

**MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
JANUARY 29, 2009
4:15 P.M.
FIFTH FLOOR, PUBLIC MEETING ROOM,
BRYCE A. STUART MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Bessette, City-County Planning Board, TAC Secretary
Dan Besse, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Evelyn Terry, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Walter Marshall, Commissioner, Forsyth County
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
Mike Horn, Council Member, Town of Lewisville
Kevin Bugg, Alderman, Town of Kernersville
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg
Randy Mendenhall, Council Member, Town of Walkertown
Nancy Dunn, NCDOT Board of Transportation
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County
John Bost, Mayor, Village of Clemmons
George Byrum, Mayor, Town of Midway
Chris Anderson, Commissioner, Davie County

PRESIDING: Mayor Larry Williams, Town of Rural Hall

STAFF PRESENT:

Stan Polanis, WSDOT
Cary Gentry, FCEAD
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Greg Errett, WSDOT
Wendy Miller, WSDOT
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT
Fred Haith, WSDOT
Kevin Edwards, WSDOT
Art Barnes, WSTA
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT
Mark Kirstner, PART

RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

OTHERS:

Brian Piascik, URS Corporation
Robin Dean

1. Citizen Comments

Robin Dean, 3523 Lawrence Street, stated that he has been involved with the Northern Beltway process for many years, it had now reached a point of limited funding, and a change in direction is needed. He further stated that several roads were promised to be built with funds from the trust fund, which have still not been built. He also expressed concern with the same outdated plans still being approved. Mr. Dean provided a copy of his comments for the record.

Action Items

2. Election of Officers

Allen Joines nominated Larry Williams as Chairman and Richard Linville as Vice Chairman.

MOTION: Mike Horn moved approval.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of the November 20, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Presented by Chairman Williams.

MOTION: John Bost moved approval of the minutes.

SECOND: Dan Besse

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2035 Transportation Plan

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- On May 28, 2009, the Federal transportation conformity determination for the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2030 LRTP will lapse.
- Provisions of the CAAA and SAFETEA-LU require that a new air quality conformity analysis and determination be performed.
- The NCDOT, in cooperation with the NCDENR, the FCEAD, and WSDOT, has completed an air quality conformity analysis and determination.
- The report demonstrates that the 2035 fiscally-constrained LRTP for the urban area eliminates or reduces violations of the NAAQS and accomplishes the intent of the North Carolina SIP.
- **Based on the regional emissions budget test documented in this report and compliance with other requirements for conformity, the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2035 LRTP conforms to the purpose of the North Carolina SIP.**
- The draft air quality report was available for public review and comment for forty-three (43) days.

- To meet regional conformity deadlines, a conformity finding must be made by the TAC by the end of February in order to provide sufficient time for the final federal reviews of the documents.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: John Bost

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

5. Consideration of the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2009-2015 MTIP.

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- In October, 2007, the NCDOT released the 2009-2015 STIP. The STIP is a comprehensive listing of all transportation projects in North Carolina that are proposed for study or programmed for funding with State or Federal funds during Fiscal Years 2009-2015.
- On March 10, 2008, prior to the release of the final draft STIP, a MPO review meeting was held with the NCDOT to discuss funding.
- A public comment meeting on the STIP was held on January 28, 2008, in the NCDOT Division 9 Offices in Winston-Salem.
- On March 13, 2008, a public comment meeting on the draft 2009-2015 MTIP and draft 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan was held in the Gateway YWCA in Winston-Salem.
- Due to delays in Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2009-2015 MTIP and the 2035 LRTP, the final draft 2009-2015 MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report were based on the conforming 2030 LRTP.
- The MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report based on the 2030 LRTP were approved on August 21, 2008.
- The draft Air Quality Conformity Determination Report and 2035 LRTP, including the 2009-2015 MTIP, were available for public review and comment for forty-three (43) days ending January 12, 2009.
- To meet regional conformity deadlines, a conformity finding on the 2009-2015 MTIP and the 2035 LRTP must be made by the TAC by the end of February in order to provide sufficient time for the final federal reviews of the documents.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: John Bost

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

6. Consideration of the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2035 Transportation Plan

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- The SAFETEA-LU requires that all urbanized areas develop a long-range multi-modal transportation plan and update their plans on a regular basis.
- The LRTP must have at least a twenty (20) year planning horizon, include both long-range and short-range strategies/actions that lead to the development of an integrated transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods, and

shall be reviewed and updated at least every four (4) years to confirm its validity and its consistency with current and forecasted transportation and land use conditions and trends.

