

**MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
4:15 P.M.
PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, CITY HALL SOUTH
FIFTH FLOOR**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Ed Brewer, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
Nancy Dunn, NC Board of Transportation
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
Billy Joe Kepley, Commissioner, Davidson County
Willa Lash, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Bethania
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Nancy Marshall, Council Member, Town of Bermuda Run
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Chris Murphy, Secretary to TAC, City-County Planning Board
Horace Warner, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Walkertown
Larry Williams, Mayor, Town of Rural Hall

STAFF PRESENT

Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Stan Polanis, NCDOT
Pat Reagan, FCEAD
Van Sullivan, FCEAD
Suzanne Tellechea, WSTA
Greg Turner, Assistant City Manager, City of Winston-Salem
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)

Action Items

1. Consideration of Minutes from the July 15, 2004 Meeting

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved approval of the minutes as written.

SECOND: Dan Besse

VOTE:

FOR: UNANIMOUS

AGAINST: None

2. Consideration of Amendments to the Winston-Salem Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan Map and Technical Report

Presented by Greg Venable.

- a. Add Davidson County's Portion of the MPO
- b. Add Davie County's Portion of the MPO, including the Town of Bermuda Run
- c. Add Stokes County's Portion of the MPO, including the City of King
- d. Additions/Deletions/Changes to Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Thoroughfares

- We have now received approvals from all entities.
- Distributed comments received.
- Allen Joines expressed concern about RJReynolds' comment concerning the Spainhour Mill Road Extension project. I would like to hear from Tobaccoville in order to understand the importance of this Extension. Greg Errett indicated there was not a problem with continuing this discussion at the November meeting, and someone from the Village will be there.
- Dan Besse asked what time period the project was listed for in the LRTP. Staff responded that the time frame is 2030.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval of the Thoroughfare Plan Map and Technical Report with the Spainhour Mill Road Extension project being held in abeyance pending clarification from Tobaccoville.

SECOND: Walter Marshall

VOTE:

FOR: UNANIMOUS

AGAINST: None

3. 2030 Multi-Modal Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Winston-Salem Urban Area

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- a. Consideration of the Draft Street Network for the 2004, 2014, 2020 and 2030 Horizon Years
- b. Progress Report on the Overall Process

- We have worked with the Transportation Planning Branch and communities to develop a Fiscally Constrained Street and Highway Project List for the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. The projects are laid out under four time frames.
- Today we are asking you to endorse a recommendation for adoption. The TCC approved the list of projects earlier today.
- Once that list is approved, it will be sent on to the Transportation Planning Branch to work on the Air Quality Conformity Implementation Plan.
- The time frame for this plan remains the same, with the goal of finishing the document by mid-December and having public review in January.
- Staff is waiting for new subarea totals from the consultants for employment for the 2030 and 2035 model development.
- Walter Marshall asked about the meaning of "financially constrained" as used in the 2030 LRTP & Air Quality Determination. Wendy Miller explained that this meant that the projects were tied to the amount of money we anticipate having.

MOTION: Ed Brewer moved approval of the Street and Highway Network for the 2030 Multi-Modal Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: UNANIMOUS

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of a Resolution of Support for the Construction of the Piedmont Greenway

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- We are asking for adoption of a resolution in support for the plan which was presented at your July meeting.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved approval of the Resolution of Support for the Construction of the Piedmont Greenway.

SECOND: Walter Marshall

VOTE:

FOR: UNANIMOUS

AGAINST: None

Information Items

5. NCDOT Division 9 Report

- Pat Ivey was unable to attend this meeting.
- Nancy Dunn distributed an update, a copy of which is on file. There are not a lot of changes from last month.

- Ms. Dunn noted that NCDOT hopes to receive the draft EIS statement on the Beltway this month. Once that is received NCDOT will schedule workshops.

6. Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Planning Report

Presented by Greg Venable.

- We are still collecting data for our Sidewalk Inventory.
- There are about 500 miles of sidewalks within Winston-Salem, so this is a long process.
- Our steering committee has met several times. We've developed a vision statement and are beginning work on our goals and objectives for the plan.

7. Bicycle and Greenway Planning Report

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- Brushy Fork Greenway: A letter has been sent to Norfolk Southern Railway requesting access onto the property for survey purposes. Property owners have responded positively about easements along their properties.
- Muddy Creek Greenway: Recreation and Parks and the NCDOT continue to work on design plans for access to Country Club Road.
- Waughtown Connector: Work is focusing on determining which side of the creek to build on, after which erosion control designs will be completed and construction can begin.
- Strollway Connector: The designs are being revised to make accommodations for obstacles that have been identified.
- Piedmont Regional Greenway: A detailed route identification is being done, pinpointing the greenway location so easements can be obtained.
- The kickoff meeting for the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan was held on August 10th. Since then we have been collecting data to assist with this project.
- A Public Workshop for the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan is scheduled for October 12, 2004 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Children's Center at 2315 Coliseum Drive. This is planned as a visioning session for the public to give input on how they would like to see this plan put together (such as policies, locations, facilities, amenities, and accessibility).
- Dan Besse: Do we have any update on the enhancement project funding requests yet?
- Lakesha Dunbar: No, we have not received any information yet.
- Larry Williams: Relating to the Bicycle Plan, how does this fit in with the NCDOT bicycle routing?
- Lakesha Dunbar: To my knowledge we only have one NCDOT route (Mountain to Sea Route #2). It is already on the current bicycle map. We will just incorporate that route into the new plan. I know there was discussion of extending bicycle routes from the City out to that route.

8. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department Air Quality Report

Presented by Pat Reagan.

- a. Update on Early Action Compact for Ozone Reduction
 - b. Air Quality Report
- Early Action Compact stakeholders formed a subcommittee to meet with the Southern Environmental Law Center to discuss potential litigation on all Early Action Compacts. We were able to discuss topics paramount from the attorney's point of view while also getting across our points about the necessity for having the Early Action Compact and how it impacted the Triad. The main issue for the attorneys is enforceability in the EAC. We don't appear to be far apart on issues. It just takes a little bit of work to come to some consensus.
 - Regarding the State Implementation Plan, the State office continues to work on this plan and anticipates having it ready in the next couple of weeks. We have had a chance to give input on the plan.
 - Air Quality Report: We have had a very good air quality this year. We had two exceedances, one of the ozone standard and one of the fine particulate matter standard.
 - It's still a little bit early to judge the effectiveness of all the control strategies that have been implemented, however it appears the reduction strategies have had some impact.
 - Our department does continue to look for funds for alternatively fueled vehicles and alternative fuel ideas.
 - An e-mail from the EPA Administrator reclassified the Triad 8-hour non-attainment standard from "moderate" to "marginal" as petitioned by the State. This reclassification is the result of the effectiveness, in his opinion, of the Triad's Early Action Compact.
 - Dan Besse: We are still putting together the legal implications, but this is good news. It is a sign of EPA's conclusion that we are demonstrating faster progress in our pollution reductions than anticipated.
 - One difference because of this rating change is that we will not be required to develop a Rate of Progress Plan for reduction of VOC Emissions (volatile organic compounds). This will let us concentrate harder on the NOX reduction strategies.
 - Larry Williams: Are the attorneys aware that PART is in the process of establishing Park & Ride lots around the region? Pat Reagan: Yes, sir. They were more interested in having tangible numbers in the EAC.
 - Dan Besse: For the attorneys, the issue is having specific numbers and enforceability in the plan so they can be assured that our plans go beyond theoretical commitments.
 - Billy Joe Kepley: Davidson County has been selected for non-attainment which then impacts surrounding counties. I developed a detailed theory about how the readings were collected and the implications. For example, one set of readings was under a water tank which is actually a trap and collector for PM 2.5. The Division of Air Quality had representatives at the meeting where I presented this theory and didn't ask any questions. Then I received a letter from the secretary asking Davidson County to back off a little bit until they can do some more research. Because of the time crunch, we can't do that. The next court hearing is scheduled for November 18th and we hope we can get out from under this non-attainment label.

9. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/Federal Transit Administration (FTA)/ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Certification Review of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Presented by Greg Errett.

- The certification review was August 4th and 5th. We had detailed, lengthy discussions with FHWA representatives on our planning process.
- We also had a public meeting on August 4th. 21 people showed up and gave a variety of comments on the planning process or on specific projects.
- We also had a 30-day public review as our policy requires us to do. It was August 2nd to September 7th.
- All comments which we have received are compiled in folders which were distributed to members. We encourage you to review the comments at your convenience.
- The FHWA indicated that they would like to make a presentation to you at the November meeting with their recommendations and comments.

10. Norfolk Southern Railroad Line Traffic Separation Study in Winston-Salem and Kernersville (K Line)

Presented by Stan Polanis.

- NCDOT Rail Division is proposing to conduct traffic separation studies on the Norfolk Southern K Line from the Guilford County line to milepost 25 in Winston-Salem. It is working with individual communities in this area to study the crossings, look at upgrading and making them safer or eliminating them.
- The K Line is part of the route that would serve the commuter rail between Burlington and Clemmons, so this is another step toward that goal.
- As we are meeting today, there is a public meeting in Kernersville about opening a new crossing and closing three along this line.

11. Review of Calendar of Activities

Presented by Greg Errett.

- September 12 - November 6 is the time frame for Step Up Forsyth Walking Exercise Program. Everyone is welcome to join.
- September 22-24 is the NCAPA Conference
- October 20-22 is the Annual MPO Conference in Wilmington.
- November 18 - This meeting has been moved back to its regular day and time.

12. Other Business/Next Meeting

Chairman Larry Williams

- Nancy Dunn: I believe there will be another newspaper article on the construction work on Business 40 between Main Street and Peters Creek Parkway. No decision has been made at this point and time about how that construction will be sequenced and what kind of closings will be required. There is not enough information yet. I also cannot imagine it beginning for a minimum of 5-6 years.
- Chris Murphy: Wallburg has incorporated. Is it a consensus of the Commission that we extend an invitation to them to join our MPO contingent on revising the MOU.
- Larry Williams: I think if part of their incorporated area is within our boundaries, we should extend the invitation.
- The Commission suggested investigating having boundaries redrawn so the entire municipality is in either our MPO or High Point's MPO rather than being split between the two.

MOTION: Walter Marshall moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: UNANIMOUS

AGAINST: NONE