

MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
NOVEMBER 18, 2004
4:15 P.M.
CITY HALL SOUTH, 5TH FLOOR PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Besse*, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Robert Griffin, Council Member, Town of Bermuda Run
Mike Horn, Mayor, Town of Lewisville
Billy Joe Kepley, Commissioner, Davidson County
Willa Lash, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Bethania
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Chris Murphy, Secretary to TAC, City-County Planning Board
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville
Curtis Swisher, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Kernersville
Horace Warner, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Walkertown
Larry Williams, Mayor, Town of Rural Hall

STAFF PRESENT

Linda Barnes, City of Winston-Salem Mayor's Office
Karen Croysdale, WSDOT intern
Missy Dickens, NCDOT
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT
Cary Gentry, FCEAD
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Bill Marley, FHWA
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Stan Polanis, NCDOT
Pat Reagan, FCEAD
Scott Rhine, PART
Suzanne Tellechea, WSTA
James Upchurch, NCDOT
Greg Venable, WSDOT

OTHERS PRESENT: Robin Dean; Sally Jones

PRESIDING: Larry Williams, Chairman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Chris Murphy, City-County Planning Board (minutes prepared from tape recording)

ORDER OF HEARING: Pending a quorum, Information Items #4, #5, #6, and #7 were heard first. Once a quorum was in place, the remaining items were heard in listed order.

Action Items

1. Consideration of Minutes from the September 16, 2004 Meeting

Larry Williams noted some changes to the minutes:

- The footer should read TAC minutes rather than TCC minutes.
- Add the time of adjournment to the minutes.
- Under item #12, the word Commission should be Committee.

MOTION: Walter Marshall moved approval of the minutes with changes noted above.

SECOND: Curtis Swisher

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

2. Consideration of Keeping the Proposed Spainhour Mill Road Extension on the Winston-Salem Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan Map and Technical Report

Presented by Greg Venable.

- The Thoroughfare Plan was approved at our last meeting but was held in abeyance until we had more information on the Spainhour Mill Road connection. We discussed this again at our TCC meeting today and they again recommend that we approve the Thoroughfare Plan with the Spainhour Mill Road Extension on the plan.
- In your package are some minutes from the Village of Tobacoville from September 4, 2003. The public comments from Mr. Stephen Strawsburg with RJR regarding his concerns about the connection going through the RJR property are highlighted. On the back side of the page are comments from council members of Tobacoville stating basically that they would take the connection off the Needs List, but would like to keep it on the Thoroughfare Plan.
- I think that is still the feeling of Tobacoville. Mayor Snow can added any information for you.

Mayor Snow

- On several occasions we have talked to RJR and discussed in detail the development in this immediate area, the area roads, and the bridge which will be extended there. We would like for the Spainhour Mill Road Extension to continue to be on the Thoroughfare Plan to give us an opportunity to evaluate the future needs.

Larry Williams

- I think Mayor Joines' primary concern was that we needed to hear both sides of the information.

Greg Venable

- The Needs Plan was just updated recently and with that update Tobaccoville decided to put the Vienna-Dozier/Reynolda Road intersection on the Needs List and take the Spainhour Mill Road connection off the Needs List.
- Spainhour Mill Road Extension is on our long-range plan (2030 time frame) so it is not in the immediate future.
- The Thoroughfare Plan is being updated now because we have new areas in our MPO. It is updated when there is a need.
- Projects have to be on the Thoroughfare Plan before they can be funded by Federal funds.

Richard Linville

- I have concern about it, but given the fact that if it did advance further the TAC would be able to consider it at that time, I think this would be okay.

MOTION: Curtis Swisher moved approval of the Thoroughfare Plan as presented by the TAC with the Spainhour Mill Road shown.

