

MINUTES
WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
MAY 19, 2016
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, Vice Chairman
Denise Adams, Council Member, City of Winston-Salem
Mike Combest, Mayor Pro Tem, Village of Clemmons, Alternate
Brent Rockett, Commissioner, Town of Bethania
Mike Horn, Mayor, Town of Lewisville
Tracey Shifflette, Alderman, Town of Kernersville
Myron Marion, Mayor Pro Tem, Village of Tobaccoville
Randy Mendenhall, Council Member, Town of Walkertown
Allen Todd, Mayor, Town of Wallburg
Steve Jarvis, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Davidson County, Alternate
Regina Streed, Board Member, WSTA

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Jordan Payne, FCOEAP
Paul Martin FCOEAP
Wayne Davis, NCDOT
Pat Ivey, NCDOT
Diane Hampton, NCDOT
Hermang Surti, NCDOT
Art Barnes, WSTA
Tikhia Alson, WSTA
Tina Carson-Wilkins, WSTA
Toneq' McCullough
Connie James, WSDOT
Dewey Williard, WSDOT
Fred Haith, WSDOT
Matthew Burczyk, WSDOT
Ravin Gore, WSDOT
Byron Brown, CCPB
Ken Baker, WSDOT
Scott Rhine, PART
Rochelle Joseph, Town of Kernersville
Jeff Hatling, Town of Kernersville

RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Whitaker, WSDOT

OTHERS:

J. Leigh Gill

Chairman Williams read the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Statement.

Mayor Williams introduced the new MPO Coordinator, Hermang Surti.

1. Citizen Comments

J. Leigh Gill, 580 Oaklawn Road, Winston-Salem, NC, stated that since the last TAC meeting he has been conducting a detailed data analysis of NC 109 Alternative 1 and 6. He further stated that he has met and had telephone conversations with NCDOT Division Engineer, Pat Ivey; Lochner Inc., the engineering firm responsible for NC 109 contract work; and, Mike Koser and Milton Sanches with the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Gill also stated that he has obtained two detailed maps of NC 109.

The discussion with Pat Ivey identified a workable smaller width. Mr. Gill stated that he has always campaigned for 100 feet but that Mr. Ivey identified a need for a 120 – 140 foot wide footprint, so the latest effort is focusing on a 125 foot dimension.

Mr. Gills findings will be attached to the minutes for the record.

Action Items

2. Consideration of the March 17, 2016 TAC Meeting Minutes

Presented by Chairman Larry Williams.

MOTION: Denise Adams moved approval of the minutes.

SECOND: Allen Todd.

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

3. Consideration of a Resolution Adopting the Prioritized Lists of Transportation Projects Submitted During the 2016 Call for STP-DA/TAP-DA Funded Projects

Presented by Matthew Burczyk.

- In January 2016, MPO communities submitted 13 bicycle and pedestrian projects to be considered for funding, as well as 1 transit project, 1 intersection improvement project and 4 small roadway projects.
- The total amount of federal funds requested is \$12,689,143.
- The Town of Walkertown recently canceled their NC66 & US158 intersection improvement project, approved by the TAC in 2012.
- The project accounted for \$1,160,000 in federal funds.
- MPO staff recommends that the \$1,160,000 in federal funds be used to strengthen the 2016 Call for Projects.
- The projects were reviewed and evaluated by committees that included representatives from MPO communities, NCDOT, and other community organizations.
- Three of the small roadway projects were determined to be not eligible for funding, as the roadways did not have a Federal Functional Classification.
- The selection committees recommend that the MPO fund the 9 highest ranked bicycle & pedestrian projects, 1 transit project, 1 intersection improvement project, and 1 small roadway project.
- The total amount of federal funds required to endorse the recommendation is \$ \$7,375,423.

It was requested that future projects submittals that do not qualify be highlighted in some way to differentiate from the qualified projects.

A discussion ensued regarding the Ebert Stratford Road Connector Intersection Improvement project.

MOTION: Dan Besse made a motion to accept the Committees' recommendations with removal of the Ebert Stratford Road Connector Intersection Improvement project and placement of the funds from that project in the STP-DA reserve fund.

SECOND: Mike Horn.

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

4. Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Amendments and Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2016-2025 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Presented by Fredrick Haith.

- The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) regularly updates the STIP to include new projects and modify existing projects.
- Any STIP amendment for new statewide projects or projects within the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO, triggers the amendment of the MTIP.
- STIP amendments for regionally significant projects that have significant project revisions, cross the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 4-year funding period or modeling horizon years require an AQCDR.
- Modifications to the STIP do not require adoption but are provided for information.
- Two of the public transit projects, the Surry Express #1 and Winston-Salem Express, have received alternate funding. Since it is the only Transit Project remaining, the Airport Area

Hub Shuttle Service project would receive the 100 local assignment points per the MPO-s adopted Point Assignment Process.

