

**MINUTES  
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
AUGUST 21, 2008  
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  
Willa Lash, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Bethania  
Dawn Morgan, Mayor, Town of Kernersville  
Carolyn Byerly, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of King, Alternate  
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem  
Mike Horn, Council Member, Town of Lewisville  
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg  
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:**

Cary Gentry, FCEAD  
Greg Turner, City of Winston-Salem  
Wayne Davis, NCDOT  
Pat Ivey, NCDOT  
Greg Errett, WSDOT  
Wendy Miller, WSDOT  
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT  
Fred Haith, WSDOT  
Andy Bailey, NCDOT  
Kevin Edwards, WSDOT  
Brent McKinney, PART  
Art Barnes, WSTA  
Todd Peterson, WSDOT  
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

Greg Errett introduced the new MPO staff:

- Mr. Phillip Vereen, Project Planner for Transit
- Mr. Todd Peterson, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
- Ms. Myra Stafford, Senior Engineering Technician

Chairman Williams announced that the revised MOU has been adopted by everyone but Davidson County and will be mailed to all municipalities.

Chairman Williams introduced new members George Byrum and Chris Anderson.

### **Action Items**

#### **1. Consideration of the May 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes.**

Presented by Greg Errett.

MOTION: John Bost moved approval of the minutes.

SECOND: Allen Joines

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

#### **2. Presentation and Consideration of a Resolution Supporting the Winston-Salem Transportation Center Project at Union Station**

Presented by Greg Turner.

- The City of Winston-Salem received a federal earmark to begin the process of acquiring and rehabilitating Union Station.
- Union Station was constructed in 1926.
- It is located close to the WSSU campus off of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.
- The initial work will result in the creation of a multi-modal transportation center that will be used by WSTA and PART.
- Long-range plans call for the building to return to a functioning rail station, serving commuter and inter-city passenger rail in addition to traffic on the Southeast High Speed Corridor.
- The environmental work on the project is nearly complete.
- The FTA has encouraged the City of Winston-Salem to seek endorsement of the project by the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO.

A discussion ensued regarding the Transportation Center in relation to the proposed multi-modal transportation center.

MOTION: Evelyn Terry moved approval.

SECOND: Willa Lash

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

#### **3. Consideration of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Street and Highway Maps**

Presented by Kevin Edwards.

- Kevin distributed a list of CTP Street and Highway Highlighted Classification Changes.
- The proposed CTP Street and Highway Conversion Map was sent to TAC members and local governments in mid-July with the draft 2009-2015 MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination.
- The Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO has developed a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (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 plans include elements for streets and highways, public transportation and rail, and bicycles. The streets and highways map designates the roadway network needed to handle existing and anticipated travel demand.
- In the future, the CTP will also include a public transportation and rail, bicycle, and pedestrian elements.
- The initial CTP contains only the street and highway map, which is a direct conversion of the 2002 Thoroughfare Plan.
- It contains no new projects, but reflects changes in definition, terminology and classification.
- Most notably, the new classification of "boulevard" has been added, a type of two-lane or larger road with a median and limited control of access.
- The CTP public review process was held from July 17 through August 15, 2008.

MOTION: Carol Byerly moved approval.

SECOND: Dan Besse

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

#### **4. Consideration of Candidate Categories for Un-programmed STP-DA Funds**

Presented by Fred Haith.

- Fred distributed a list of proposed funding allocation for the Un-programmed STP-DA funds.
- Urbanized areas with a population over 200,000 have been designated by the United States Census as Transportation Management Areas (TMA's); and the Winston-Salem Urban Area is designated as a TMA.
- All TMA's may program and use federal STP-DA funds for high priority projects within their urban areas.
- The NCDOT has estimated that over \$5.8 million in STP-DA funds for transportation planning, bicycle, greenway, sidewalk and street and highway projects in urban areas.
- STP-DA categories currently in the STIP include: Planning, Greenways and Sidewalks; Intersection Improvements along with a new Transit category.
- A subcommittee of TAC and TCC members recommends the distribution of the available STP-DA funds as follows: 40% Intersection Improvements, 35% Greenways and Sidewalks, 20% to Transit and 5% to Planning.

A discussion ensued regarding the percentages of funding for each category and how those numbers are not definitive.

