

**MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
JANUARY 15, 2004
4:15 P.M.
PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, CITY HALL SOUTH**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Willa Lash, Mayor Pro-Tem, Town of Bethania
Billy Joe Kepley, Commissioner, Davidson County
Larry Williams, Mayor, Town of Rural Hall
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Ed Brewer, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville
Kenneth Davis, Mayor, Town of Walkertown
Curtis Swisher, Mayor Pro-Tem, Town of Kernersville
Nancy Dunn, NCDOT Board Member
Nancy Marshall, Council Member, Town of Bermuda Run

PRESIDING: Larry Williams, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Errett, Greg Turner, Chris Murphy, Stan Polanis

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Venable, Wendy Miller, Pat Ivey, George Hauser, Lakesha Dunbar, Pat Reagan, Jerry Dudeck, James Upchurch, Brent McKinney, Van Sullivan

RECORDING SECRETARY: Shelly Stewart, City-County Planning Board (absent from meeting, minutes prepared from tape recording)

Welcome and Introductions – New Members

- Larry Williams asked the new members to introduce themselves. On behalf of the committee, he welcomed Nancy Marshall, Council Member for the Town of Bermuda Run, and Kenneth "Doc" Davis, Mayor for the Town of Walkertown.

Action Items

1. Election of Officers for 2004
 - Allen Joines noted that the TAC has had good leadership with Larry Williams serving as Chairman and Richard Linville as Vice-Chairman.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved that Larry Williams and Richard Linville continue as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

SECOND: Walter Marshall

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

- Chairman Williams and Vice-Chairman Linville both thanked the Committee and encouraged the members to let them know if there are ways they can better serve the committee.

2. Consideration of Minutes from the November 19, 2003 Meeting

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as written.

SECOND: Curtis Swisher

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2004-2010 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Presented by Chris Murphy.

- a. Brushy Fork Creek Greenway
- b. Muddy Creek Greenway

- The Muddy Creek Greenway is funded for \$400,000 which is insufficient to complete the project. There has also been difficulty in securing the easements. The committee is presenting a resolution that would divide the Muddy Creek Greenway into two sections, to better facilitate its development. The funds for this greenway are funded in this fiscal year and need to be used before they expire.
- The Brushy Fork Creek Greenway is also meeting some resistance from neighbors for one section of the greenway. As a result, easements have not been obtained for that section. The committee and the TCC recommend an amendment to delay that portion of the Brushy Fork Creek Greenway project. The portion from the current southern terminus down to the Salem Creek Greenway (existing) would still be constructed. The amendment would also transfer any unused funds to the Muddy Creek Greenway project so it can be completed.
- Tom Norman, director of Bicycle & Pedestrian section of NCDOT, has reviewed the request and stated that he would consider the change.

- Walter Marshall: I oppose this being done. The DOT knew in advance that this site would not be acceptable. However, the whole area has been revamped since then. My proposal would be to re-examine alternate routes in the area to make the connection. I would hate to see us losing money before we know whether it really can't be rerouted to serve that area. I think Muddy Creek should be done, but not at the expense of Brushy Fork Creek until we know for sure that we cannot reroute the project in that area.
- Larry Williams: Can we take action on one project and defer the other one for further study?
- Chris Murphy reviewed the resolution and stated that the Muddy Creek Greenway resolution could be adopted separately if the resolution is amended to delete the last "Be it further resolved..."
- A City staff committee has been formed to monitor greenways and keep track of progress on development of greenways. The committee is also attempting to jumpstart the development of greenways since there has been a recent lull in activity. In addition, the committee considered how to best use the allocated money rather than letting it expire and losing it.
- Dan Besse: I raised some questions about this the other night at a meeting and got some clarification. As I understand it, the State spending deadline problem is not immediate with the Brushy Fork Creek funds, but only with the Muddy Creek funds. If we could get the expenditure of those resolved through this first resolution, just dropping that paragraph, there is time to deal with the Brushy Fork problems.
- Dan Besse: Regarding the second resolution, there would not be a proposed transfer until you had the final cost of the Brushy Fork construction anyway, so we actually shouldn't be holding anything up by separating the two issues today as proposed by Commissioner Marshall.

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved adoption of the Muddy Creek Greenway resolution as amended.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of the 2003 Transportation Needs Report

Presented by Wendy Miller.

a. Priority Lists of Funded, Partially Funded and Unfunded Projects in the MTIP

- This list simply endorses the current projects in the TIP in priority order based on their freeway/expressway status or their thoroughfare status

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval of the resolution.

SECOND: Curtis Swisher

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

b. Priority List of Requested Street and Highway Projects

- This is a revised version of the draft table for the highway priority needs list.
- Since the packet was sent out, Kernersville expressed some concerns about air quality analysis on their projects. Staff has reviewed and recalculated air quality analysis on those projects.
- Kernersville also sent some additional information regarding their community investment scores.
- The list before you is reorganized and reprioritized based on that information.
- The safety scoring is now included also. That was not finished at the last meeting. The higher the number, the more accidents are happening per mile of road.
- Billy Joe Kepley: My understanding was that the Hickory Tree Road project was submitted to be widened to a four-lane road, rather than a three lane road as listed under item 18.
- Wendy Miller: We checked with staff and a three lane facility is what they were submitting. We will certainly check that out.
- Larry Williams: During the process of planning the expansion of the road, the necessary width would certainly be considered.