MOTION: Denise Adams moved approval.

SECOND: Tracey Shifflette.

VOTE:

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

Information for Future Action Items

5. Review of the Prioritization 4.0 Preliminary Scores and Local Point Assignment Process

Presented by Fredrick Haith.

- NCDOT has released the preliminary scores for projects it evaluated for the 2018-2027 STIP.
- Projects that were evaluated and received a preliminary score include:
 - Projects in the last five years of the 2016-2025 STIP (the current STIP) – these projects are in the developmental stages. (Projects in the first five years of the STIP are committed for funding and are not subject to being reprioritized.)
 - Projects submitted as part of the development of the 2016-2025 STIP but were not funded.
 - New projects that local planning organizations and NCDOT division submitted in fall 2015.
- The local public review period will end on June 24, 2016. *[Date was changed after the TAC meeting to June 30, 2016.]*
- There will be a drop in meeting held for the public on June 24, 2016 at the Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building in the 3rd floor conference room from 11 am – 7 pm. *[Date was changed after the TAC meeting to June 20, 2016.]*
- June 6, 2016 is the deadline for TAC members to submit the MPO Qualitative Objective Project Point Assignment Form.
- WSDOT staff will score/rank all projects according to the MPO approved Qualitative and Quantitative criteria.

A discussion ensued regarding upgrading interchange US 421 project, including the bridge widening.

A discussion ensued regarding the 40 points assignment.

6. Review of the Federal Transit Administration Formula Program 5307/5340 Funding Allocations for North Carolina

Presented by Kenneth Baker.

- The FTA allocates funds to each Urbanized Area (UZA) in the United States with a population greater than 50,000 people.
- This program, referred to as the Urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5307), is the primary source of financial support for capital, preventative maintenance and other eligible public transportation expenses for most communities.
- Funding levels are determined using the FTA-defined Urbanized Area Formula.
- In addition, the FTA also allocates funds to UZAs using a formula that accounts for growing states and high densities states, referred to as Section 5340 funds.
- Section 5307 and 5340 funds are used to fund capital, jobs access and reverse commute projects, and planning projects.
- The NCDOT has asked UZAs to develop an equitable funding distribution methodology that meets the needs of the transit systems eligible to receive 5307 and 5340 funds within their urbanized area.
- Currently the WSMPO has four public transportation operators eligible to receive Section 5307 and/or 5304 funds (WSTA, PART, Davidson County and YVEDDI).
- The City of Winston-Salem as the designated recipient of section 5307 and 5340 funds for the Winston-Salem Urbanized Area is tasked with developing an equitable funding distribution methodology.
- Staff from WSDOT, PART, Davidson County Transportation, the NCDOT, and WSTA met on April 28, 2016 to discuss the 5307/5340 Formula Program.
- The meeting concluded with an understanding that a future workgroup comprised of WSDOT, PART, Davidson County Transportation, YVEDDI and WSTA staff will be held to develop a draft 5307/5340 funding distribution methodology.
- The draft methodology will be submitted to the Winston-Salem Urban Area Transportation Advisory Committee for consideration.

Information Items

7. Review of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority Paratransit Compliance Review February 2016

Presented by Art Barnes.

- Disability is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as “a physical, visual, hidden or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.”
- Persons that qualify for services generally fall into one of the following categories:
 - Persons who qualify as disabled under the terms of the ADA of 1990.
 - ADA-2.
 - Medicaid.
 - Title III (older adults)
- Fares for Paratransit Services in North Carolina:
 - Wilmington Fares: \$4 per one way trip/\$8 roundtrip
 - Charlotte Fares: \$3.50 per one way trip/\$7 roundtrip
 - Raleigh Fares: \$2.50 per one way trip/\$5 roundtrip
 - High Point Fares: \$2 per one way trip/\$4 roundtrip
 - Asheville Fares: \$2 per one way trip/\$4 roundtrip

- GTA/SCAT Fares: \$1.50 per one way trip/\$3 roundtrip
- WSTA/Trans-Aid Fares: \$.50 per one way trip (free to Medicaid participants)
- In Fiscal Year 2010 – 11 WSTA had 129,653 trips.
- By the end of this fiscal year, WSTA projects 205,015 trips, which is a 58% increase in ridership.

A discussion ensued regarding rates for paratransit services and the cost to WSTA of a bus rider versus a TransAid rider.

Information Items (Presentation by Staff by Request of TAC Only)

8. MPO Staff Reports

a. NCDOT Division 9 Transportation Projects Update

Presented by Pat Ivey.

- Utility preconstruction meeting was held April 29, 2016 for the Idols Road Extension project.
- The Winston-Salem North Beltway Projects R-2247CD and R-2247EC will be combined into one project with a let date of September 16, 2016.

