

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
FEBRUARY 20, 2003
4:15 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL SOUTH (5TH FLOOR)

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Besse, Council Member of City of Winston-Salem
Nancy Dunn, NC Board of Transportation
Mayor Allen Joines, City of Winston-Salem
Walter Marshall, Commissioner of Forsyth County
Mayor Ed Brewer, Village of Clemmons
Chris Murphy, CCPB, TAC Secretary
Mayor Terry Shore, Village of Tobaccoville
Mayor Tom Southern, Town of Walkertown
Mayor Bob Stebbins, Town of Lewisville
Fred Terry, Council Member of City of Winston-Salem
Mayor Larry Williams, Town of Rural Hall
Charlie Wolff, Commissioner of Town of Bethania

STAFF PRESENT: Lakesha Dunbar, Greg Errett, Stan Polanis, Greg Turner, Greg Venable

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Ivey (NCDOT), Pat Reagan (FCEAD), Scott Rhine (PART), James Upchurch (NCDOT)

RECORDING SECRETARY: Shelly Stewart

Mayor Williams welcomed Mayor Ed Brewer, Village of Clemmons.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Consideration of Minutes from the January 16, 2003 Meeting**

MOTION: Bob Stebbins moved approval of the minutes as written.

SECOND: Tom Southern

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

2. **Consideration of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Review of MPO Boundaries, Structure and Governance Report**

Presented by James Upchurch.

Section 5, Article 16 of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes (formerly North Carolina House Bill 1288) was amended so that the Governor and the Secretary of Transportation, in cooperation with MPOs, shall initiate an evaluation of the boundaries, structure, and governance of each MPO in the State. In January, NCDOT presented the draft report for the Winston-Salem Urban Area.

MOTION: Bob Stebbins moved to approve the resolution accepting the report

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. **Consideration of a Resolution Accepting the Recommendations of the TCC/TAC Task Force, Approving the Proposed TAC Voting Structure as Recommended by the TCC/TAC Task Force and Authorizing Staff to Extend Invitations of Membership to the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO to the Newly Eligible Units of Government**

Presented by Greg Turner.

As a result of the expansion to the Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) map and to our 2000 U.S. Census designated urbanized area, five (5) additional units of local government will be invited to join the Winston-Salem Urban Area Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). In order to ensure participation by the new units of local government but maintain the relative strength of the current voting structure, the TAC created the TCC/TAC Task Force to develop an acceptable voting structure.

- The Task Force recommends the following:
 - The Town of Bermuda Run and City of King each receive an offer of voting membership. When a municipality accepts the offer to be a member, the Mayor of Winston-Salem will be granted one additional vote to maintain the current balance.
 - The counties of Davidson, Davie, and Stokes be extended an offer to be members with a vote on items which are in their county or extend across their boundaries. When Davidson, Davie, or Stokes County is eligible to vote on an item, the Mayor of Winston-Salem would be given an additional vote for that item only in order to maintain the current balance.

- Larry Williams indicated the members of the Task Force were Allen Joines, Larry Williams, Bob Stebbins, Pat Ivey, Gary Looper, Greg Turner, and Greg Errett.
- Walter Marshall questioned the status of Bermuda Run as a gated community. Greg Turner indicated that they currently have 0.7 mile of public streets, plan to annex additional public streets, and are responsible for street maintenance within their jurisdiction.
- Bob Stebbins stated that each jurisdiction represented on the TAC has public and private roads in its community. As long as they have public roads involved, they should receive a voting membership.
- Commissioner Marshall stated that since Bermuda Run has such a small percentage of public versus private, gated streets, it does not seem appropriate that they should receive the same voting weight as other jurisdictions where the majority of streets are public.
- Dan Besse: For a street to be public, it has to be ungated. No public funding can go to the construction or maintenance of streets behind the gate. Greg Turned noted that Bermuda Run has chosen not to pursue Powell Bill Funds.
- Allen Joines indicated that the task force struggled with all of these issues. This solution keeps the weighting the same.
- Greg Turner stated that the TAC would be doing the transportation planning for all of the streets within these areas regardless of whether or not they (the units of government) choose to join the TAC.
- Walter Marshall stated that it seems we are making an exception and he would like the record to clearly state that public funds are to be used only for public roads and private funds are to be used for private roads. The following vote is taken on that basis.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved to approve the Task Force's recommendation.