- On March 31, 2005, the TAC approved the 2030 LRTP, and on July 21, 2005, amendments to the 2030 LRTP were approved. The 2035 LRTP serves as an update to the previous LRTP with major revisions to include a new horizon year, updated socio-economic data, and the inclusion of additional elements to bring the plan into compliance with SAFETEA-LU requirements.
- New elements incorporated into the document are the Consultation and Environmental Analysis/Mitigation Plan, sections on Freight and Security planning, the expansion of the Environmental Justice and Congestion Management Processes sections, and a revised Public Participation Policy adopted on September 20, 2007.
- A public meeting to review the existing 2030 LRTP and proposed 2035 LRTP was held on March 13, 2008.
- The draft 2035 LRTP was distributed to each library and municipality within the MPO, NCDOT Division 9 and the document was available on the City of Winston-Salem website for a 43-day public review period from December 1, 2008 through January 12, 2009.
- To meet regional conformity deadlines, the 2035 LRTP must be reviewed and approved by various federal agencies by the end of February 2009.

A discussion ensued regarding new ozone standards.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: John Bost

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

7. Consideration of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Maps for the Public Transportation and the Bicycle Elements

Presented by Kevin Edwards.

- The Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO has developed several parts of a CTP designed to be consistent with the requirements of North Carolina General Statute 136-66.2, as well as 23 U.S.C. § 134 and SAFETEA-LU.
- A CTP is a multi-modal long range vision plan depicting the transportation infrastructure needed to handle the area's travel demand for a minimum 20-year period.
- The plan includes elements for streets and highways, public transportation and rail, and bicycles.
- The public transportation and rail map designates the public transportation network needed to handle existing and anticipated travel demand; it also designates active and inactive rail corridors.
- The bicycle map designates the bicycle networks that are of statewide significance; it also designates local facilities or portions of local facilities that are impacted by the facilities on the highway map and public transportation and rail map.
- The streets and highways map was previously adopted in August 2008. In the future, the CTP will also include a pedestrian element; the format for the pedestrian map is under development.

- The CTP public review process was held from December 1, 2008 through January 12, 2009.

MOTION: Richard Linville moved approval.

SECOND: John Bost

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

8. Consideration of a Prioritized List of Transportation Projects Utilizing Available 100% Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds for the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Last fall, the NCDOT modified the CMAQ Improvement Program for North Carolina. These changes included three individual processes to be undertaken in 2009 with guidance detailing the requirements for each process.
- A resolution of support for these new processes was approved by the TAC at its September 18, 2008 meeting.
- One of the processes comes from the Federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 which allows the obligation of 100% Federal funding for CMAQ projects authorized during Federal fiscal year 2009.
- In order to qualify for full funding, projects must be “fast-tracked” to ensure that all required preliminary engineering (environmental document and right-of-way authorization) is received by NCDOT by August 29, 2009.
- On November 20, 2008, the TAC approved of a \$1.179 million project submitted by the PART to fund two park and ride lots, purchase buses and cover leasing costs for a parking deck near the Campbell Transportation Center.
- A list of additional projects the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO is requesting to be “fast-tracked” and fully funded using 100% CMAQ funds. These include: 1) recouping the 20% local match portion of TIP Project C-4981A-D which is to install Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices at four major intersections in Winston-Salem; 2) transferring the Interim Traffic Signal System Upgrade project (TIP Project U-5020) from STP-DA funds to CMAQ funds; 3) purchasing 10 large and 9 small buses, and a power plant for the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA), and 4) completing Phase 2 of the Interim Traffic Signal System Upgrade for the City of Winston-Salem.
- The cost of these candidate projects is \$10,695,500.