Dan Besse requested language be added to the resolution stating the Winston-Salem Urban Area TAC recognizes and notes that the percentages set out on the attached table are guidelines and the TAC retains the authority to shift funds between categories on an as needed basis.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved approval.

SECOND: Willa Lash

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

## **5. Consideration of Items Related to the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program**

Presented by Fred Haith.

- a. Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination for the 2009-2015 MTIP
  - b. Winston-Salem Urban Area Fiscal Year 2009-2015 MTIP
- Fred distributed the comments received during the MTIP during the public involvement process.
  - The draft 2009-2015 MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination was sent to TAC members and local governments in mid-July.
  - In October, 2007, the NCDOT released the draft 2009-2015 STIP.
  - The draft 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 FY 2009-2015.
  - The draft 2009-2015 MTIP is a comprehensive listing of all transportation projects programmed for the Winston-Salem Urban Area.
  - Prior to the release of the final draft STIP, a MPO review meeting was held with 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.
  - Copies of the draft MTIP were distributed to all municipalities in the Urban Area for review and comment.
  - On March 13, 2008, a public comment meeting on the draft MTIP, draft 2035 Transportation Plan and draft CTP conversion was held in the Gateway YWCA in Winston-Salem.
  - As required by our Public Participation Policy, the final draft 2009-2015 MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report were available for public review and comment for 30 days ending on August 15, 2008. Also, a special public meeting was held in the Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building on July 17, 2008 inviting the public to come and ask questions or make comments about the draft documents.
  - The MTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis Determination Report must be approved and sent to the NCDOT by September 1, 2008.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding unfunded TIP projects.

John Bost made a motion that a letter be drafted requesting projects that are in the unfunded category of the MTIP for years and years, with no backing for implementation, be reviewed for removal so that the forecast for future roadways be more accurate. The motion was duly seconded by Carol Byerly and unanimously carried.

Dan Besse requested staff review and report back on the Stokes County Connector.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval for items a and b.

SECOND: Dawn Morgan

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

### **Information Items**

#### **6. Review of the Candidate STP-DA Intersection Improvements Funded Projects to Be Included in the Fiscal Year 2009-2015 MTIP**

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- Lakesha distributed an updated list of STP-DA Intersection Improvement Project Selections.
- A Taskforce was formed to review and rank the projects.
- Cost, safety, feasibility were all taken into consideration when ranking the projects.
- It was suggested to categorize the projects into the following categories: Meets Criteria/Feasible, Needs More Info and Does Not Meet Criteria.
- Staff has met with the municipalities that had projects that need additional information or analysis.
- The Lewisville-Clemmons Road project has been moved from the, "Project Needs More Analysis" category to the, "Project Does Not Meet Criteria" category.
- The Lewisville-Clemmons Road project would require additional right-of-way which is not readily available and the project itself would be very costly.
- The Church Street project also does not meet criteria as it's not a federal function classification or state road.
- The Piney Grove Road project does not meet criteria as submittal description was for outside the intersection scope.

Lakesha Dunbar responded to Evelyn Terry's request stating that the traffic signal timing at Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive is currently being investigated.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding safety issues on Lewisville-Clemmons Road.

#### **7. Public Transportation Planning Reports**

- a. Brent McKinney, Director, PART

Presented by Brent McKinney.

- Brent McKinney distributed a chart showing PART Express Monthly Ridership since 2008, a PART Regional System Map and a list of monthly pass sales locations.
- PART ridership is on the increase.
- Expanded services include 3 new routes: Lexington to Winston-Salem, Lexington to Greensboro and a Burlington route.
- In October there are plans to add another service corridor on US 421.
- Park 'n Ride lots are under construction for Randolph and Davidson Counties, under design for Yadkin County and reviewing sites in Stokes County for a Park 'n Ride lot there.
- Currently, there is a problem getting buses. If you were to order today it would take over a year for delivery. There is a huge backlog, however, will be receiving 10 buses in spring of '09. Funding for 6 of the buses is available at this time.

