

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Willa Lash, Mayor Pro Tempore, Town of Bethania
Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Allen Joines, Mayor, 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
Nancy Dunn, Member of NC Board of Transportation
Horace Warner, Council Member, Town of Walkertown, Alternate
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County

PRESIDING: Larry Williams, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT:

Stan Polanis, WSDOT
Pat Reagan, FCEAD
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Greg Venable, WSDOT
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Suzanne Tellechea, WSDOT

RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

OTHERS:

Robin Dean, Friends of Forsyth
Steve Carroll, HDR
Charlie Hales, HDR

Action Items

1. Consideration of the July 21, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Willa Lash stated that she was listed as Mayor of Bethania not Mayor Pro Tempore.

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved approval of the corrected minutes.

SECOND: Willa Lash

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

2. Consideration to Modify 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 MPO is required to develop and approve a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- The FY 2005 – 2006 UPWP was reviewed and approved by the TAC on March 31, 2005.
- At the July meeting, the TAC approved three small transportation planning and engineering studies which could be completed for approximately \$60,000 total in FY 2005 – 2006 using the STP-DA funds.
- Following the July TAC meeting, the CCPB requested that we drop the Northern Beltway interchange small area plan project and provide funding for a consultant to do a study on the proposed Piedmont Parkway extension from the Guilford County line to Union Cross Road.
- This would be the second part of the overall Piedmont Parkway Extension study under way that is being managed by the City of High Point DOT in coordination with the Town of Kernersville.
- The study would provide valuable guidance to the larger “Heart of the Triad” study which is just beginning.
- Our contribution to the cost of the study would be \$15,000.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: Ed Brewer

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of the 2005 Transportation Needs Report

- a. Review of the Fiscal Year 2007-2013 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Process and CMAQ Projects

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- Every two years the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO develops a single prioritized Transportation Needs Project list for Forsyth County and the surrounding communities of Bermuda Run, King and portions of Stokes, Davie and Davidson Counties to submit to the NCDOT for potential funding in the STIP.
- In 2003, the TAC adopted a list of projects in priority order by evaluating their benefits in improving air quality, reducing congestion, increasing safety and providing other transportation benefits to the community.

- Acknowledging funding limitations and the short time frame for the 2007 – 2013 STIP, the TAC is endorsing and approving a 2005 submission based on the revised 2003 Transportation Needs Report for submittal to the NCDOT.
- Revisions for the 2003 Needs list include the removal of projects that have moved into the 2006 – 2012 STIP and projects determined not to be of “regional significance” as defined by the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch during the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan process.
- Two interchange improvement projects within the Northern Beltway are specially noted for inclusion in the funded category of projects for the 2007 – 2013 STIP, they are US 421 at Peace Haven Road and US 52 at Bethania-Rural Hall Road (NC 65) in the Town of Rural Hall.

MOTION: Walter Marshall moved approval.

SECOND: Dan Besse

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- The last adopted bicycle plan for the City of Winston-Salem was completed in 1974.
- In August of 2004, the City of Winston-Salem contracted with Greenways Incorporated to create a Comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan for the Winston-Salem Urban Area, which includes all of Forsyth County, the City of King, the Town of Bermuda Run and portions of northern Davidson County, Davie County and Stokes County.
- The plan addresses the addition of on-road bicycle facilities such as striped bicycle lanes, revised bicycle routes and bicycle parking amenities.
- The plan also makes recommendations for cycling education, encouragement, enforcement, land use policies and guidelines, contest-sensitive design and standard roadway cross-sections for bikeways.
- The plan has been reviewed and adopted by the City County Planning Board on April 28, the Winston-Salem City Council on August 15 and reviewed by the Forsyth County Commissioners on August 11. (Note: the information distributed stated that the Forsyth County Commissioners adopted the bicycle plan on September 12, but it was actually reviewed on August 11.)

MOTION: Dan Besse moved approval.

SECOND: Walter Marshall

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

5. Bicycle and Greenway Planning Report

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- Brushy Fork Creek – continuing to work with railroad application to obtain access to tunnel under railroad and to ask for easement.
- Muddy Creek – received notice to proceed from NCDOT. Recreation and Parks Department to begin work the first of October.

