

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization  
February 1, 2010**

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

### **Attendees:**

S/W MPO officials:

Luther Hitchens, Vice Chair, Deputy Mayor, Delmar, MD

Steve Prettyman, Wicomico County Council

Ian Beam, Maryland Department of Transportation

John McDonnell, City of Fruitland

John Pick, City of Salisbury

Riggin Johnson, Shore Transit/Tri-County Council

Others:

Gary Pusey, S/W MPO staff, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning

### **Introduction**

Vice Chairman Hitchens, as Acting Chair, opened the meeting at 1 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

### **Minutes**

The first item of business was the minutes from the Council's September 28, 2009 meeting. Vice Chairman Hitchens asked if anyone had any additions or corrections, and there were none. Mr. Pick made a motion to approve the minutes, with the motion seconded by Mr. Beam. All Board members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the minutes was passed.

### **FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Review and Adoption**

Mr. Hitchens asked Mr. Pusey to report on this item.

Mr. Pusey distributed handouts that contained the UPWP's current budget table and the narrative that described the projects being undertaken in FY 2010. He stated that the Council approved the UPWP in May 2009, and what is labeled as "Current" in the handout is what was reviewed and approved at that time.

Since then, several changes have occurred that requires the Council's approval. First, the total amount of funding being provided to the MPO is being increased by about \$15,000,

from \$98,987 to \$113,635. This is due to additional funding being provided by the Federal Transit Administration.

Second, the “Freight Plan” task was budgeted for \$38,000, and the MPO has been working with DelDOT and MDOT to conduct a joint study, using Salisbury University as the consultant. The costs for this are going to be reduced, and instead of \$38,000 it is estimated that only about \$22,000 will be needed.

Finally, since additional funding is being provided by the FTA, it seemed appropriate to use this funding for a transit-related project. Riggan Johnson at Shore Transit identified a need for assistance with reviewing current bus routes and bus stops due to Shore Transit’s pending relocation to the former Filtronic Comtek facility near Wor-Wic Community College, and this project has been added to the Draft budget table and narrative, listed as “Proposed” in the handouts. Approximately \$30,000 has been allocated to this project.

These three changes to the UPWP require the Council’s approval.

Ms. Prettyman questioned if funding was not allocated by the MPO, who would do the Shore Transit study? Mr. Johnson responded that they would have to do it in-house, but that the expertise of a consultant would be welcomed. Ms. Prettyman responded that she was not trying to deny Shore Transit the use of this money, but that if the study could be done in-house then perhaps the funds could be put to another use for Shore Transit.

Mr. Pick stated that in addition to having the expertise of a consultant, another benefit to using a consultant is that additional time is freed up for staff to work on other things. He stated he has found this to be the case with a number of projects that has employed consultants.

Mr. Beam added that using consultants also provides the benefit of having an outside party study an issue without the appearance of any preconceived ideas.

Ms. Prettyman responded that she understood and just wanted to ensure that the money couldn’t be put to another use to benefit Shore Transit.

After additional discussion, upon a motion by Mr. McDonnell, seconded by Ms. Prettyman, with all members voting aye, the Council approved the revised FY 2010 UPWP as submitted.

### **Corridor Studies - Update**

Mr. Pusey stated that of the five corridors initially identified for study by the Council, three have been completed and two are still underway. The two ongoing are the Riverside Drive study, being conducted by The Traffic Group, and the U.S. Route 13 North/Naylor Mill Road study being conducted by JMT. Riverside Drive extends from the Riverside Drive/Mill Street intersection in Salisbury to the edge of the MPO Planning Area at Campground Road, and the Naylor Mill Road study extends from Brown Road

on the east to U.S. Route 50 on the west. Mr. Pusey stated that he hoped that we would have a draft report soon for the Technical Committee to review at one of its meetings.

No action was necessary by the Council for this item.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Beam updated the Council on the proposed “Jobs Bill,” otherwise known as the third round of the federal stimulus package. He stated that although everything is tentative at this point, it appears that approximately \$431 million will be available statewide, with 70% being used by the State and 30% being available for local projects. He also stated that early indications are that the process for using the funds will be greatly accelerated for this round, with the funds required to be spent within 90 days of the bill’s passage.

The next item concerned a map (handed out to members in attendance) that is being included in the City’s Draft Comprehensive Plan that shows proposed roadway improvements for the next 20 years. Mr. Pusey briefly explained the map, stating that the projects were divided into three categories: Immediate Priority (within five years); Intermediate Priority (6-10 years); and Long-Range Priority (beyond 10 years). This will be used for the update to the MPO’s Long-Range Transportation Plan and may also be included as a possible task in the upcoming FY 2011 UPWP, as the Comprehensive Plan is general in nature and there may be a need for a more detailed study as to the feasibility of some of these proposed roads, as to cost, environmental constraints, etc. Mr. Pusey also suggested that, since the MPO is a regional planning agency, that there may be proposed roads contained in Fruitland and Delmar’s Plans that may also be included in this UPWP task.

Mr. Pick added that Mayor Ireton was particularly interested in the Brown Road extension to the Bypass being considered for possible study by the MPO. Mr. Beam stated that the participation of the Maryland SHA would be important for this project, as there may be a limited number of exits that are permitted from the Bypass.

There was no other business to report, and no action was necessary for these items.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Pick, seconded by Mr. McDonnell, and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