A request was made for an update on the Great Wagon Road project.

A request was made for information regarding delays this week on Highway 52 near the Westinghouse exit.

b. Forsyth County OEAP Air Quality Update

No questions for staff.

c. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Projects Update

Presented by Matthew Burczyk.

- NCDOT has provided detailed reports for several of the counters installed in Winston-Salem that provide additional information about the project and the data being collected.
- Highlights include the 12-month raw bicycle and pedestrian counts for all locations.
- This data has proved valuable already as the City of Winston-Salem was able to use the counts in the TIGER grant application for the Business 40 Multi-Use Path.
- 4th Street 12-month raw pedestrian count: 1,562,538.
- 4th Street 12-month raw bicycle count: 28,447.
- Three bike movie events are scheduled at a/peture cinema.
- The Clemmons Pedal & medal festival will be held May 21.
- USA Cycling National Championships combined with Winston-Salem Cycling Classic and have created a 9-day racing festival from May 24 – May 31.

d. Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) Update

No questions for staff.

e. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Update

Presented by Scott Rhine.

- PART is continuing work on Business 40 mitigation strategies/plans.
- PART staff met with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools regarding the new administration facility and transportation opportunities.
- PART has hired Sabrina Glenn who will oversee the Commuter Resources Department.

f. Title VI Compliance Update

No questions for staff.

g. MPO Calendar of Activities

Presented by Fredrick Haith.

- The prioritization schedule is included in the MPO Calendar of Activities.

h. Ethics Liaison

No questions for staff.

9. Next Meeting/Adjourn Meeting

- Next TAC meeting will be July 21, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT 5:27 pm.

Provided by J. Leigh Gill during public comment period at the May 19, 2016 TAC meeting.

J Leigh Gill 580 Oaklawn Rd. Winston Salem, NC 27107, 336.769.4906.

Since the last WS MPO meeting I have been conducting a detailed data analysis of NC 109 Alt 1 & 6. I've had meetings and telephone conversations with Division Engineer Pat Ivey, Lochner Inc. contract engineering firm licensed by NCDOT and responsible for NC 109 contract work; Mike Koser, PE and Milton Sanches United States Department of Agriculture. I also obtained two (2) detailed maps of NC 109 measuring ten feet (10) by three (3) feet.

Discussions between pat Ivey and myself identified a workable smaller width. I have always campaigned for a 100 feet but Pat identified a need for a 120 – 140 foot wide footprint so my latest effort is focusing on a 125' dimension.

My findings:

RELOCATIONS:

Relocations for Opt 6 = 149

Relocations for Opt 1 with a width of 250 feet = 186

Relocations for Opt 1 with a width of 125 feet = 70

COST:

ALT 6 has escalated from an original cost estimate of \$128,828,000 to \$225,000,000 in SPOT 4, an increase of over 96 million dollars. The only cause for this increase is the lack of accurate data used in the original costing.

I have discussed future costs with people knowledgeable of these types of projects and they all agreed the final real costs will most likely exceed \$300,000,000.

Using my generated formulas I identified a current cost for a 125 foot wide Alt 1 corridor of \$138,041,000 and remember relocations go from 186 to 70.

USDA guidelines: There is additional information clearly indicating the designation of Prime Farmland along Alt 1 is dramatically incorrect. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture provided me with a regulation clearly not followed by the NCDOT. PART 658 – FARMLAND Protection Policy ACT sub paragraph 658.2 provides a clear definition of Prime Farmland and this definition has not been followed.

Hazardous Material Sites: ALT 1 is listed on the DEIS as having 25 hazardous sites but some of these sites do not have hazardous materials.

Alt 6 is listed as having three (3) hazardous sites but this number is incorrect as well, Alt 6 has eleven (11), the analysis completely ignores the common parts of Alt 1 & 6.

Traffic & Growth: The growth of Davidson County as projected by UNCCH indicates a 0 to 6% growth rate for Davidson county and a 6 to 12 % rate for Forsyth and projected growth and population density from the NC Department of Budget & Management indicates a 6% increase in population density from 2015 to 2035.

WASTED SPACE: Yesterday, May 18, 2016 I drove to NC 109 just south of the Ledford Middle school. I measured the open space on each side of the highway just south of the NC 109, Old Greensboro Rd. intersection. There is about 150' of open space along the sides of NC 109, that's 60% of the 250' width. This is in an area of four (4) paved travel lanes and a left and right turn lane on the north bound lane. I traveled about one (1) mile further south and found the same results. I know there are some tapered areas here but still the waste is extremely excessive.

NHTSA APPROVAL: Considering all these glaring errors in the justification process, even if the road gets approved by NC it still needs Federal approval and the NHTSA will be made aware of these bad data choices.

We request zero votes for NC 109 Opt 6 from the voting members and the MPO.

Thank you.