- House Bill 2363, Congestion Relief and Intermodal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Fund, has 4 committees.
- The Intermodal Committee has completed their work, submitted the proposed legislation which will be considered/discussed in the long session of the General Assembly.
- During the short session of the General Assembly, the transfer of \$170 million out of the trust fund each year has been stopped. The General Assembly also addressed the shortage issue with gap funding.
- The Intermodal Committee identified a shortfall of \$6.5 billion for transportation. North Carolina will need to generate \$1.6 billion over the next 10 years to address this shortfall.
- Local governments have a couple of options for addressing the shortfalls. Legislation provides for a ½ cent sales tax or ¼ cent sales tax. The other source available would be to levy an annual license fee.

b. Art Barnes, Manager, WSTA

Presented by Art Barnes.

- King County Metro Transit in Seattle has operated 235 hybrid electric vehicles since June 2004.
- As part of its ongoing evaluation, it has tracked the performance and expense of hybrids and compared it to diesels operating under identical conditions.
- The study has revealed that the hybrid fleet averages 3.4 miles per gallon while its diesel fleet averages 2.4 miles per gallon.
- Maintenance expense was just slightly lower for hybrids and can be attributed to its regenerative braking system.
- Under identical conditions, hybrids realized 41.6% better fuel mileage than diesels.
- Therefore, WSTA applied this percentage to estimate fuel mileage for 35 foot hybrids.
- The estimated expense for hybrid vehicle is \$600,000. The estimated expense for a diesel-powered bus is \$320,000.
- The local share for hybrid vehicle is \$30,000. The local share for a diesel-powered bus is \$16,000.
- It will take 1.45 years to make up the difference in local share.
- After this period of time, the annual savings in fuel-per-bus is an annual net savings of \$9,642.

c. Phillip Vereen, WSDOT

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- Continuing to work with PART regarding additional Park 'N Ride Lots in the Clemmons Area for the proposed service between Davie County and Downtown Winston-Salem.
- We have focusing on available sites in around I-40 interchanges with Harper Road and Lewisville-Clemmons Road. These are interchanges are of particular interest because of the easy on/off access to I-40 and close proximity to the town of Lewisville.
- Continuing to work with JARC and New Freedom funds with the Federal Transit Administration.
- Winston-Salem City Council adopted resolutions for JARC and New Freedom last month and staff have started work with the grantees.

## **8. Progress Report of the Winston-Salem Urban Area 2035 Transportation Plan**

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- After our TCC and TAC meetings in May, the NCDOT discovered that Guilford and Davidson Counties did not meet the pollution standards in State Implementation Plan budget for the 2010 time horizon during the emissions analysis of the 2035 LRTPs.
- The interagency partners met regularly through June and early July to resolve the problem through adjustments to the Air Quality model to more closely reflect local conditions.
- By early July, the interagency partners decided that, to prevent a lapse in the Transportation Improvement Program, the Triad MPOs would need to move forward with a conformity analysis on the 2009 – 2015 MTIPs based on the existing 2030 LRTPs.
- This week NCDOT has reached agreement on the emission factors and the 2010 emissions analysis shows that Guilford and Davidson Counties are now within budget.
- The interagency partners will hold a conference call next week to develop a new schedule for the 2035 LRTP and Air Quality Conformity process.
- We plan to complete the plan within the next 3 to 6 months including revisions to the CTP Street and Highway Map and the Bicycle and Rail/Transit CTP Maps.

## **9. NCDOT Reports**

### a. Division 9

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- a. Harper Road/I-40 Bridge replacement and widening add ramps – project is 100% complete at a cost of \$8.2 million. Full landscaping enhancements will also be added at the ramps.
- b. Union Cross Road from Wallburg Road to Sedge Garden Road – right-of-way acquisition will be in August.
- c. Final Public Hearing for Northern Beltway went very well.

### b. Transportation Planning Branch

A discussion ensued regarding re-segmenting the western section of the Northern Beltway.

Chairman Williams requested information on the construction phase of the western section of the Northern Beltway.

Presented by Andy Bailey.

- Air Quality numbers look good, including for Guilford County.
- CTP now includes a Transit, Rail and Bike element.
- Transportation Planning Branch will be moving into another office.
- LRTP will be available in November/December.

## **10. Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department Air Quality Report**

Presented by Cary Gentry.

