- In April, 2005, the NCDOT released the draft 2006 – 2012 STIP.
- The draft STIP is a comprehensive listing of all transportation projects in North Carolina that are proposed for study or programmed for funding with State or Federal funds during FY 2006-2012.
- The draft 2006-2012 MTIP is a comprehensive listing of all transportation projects programmed for the Winston-Salem Urban Area.
- On March 4, 2005, prior to the release of the draft STIP, a MPO review meeting was held with NCDOT to discuss funding and adjustments.
- A public comment meeting on the STIP was held on May 16, 2005, in Kernersville, NC.
- Copies of the draft MTIP were distributed to all municipalities in the Urban Area for review and comment.
- On June 30, 2005, a public comment meeting on the MTIP was held in City Hall South of Winston-Salem.
- As required by the Public Participation Policy, the draft 2006 – 2012 MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report were available for public review and comment for 30 days.
- Comments will be compiled and presented.
- The MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report must be approved and sent to the NCDOT by September 30, 2005.

MOTION: Willa Lash moved approval.

SECOND: Fred Terry

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ADDITIONAL ITEM

- 6a. Approval of an amendment to the Winston-Salem Urban Area Fiscal Year 2006 – 2012 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to include an environmental/feasibility study for the proposed Interstate 73/74 Connector as a potential toll road facility.

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- In June, 2005, PART hosted the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) Board meeting in Greensboro.
- At the end of the meeting, the NCTA Board provided an opportunity for the general public to come and speak about toll road issues and needs.
- The NCTA Board was impressed enough with the local support for the project, which they voted to include the Interstate 73/74 Connector as a candidate toll facility project worth of further study in Forsyth and Guilford counties.
- The NCTA has requested that the FY 2006-2012 STIP be amended to include \$400,000 to conduct an environmental/feasibility study of the proposed Interstate 73/74 connector.

Dan Besse expressed his concerns with North Carolina toll roads.

MOTION: Fred Terry moved approval.

SECOND: Ed Brewer

VOTE:

FOR: Chair Williams, Dan Besse, Willa Lash, Fred Sink, Fred Terry, Curtis Swisher, Allen Joines, Ed Brewer, Richard Linville, Nancy Dunn, Larry Sowers and Horace Warner.

AGAINST: Keith Snow

Information Items

7. Review of the Fiscal Year 2007-2013 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Process
 - a. Review of Candidate Projects for the 2005 Transportation Needs Report

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- Due to the short timeframe to submit the needs list for FY 2007 – 2013, staff is re-endorsing the needs list submitted in 2003.
- This list is both for street and highway projects as well as bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- A number of the projects on the previous list are no longer considered regionally significant, so there are currently 16 projects on the needs list.
- The bicycle and pedestrian projects are moving along nicely.

8. Bicycle and Greenway Planning Report
 - a. Update of Draft Winston-Salem Urban Area Bicycle Master Plan

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- Funds from the Capital Improvement Program have been received for the Waughtown Connector, Little Creek and Piedmont Greenways.
- On June 9, 2005, a letter was sent to Bill Gorby with Norfolk Southern Corporation, signed by Mayors Allen Joines and Larry Williams in support of the Brushy Fork Creek Project.
- No response has been received from the letter sent to Norfolk Southern.
- Continuing to survey available areas of Brushy Fork Creek, however, this project is pretty much at a stand still until hearing back from Norfolk Southern.
- Muddy Creek resolution went before the City Council authorizing the City Manager to sign the municipal agreement allowing reimbursement to NCDOT for the project.
- Continuing to work on design for Waughtown Connector and proceed for design for erosion control plan.
- Recreation and Parks Department is continuing to work with developers and all the parties involved with the Salem Creek/Strollway Connector.
- Piedmont Regional Greenway received funding from the TIP for the feasibility study. No time has been set for construction to begin.
- Bicycle Plan is moving forward. Presented to and adopted by the City-County Planning Board. Will be reviewed at the next City Council meeting due to one of the council members being absent and asked that it be forwarded to the next meeting. Plan should come back to committee in September.

9. Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Planning Report

Presented by Greg Venable.