SECOND: Walter Marshall

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of the Draft 2030 Population, Housing and Employment Projections for the Winston-Salem Urban Area

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- In order to update the Long-Range Transportation Plan by the deadline and insure that Air Quality Conformity status doesn't lapse, data had to be obtained for 2030 using the old projection model.
- Today we are asking for adoption of these 2030 numbers so they can be used in this process.
- However, we will be coming back to you shortly for adoption of another set of numbers. Those numbers will be projections for 2035 and the new projection model will utilize that data. That is a different process than the one you are adopting data for today.

Mike Horn

- Do you have an overlay which puts municipalities within the zone lines?

Lakesha Dunlap

- I don't have anything with me today, but I can tell you that those are sub-areas which were developed to make sure each municipality was included in those sub-areas.
- The municipalities should not overlap. What we did do after this was to add names to each sub-area. The names are pretty indicative of what municipality lies within that sub-area if there is one or what the main focus was.
- The numbers represent: Top # = sub-area number; middle number is the projected total number of households in that sub-area for 2030; bottom number is the projected employment number for 2030.
- We will provide you with a copy of this map.

Mike Horn

- Will the sub-area #11 (Lewisville) also reflect the recent annexation in Lewisville-Vienna? Sub-area #12 is Vienna-Dozier Road.

Lakesha Dunbar

- These lines were done prior to the annexation, but we will look into whether the annexed areas were in the same sub-area as the Town of Lewisville.
- We're updating the LRTP which is based on the old model which only included the Forsyth County data. NCDOT and EPA will be using a spread sheet for the other areas in our MPO.

Larry Williams

- This needs to be adopted today because of the deadline.

Lakesha Dunbar

- We're not adopting the boundaries today. We're only adopting the numbers. The sub-areas/boundaries were just a way to keep track of the control numbers.

Chris Murphy

- The overall important numbers are actually on a micro level. Each of these sub-areas are further subdivided into TAZs which are all those numbers in your chart. The TAZs themselves are analyzed individually so if you would go back and draw your lines different to create differently configured sub-areas, the numbers for the sub-areas change, but the numbers for the underlying TAZs would not. At this point, we're only concerned about the overall numbers.

MOTION: Willa Lash moved approval of the Draft 2030 Population, Housing and Employment Projections for the Winston-Salem Urban Area.

SECOND: Mike Horn

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

4. Consideration of the Proposed Federal Functional Classification Map for the Winston-Salem Urban Area
 - a. Transportation Planning Branch Report

Presented by James Upchurch.

- A copy of the information presented by Mr. Upchurch is on file.
- This update is usually done approximately every ten years. The last version was done after the 1990 census.
- Now that the 2000 census has been done, we are required to update the proposed Federal Functional Classification Map for this MPO.

- All roads eligible for Federal funds must be classified higher than local roads.
- This information is used to access the condition and performance of the highway system. It's also used as a planning tool.
- Larry Williams asked that a map of the existing and proposed be available prior to the next meeting.

James Upchurch

- We've had a lot of changes due to growth in the area and expansion of the MPO.
- There are no new Interstates located on the updated map (with the proposed eastern section of the beltway). That is because the roads do not yet meet minimum standards for Interstates. When they get up to standard, they will be added.

5. 2030 Multi-Modal Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Winston-Salem Urban Area Progress Report

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- We are working on the Long Range Transportation Plan. You'll hear with the action items about the model year numbers for the 2030 plan with the socio-economic data. That will be passed on to the NCDOT along with the network that you adopted at our last meeting to do the air quality conformity analysis. We also have FCEAD ready. They've done some emissions analysis and some factors and they're going to assist with that process with the NCDOT folks. We on staff are working to update the mapping and all the documents associated with the plan that we will produce here in our office. We're still on schedule for our public review in early January of both the Long Range Plan, the Air Quality Analysis, and we hope the MTIP.
- Larry Williams asked if the draft would be available by the next meeting. Ms. Miller indicated it would be out for public review by that point.

