Business 40 Project Betterments

On October 26th, the Winston-Salem City Council approved project betterments for the reconstruction of the Business 40 project through downtown Winston-Salem. The betterments are based on the Streetscape Design Plan developed using concepts and recommendations from the Creative Corridors Coalition (C3) Master Plan and Design Guidelines. The betterments will incorporate enhanced bicycle, pedestrian, and appearance elements into the Business 40 Design/Build project. The City’s commitment is to enter into a municipal funding agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) with a mixture of City Bonds and local match funds, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding, and private dollars raised through the C3 capital campaign will cover the approximately $9.4 million cost of the betterments with roughly $3 million coming from each funding source. The betterments include additional sidewalk width on all bridges, critical infrastructure for construction of the multi-use bicycle and pedestrian path, enhanced bridge facades, enhanced lighting of roadway and pedestrian facilities, brick embedded retaining walls, Peters Creek Parkway bridge clear noise wall, and focal pedestrian bridges for Green Street and the Strollway.

Multi-Use Path Critical Infrastructure

The City will work with NCDOT to incorporate the betterments into the RFP for the Design/Build process.
Traffic Signal System Upgrade

Countdown to Completion

The upgrade to the traffic signal system is a $20,000,000 project that will make driving in Winston-Salem easier. Discussions on the project began in 2010 when it was identified as a need as part of the Business 40 Reconstruction project. When Business 40 is closed, traffic will be diverted and the surface streets in Winston-Salem will see an increase in traffic. The old system was last upgraded in 1996 needed updates in communication technology. The new system will allow the city to better respond to changing travel patterns whether it is for the Business 40 project or in response to accidents on the highways that cause diversion of traffic to the city’s major corridors. The project upgrade has fiber optic lines that connect the city signals and traffic cameras to the system that allows operators to monitor traffic conditions and adjust traffic signal timing when needed. “It’s about saving people time,” says Larry Walker, traffic signal systems supervisor. “We will be able to make real-time adjustments to the signal timing to help traffic flow better.”

Construction on the project began in 2013. At the end of the project there will be 385 traffic signals interconnected by around 150 miles of fiber optic communication cable. The network, managed by central traffic signal system software, also includes 19 additional traffic surveillance cameras bringing the total to 30 cameras. Additional monitors, servers and other equipment was also added to the traffic management center. The completion date for the project is May 2016 for phase A and September 2016 for phase B. The project is a joint City and State venture. Eighty percent of the project is funded with Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Funds. The local match for these funds are shared by the city and state with the state paying $2.44 million and the city, $1.56 million.

Transit System Update

The Department of Transportation, working in conjunction with the Winston-Salem Transit Authority staff, have implemented changes based on the comprehensive operations analysis on the existing transit routing structure. All twenty-five current routes have been altered to ensure more efficient service. The proposed changes will have 28 total routes; Thirteen of the 28 routes will offer nightly service, Fourteen of the 28 routes will offer Saturday service, and seven of the 28 routes will offer Sunday service. The recommendations for operating changes are pending approval of Winston-Salem City Council.
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**Bicycle Update**

**Forsyth County Walk to School Day 2015**

Eight schools in Forsyth County - Brunson, Cash, Downtown School, Kimberley Park, Morgan, Petree, Smith Farm and Sherwood Forest participated in Walk to School Day during October. October is International Walk to School Month, but elementary and middle schools can sponsor Walk to/at School events at any time during the year. This year 905 students and 255 parents in Forsyth County participated in these Walk to/at School events. Also, fifteen student cyclists and five adults used their bikes to net to school. Cash Elementary, which is not located in a friendly area, held a Walk at School event to get their 428 students active. Walking or cycling is a great way for students to start the day and get their brains turned on to learn.