- Waughtown Connector – continuing to work on erosion control plan and hope for grading and construction to begin this winter.
- Southeast Gateway – continuing to work with developers on this project.
- Piedmont Regional Connector – there is \$420,000 in CIP funds available for this project. Currently reviewing the feasibility of a greenway under I-40.
- Little Creek – administration beginning to identify properties and work with businesses on this project.

6. Presentation of the Winston-Salem Streetcar Feasibility Study

Presented by Stan Polanis.

- The Winston-Salem City Council requested a report on available rail options.
- Currently working with HDR (Charlie Hales and Steve Carroll) on a feasibility study.

Presented by Charlie Hales.

- Initial study was completed in 2002.
- Wake Forest, along with other areas, was reviewed for possible rail lines.
- The concept for Winston-Salem is a Portland style vehicle and approximately a 2 ½ mile long streetcar track.
- Rail line would begin at Baptist Hospital and would go travel the downtown area including the Convention Center.
- Rail lines are being kept within the right-of-way so no additional land will need to be purchased.
- Cost to complete first 2 ½ miles of rail line would be \$50 million with an annual operation cost of \$ 2 – \$2.5 million.
- Areas, in other cities, where future rail lines are planned are booming with development.
- Federal funds and State funds are available, as well as, local.
- Convenience and access are what make rail lines attractive to citizens.
- Once study is completed a presentation will be made to the Winston-Salem City Council for further direction.

7. Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Planning Report

Presented by Greg Venable.

- Area collection is completed.
- Committee is currently ranking criteria.
- Committee is also reviewing ways to keep sidewalk information up-to-date

8. Review of Thoroughfare Plan Amendment(s) to Add/Modify Roads in Southeastern Forsyth County

Presented by Greg Venable.

- The plan is still in the reviewing stages.

9. NCDOT Division 9 Report

- a. Northern Beltway EIS

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- US 421/Business 40 from US 158 to Linville Road – Contractor is currently in Phase II. New Westbound bridges over N-S Railroad, Salem Lake and US 158 are under construction. Concrete paving for new westbound lanes will begin shortly and be completed in early October. Estimated completion date for this project is June of 2006.
- US 421/Business 40 from MLK to US 158 – project was completed on August 26, 2005.
- Old Salem Roundabout on Main Street – project was completed July 8, 2005.
- Cole Road Bridge Replacement – project was completed August 30, 2005.
- Old Yadkinville Road Bridge Replacement – project started May 9, 2005. Contractor has installed the fill material for the onsite detour. The contractor has begun construction on the detour bridge. Completion date is 495 days from the start of construction which makes the completion date September 22, 2006.
- Future Projects – Let dates have been adjusted to reflect NCDOT financial funding issues.

10. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department Air Quality Report

a. PM 2.5

Presented by Pat Reagan.

- Particle Pollution (PM 2.5) – FCEAD will generate emission factors as part of the Conformity process. Similar development done for WS/FC 1-hour ozone and CO. EPA staff has made recommendations to Administrator to lower daily PM 2.5 Standard. Lower standards would have a dramatic impact on NC attainment status.
- Air Awareness – No end of season annual luncheon, instead Air Awareness is a sponsor of the American Lung Association's Asthma Walk with will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2005 in Barber Park, Greensboro at 9 a.m.
- Air Quality Report – only four days for this season where ozone levels were excessive.

11. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Report

No PART reports this month.

12. Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) Report

Presented by Suzanne Tellechea.

- Two new buses, one painted Wake Forest colors and the other painted WSSU colors, for the campus' to use.
- Ridership is still on the increase.
- Next Tuesday there will be a conference for the elderly and handicapped on providing transportation.

13. Review of Process to Add the Town of Wallburg to the MPO

Presented by Margaret Bessette.

- The Town of Wallburg is newly incorporated.
- Wallburg has been invited to join High Point's MPO.
- Wallburg would also like to join Winston-Salem's MPO, which would require an invitation be sent to Wallburg
- Midway is also seeking incorporation which would be included in the Winston-Salem MPO.
- Staff is currently reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for TAC to amend so that invitations can be extended to newly incorporated areas without having to change the MOU.

Chair Williams requested a review of the voting procedures and expressed concern with the growing committee not having a quorum at each meeting.

14. Review of Calendar of Activities

- The November TAC meeting was rescheduled to November 15, due to the City Council Committee meetings, this date will not work. Staff will be reviewing a new November TAC meeting date and contact everyone when a new date is scheduled.

15. Other Business/Next Meeting

ADJOURNMENT 5:30 p.m.