MOTION: Curtis Swisher moved approval of the resolution.

SECOND: Walter Marshall

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

c. Priority List of Requested Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

- The Bicycle committee adopted this priority order.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved approval of the resolution.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

5. Consideration of the Prospectus for Transportation Planning

Presented by Greg Errett

- This document defines all of the tasks that would be in our work program.
- It includes greater detail than it has in the past. It reflects the changes in the MPO.

- We've also clarified who would be responsible for the work on a primary and secondary level.
- The TCC did review the prospectus and recommend approval.

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved approval of the resolution.

SECOND: Nancy Dunn

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

6. Review of the Draft 2004-2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Schedule

Presented by Greg Errett

- Once the draft is complete, we will send it to NCDOT, Public Transportation Division, who will comment. Hopefully at the March meeting we will be ready to present it to you for adoption.
- We encourage your municipalities and staff to consider studies or projects that you might want to have completed in your particular geographic areas.
- Copies of the proposed and current work programs were distributed for reference.

7. Review of the Outline for Developing a Congestion Management System (CMS)

Presented by Greg Errett

- Since we became a Transportation Management Area, we have new responsibilities. One of those items is the development of a congestion management system.
- Historically, we have been doing a pretty good job of dealing with congestion in our urban area.
- We have an extensive traffic signal system, innovative and nationally recognized mobility manager project, national recognized safety improvement program, and a very effective ITS (intelligent transportation system) utilizing cameras, monitoring systems, and information systems.
- However, what the federal government is asking us to do is to look at it in a more holistic, systematic basis rather than a bunch of independent projects. They want us to look at all the components of that congestion management system and make sure it is operating at the maximum level and most efficient way possible.
- We need to develop a plan and eventually implement a system of managing congestion within our urban area. First thing we would like to do is essentially develop a plan which would have some basic elements in that. It would come down to about seven areas to be addressed.
 1. First would be the area of consideration which is probably our MPO boundary.

2. We'd also want to make some definition of our transportation system. We think it probably would be mostly the freeways and interstates, but possibly also a number of primary arterials like a Hanes Mall Boulevard or South Stratford Road.
 3. We want to define the system as well.
 4. We need to define some performance measures. How would we actually identify what the congestion level is and what would be the acceptable management levels for that congestion?
 5. Then we need to develop a monitoring plan where we would gather the data on a regular basis, either traffic count information, speed data, things of that nature. It would be a continuous part of our work program.
 6. After we gather some of that data, we would want to identify and evaluate a number of strategies. Beyond the strategies I mentioned a moment ago, there are a number of other ones we are either doing right now or could do in the very near future. We would want to look at those strategies as well as the possibility of new strategies which we may not have thought of before.
 7. Then we want to monitor those strategies and their effectiveness. and the overall implementation and management of the system.
- This document has been reviewed by the FHWA, so we have a good initial approach to how we want to address congestion here.

8. NCDOT Division 9 Report

Presented by Pat Ivey

- Copies of the report were placed at member's desks.
- The Business 40 project from 158 to Linville Road did not change status.
- Business 40 from MLK to US 158. The contractor has completed phase one, all lanes are currently open, he's working on retaining walls between Business 40 and Lowery Street, and we anticipate having this work done by February. The contractor does plan to begin work on phase two sometime in late March or early April. This phase will require closing of lanes. Completion date for that project is still set for September 2005.
- Old Salem Roundabout project: We have been waiting for revised roundabout plans and plans for the culvert which has to be replaced. We have now received those plans and are reviewing them with the contractor to see if any additional time will be needed. They are in the process of beginning work on the bridge. They've taken the old one out.
- The Lewisville-Clemmons Road project is ahead of schedule. We anticipate placing traffic in its final pattern by next week, January 22nd. We will open the new loop that was constructed onto north bound 421. We will be constructing concrete islands on Lewisville-Clemmons Road itself and we anticipate having it completed by the June 1st completion date, although it is likely to be finished before that date. We're very pleased with the contractor on that one.
- Relocation of US 311. The contractor is working on the paving. He's had to shut down for the winter, but will be back in the spring and shortly thereafter we'll have traffic on that new section of 311 of Walkertown.

