

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization  
October 2, 2006**

**City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Government Building  
125 North Division Street, Salisbury, MD  
Room 301**

### **Attendees:**

SW/MPO officials:

Marvin R. Long, Chair, Wicomico County Council  
Mike Dunn, City Council, City of Salisbury  
Luther Hitchens, Deputy Mayor, Delmar, MD  
Mike Nixon, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Ted Shea, Administrative Director, Wicomico County  
Barrie P. Tilghman, Mayor, City of Salisbury

Others:

Gary Pusey, S/W MPO staff, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning  
Donald Ludlow, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.  
Jocelyn Hoffman, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.  
Fred and Margaret Wilson, Snow Hill Road residents

### **Introduction**

Chairman Long opened the meeting at 1:20 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

### **Minutes**

The first item of business was the minutes from the Council's June 14, 2006 meeting. Chairman Long asked if anyone had any additions or corrections, and no one had any. Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes, with the motion seconded by Mr. Nixon. All Board members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the minutes was passed.

### **Consultant Presentation of Long-Range Transportation Plan**

Chairman Long asked Mr. Pusey to introduce the guests and to provide background information on this item. Mr. Pusey gave a brief introduction on the development of the Plan and introduced Donald Ludlow and Jocelyn Hoffman of Cambridge Systematics, Inc., the firm that prepared the Draft Plan.

Mr. Ludlow and Ms. Hoffman provided a brief history of their firm, and then presented a Powerpoint presentation on the development and contents of the Plan, a copy of which is included as an attachment to these minutes.

They also noted that a presentation was made to the Technical Committee on September 13, 2006, and the Committee made a number of suggestions that are being incorporated into the Final Plan. A summary of these comments and the responses from Staff and the consultants was handed out to the Council members, and is also included as an attachment to these minutes.

Following the presentation, a number of comments were voiced by the Council members. Clarification was requested on the maps showing the current (2006) Levels of Service (LOS) for roadways in the area and the projected LOS for these roads in the year 2030. Mr. Ludlow verified that, currently, only two sections of roads in the MPO area are operating at an LOS of "D" – all other roads are at a less-congested level, with the majority operating at "A", indicating a free-flow situation. The two roads that operate at "D" during peak times are U.S. Route 13 north of the Bypass to Delmar and U.S. Route 50 between Walston Switch Road and Forest Grove Road. Mr. Ludlow pointed out that this classification system is utilized nationwide, and in many areas an LOS of "D" is acceptable and in many cases, is considered a goal to strive for. Under this analysis, all roads in the MPO area, even during peak times, are operating at an acceptable level.

Mr. Ludlow then pointed out the LOS for various roadways as projected to the year 2030, assuming no roadway improvements are made. Given anticipated development, several roads will have an LOS of either "E" or "F". Mr. Ludlow emphasized that this assumes no improvements will be made to these roads, and this analysis serves as a planning tool to determine which roads will need to be programmed for future improvements. Discussion also centered on the amount of expected funding for highway improvements over the next 25 years, as well as funding anticipated for Shore Transit during this period.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, residents of Snow Hill Road near Robins Avenue who were in attendance, questioned the Council about the future plans of Snow Hill Road. It was noted that this roadway is anticipated to be widened to four lanes. Mayor Tilghman and Mr. Dunn stated that the City of Salisbury has several projects that are in the process of being developed in the vicinity of the Wilsons' property, and they stated they would contact the Wilsons with more detail about these projects and what impacts they may have on the Wilsons.

The Council thanked Mr. Ludlow and Ms. Hoffman for the presentation, and discussion ensued about the best way to make this information available to the public. In addition to having the Plan on the County and City Website, the Council discussed having the consultants prepare a presentation to be shown on PAC 14. Mr. Nixon stated that funding could be provided by his department to cover the consultants' costs, and the Council endorsed the idea of having a presentation shown on PAC 14.

Upon a motion by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mayor Tilghman, the Council adopted the Long-Range Transportation Plan with the revisions as discussed. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

## **FY 2007-2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Chairman Long asked Mr. Nixon to report on this item.

Mr. Nixon stated that the TIP consisted of two elements – a Highway Element and a Transit Element. Focusing on the Highway Element, Mr. Nixon briefly discussed the categories of projects included in this section, such as Environmental Projects, Safety and Spot Improvements, Resurface and Rehabilitate, Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation and the others listed, and also discussed the funding allocated to each of these projects. The Council had no questions.

Upon a motion by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Shea, with all members voting in favor, the Council approved the FY 2007-09 TIP as presented by Mr. Nixon.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Nixon noted that the Annual Consolidated Transportation Tour meeting will be held in Wicomico County on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at the Civic Center.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Pusey noted that the Council's meeting was advertised in The Daily Times, and Mr. Dunn noted that the two citizens who attended had already had their questions addressed during the Long-Range Transportation Plan presentation.

### **Next Meeting Date/Adjourn**

Discussion ensued concerning the next meeting date. Mr. Pusey stated that, at this time, there is no business pending that would require setting a meeting date for the next month. The Council stated it would not set a meeting date at this time, but instead would plan on meeting when necessary.

Upon a request from Chairman Long for a motion to adjourn, a motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Nixon, and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.