SECOND: Bob Stebbins

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. **Consideration of the Draft Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Presented by Greg Errett.

Each year the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to develop and approve a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP identifies what transportation planning projects and work tasks will be completed during the fiscal year and the amount of Federal and State highway and transit planning funds that will be used to complete the work. Enclosed is the draft Fiscal Year 2003-2004 UPWP (3 tables) for your review. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has completed their review of the draft UPWP with no comments.

Fred Terry arrived.

- Dan Besse: Under III-D-3, what are the special studies? Greg Errett: We are looking at hiring a consultant to help us with functional designs for right-of-way protection.

MOTION: Bob Stebbins moved to adopt the UPWP by adopting the resolution.

SECOND: Nancy Dunn

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

5. **Consideration of a Resolution Certifying the Winston-Salem Urban Area Transportation Planning Process**

Presented by Greg Errett.

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) requires the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and all Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPOs) to annually certify to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that the transportation planning process is addressing the major issues of the urban area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable provisions of Federal law. To guide this self-certification process, NCDOT has provided the attached checklist. Staff has reviewed the checklist and believes the MPO is in compliance with all Federal laws governing transportation planning.

MOTION: Nancy Dunn moved approval of the resolution certifying the Winston-Salem Urban Area Transportation Planning Process.

SECOND: Allen Joines.

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

6. **Bethania By-Pass**

Presented by Larry Williams.

When we adopted the Thoroughfare Plan last year, it was with the understanding that a meeting would be set up with staff, Bethania, and surrounding neighbors. That meeting and consecutive meetings led to the creation of a study group to focus on a by-pass around Bethania. Since Bethania is no longer considering a by-pass, the group has not been meeting recently. I received a letter from Melynda Dunnigan requesting that if the process begins or the bypass is considered again, that the study group be included in the process.

Charlie Wolff noted that it wasn't being productive for Bethania to pursue the by-pass. We still have a traffic problem. We are really counting on getting the beltway built.

MOTION: Bob Stebbins moved that should the bypass come up, the citizens and neighbors will all be informed and the process be set in motion again.

SECOND: Fred Terry

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

6. Review of the Draft Fiscal Year 2004-2010 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Presented by Wendy Miller.

In January, staff presented the draft Fiscal Year 2004-2010 MTIP for the Winston-Salem Urban Area and began the public review process. The general public has been encouraged to participate in the review and comment on the draft MTIP. From January 16 through February 17, 2003, the draft MTIP was made available for public review and comments at all public libraries, town halls, at City Hall South and the NCDOT Division 9 offices. Also, a special meeting was held on January 30th to provide the public an additional opportunity to ask questions and gather information about the draft MTIP. Staff will present comments received during the public review period. A meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 24th, with NCDOT to discuss the MTIP and possible changes to the document. The MTIP must be approved by April 1, 2003.

- Copies of letters received during the public comment period were distributed to TAC members.
- A public meeting was held on January 30th; we also did a presentation for the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- The negotiation meeting with NCDOT will be Monday, February 24th at 1 PM in Raleigh.
- After the negotiation meeting there will be consultation on air quality report. We have a draft from the State which will be considered as part of the final MTIP at the March 20th meeting.
- Larry Williams: Did the TCC review the two requests on the enhancement projects?
Wendy Miller: Not specifically although they did review the list. There was some discussion of whether the Rural Hall bridge at NC 65 and the Peace Haven Road bridge project could be moved up. That will be discussed on Monday.
- Greg Turner: TCC did discuss enhancement fund projects. Wendy Miller: Four projects were funded from the call that was done last year. The City of Winston-Salem received two projects, the Bowen Boulevard realignment and the Cole/Sprague Street sidewalks. Bethania has received money for the site plan improvements for their Town Hall/visitors center. There is also funding approved for a project in Kernersville to do a pedestrian tunnel with an existing road project. Those will come back later as amendments to the TIP.