- The Beltway has had no significant change.
- When NC Moving Ahead was passed, 10% of those funds were reserved to be used for transit or non-highway improvements. At its last meeting, the Board of Transportation approved several projects. In Division 9, three sidewalk projects were approved, including two in Winston-Salem (Stratford Road between Vest Mill Road and Arlington Street and Hanes Mall Boulevard in the vicinity of Hampton Inn Court).
- Dan Besse: With regard to project 2 (Business 40), there's a small residential area along Lowrey Street that has come to the City Council with a number of concerns. One of those is that they've lost their tree screen. Is there anything that's planned as part of this project to replace that?
- Pat Ivey: That came to our attention right after we began clearing all those trees. We have committed to providing some landscape screening after the project is completed. It is part of this project.
- Dan Besse: Can you give us a time frame?
- Pat Ivey: Late 2005 or Summer 2006. More than likely those plantings would be done in the fall of 2006.
- Dan Besse: Is there any interim step that could be taken?
- Pat Ivey: We don't want to do any landscaping until the contractor has completed most of his grading operations and things like that, and of course we hesitate to do any planting at any time other than the fall of the year because that's the best planting season. I will make a note to look at it and talk with our folks to see if we can move it to the fall of 2005.

9. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Report

Presented by Brent McKinney.

- Distributed the 2004 PART Board work plan.
- The PART Board made some changes to the work plan for the coming year.
- Although the plan was approved by the PART Board yesterday, it can be changed if needed. He encouraged TAC members to contact PART if there are other projects of a regional nature which PART needs to undertake.

10. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Air Quality Report

Presented by Pat Reagan

- a. Review of Early Action Compact Ozone Reduction Strategies and Control Measures
 - There was a stakeholders meeting on December 1, 2003. A draft resolution which the COG was sending to local municipalities with a list of control strategies that had been proposed by the stakeholders was distributed. The list is a recommendation as to what kinds of strategies local municipalities could put into action to help with the control strategies and the overall picture. It also stated that municipalities would submit data back to the state so they could analyze and

quantify the emissions production from these control strategies. That is a little ahead of schedule, but because of the favorable responses that the EAC was gathering at some of the public meetings, they thought it was appropriate to go ahead and start the resolution at that time. There will be another stakeholders meeting in February. We still are on track to meet the March 31st deadline for our local measures that we have to include in the SIP (State Implementation Plan).

b. Non-Attainment Boundaries for PM 2.5

- PM Fine or PM 2.5 is now called "particle pollution". It is still the same thing: fine particulate matter that is smaller than 2.5 microns in size.
- There was a State meeting held in December regarding the designation and the attainment areas that the State has proposed. A handout at the committee member's seats lists some of the proposals that the State has put together.
- Monitors for particle pollution in Forsyth and Guilford Counties do currently meet the daily and annual standards as set by EPA.
- There is one monitor that is in Davidson County (Lexington) that does not meet the annual standard for particle pollution. That could impact us because of how designations can be classified according to EPA.

c. Air Quality Report

- We continue to do our particle pollution forecasting which is our year-round forecasting program. Obviously that has been underway since the end of the ozone season last year, but it will continue through this year as always.
- Sometime in April or maybe even late March we'll have an ozone awareness luncheon or kickoff. All of you will be invited.
- The seven days of ozone violations last year will probably be far exceeded this year as we don't expect to have nearly the rainy conditions that we had last summer.
- Dan Besse: As I understand it, with the particle pollution data as of the end of June last year, you showed a violating monitor in Forsyth County, but you anticipated that including the fall data would model that out. Have you gotten that data and did that, in fact, model out?
- Pat Reagan: Yes, sir, that is correct. When we QA'd and QC'd the data in Forsyth County, that was indeed the case. We were below the 15 micrograms per cubic meter.
- Dan Besse: So, in the Triad, the only monitor indicating violation was the one in Davidson County?
- Pat Reagan: Yes, sir, that's correct.
- Dan Besse: Thanks. Mr. Chairman, just an update on the Early Action Compact. We've gotten favorable responses now from all 31 local governments that had originally joined in the compact, approving the proposed draft local strategies list. My understanding is that we can plan to move forward, submitting that to EPA and hope for favorable review from that.

11. Review of Calendar of Activities

Presented by Greg Errett.

- The Interstate 73/74 rally in Washington DC has been moved from February 18-19 to February 25-26.
- The Interstate 73/74 Association for NC is having their own separate meeting on January 22nd and that will be in Rockingham. They will be strategizing and coordinating their efforts on their trip to Washington DC.
- March 4th is our one-on-one session with NCDOT and Ms. Dunn to talk about our Needs Report which we just adopted today and to go over those projects and priorities with them. We will probably take a van down to Raleigh to meet at 1:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in riding with us, please let us know.

12. Review of Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO Newsletter

Presented by Wendy Miller

- We've been working to develop a newsletter and this is our very first issue.
- It will be done on a quarterly basis.
- We've attempted in this one to take on a general topic of "What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization?" and we talk a little bit about the expansion of our Metropolitan Area Boundary.
- The Transportation Advisory Committee is listed.
- A look ahead (locally and at State and national levels) at Transportation issues on the horizon is also provided.
- We've also included a contact list so you can contact us.
- We are looking for a new name for this, so if you have suggestions, we'll be canvassing folks and sending out an e-mail with suggestions so we can vote on that.
- In response to a question about who would receive the newsletter, Ms. Miller noted that we've had some good lists from our previous Transportation forums and the newsletter will be distributed to folks who have been interested in transportation issues over time. There will also be new forums this spring.
- The newsletter will be put on the website as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.