- Cary distributed the FCEAD air quality notes and report through August 20, 2008.
- Recently the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit Court made the decision to vacate the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), which would have provided year round NOx controls in the Eastern US.
- DAQ is working to understand the impact of this ruling and in particular the implications for attainment demonstrations for ozone and PM2.5.

- DAQ has raised the question to EPA as to whether this ruling will affect moving forward approving the SIP budgets as adequate.
- NC can still fall back under the NO<sub>x</sub> SIP Call, which was superseded by CAIR.
- DAQ drafted an Early Action Compact protocol under the 2008 8-hour ozone standard and sent it to EP Region 4 for their consideration.
- The draft protocol contains a proposed timeline with milestones.
- DENR's Secretary, Bill Ross, sent EPA's Administrator Johnson a letter encourage EPA to consider an EAC process under the new standard.
- Under the newer Ozone Standard, if the summer were to have ended on July 12, the 4<sup>th</sup> highest 3-year Design Value would be the following: Triad: 0.080.
- Actual Air Quality through August 20, 2008: 122 Green days; 97 Yellow days and 14 Orange or higher days.

## **11. Bicycle, Greenway, Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Planning Report**

Presented by Todd Peterson.

### Bicycle Updates:

- Todd distributed a bicycle, greenways and sidewalks report.
- Keith Simpson, Lakesha Dunbar and I are working on final bike striping designs for Salem Avenue and Reynolds Park Road. The lanes on Carver School Road will be completed next week. Lakesha and I are also beginning to work on plans for Hawthorne Road lanes.
- The purchase order has been issued for the bicycle racks at parks and recreation centers and the Recreation and Parks Department will install them.
- I am also beginning to work on locations for bicycle racks on public property at various locations including downtown and public buildings.

### Greenway Updates:

- Brushy Fork – The Engineering Department is working design estimates and surveys for Phase III. It may need floodplain certification for this section.
- Little Creek – The Engineering Department is in the process of verifying easements. Recent construction of the Hilton Hotel needs to be evaluated for possible encroachment of the easement.
- Muddy Creek (Phase IB) – Recreation and Parks Department is working on this remaining section. They have asked for an extension from the State due to some sewer and gas right-of-way problems and a delay in obtaining a copy of the recorded deed for the new land that the City received from the school system at Thomas Jefferson Elementary. The Summerfield Homeowners Association passed a resolution requesting the City to construct a bridge for a connection to the greenway.
- Muddy Creek (Phase IC and III to Philips Bridge) - Nothing new to report
- Southeast Gateway – Recreation and Parks Department is working on this project. Delays have been caused by numerous changes in the developer's plans; however, construction will begin soon.
- Piedmont Regional Greenway – the beavers that caused the culverts to flood have been relocated. An easement request has been submitted to Real Estate for processing for one property on Phase I. Engineering has completed the survey and met with HDR to discuss

moving forward with NCDOT requirements. Construction costs of the culvert will determine if this phase stops at Business 40 or passes under.

- Kernersville Greenway – Kernersville has requested a greenway study.
- Mountains to Sea Trail - Resolution for support of the trail is being sent to TAC in March.

Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities:

- Myra Stafford and I are working on a preliminary list of new projects for the sidewalk construction program generated from the pedestrian plan, area plans and citizen requests. Currently, sidewalks are being constructed on Gales Avenue and Addison Avenue.

## **12. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certification Review of the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

Presented by Greg Errett

- Greg distributed an agenda and a list of potential for the Federal Certification Review.
- In October, the FHWA and the FTA will conduct a certification review of the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO and its transportation planning process.
- The review will likely be held in the WSDOT library/conference room in the Bryce A. Municipal Building, Suite 307.
- The final dates, times and locations of the certification review will be provided at the September 19 TCC/TAC meetings.
- Some of you will be invited to address certain issues or topics of discussion, everyone is welcome to attend.
- During the certification review, the federal certification review team will conduct a public hearing/meeting to allow citizens to comment and ask questions about the process.
- The public meeting will likely be held in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Public Meeting Room of the Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building. The time has not been set but will likely be held in the late afternoon or early evening.

## **13. Review of Calendar of Activities**

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Next TAC Meeting will be September 18.
- North Carolina Association of MPO's Annual Conference will be held November 12 – 14 in New Bern.

## **14. Other Business/Next Meeting**

ADJOURNMENT 6:35 pm