

**MINUTES  
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
NOVEMBER 20, 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  
Willa Lash, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Bethania  
Allen Joines, Mayor, City of Winston-Salem  
Mike Horn, Council Member, Town of Lewisville  
Keith Snow, Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville  
Richard Linville, Commissioner, Forsyth County  
John Bost, Mayor, Village of Clemmons  
Randy Mendenhall, Council Member, Town of Walkertown  
George Byrum, Mayor, Town of Midway

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Larry Williams, Town of Rural Hall

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Cary Gentry, FCEAD  
Scott Rhine, PART  
Greg Turner, City of Winston-Salem  
Stan Polanis, WSDOT  
Pat Ivey, NCDOT  
Greg Errett, WSDOT  
Wendy Miller, WSDOT  
Lakesha Dunbar, WSDOT  
Fred Haith, WSDOT  
Kevin Edwards, WSDOT  
Todd Peterson, WSDOT  
Phillip Vereen, WSDOT

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

**OTHERS:**

Robin Dean  
Sandra Hart

Larry Williams stated that at the last TAC meeting, the committee adopted a public comment period at the beginning of its meetings. The total comment period would last no longer than 30 minutes and each citizen would get 3 minutes to comment on transportation issues.

## **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 He also expressed concern with the same outdated plans still being approved.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 distributed a copy of his remarks along with letters and other information to the members and for the record.

Sandra Hart, 339 Sedge Garden Road, expressed concern with NCDOT's planning and communication procedures regarding the Northern Beltway. Mrs. Hart further stated that she did not feel a public setting is the proper communication forum for them to first learn about changes in NCDOT's plans for their property. Mrs. Hart distributed a handout with comments and photos to the members and for the record.

Dan Besse thanked Mrs. Hart for her involvement and stated that while the TAC cannot address her concerns, the committee would be forwarding her concerns to the appropriate personnel.

## **Action Items**

### **2. Consideration of the September 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

Presented by Stan Polanis.

MOTION: Keith Snow moved approval.

SECOND: Dan Besse

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

### **3. Consideration of Designating STP-DA Funds for Various Intersection Improvement Projects for the Fiscal Year 2009-2015 MTIP**

Presented by Lakesha Dunbar.

- In August 2008, the Winston-Salem Urban Area TAC adopted the 2009 – 2015 MTIP.
- Also in August 2008, the TAC approved the reallocation of funds from U-5022 and increased the fund allocation of U-4742.
- This amendment will include the projects listed in the STP-DA Fund Intersection Improvement Project Recommendations for FY 2009-2010.
- The list of projects includes signal modification, turn lane installation, new signal installation, median installation, and roundabout modification.

MOTION: Mike Horn moved approval.

SECOND: Willa Lash

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

**4. Consideration of Designating STP-DA Funds for Various Bicycle, Greenway, Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Projects for the Fiscal Year 2009-2015 MTIP**

Presented by Todd Peterson.

- The NCDOT has estimated that over \$5.8 million in STP-DA funds will be available for Winston-Salem urban Area to be programmed in FY 2009-2015 in the STIP.
- The Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO has the authority to program STP-DA funds for transportation planning, bicycle, greenway, sidewalk and street and highway projects in the urban area.
- At the August 21, 2008 TAC meeting, the TAC reviewed and approved the proposed programming of federal STP-DA funds for various projects in the Winston-Salem Urban Area. The STP-DA category U-4741 – Greenways and Sidewalks, received an additional 35% from U-5022. For 2009 – 2010 an additional \$250,000 was approved from this 35%.
- The following projects have been recommended by the Sidewalk and Pedestrian Planning and the Bicycle and Greenway Planning Subcommittees for 2009 – 2010: Clemmons Village Bike lane - \$15,000; Winston-Salem bike racks and safety/education - \$32,000; Rural Hall Church Street sidewalks - \$100,000; and Walkertown Main Street sidewalks - \$100,000. Todd distributed a list of recommended projects.
- The total cost of these projects is estimated to be \$247,000 including the 20% match to be provided by each municipality.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: Keith Snow

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

**5. Consideration of Revisions to the Project Evaluation Criteria for the 2009 Transportation Needs Report**

Presented by Fred Haith

a. Discussion on the 2009 Transportation Needs Report Development Process

- Fred distributed a copy of the letter sent to TCC members related to the needs process and a memorandum defining “regionally significant.”
- Every two years the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO develops a single prioritized Transportation Needs Project list for Forsyth County and portions of Stokes, Davie and Davidson Counties to submit to NCDOT for potential funding in the STIP.
- Staff is recommending some changes including: the Community Transportation Benefits component’s maximum points increased from 15 to 21 as Environmental Justice and Freight are now evaluated and can be given points; the Community Investment component’s maximum points decreased from 5 to 4; the Compatibility with Local Plans component was renamed as the Incompatibility with Local Plans component; projects that are not an element of a Comprehensive Transportation Plan/Map, small Area Plan or other locally adopted Plan will have 5 points deducted from their overall score; and Bicycle and Pedestrian projects received “Environmental Justice” as another ranking criterion.