- Sidewalk material data is being collected and almost completed.
- Few areas downtown and new construction that need to be collected.
- Data required condition of sidewalks is also moving forward.
- Committee is currently ranking projects and reviewing funding sources.
- Committee is also reviewing various possibilities on the best way to keep information updated once all collected.

10. Review of Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Process

- a. Thoroughfare Plan Amendment(s) to Add/Modify Roads in Southeastern Forsyth County

Presented by Greg Venable.

- Currently working toward updating comprehensive transportation plan.
- Plan now includes bike and pedestrian plans and facilities.
- Plan will also include Freeways, Expressways, Boulevards and Thoroughfares and be much different than past plans.

11. NCDOT Division 9 Report

- a. Northern Beltway EIS

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- US 421/Business 40 from US 158 to Linville Road – the contractor is currently in Phase III, reconstruction of the westbound lanes. New westbound bridges are under construction and once completed, concrete paving will begin. At the end of Phase III, traffic will be placed into a two-lane pattern on the existing eastbound lanes for 60 days. Estimated completion date for this project is June of 2006.
- US 421/Business 40 from MLK to US 158 – the contractor is finishing the remaining work on the project. Traffic has been restored to its normal alignment and any lanes closures that are needed will be installed at night or on the weekend. Project should be completed by August 1, 2005.
- Old Salem Roundabout on Main Street – the project was completed July 8, 2005.
- Cole Road Bridge Replacement – construction began in February with the closure of Cole Road. The contractor has started work on the substructure. The completion date is 210 days from the start of construction, which makes the completion date September 11, 2005. The project is on schedule.
- Old Yadkinville Road Bridge Replacement – the project started May, 2005. Contractor has installed the fill material for the on-site detour and has begun construction on the detour bridge. The completion date is 495 days from the start of construction; which makes the completion date September 22, 2006.
- Hanes Mall Boulevard – project was let this week. The bids are all over cost; will meet to discuss whether project will be accepted or rebid.
- Bridge on NC 801 over I-40 and Bridge on US 158 over Yadkin River – these projects have been combined into one design-build project.
- Harper Road Interchange at I-40 – project is scheduled to be let in January 2006.
- Pavement rehabilitation on I-40 from NC 801 to Pinebrook School Road in Davie County – project to be let in 2007
- Idols Road Extension – right of way in progress.

- Main Street at US 52 in King – right of way in progress
- Lewisville-Clemmons Road from Forest Oaks Drive to Peace Haven Road – right of way in progress.
- US 52 short term improvements and bridge over Liberty Street – these projects have been combined into one design-build project.
- Union Cross Road from Wallburg Road to Sedge Garden Road – widen to multi-lane divided roadway.

Pat Ivey responded to Dan Besse's question stating the cost estimates for the Hanes Mall Boulevard project came in at almost 12% higher than what was expected and added that is why the Board is continuing to review the project.

Greg Errett responded to Dan Besse's question stating that the CMAQ Project requests have been reviewed by NCDOT. Funding for most projects will be available which include 6 new sidewalks, new transit service at the new Dell facility, air quality support and intersection improvements.

12. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department Air Quality Report

a. PM 2.5

Presented by Cary Gentry.

- PM 2.5 conformity for Guilford and Davidson Counties includes a small part of WS/FC MPO.
- Conformity report is due April 5, 2006.
- Review Draft CDR October, 2005.
- Discuss/Address CDR comments November, 2005.
- NCDENR review and comment letter December, 2005.
- Review of final CDR January, 2006.
- USDOT conformity determination March, 2006
- Conformity report due April 5, 2006.
- FCEAD working on grants with school system for biodiesel fuel and engine retro-fit for school buses, anti-idling program and education/outreach.
- Air Awareness Coordinator is Loreli Elkins
- 2005 County budget approved, becomes FC position/previously contracted employee of DAQ.
- No alert days since May 19, 2005. Three alert days so far in 2005.

Cary Gentry responded to Dan Besse's question stating that the anti-idling program for buses would provide a way for the bus to shift off instead of idling to help save energy.

13. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Report

Presented by Stan Polanis.

- No new information to report, bus ridership is still on the increase.

14. Review of Calendar of Activities

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Next meeting will be September 15, 2005.

15. Other Business/Next Meeting

ADJOURNMENT 5:17 pm