- Larry Williams: Do they have three years to implement the projects? Wendy Miller: Yes.
- Dan Besse: I've been following the greenway plans with interest and would recommend the two changes in terms of where to direct presently available funding. I'm particularly familiar with the Brushy Fork project and adding that new segment D and switching the funding to make that come about would be an excellent way of connecting the existing Winston Lake park with the existing Salem Creek and Salem Lake Greenways. That would be an extremely functional adaptation to the plan. I would strongly recommend it.
- Committee agreed by consensus to present this request on Monday.
- Transportation will be provided to the negotiation meeting in Raleigh on Monday. A van will leave City Hall at 9:30 a.m. Anyone who would like to attend the meeting in Raleigh on Monday is welcome.

7. **Briefing on the Possibility of Delegating Some TAC Work Tasks to PART**

Presented by Greg Turner.

- Cooperation between municipalities has been primarily associated with personal relationships between transportation professional. As those transportation professionals move on or retire, our concern is that those relationships need to be established on a more institutional basis.
- Staffing for transportation planning is in a state of flux on the State level. People get transferred around, new transportation professionals come in who aren't familiar with our area, and we lose the people who are familiar with our area. When people move on, there is significant brain drain.
- There are issues that just need to be dealt with at a regional level. The Airport Connector is a significant example of a project that could be further along if we had dealt with it as a regional project from the beginning.
- Larry Williams. This is also in conjunction with the requirement that each MPO consider consolidation and what role PART will play. Greg Turner: It is a requirement that every ten years or so, we go through the process of evaluating how we're structured and how we could integrate with our neighboring counties to have a more regional look at these things. There are air quality implications if we do not do so.
- Larry Williams: One of the key things is to have on paper what we are doing.

8. **Piedmont Triad Regional Traffic Demand Modeling Update**

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- This is a follow up to what was presented in July. If you are interested in seeing any of the information, I'll be glad to make sure you get that information.
- Comparison of housing units and employment data to the 1994 data that was collected for the current model. It was basically comparing apples and oranges. Some of the Traffic

Analysis Zones (TAZs) split or were combined as the decision was made to use census blocks. The 1994 data was based on TAZs, some of which were appropriated by looking at future roadways such as the beltway and other loops and extensions.

- If you would like to see some specific areas, I can research why they did or didn't change.
- The next steps are:
 - Prepare a finalized memorandum of agreement (MOA) and supplement MOA which will be presented to you for adoption at the next meeting;
 - Prepare request for proposal for conducting socio-economic and land use forecasting;
 - Solicit resumes for hiring a modeler for PART;
 - Review road network maps and complete coding of link attributes;
 - Discuss transit network attributes; and,
 - Coordinate with Inspections and Planning Departments to obtain permit and demolition data to update the model annually.
- The schedule is for forecasting to be completed this year, public involvement in 2004, and the work completed on the model in 2005.

9. **NCDOT Division 9 Report**

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- Waughtown/Main Street round-about. We are still having problems obtaining permits. Agencies seem to have trouble with the way we are going to be doing bridge demolition.
- Beltway. We are reevaluating the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the combined east and west sections. We are on schedule. A draft EIS will be presented to the public later this fall. The project is on schedule to meet July 2005 letting date.
- Forsyth County & Davidson County have been interested in the redesignation of US 52 as I-185. The State Highway Administrator has approved this request and presented it to ASHTO.
- Bob Stebbins: Are you doing anything with vacant buildings on land you already own that are within the path of the beltway? Pat Ivey: We are in the process of getting demolition permits for those buildings.
- Fred Terry: Are the houses in fairly good shape? Pat Ivey - Most of those which were in good shape were relocated. Fred Terry: Are there any tobacco barns? Pat Ivey: I'm not sure, but will speak with the right-of-way folks.
- Dan Besse: You said DEHNR has problems with bridge demolition. What are their problems? Pat Ivey: We've always used blanket statements on how we'll take down bridges without material entering the creek. Now they want a project-specific report which we weren't expecting.

