

Meeting Minutes

Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization
September 28, 2010

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

Attendees:

S/W MPO officials:

Matt Creamer, Chair, Wicomico County Council Administrator
Stevie Prettyman, Wicomico County Council
Luther Hitchens, Vice Chair, Deputy Mayor, Delmar, MD
Ian Beam, Maryland Department of Transportation
Michael Pennington, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore
Luther Hitchins, Town of Delmar, MD
Louise Smith, City of Salisbury Council
John Pick, City of Salisbury
Gregory Oliver, Delaware Department of Transportation

Others:

Keith Hall, S/W MPO staff, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning
Robin Ayele, S/W MPO staff, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning

Introduction

Chairman Creamer opened the meeting at 1 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Minutes

Chairman Creamer asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the minutes from the Council's June 28, 2010 meeting. No revisions were requested. Ms. Louise Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, with the motion seconded by Ms. Prettyman. All Board members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.

FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Review and Adoption

Mr. Beam was asked to report on this item.

Mr. Beam shared details of the Draft, which is the guide for capital transportation-oriented needs in the MPO area. Chairman Creamer asked for explanations on individual projects in the Draft. Mr. Beam discussed allocations for transportation projects that would be identified by location at a later date. Mr. Beam stated funding of \$750 thousand in environmental projects, \$3 million in safety and spot improvements, \$2.2 million in

bridge replacement and rehabilitation, and \$1.5 million in urban street reconstruction and revitalization. Mr. Hall mentioned that of the \$10.4 million in the resurfacing and rehabilitation allocation, two new projects not mentioned in the Draft are also included: Mount Hermon Road from Phillip Morris Drive to Twilley Bridge Road and U.S. Route 13 from College Avenue to Kay Avenue. Other projects included \$225,000 for Phase II of the Northeast Collector Bike path, which needs clarification regarding the memorandum of understanding with the City. Mr. Hall agreed to follow-up with Mr. Donnie Drewer via email.

Mr. Creamer requested that Mr. Pennington describe allocations under Shore Transit's Small Urban Transit System project. Mr. Pennington stated that funding has been allocated for five small buses that can accommodate eight regular passengers and wheelchairs. There is funding for the replacement of one larger bus, which is designated for fixed routes. Mr. Pennington also mentioned that \$2.5 million is allocated for Section 5307, which is operating assistance within the City of Salisbury limits. Section 5311 is operating assistance funding for areas outside of the County's metro area, including Somerset and Worcester. The SSTAP program is for senior services. JARC is a job access program that will be phased out and accounts for zero funding.

Mr. Creamer asked for explanation on the 80/20 ratio. Mr. Beam explained that 80 percent is federal to a 20 percent state match.

Mr. Hall mentioned that there was a decrease of \$1.2 million in funding from FY 2010 to FY 2011.

After additional discussion, upon a motion by Mr. Pick, seconded by Mr. Hitchins, with all members voting aye, the Council approved the FY 2011-2014 TIP as submitted, and Chairman Creamer signed the adoption Resolution.

Other Business

Mr. Hall provided a brief overview of the various MPO projects currently underway. He stated the Long Range Transportation Plan is being drafted and would be presented at the next meeting. The anticipated completion date would be November or December 2010. The Riverside Drive Corridor Study, prepared by The Traffic Group, has been completed. The consultant presented the preliminary report to the TAC on July 14, 2010. The consultant will present the final report at an upcoming Council meeting. The study area for the Beaglin Park Drive Safety Study is from Glen Avenue to North Park Drive. The purpose of the Study is to make planning-related recommendations to decrease the high-volume of vehicular accidents along Beaglin Park Drive. The Traffic Group is prepared to present the preliminary draft report to the TAC at an upcoming meeting. U.S. Route 13/Naylor Mill Road Corridor Study, which is being completed by JMT, is 65 percent completed. The technical background is almost complete. The anticipated completion date is the spring or summer of 2011. The Shore Transit Traffic Impact Study is identifying and analyzing the transportation-related impacts associated with the upcoming relocation of the Tri-County Council/Shore Transit site, located at the

northwest quadrant of the intersection at U.S. Route 50 and Walston Switch Road (formerly the Power Wave building). The Traffic Group is prepared to present a preliminary draft at an upcoming TAC meeting, followed by a presentation of the final report to the MPO Council. The Shore Transit Routing Analysis will identify the need for studying its current fixed routes and bus stops serving the Tri-County area, which includes Somerset, Wicomico and Worchester counties. It will evaluate the current delivery system provided by Shore Transit and will include recommendations for any changes to the routes or bus stops that may be necessary given Shore Transit's relocation to the new facility.

The Delmarva Freight Study is a multi-jurisdictional project that includes MDOT, DelDOT, VDOT and MPO. BEACON Consultants is preparing a regional freight plan for the Delmarva Peninsula based on rail, trucking, water and air freight what-if scenarios. Mr. Oliver added that the consultant is evaluating the impact of any potential decrease in one or more of any of these local transportation modes. He mentioned that local businesses had been contacted for feedback regarding these modes. Mr. Prettyman asked whether Farmers and Planters had been included in the survey. Mr. Oliver would obtain an answer by the next meeting.

No action was necessary by the Council for this item.

Mr. Hall provided an update on other work program items. He stated the need to create work plans for carry over funds from the past three fiscal years. MPO staff is in the process of identifying carry over amounts. Staff will prepare a work program to present to MDOT, which will give priority to transit-oriented projects. Additionally, Mr. Hall stated that the MPO received additional funding as a result of an increase in the Federal Highway Administration funds due to the restored rescission from the last fiscal year. Funds for the adopted UPWP were increased by \$6, 417. It will require an amendment to the FY 11-14 UPWP. Staff will make necessary revisions and present to the TAC at the upcoming meeting. Subsequently, staff will present to Council.

Ms. Ayele stated that the MPO website recently had been updated. The website has been online since July 2008 and had several updates. A link to the site is featured on the home web pages of several local jurisdictions. The website is an online overview of the MPO, including the purpose, goals and objectives, membership, agendas for the Council and TAC as well as the FY 2011 UPWP, TIP and last LRTP. Additionally, it includes copies of MPO transportation-related plans and studies.

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.

A motion was made by Mr. Creamer, seconded by Mr. Hitchens, and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

DRAFT