Chairman Williams requested that cost be taken into consideration when ranking projects.

A discussion ensued regarding ranking criteria and residential areas.

MOTION: Dan Besse moved approval.

SECOND: Keith Snow

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

By Consensus, two action items were added to the agenda.

### **Resolution of Support and Administration for the Safe Routes to School Program.**

Presented by Todd Peterson.

- The SRTS program is a national and international movement to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school.
- In 2005, the United States Congress passed the SAFETEA-LU, which included funds for SRTS programs throughout the United States.
- In order for schools and local governments to apply for SRTS funds, the NCDOT requires that the MPO pass a resolution of support and administration for the SRTS program.
- Since the majority of infrastructure improvements include work on publicly maintained streets or within public right-of-way, the City will be required to enter into a municipal agreement with NCDOT once any grants are awarded.
- For any non-infrastructure components of grant award, the City will be required to distribute those funds to the appropriate agencies.
- Specific project requests are being identified by schools interested in participating in the SRTS program.
- Once an awarded is made, the MPO will be updated on the progress.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: John Bost

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

### **CMAQ Funding on Request from PART**

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

- PART has request a CMAQ allocation of \$1,179,000 from the Winston-Salem MPO.
- CMAQ funds will provide funding for two Park and Ride Lots at a cost of \$780,000, purchase buses at a cost of \$324,000 and cover leasing costs of the parking deck at a cost of \$75,000.
- The Park and Ride funds will enable PART to construct a new lot in the King area along the US 52 Corridor. PART is currently leasing a lot in the King area.

- PART also has plans to locate an additional Park and Ride lot in western Forsyth that will serve the US421/I-40 Corridors and benefit the new Yadkin County service that began in October, and the new Davie County/Clemmons service schedule to start next spring.
- CMAQ funds will allow PART to purchase buses to continue fleet expansion to meet the increasing demand on services.
- CMAQ funds will cover PART's leasing costs to the City of Winston-Salem for usage of the downtown parking deck near the Campbell Transportation Center.

MOTION: Allen Joines moved approval.

SECOND: John Bost

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

### **Information Items**

#### **6. 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 Area MPO and the By-laws of the TAC permit member governments to appoint alternates to serve in the absence of regular members.
- 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 two or three members.
- The amendment would revise Section 3 to clarify that each represented board may appoint one alternate member per regular member.

#### **7. Follow-up items from the September TAC Meeting**

Presented by Margaret Bessette.

##### **a. Discussion of Construction Phasing Priorities for the Northern Beltway (Western Section)**

- The original construction phasing for the Western Leg of the Northern Beltway is: first priority - US 421 to Robinhood Road; second priority - I-40 to US 421; third priority - Robinhood Road to US 52.
- The items can be switched, but the only change that is available is R-2247CA and R-2247B.
- It is assumed that the R-2247EB project would be funded at the same time as the U-2579-F project in order to have the connection to US 52.
- Section R-2247A would be the very last segment to be constructed because it does not qualify for Highway Trust Fund loop funds.
- Staff or the TAC can request that the priority order be changed.

A discussion ensued regarding prioritization of road segments and interchanges.

Chairman Williams requested R-2247EA be built first, unless being built simultaneously.

Mike Horn requested staff review US 421 interconnectivity and move south then north.

Chairman Williams requested a resolution for approval to rearrange prioritization of construction.

## **8. Presentation of the Draft Winston-Salem Urban Area 2035 Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Determination**

Presented by Wendy Miller.

- Wendy distributed the Street and Highway project list, the LRTP Table of Contents and the November 2008 newsletter, *Moving Times*.
- The 2035 LRTP Table of Contents include an Introduction, Goals and Objectives, Transportation Elements, Financial Plan, Congestion Managements Process, Environmental Planning, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report and Conformity Determination, Public Participation, North Carolina Mandated Comprehensive Transportation Plan and Appendix.
- Transportation Elements has a new section, Security Planning. The Freight Transportation Section has been expanded.
- Congestion Management Processes is now more detailed.
- Environmental Planning has two new sections, Consultation Plan/Environmental Analysis & Mitigation and Environmental Justice.
- The State mandated CTP has been added to the plan for public review only.
- The public review and comment period runs from December 1 through January 12. We will hold seven all day meetings at YMCA's, City Hall, Market Place Mall and the Public Health Department.

## **9. Discussion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee Proposals**

Presented by Stan Polanis.

- The item has been pulled and is no longer a consideration.

Stan thanked Wendy Miller for all her hard work on the LRTP.

## **10. NCDOT Reports**

Presented by Pat Ivey.

### a. Division 9

- Replace Muddy Creek Bridges on US 421 – letting delayed due to beltway lawsuit.
- Winston-Salem Northern Beltway US 421/I-40 Business to US 158 – right-of-way acquisition has been delayed due to beltway lawsuit.

### b. Transportation Planning Branch

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

- The Air Quality notes and report handout was distributed to members.

## **12. Public Transportation Planning Reports**

Presented by Scott Rhine.

