

Meeting Minutes

Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) November 8, 2011

City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Government Building
125 North Division Street, Salisbury, MD
Room 301 (Council Chambers)

Attendees:

TAC Members:

John Redden, Wicomico Department of Public Works
Ian Beam, Maryland Department of Transportation
Riggin Johnson, Shore Transit/Tri-County Council
Julie Wheatley, Sussex County Economic Development
Rick Konrad, City of Fruitland
Jim Magill, Salisbury/Wicomico Planning & Zoning Commission
Jeff Downes, Salisbury University
Bob Bryant, Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport
Ray Birch, Salisbury Public Works Department
William Sterling, Salisbury Public Works
Debbie Wicker, State Highway Administration
Tracey Gordy, Maryland Department of Planning
Sara Bynum-King, Town of Delmar
Keith Hall, S/W MPO staff

Others:

Karen Emory Brittingham, Delaware DOT
Eric Beckett, State Highway Administration
Bill Remington, DBF

Introduction

John Redden opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions of all attendees were made.

Minutes

Mr. Redden introduced the first item on the agenda, which was review of the April 27, 2011 meeting minutes. Mr. Ian Beam moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Mr. Rick Konrad seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the minutes was passed.

FY 2011 & FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program Amendments

Mr. Hall presented a brief overview of the proposed amendments to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). As a result of additional expenses associated with the preparation of the Phase I Functional Master Plan of Hiker & Biker Trails, a reallocation to this project in the amount of \$2,551 was necessary to cover the anticipated expenses. Therefore, the proposed amendment decreased funding for another work program item identified in the adopted FY 2011 UPWP (Feasibility and Pricing Study of Recommended Roadways) from \$19,483 to \$16,932, which constitutes a difference of \$2,551.

In addition to the reallocation of funding for the aforementioned studies, a second proposed amendment was presented to the TAC. The second proposed amendment recommended a reallocation of funding dedicated to Identifying and Developing Data Necessary for Future Use of Traffic Modeling Analysis work program item to GIS Enhancements. The allotment adopted as part of the FY 2011 UPWP totaled \$20,000. Mr. Hall and Mr. Frank McKenzie presented the TAC members with an overview of the proposed use of funds to purchase aerial photography from Pictometry, Inc. Mr. McKenzie discussed the variety of uses for the requested imagery and presented images of the aerial photography; whereas, Mr. Hall informed the members of the potential uses of the data to further promote the transportation planning efforts in the MPO region.

Chairman Redden called for a motion to make a favorable recommendation to the MPO Council for the FY 2011 UPWP as amended. Mr. Jim Magill moved the motion to forward to the MPO Council, and Mr. Ray Birch seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to forward the FY 2011 UPWP, Revision 4, to the Council was passed.

Mr. Hall presented the amendments to the FY 2012 UPWP to the TAC members for their review and consideration to forward a recommendation to the MPO Council. He noted the proposed amendments resulted from decreased funding in the amount of \$4,144 to the MPO in FY 2012. Proposed amendments to the FY 2012 included the elimination of the Shore Transit Ridership Study (\$8,500), and a redistribution of the remaining funds to the Public Participation Process and the U.S. Route 50 Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety Study, \$250 and \$4,106, respectively.

Chairman Redden called for a motion to make a favorable recommendation to the MPO Council for the FY 2012 UPWP as amended. The portion of the motion being moved was unintelligible; however, Ms. Tracey Gordy seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to forward the FY 2012 UPWP, Revision 2, to the Council was passed.

2011 Long-Range Transportation Plan Amendments

Staff presented an overview of the minor amendments proposed to the Salisbury-Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization's Adopted 2011 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which resulted from comments provided by the Federal Transit Administration. Specifically, amendments to Chapter Seven related to Shore Transit funding and facilities were requested to ensure consistency to the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Chairman Redden called for a motion to make a favorable recommendation to the MPO Council for the 2011 Long-Range Transportation Plan as amended. Mr. Ian Bean moved the motion to forward to the MPO Council, and Mr. Rick Konrad seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to forward the amendments to the 2011 Long-Range Transportation Plan to the Council was passed.

Public Participation Plan

Mr. Hall presented an overview of the proposed amendments to the organization's Public Participation Plan (PPP), which included:

1. Amend the PPP to revise the public comment period prior to adoption or amending of the Long-Range Transportation Plan from 45 days to 30 days;
2. Amend the PPP to revise the public comment period prior to adoption or amending of the Unified Planning Work Program and the Transportation Improvement Program from 45 days to 15 days;
3. Amend the Plan to remove specific language related to open meetings of the MPO Council being advertised on the local government / public access channel (PAC 14); and
4. Amend the PPP to require agenda's for TAC and MPO Council meetings to be posted on the S/W MPOs website.

After a discussion of the TAC members, consensus was reached to retain the language about advertising MPO meetings on the public access channel (PAC 14).

Chairman Redden called for a motion to make a favorable recommendation to the MPO Council for PPP as amended. Mr. Billy Sterling moved the motion to forward to the MPO Council as amended, and Mr. Ian Beam seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to forward the Public Participation Plan as amended to the Council was passed.

FY 2012 – FY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program

Upon a presentation by Mr. Ian Beam about the proposed FY 2012 – FY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Chairman Redden made a motion to make a favorable recommendation to forward the FY 2012 – FY 2015 TIP to the MPO Council for their review and approval. Mr. Rick Konrad moved the motion to forward to the MPO Council, and Mr. Jeff Downes seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to forward the FY 2012 – FY 2015 TIP to the Council was passed.

Presentation – Delmarva Freight Plan

Ms. Sarah Bunch of BEACON presented the major highlights of the MPO Area Freight Plan to the Technical Advisory Committee members. During the presentation, Ms. Bunch emphasized the importance of our local transportation network to the freight industry. Information related to the amount of goods movement via the Wicomico River was emphasized, as well as other various modes of transportation used for the movement of goods, people, and services. An in-

depth discussion by the TAC members occurred about the importance of ensuring adequate dredge / spoils placement sites in Wicomico County.

After an extensive question and answer session, Mr. Redden thanked Ms. Bunch for the informative presentation.

Other Business

Mr. Hall provided an overview of the current MPO projects including the Shore Transit Routing Analysis, the Functional Mater Plan of Hiker & Biker Trails, and the U.S. Route 50 Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety and Connectivity Study extending from Ward Street to Beaglin Park Drive.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.