

# Meeting Minutes

**Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization (S/WMPO)  
Council  
March 22, 2017**

**Government Office Building  
Council Chambers Room 301  
125 N. Division Street  
Salisbury, MD**

## **Attendees:**

### *S/WMPO Council members:*

Charles Anderson, City of Seaford, DE  
Tyson Byrne, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Mike DuRoss, Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)  
Jack Heath, City of Salisbury Council  
Laura Hurley, Proxy, Wicomico County Council  
Chris Morgan, Town of Delmar, MD  
Mike Pennington, Tri County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES)

### *Others:*

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Maryland (Call-in)  
Ian Beam, MDOT  
Lauren DeVore, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) – Division of Air Quality  
Lindsay Donnellon, FHWA – Delaware (Call-in)  
Mary Ridgeway, FHWA – Delaware  
Becky Robinson, Delmarva Water Transport Committee (DWTC)  
Keith Hall, S/WMPO Administrator

## **Introduction**

Mr. Keith Hall opened the meeting at 1:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

## **Minutes**

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from August 10, 2016. Mr. Keith Hall asked if anyone had additions or corrections to the draft meeting minutes. Mr. Heath made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, with the motion seconded by Mr. Pennington. With all Board members voting in favor, and none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Delmarva Water Transport Committee Presentation**

Becky Robinson, Executive Director (DWTC)

Mrs. Robinson started the presentation with an overview about the purpose of the Delmarva Water Transport Committee. DWTC was formed in 1974, and its current membership includes representatives from City of Salisbury, Wicomico County, State agencies, maritime transportation industry, dredging and contracting companies, petroleum distributors, commodities shippers, ship builders, financial institutes, and other entities utilizing or associated with waterborne commerce on the Delmarva Peninsula. The Organization represents members in various aspects of waterborne commerce and provides a centralized line of communication with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and other government agencies. Membership provides an opportunity to meet other entities with similar interest and serves as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

She stated the primary responsibility of DWTC is to maintain adequate dredging requirements on the Wicomico River. Annually, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers receives federal funding to dredge the Wicomico River channel to the federally mandated depth of 14'. Each year, the federal government budgets are limiting funds allocated to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for maintenance dredging, which is concerning. If adequate dredging can't be maintained on the Wicomico River, some industry stakeholders may consider shipping commodities by alternate means of transport including truck and rail. The potential change in transport mode of commodities may lead to a reduction in the amount of ships built and / or repaired at Chesapeake Shipbuilders. Chesapeake Shipbuilders has expressed interest to increase the depth of the Wicomico River channel to 20', which will require an act of Congress. DWTC will support and assist with this request.

Other activities of DWTC include hosting meetings with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and Wicomico County to discuss the strategic plans and support for Wicomico River dredging projects, assist the County by coordinating with State agencies to acquire land for future dredge placement sites, met with local environmental groups, support local community group meetings to discuss waterway issues, co-host the annual ice planning meeting, contact with NOAA and U.S. Coast Guard during ice conditions, coordinate approvals of pier permits on the Wicomico and Nanticoke Rivers, and research alternate metrics to calculate waterborne commerce in terms of economic development instead of tonnage.

After a discussion amongst Mrs. Robinson and S/WMPO Council members, Mr. Keith Hall thanked Ms. Robinson for presenting an overview of DWTC operations.

### **Resolution 01-2017: Federal Functional Classification System update**

Ian Beam, MDOT

Mr. Beam briefed Council members on the update of the Federal Functional Classification System. He started the presentation with background about the purpose and importance of the update, which is being conducted statewide with participation of stakeholders including MPOs. Based on revisions to the classification system, only minor adjustments are proposed for Wicomico County.

The purpose of the Federal Functional Classification System update reflects: current roadway conditions; modifications to federal guidelines used for the 2013 update; changes in Urbanized

Area designations resulting from 2010 Decennial Census; and solicits input for all roadway owners. Of major importance, is the role of the Federal Functional Classification System with regard to determining federal-aid eligibility for roadway projects. For roadways contained in the urban sector of the system; roads classified as collectors and above are eligible for federal aid. Whereas, roads contained in the rural sector must be classified as major collectors and above to ensure eligibility.

Mr. Beam presented the seven (7) functional classifications comprising the system, as well as discussed differences between the previous and current classifications. Also, he outlined the important characteristics used to determine the classification of a roadway listed in the system, as well as the relationship amongst access, mobility, and livability.

Mr. Keith Hall stated the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the proposed Federal Functional Classification System update at their meeting on January 12, 2017, and voted unanimously to forward a favorable recommendation to the S/WMPO Council for their review and action on the proposed update. Mr. Keith Hall mentioned no comments were received during the public review period. Mr. Tyson Byrne made a motion to approve the update to the Federal Functional Classification System. Seconded by Mr. Heath, and with all members voting in favor and none opposed, Resolution 01-2017 passed unanimously.

#### **Resolution 02-2017: FY 2017 – FY 2020 TIP Amendments**

Keith Hall, S/WMPO Administrator

Mr. Keith Hall provided an overview of the TIP, which is a multi-state planning document extending over a four-year timeframe from FY 2017 through FY 2020. As proposed, the amendments under consideration are for the Delaware portion of the TIP and is comprised of system preservation projects. He stated, the amendments to the Delaware portion of the TIP consisted of deletion of Bridge 3-353; addition of Bridge 3-162; addition of open ended construction services contained within the road services category; addition of inner city operating of transit services; and adjustments to Statewide Planning Projects allocations.

Mr. Keith Hall informed members the TAC forwarded a favorable recommendation to the S/WMPO Council for their review and action, as well as no comments were received during the public review period. Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the FY 2017 – FY 2020 TIP. Seconded by Mr. DuRoss, and with all members voting in favor and none opposed, Resolution 02-2017 passed unanimously.

#### **Resolution 03-2017: Prospectus and Bylaws Amendments**

Keith Hall, S/WMPO Administrator

Mr. Keith Hall presented the proposed amendments to the S/WMPO's Prospectus and Bylaws, which included increasing membership of the TAC from 17 to 18 members; adding Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Division of Air Quality as a voting TAC members; and expanding a quorum of the TAC from nine (9) voting members to 10 voting members. Ms. Lauren DeVore, DNREC – Division of Air Quality, presented S/WMPO Council members with an overview of the organization.

Mr. Keith Hall expressed prior to an action of the S/WMPO Council, the TAC favorably reviewed the proposed amendments and recommended forwarding to the S/WMPO Council. Also, no public comments were received in response to the proposed amendments. Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve Resolution 03-2017. Seconded by Mr. Heath, and with all members voting in favor and none opposed, Resolution 03-2017 passed unanimously.

**Member Updates / Other Business**

Mr. Keith Hall notified members about the recent adoption of the 2017 *Wicomico County Comprehensive Plan* and noted Maryland has a 10-year review cycle for future updates. Mr. Pennington stated the proposal for connection to City of Salisbury water and sewer will be advertised in the upcoming weeks.

**Next Meeting Date/Adjourn**

There being no other business before the S/WMPO Council, upon a motion by Mr. Byrne, seconded by Mr. Anderson, with all members voting in favor, and none opposed, the meeting was adjourned.