6. Draft Fiscal Year 2006-2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- a. Review of STIP and the MTIP Planning Process and
- b. 2007-2013 STIP Next Year

- We're also waiting for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). It's been delayed and we understand it will be out in the winter of 2005. That's important for us because we're also doing our Long Range Plan and Air Quality Conformity at the same time and we need to make sure there's coordination so the projects in our Long Range Plan will match our TIP and MTIP.
- As soon as we finish with this process where we go through public review this spring and then adopt a STIP, we'll start right back again because the State, as you may have heard, is going to change the biennial schedule to an odd year format
- As a result of the State's change to odd years, we will be doing the same.

c. Review of the Approved Transportation Enhancement Projects

- The 2004 Call for Enhancements resulted in project E-4948 which is the landscape improvements to the Silas Creek Parkway/South Main Street Gateway area at I-40. That total project was \$100,600. Our match locally will be \$20,120 and the Federal match is \$80,480.
- We did submit several other projects. At least one of those was found to be very favorable but there just wasn't enough money to fund it. That may be approved the next go around.

d. Public Transportation Projects

- We don't have our draft yet for the street and highway and some of the other elements, but the Public Transportation Division has done a draft and you have that at your places. It is certainly more detailed and there may be some changes as you go through and as we see it again with the rest of the document.

7. NCDOT Division 9 Report

Presented by Pat Ivey and Missy Dickens, NCDOT

- a. Northern Beltway EIS – Release of the Document and Public Participation Process
- b. Status of Other Major TIP Projects

- A copy of Mr. Ivey's report is on file.
- Robert Griffin asked for the identity of the road for the western terminus for the proposed I-40 improvements in Davie County? Mr. Ivey will find out and notify Mr. Griffin.

Dan Besse

- When will the Old Salem round-about be open?

Pat Ivey

- Our big concern has been Old Salem and their Christmas traffic which has been their concern also. We anticipate having the Salem Avenue leg open in early December so people can come from US 52 and Stadium Drive to Salem and make a right turn into Old Salem as they normally would do. We will still maintain the detour on Marshall Street for a time until we can get the remaining portions of the round-about open.

Dan Besse

- What is the status of the Hanes Mall Boulevard improvements?

Pat Ivey

- That is on schedule to be let sometime mid-next year, I believe. I will get the schedule to you.

Larry Williams

- The rehabilitation project on US 52 really looks great. Several people have asked if raised reflector markers going to be placed along that road?

Pat Ivey

- Those markers have to be replaced after winter weather hits, so we're working on a large project to install those in the spring.

Curtis Swisher

- Tim Shields has some concerns about the access and mobility in Kernersville, relative to the beltway.

Pat Ivey

- We have spoken with Tim and are in the process of getting that date set up now.
- Mr. Ivey introduced Missy Dickens from the Project Development Branch of NCDOT.

Missy Dickens

- We've had public meetings all week regarding the development of the Northern Beltway.
- We signed the EIS in October.
- We've had so far about 550 folks attend and the comments are pretty much what you'd expect. We've heard some opposition to the beltway as a whole. We have heard some support for the beltway and a lot of those supporting the beltway wished it would have been built yesterday. Then a lot of folks are concerned on a smaller scale about what's happening right in their immediate area, particularly with regard to impacts to their property or impacts to their access.
- The beltway is severing a lot of surface street connections and it's important that you notice that and see where those connections are being severed so that you can have a chance to react to it. We rely very heavily on you and your staff to direct us in that.
- Please take a close look at that and let us know if you see any unacceptable road severances and also temporary road closures. There are some places where we are building a bridge and rather than maintaining a temporary on-site detour at that location we're closing it for the length of construction and we made those decisions based on our best information. You may have better information and know if one of those closings is going to cause a major inconvenience.
- Those maps are in Winston-Salem DOT office on the third floor of this building. They're also at the Division 9 office on Silas Creek Parkway. We hope in another week or so to have them available on line as well.
- We have publicized the meetings with mailings. We sent out about 6,000 newsletters and we continue to get the comment from a lot of folks that they don't know about the beltway or they don't know about the meetings. It continues to be a point of frustration for me because it's really important to me that everybody know. There are folks who are uninformed about the beltway and I'm very very sorry that that's the case. That was certainly not our intent.
- Copies of items we are giving out at public meetings are available for you as well. They include the environmental document on CD, the newsletter which announces the meetings and discusses very briefly the contents of the environmental document and a more in depth summary of the environmental document.
- Our comment period will close on January 5th.