**2 Veteran MPO Planners to Retire**

Greg Errett, AICP

Greg Errett, Planning Development Coordinator for the Department of Transportation, will be retiring after 30 years with the City. Greg is a native of Santa Barbara, California, and graduated with a degree in City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo and a Masters in Transportation Planning from the University of Tennessee. Prior to moving into the Transportation Department, Greg worked with the City-County Planning Board and the Knoxville-Knox County, Tennessee Metropolitan Planning Commission. Greg has been responsible for the Planning Division and has guided the development and implementation of a wide variety of transportation plans, programs and services that meet the ever growing and changing travel needs of the citizens of the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO. He has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 1987. Greg is active in the community, participating in the annual Community Roots Day, Litter Sweeps and the restoration of the Odd Fellows Cemetery, an African–American cemetery for over 100 years. Congratulations, Greg!

Wendy Miller, FASLA

Wendy Miller, Planning Principal Planner with the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation, will retire in November. Originally from the Washington, D.C. area, Wendy graduated with a degree in English from the University of Virginia and a Masters of Landscape Architecture from NCsu. Wendy began her career in Urban and Appearance Planning at the City of Raleigh and moved to a similar position with the City-County Planning Board in 1988. Since 1992, she has been working in transportation planning focusing on long range planning, public involvement, multi-modal studies, and federal grant management. Wendy is a member of the Transportation Research Board Landscape and Environmental Design Committee developing transportation research needs and was selected to serve on the National Academy of Sciences NCHRP Panel on Visual Impact Assessments. She has served as an officer in the North Carolina Association of MPOs and in leadership positions with the American Society of Landscape Architects, at the local and national level. Wendy was recently inducted into the ASLA Council of Fellows. Congratulations, Wendy!
2015 - 2016 MPO Meeting Dates

November 19, 2015  
TAC meets at 4:15 p.m.  5th Floor Meeting Room
January 21, 2016  
TCC meets at 2:00 p.m.  2nd Floor Conference Room
February 18, 2016  
Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building,
March 17, 2016  
First and Church Streets, Winston-Salem
May 19, 2016
July 21, 2016
September 15, 2016
November 17, 2016

The MPOs New Staff

Ravin Gore, Transportation Planner

Ravin Gore is a native of Greensboro, NC. She holds a bachelor's degree in Geography concentrating in Urban Development from UNC-Charlotte and a Master's degree in Public Administration from NC Central University. Ms. Gore has worked as a planner with a number of North Carolina and South Carolina Counties, as well as working as a planner in the North Carolina Department of Commerce in the Division of Community Assistance. She is excited about working for Winston Salem Department of Transportation. When Ms Gore is not working in professional capacity, she enjoys spending time with her family.

MPO Transportation Advisory Committee

Larry T. Williams, Chairman  
Mayor, Town of Rural Hall
Dan Besse, Vice-Chairman  
Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Kenneth A. Rethmeier, DrPH  
Mayor, Town of Bermuda Run
Brent Rockett  
Commissioner, Town of Bethania
Nick Nelson  
Mayor, Village of Clemmons
Tracey Shifflett  
Alderman, Town of Kernersville
Vacant  
City of King
Dan Pugh  
Mayor, Town of Lewisville
Norman Wilkes  
Mayor, Town of Midway
Billy W. McHone  
Mayor, Village of Tobaccoville
Randy Mendenhall  
Council Member, Town of Walkertown
Allen Todd  
Mayor, Town of Wallburg
Allen Joines  
Mayor, City of Winston-Salem
Denise D. Adams  
Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Todd Yates  
Commissioner, Davidson County
Terry N. Renegar  
Commissioner, Davie County
Walter Marshall  
Commissioner, Forsyth County
David Plyler  
Commissioner, Forsyth County
Leon Inman  
Commissioner, Stokes County
Jake Alexander  
Member, NC Board of Transportation
Regina Streed  
Board Member, WSTA
Margaret Bessette, TAC Secretary  
Assistant Director, City-County Planning Bd
Arnold King  
Chairman, City-County Planning Board
Tom McKim  
Chairman, Forsyth Co. Airport Commission
John F. Sullivan, III  
Division Administrator, FHWA

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Connie James, P.E., Deputy Director  
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MPO Planner  
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Vacant as of December 1, 2015  
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Amy Crum, Project Planner