### **a. Regional/PART**

- Scott distributed a program update to TAC members.
- Ridership has increased 120% for the month of September from the previous year, and 96% of the month of October.
- On October 13, 2008, a new service from Rural Hall and King began operation.
- On October 26, 2008, a new service began operation from Yadkin County along the US 421 corridor.
- Park and Ride lot development continues throughout the region. The lots support passenger parking for the existing and expanding PART Express Bus services. Two lots are opening for the US 220 service in Randolph County, and two projects are going to bid for the US 421 service in Yadkin County.
- The Triad Mass Transit Alternative Analysis project is conducting travel model enhancements, air travel passenger surveys, university student/worker surveys and FTA coordination on adoption of the project purpose and need statement.
- On September 8, 2008, John Kim began work at PART as our new Regional Travel Demand Modeler. John received his MSCE from Texas A&M and a PhD from Penn State.
- On November 5, 2008, Mark Kirstner, AICP began work at PART as our new Senior Transportation Planner. Mark will assist with oversight for the PART TDM program and transit planning for operations with a main area of focus being the Triad Seamless Mobility Study.

Dan Besse requested a per route ridership breakdown.

Mike Horn requested a breakdown of capacity vs. ridership.

Presented by Phillip Vereen.

### **b. Local/WSTA**

- Route 23 that services University Parkway will be modified to accommodate the Employment Security Commission's move to an office off University Parkway.
- Route 44 that services Sedge Garden area will also experience some slight changes.
- September ridership is up.

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

Presented by Todd Peterson.

Bicycle Updates:

- Reynolds Park Road now has bike lanes from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to Hubert Court.
- We have submitted the paperwork for bike lanes on Hawthorne Road from Miller Street to Glade and are waiting approval.
- Currently we have begun designs for Main Street from Brookstown Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

Greenway Updates:

- Muddy Creek - the 1800 foot section from Jamison Park south to Country Club Road was paved by the Streets Division 9-23-08 at a cost of \$13,600. The state has all of the information for the right-of-way certification once approved; it will be sent to the State offices in Raleigh. The redesign and permit from the gas company has been submitted. The plans were submitted to DEHNR for erosion control approval on 9/22. The plans will be sent to NCDOT office for their approval after we get the right-of-way certification to complete the package. Once we receive approvals from the State, city forces will begin construction of the section from Jamison Park north to Robinhood Road and the balance will be put out to bid with a two week bid process. Using CIP monies we have completed all drainage pipes to Robinhood Rd. except one.
- Muddy Creek (Phase One) - the three connections include; Brooks Landing, Cedar Trails and Lantern Ridge. We have received letters to do surveys for the connections from each of these neighborhoods.
- Brushy Fork - The City is continuing to work on preparing a proposal for Norfolk Southern Railroad on requirements for the greenway as well as culvert designs per NCDOT on the section of this project that runs between Lowery Street and Reynolds Park Road. Engineering is working on design plans to submit to NCDOT, and is consulting with other municipalities who have used existing culverts for greenway underpasses.
- Little Creek - engineering walked this greenway which runs from the Shops at Little Creek to Atwood Drive and Little Creek Park and the grade and alignment looked feasible. The survey will be complete in November on the preliminary alignment.
- Piedmont Regional - the project which runs from Linville Road to Hastings Hill Road will need to acquire one additional piece of property. The City is also researching different culvert designs to gain approval from NC DOT to pass under Business 40.
- Southeast Gateway - Connections to old Waughtown bridge are being graded this week.
- Kernersville Greenway Study - we met with Wetherill Engineering and Kernersville to discuss scope of work and process. We have requested that Kernersville hold a public meeting to discuss the greenway alignment from the beltway to the middle section of the greenway.

#### Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities:

- Myra Stafford and Todd are continuing to work on a preliminary list of new projects for the sidewalk construction program generated from the pedestrian plan, area plans, and citizen requests. We hope to have this done in the next few months.
- Currently, sidewalks are being designed and budgeted for Wellington Road (Robinhood Road to Pine Valley Road), Robinhood/Peace Haven Intersection sidewalk connections, Wake Forest (entry/Reynolda Road ADA ramps), Junia Avenue/Bretton Street (Pleasant Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive), and Pitts Street (Alder Street to Free Street).

#### Safe Routes to School:

- Todd is working on submitting an application for Sherwood Forest Elementary for infrastructure improvements and also an application for 6 schools (Kimberly Park, Forest Park, Rural Hall, Kernersville, Sherwood Forest, and Kernersville Middle) in Forsyth County for non-infrastructure programs. This non-infrastructure will include educational components for after school programs, gym classes, and various walk to school events.
- Clemmons and Kernersville are also submitting applications for infrastructure around their elementary schools.

Dan Besse requested that the Neighborhood Associations in Ardmore be sent the plans for Hawthorne Road.

**14. Review of the MPO Calendar of Activities**

Presented by Greg Errett.

- Next TAC meeting will be January 29, 2009.

**15. Other Business/Next Meeting**

ADJOURNMENT 6:05 pm