10. **Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Report**

Presented by Scott Rhine.

a. Passenger Rail Transportation Studies

- At the February PART Board meeting, a staff recommendation was presented. It will come back before the PART Board for a formal resolution for continuation of the major investment study that has taken place. After that it will go to our MPO bodies for their endorsement. There will be some formal recommendations and adoptions that will be coming forth at your next meeting for further information.

b. Regional Bus Transportation Service

- We expected to receive keys to the PART Transfer Station on February 7, but weather has been a problem.
- Have received the Certificate of Occupancy and are due to get the keys on February 24.
- After that, we will install passenger amenities such as benches, shelters, vending machines, etc.
- We expect the bus transfer station to be fully operational within a week to ten days following next week.
- The service is continuing to operate extremely well. We operated with the snow on Monday.

c. Piedmont Triad Airport Area Transportation Plan

- We had planned to have a public drop-in session for Tuesday, February 25. That will be postponed and rescheduled. In approximately a month we will do that. We are working on latest alignment revision which we have presented to the DOT and we are waiting on their concurrence as they go through that.

d. Regional Out-of-County Medical Transportation Program

- There has been development of a website (www.cctransit.org) and a toll-free number. Working groups have been established at Baptist and working groups with social workers are scheduling appointments for patients. We are working with High Point.
- We have received community foundation support and matching grants in Winston-Salem and High Point. Last week we received matching grants from Winston-Salem Foundation for \$10,000.
- Fred Terry suggested that it may be beneficial to let people know PART is running on snow days.

- Allen Joines: What is the current ridership on buses? Scott Rhine: We are averaging about 400 riders a day, about 600 a month. The highest density is between Greensboro and Winston-Salem and is work related. Another thing which is increasing is service to the airport.
- Larry Williams: The relationship between the TAC and PART is excellent. There are excellent staff in PART. We appreciate what you all are doing.

11. **Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Air Quality Report**

Presented by Pat Reagan.

- The air fronts that come through with the winter weather we've had and the good dispersion that occurs because of those fronts leads to good air quality. So far, we've had a large number of good air quality days this year. We have a 95% forecasting accuracy so far in 2003. That gets more difficult as you get into multiple pollutants and episodic events in the summer.
- EAC update: The next important date is June 16, 2003 when we are asked to compile a list of control strategies which we can implement. This list does not have to be things we WILL implement, just options which we can use.
- March 31, 2004 is when control strategies have to be adopted and submitted for inclusion into SIP.
- 2007 is target date for conformity with the eight-hour ozone standard. Redesignation will be on March 15, 2008.
- Alderman Besse made suggestion last time about other media events and getting others involved. We have taken that step. Thank you for the suggestion.
- Meetings in Winston-Salem and Charlotte have been well attended.
- On March 3 at 10 a.m. in Kernersville Town Hall, there will be a meeting to do some more brainstorming and get public input regarding control strategies and additional ideas.

12. **Calendar of Activities**

Presented by Greg Errett.

- In addition to the calendar, Allen Joines has written to Paul Norby inviting people to come to the Street Car workshop. It will be held March 11th through March 14th. We encourage your participation.
- ITE Southern District will meet here from April 13th to 16th. Registration forms at your places. You are welcome to attend. Registration forms are due on March 21st.
- We have been in contact with our PDEA (Project Development and Environmental Analysis) folks in Raleigh about the Northern Beltway. We anticipate Missy Dickens and the consultants that are working on the beltway EIS document possibly coming to our May meeting, and giving us a briefing. Nancy Dunn: I think that will be rescheduled
- Greg Turner: At your places, there should be a packet of information from the Governor's office about what was released in the media today. We wanted you to be able to read what was actually said rather than what might have been reported.

MOTION: Bob Stebbins moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Charlie Wolff
VOTE:
FOR: Unanimous
AGAINST: None