- We will then address all the comments we've received in a subsequent environmental document that should be released next summer.
- The Federal Highway Administration will issue a record of decision in October 2005.
- That will bring us to a point where we can actually begin acquiring right-of-way.

Larry Williams

- Missy, we appreciate very much your being up here and presenting this information to us. What is your title?

Missy Dickens

- Project Development Engineer.

8. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certification Review of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Presented by Bill Marley, FHWA

- Mr. Marley explained the Certification Review which occurred in August 2004.
- There were a lot of commendations, including staff's preparation of a notebook of review materials before the review.
- There are a few recommendations. They are not corrective actions, just items to keep in mind as you proceed with transportation planning.
- A copy of the report is on file.

Larry Williams

- I want to commend our outstanding staff and the working relationship they have with NCDOT. We welcome recommendations.

Dan Besse

- What is our internal process for considering and reacting to various recommendations?

Larry Williams

- Staff will review these recommendations and consider what could be done.

Stan Polanis

- We will take a look at these recommendations. We will react to them, bring them through the TCC and bring back our responses to you for your approval.

9. Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Planning Report

Presented by Greg Venable.

- We are still in the process of collecting our data for our sidewalk pedestrian plan. It's an ongoing process. They have collected the data for Forsyth County outside of Winston-Salem. They will have to go back to the areas where sidewalks are currently being installed and collect that data once the work is finished. They are working as quickly as they can in Winston-Salem, but there's more sidewalk out there than you think there is when you have to get out and walk every bit of it!

- The committee for the plan has developed a vision statement and has been working on the goals and objectives. They have finally got those completed and we're starting to look at existing conditions in the outer areas and putting some lines on the map (representing proposals) for a long-range sidewalk plan. We'll be meeting with individual municipalities over the next few weeks to discuss with them their needs so we can get those incorporated into the map.

Dan Besse

- There will be a report on the status of the Early Action Compact and I've just been apprised this afternoon that we have a rather urgent data collection need. With my apologies, if you and Ms. Dunbar and Mr. Polanis could stay a few minutes after the meeting so I could consult with you about some data that we need to get back to Ms. Booker in Greensboro ASAP, I'd appreciate that.

10. Bicycle and Greenway Planning Report

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- Updates of progress on the individual greenways were presented. A copy is on file.
- Our Comprehensive Bicycle Plan is progressing on schedule. The public workshop was well attended and we should receive information from that soon.
- We expect to have a draft report on a new bicycle map and some preliminary looks at the map around February of 2005.
- We are also in the process of developing a bicycle survey.

Larry Williams

- Related to the greenway paths themselves, do you have a map showing those that have already been completed or are under construction and what the proposed ones.

Lakesha Dunbar

- The Planning Department actually adopted a greenway plan which shows existing and proposed trails.

Larry Williams

- Having a map of existing and proposed greenways would be helpful.

11. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department Air Quality Report

Presented by Pat Reagan.

a. Update on Early Action Compact for Ozone Reduction

- The Southern Environmental Law Center has not asked us to do anything additional for our Early Action Compact. They do continue to ask for enforceable wording in the document and this is for all EACs, not only the Triad's.

