

Meeting Minutes

Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting June 6, 2012

City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Government Building
125 North Division Street, Salisbury, MD
Room 306

Attendees:

S/W MPO officials:

John B. Redden, Jr., PE, Chair, Wicomico County Public Works
William Sterling, Vice Chair, City of Salisbury Public Works
Mike Nixon, Maryland Department of Transportation
Keith Lackie, Maryland Department of Planning (Proxy)
Jim Magill, Salisbury/Wicomico Planning Commission
Sara Bynum-King, Town of Delmar
Brad Bellacicco, Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce
Sharon Jones, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore
R. Lee Outten, City of Fruitland
Julie Wheatley, Sussex County Economic Development

Others:

Keith Hall, S/W MPO staff
Melinda Lewis, S/W MPO staff, recording secretary
Donnie Drewer, State Highway Administration
Tyson Byrne, Maryland Department of Transportation
Laura Mitchell, Salisbury City Council
Martin Gilchrist, Urban Research & Development Corporation
Bryan Cope, Urban Research & Development Corporation

Introduction

Mr. Redden opened the meeting at 10:40 A.M. and welcomed everyone.

Minutes

The first item of business was the minutes from the November 8, 2011 meeting. Chairman Redden asked if anyone had any additions or corrections, and there were none. Mr. Magill made a motion to approve the minutes, with the motion seconded by Mr. Nixon. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the November 8, 2011 minutes was passed unanimously.

S/W MPO Functional Master Plan of Hiker and Biker Trails presentation

Mr. Hall briefly provided an overview of the bidding process used to determine the consultant chosen for this study, as well as information related to the purpose of the study, which is in its first phase. Mr. Hall proceeded to introduce the consultant team from Urban Research and Development Corporation (URDC) Martin Gilchrest, President, and Bryan Cope, Engineer.

Mr. Gilchrist began the presentation with an analysis and mapping of existing trails in Wicomico County. The consultants took turns examining different aspects of actual hiking and biking trails in the County, analyzing routes to connect existing pathways, incorporating federal and generally accepted design guidelines, and also gave examples of successful trail systems within urban communities. The study incorporated, when appropriate, pathways to local community centers, schools and neighborhoods. Mr. Hall discussed the next step or phase two, which was to take the presented information and focus on four or five areas for further study. This phase would have to be researched, drafted and presented to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee at a future meeting and then approved by the Council as part of a UPWP.

The presentation ended with a question and answering session, which members and presenters discussed the existing bike ways, liability issues on Rails to Trails, and the Salisbury University to Carroll Street corridor.

Amendments to the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Nixon provided a brief summary of a one-time opportunity offered by the FTA to shift capital funds to assist Shore Transit with the increased price of fuel. Five of the six counties that the shift has been approved for have opted to use the capital funds for fuel. Mr. Nixon added that there is also supplemental funding through a special grant for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program that would also benefit Shore Transit's operating expenses. These supplemental funds were not approved with the original TIP because the amounts were still unknown in December when the budget was approved. Furthermore, he noted the amendments will be presented to the MPO Council for their review and consideration of approval. Mr. Hall added that the proposed amendments to the FY 2012 – FY 2015 TIP had been advertised in the paper and on the MPO Website for 14 days and no comments were received by the public.

After a brief discussion Mr. Magill made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation to the MPO Council, which was seconded by Mr. Sterling. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to forward the amended FY 2015 – FY 2015 TIP to the MPO Council was passed unanimously.

FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Hall explained, as is the case in every year, this budget is a preliminary budget because it is pending on the Federal Budget approval in late September 2013. The proposed budget allocation is consistent with last year's budget, which was \$122,334.00. Mr. Hall briefly went over the proposed budget by each line item and noted the changes from the previous year. Mr. Hall requested the committee's recommendation to present to the MPO Council.

Mr. Magill made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation to the MPO Council, with the motion seconded by Mr. Nixon. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Other Business

New Urbanized Area Map Presentation

Mr. Hall presented a map of the expanded Urbanized Area as determined by the 2010 Census information. The map shown to the Committee illustrated only the urbanized area and not the full extent of the overall MPO. Mr. Hall noted the Urbanized Area of the MPO has expanded to include the Town of Hebron, Allen and parts of Somerset County, as well as extending in a northerly direction along U.S. Route approximately 17 miles to encompass portions of Sussex County, Delaware, including Laurel and Seaford. Mr. Hall added that this expansion is going to create challenges as we move forward and reach out to these areas; however, current funding does not reflect the challenges associated with incorporating and collaborating planning efforts with these communities. Mr. Nixon commented that the changes and incorporation of the new area does not need to be immediate but that the MPO does need to show progress.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

Mr. Hall will contact members when a meeting needs to be scheduled and an appropriate date and time will then be determined.

Chairman Redden asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was moved by Mr. Magill, seconded by Mr. Outten, and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.