A discussion ensued regarding the traffic signal system upgrade cost and funding.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: Evelyn Terry

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

9. Consideration of an Amendment to the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to Reverse the Programming of Two Projects in the Town of Lewisville

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- On November 11, 2006 the TAC approved the funding of the construction of the Williams Road/Shallowford Road roundabout for Fiscal Year 2008, utilizing the STP-DA funds from TIP U-4742 Intersection Improvements at Various Locations.
- On October 8, 2008 the Town of Lewisville requested to switch the project's funding cycle years by moving the Williams Road/Concord Church Road roundabout to FY 2008 and moving the Williams Road/Shallowford Road roundabout to FY 2009.
- On November 20, 2008 the TAC also approved the funding of improvements to the Williams Road/Concord Church Road roundabout for Fiscal Year 2009, utilizing the STP-DA funds from TIP U-4742 Intersection Improvements at Various Locations.

MOTION: Nancy Dunn moved approval.

SECOND: Evelyn Terry

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

10. Consideration of an Amendment to the TAC By-Laws to Allow Designation of an Alternate for Each Member on the TAC

Presented by Margaret Bessette.

- The MOU for the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO and the By-laws of the TAC permit member governments to appoint an alternate to serve in the absence of a regular member. Alternates better assure representation of the member government and help the TAC to achieve a quorum at meetings.
- The wording of Section 3 - Alternates of the TAC By-laws limits the number of alternates to one per represented board, meaning that boards with more than one representative (Forsyth County and the City of Winston-Salem) have only one alternate to serve in place of for two or three members.
- The resolution approves an amendment to Section 3 - Alternates (page 3) of the TAC By-laws to clarify that each represented board may appoint one alternate member per regular member.

MOTION: Nancy Dunn moved approval.

SECOND: Walter Marshall

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information Items

11. Continued Discussion of Construction Priorities for Western Leg of the Northern Beltway.

Presented by Margaret Bessette.

- The R-2247EA section (US 52 to Reynolda Road) would be an extension of the Eastern Beltway and could help relieve congestion/traffic in historic Bethania. However, the R-2247EA has not yet been designed, nor has any right-of-way been purchased.
- Design is complete and much of the right-of-way has been purchased from the R-2247C section (US 421 to Robinhood Road).
- The R-2247B section (US 421 south to I-40) could significantly enhance connectivity and mobility.
- The 2247A section (I-40 to US 158) is not eligible for Highway Trust Fund loop funds, but has the potential to significantly reduce traffic congestion in the Hanes Mall area and also on Lewisville-Clemmons Road by providing an alternative access to I-40 and US 421.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the sequencing of the beltway.

Chairman Williams requested that staff draft a letter or resolution for the TAC's consideration noting that the TAC wants to ensure connectivity when the Western Section is built and requesting the TAC have the opportunity to review sequencing when the Western Section is closer to being built.

12. Review of the Draft 2009 Transportation Needs Report Lists of Projects

Presented by Fred Haith.

- Fred distributed a copy of the Winston-Salem Urban Area – 2009 Transportation Needs List (Highway Projects) draft and a Winston-Salem Urban Area – 2009 Transportation Needs Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Ranking draft.
- The projects for the Highway Projects include Forum Parkway connector, Hickory Tree Road, Kernersville Southern Loop Road, Lewisville-Clemmons Road, Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Extension, NC 801, Old Hollow Road, Reynolda/Bowens/Tobaccoville and Vienna Dozier Roads, South Stratford Road, Stratford-Ebert Street Connector, US 158, US 311 Connector, West Mountain Street and Williams Road.
- The projects for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Ranking draft are Brushy Fork Phase 4, Upper Kerners Mill Creek Greenway, signed bicycle route improvements, Mountain to Sea Trail, county route signs, Muddy Creek/Cedar Trails Connection and Middlebrook Drive sidewalk.

13. NCDOT Reports

a. Division 9

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- Pat distributed a NCDOT Transportation Update report.
- NC 801/I-40 Bridge replacement and widening – 62% complete; 14% ahead of schedule.
- US 158 Replacement of Kathryn Crosby Bridge over Yadkin River – 31% complete; design build on schedule; upcoming daytime lane closures.
- Main Street/US 52 interchange in King – delayed due to budget shortfall.
- Lewisville-Clemmons Road from Peace Haven to August Drive – 18% behind schedule due to utility conflicts.
- Union Cross Road from Wallburg Road to Sedge Garden Road – right-of-way delayed due to budget shortfall.

b. Transportation Planning Branch

- No report given.

14. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department Air Quality Report

Presented by Cary Gentry.

- Cary distributed a Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department report.
- PM 2.5 attainment demonstration is close to being released for public comment.
- The SIP will be out for public comment for at least 30 days.
- Once the comment period is over, NCDAQ will quickly address any comments received and submit the final plans.
- NCDAQ visited the Triad January 13, 2009, discussing the 2008 ozone standard and the potential nonattainment boundaries.
- By the end of January/early February, NCDAQ will have an ozone boundary recommendation package completed and submitted to DENR and the Governor's office for their review.
- The final package is due to EPA by March 12, 2009, designations are expected by March 12, 2010.
- No decisions have come from EPA regarding Early Action Compact's, a lack of decision is in essence a decision that it will not be allowed.

A discussion ensued regarding non-attainment.

15. Public Transportation Planning Reports

a. Regional/PART

Mark Kirstner with PART introduced Brian Piascik, the Principal Transportation Planner Transportation Group Manager for URS Corporation to discuss the Piedmont Triad Seamless Mobility Study (PTSMS).

Presented by Brian Piascik.

- The Triad has reached a point where leaders must make decisions to determine the role of transit in supporting mobility for the region.
- Rising fuel prices and congestion on the roadways are two primary forces increasing public consciousness and concern toward conserving energy, protecting the environment and considering the use of alternative modes of travel.
- Public transportation providers in the Piedmont Triad include GTA, HiTran, WSTA, PART, ACTA, DCTS, TAMS, RCATS and YVEDDI.
- The PTSMS marks the first time that staffs from the nine transit agencies have convened as a group to discuss their systems and how their services relate to each other.
- As part of the PTSMS, the consultant was charged with collecting information about each transit system's services, functions, positions and personnel and the existing condition section documents the data collection effort.
- Each of the systems has expansion goals and unmet needs, but it became apparent during the study process that the region needed to take the long range visions for transit in the Triad a step further and define in greater detail what shape transit will take over the next 5-10 years.
- The Long Range Concept Plans includes the following for elements: consolidation of functions, regional branding, new regional funding and increased transit services.
- The recommendations formulated from the review range from low-cost-short-range efforts involving the development of regional clearing houses for information to full-scale consolidation of major functions currently occurring at each of the transit agencies.

- Most of the recommendations generated as part of the PTSMS were designed to increase the efficiency of the provision of transit across the region.
- The consolidation recommendations, most notably the regional call center, may have some functions consolidated early in the process, but the procedural and policy based changes required for implementation will take a number of years to accomplish.
- The final report is available online at www.partnc.gov.

b. Local/WSTA

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- Phillip distributed two reports: PART Ridership, 2007 and 2008 Monthly comparisons and WSTA Ridership, 2007 and 2008 Monthly comparisons.
- For Fixed Routes, as gas costs increase, ridership increases.

16. Bicycle, Greenway, Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Planning Report

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Greg distributed a Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO Bicycle, Greenway, Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Project Status Report.
- Todd Peterson has left for a job in Durham.
- The position is being posted on NCAPA, NCSITE and WSDOT websites.

17. Review of the Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Self Certification of the Transportation Planning Process

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Each year the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO is required to develop and approve a 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, plus the required local matches.
- Staff's beginning to identify what transportation planning projects need to be completed during Fiscal Year 2009-2010.
- Staff encourages you to participate in the development of next year's UPWP by identifying and describing, in detail, any transportation planning projects your community or agency would like to see completed next year.
- Staff will try to accommodate your requests as staff time and resources allow.
- Send a hard copy, an e-mail or fax of your requests to staff for consideration by Friday February 13, 2009.
- The draft Fiscal Year 2009-2010 UPWP will be presented to the TCC and the TAC at the February 19, 2009 meetings and then sent to the NCDOT and to federal agencies by Monday February 23, 2009 for their review and comment.
- Approval of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 UPWP will be considered for approval at the Thursday March 19, 2009 meetings.
- Staff anticipates that the UPWP must be approved by the TAC by April 1, 2009.

18. Review of the MPO Calendar of Activities

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Next TAC meeting will be held on February 19, 2009.

19. Other Business/Next Meeting

ADJOURNMENT 6:11 pm