- We heard from the Southern Environmental Law Center concerning some language about particle pollution and PM 2.5 designations. Although PM Fine is not included in our Early Action Compact, the attorneys are prepared to have some type of litigation started if they don't get what they determine to be appropriate designation areas for PM 2.5.

b. Air Quality Report

- Regarding the SIP, the State Division of Air Quality held a public hearing on the one-hour CO SIP and the eight-hour proposed Ozone SIP for the Triad. This hearing was actually fairly well attended.
- There were some comments that were made that were very supportive of the SIP document and all the work that went into it as well as the Early Action Compact.
- There were no adverse comments on the SIP or the EAC but there were favorable responses from industry and from government and the Chamber of Commerce on the document and the EAC itself.
- Finally, just talking about the air quality from the past year, as you know, we had very little in the way of ozone pollution this year. Weather was a contributing factor.

Dan Besse

- Weather was certainly a major factor this summer, but some of the initial work pursuant to the clean smokestacks act requirement may have started to be felt in the NOX emissions in our area.
- Over the next few years that should be an increasingly important contributing factor.

12. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Report

Scott Rhine had to leave prior to this time. Stan Polanis presented the report.

- Ridership on the PART express bus service continues to increase.
- They're building more park and ride lots and looking for places to build more.
- They're still working on the second phase of the rail study.

13. Possible Davidson County Additions to the MPO

Presented by Chris Murphy.

- a. Town of Wallburg
- b. Future Incorporation of the Midway Area

- Wallburg became an incorporated municipality July 1, 2004.
- Inviting Wallburg to join with one vote doesn't affect our quorum.
- The MOU doesn't consider extending membership except it refers to the by-laws. The by-laws say that we can extend membership to whoever we want to as long as the MOU is amended.

- I personally have a problem with the MOU being amended every time because I don't feel like going back to all 19 member jurisdictions and chase down all those signatures, but we could amend the by-laws to read that we could extend an invitation to membership so long as they signed on to the MOU as an addendum, essentially agreeing to everything contained therein. The MOU essentially talks about what our purpose is, who the members are, etc.
- Wallburg sits on the border and actually falls under High Point's MPO area and our MPO area. It's always been our position that as our area expands, those folks should be invited to become new members. There is no problem if they are members of two organizations.
- If two communities (such as Wallburg and Midway) join our MPO, we would probably have to change our by-laws to change our quorum requirements. We'd probably need to change a quorum to 11 members and still keep it over a majority of the number of members.
- TCC recommended that we do extend an invitation to Wallburg.
- They've recommended that we change the by-laws to not require every member to sign the new MOU, but to essentially have the new member agree as through an addendum to the MOU. If it's the wishes of this board, that's what we will bring back early next year. Once that is done, we would extend an offer of membership to Wallburg.

Larry Williams

- I have no problem with that. In the meantime, they are represented by Davidson County commissioner.

The TAC agreed by consensus.

14. Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Presented by Chris Murphy.

- Enclosed in the agenda packets is a memo from Greg Errett discussing the 2005-2006 UPWP. Also enclosed is our current 2004-2005 UPWP.
- The unified planning work program that is adopted for each fiscal year outlines the projects and funding of those projects and what we're doing from a transportation planning standpoint.
- We need information from all the MPO members for projects, corridor studies, traffic modeling, bike plans, etc - any specific plans the members would want by Friday, December 17.

15. Review of Calendar of Activities

Presented by Chris Murphy.

- There are some important dates on the calendar: December 2 NCSITE annual conference is listed, but on the same date is the last beltway hearing which is primarily concentrated on the eastern extension corridor.
- All the dates for our 2005 TAC meetings are listed on the calendar with some possible agenda items for January 20.

16. Other Business/Next Meeting

Presented by Chris Murphy.

- After the election, we sent letters to all members of the MPO reminding them if there are any changes to the TAC membership as a result of the elections, please make sure they get those to us by December 21st. Also, if there are any other updates.

Next Meeting: January 20th

Larry Williams

- As we said before, Commissioner Kepley, we certainly appreciate your being here.

Billy Joe Kepley:

- I appreciate that. Being appointed to the TAC was a great honor. I haven't been here long enough to be productive, but have been here long enough to learn about the admiration, the appreciation, and the respect of the TAC board here and the staff and the work that you do. You're a fine group, you do a good work here, and you're highly organized.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.