

Meeting Minutes

**Salisbury Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
August 17th, 2005**

**City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Government Building
125 North Division Street, Salisbury, MD
Room 302**

Attendees:

TAC Members:

Ray Birch, City of Salisbury Public Works, Acting Chair
Rick Pollitt, City of Fruitland
Tracey Gordy, Maryland Department of Planning
Mike Nixon, Maryland Department of Transportation
Paul Weber, City of Salisbury Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee
Rob Hart, Shore Transit

Others:

Gary Pusey, SW/MPO staff, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning
Jim Thompson, Maryland State Highway Administration
Jim Dooley, Maryland State Highway Administration
Riggin Johnson, Shore Transit
Lenny Howard, Maryland Transit Administration
Richard Kautz, Sussex Co. (Del.) Planning Dept.

Discussion

Mr. Birch opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Minutes

Mr. Birch introduced the first item on the agenda, which were the minutes of the Committee's July 27, 2005 meeting. Mr. Thompson suggested that the discussion about the FY 2005-07 Transportation Improvement Program should include a reference that an additional \$150,000 was being added to the Congestion Management for clarification.

Mr. Nixon moved to approve the July 27, 2005 meeting minutes, with the revision suggested by Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Weber seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the minutes was passed.

Discussion of Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

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

Mr. Pusey stated that work has been continuing on the Draft Interim Transportation Plan. As has been discussed previously, the Interim Plan will focus on transportation projects within the MPO area for the next five years, with a general discussion of long-range projects that are anticipated for the following 20 years. The Interim Plan is required to be adopted by the MPO Council by October 1, 2005. The Long-Range Transportation Plan that will be detailed for the entire 25 year period will be due next October 1, 2006.

For today's meeting, the Committee was provided copies of four of the chapters that will be included in the Interim Plan – the chapters are tentatively titled "Introduction," "Goals and Objectives," "Existing and Future Conditions" and "Future Transportation Needs." Revisions have been made to each of these chapters based on comments received from Committee members at the last meeting in July. In addition, revisions were made to the charts prepared by The Traffic Group that assessed the levels of service for the various roads in the MPO area – in addition to the current levels of service, a column indicating the future level of service at the end of the five year period covered in the Interim Plan was also included.

Discussion ensued on each of these chapters. A number of recommended revisions were suggested for the Goals and Objectives, but the majority of the discussion pertained to the "Proposed Projects" contained in the "Future Transportation Needs" chapter. Clarification as to the timing and costs associated with a number of the projects was provided, especially those that were being funded by SHA.

Mr. Hart discussed the anticipated needs of Shore Transit, and in particular, explained the need for a permanent, new facility. Although a specific location has not been selected, Mr. Hart stated he believed the location would probably be within the MPO Area, and discussions have been held with MTA as to funding, with construction occurring in the next two to three years. A local commitment to funding for this facility would also be necessary. After more discussion, it was agreed that this proposed facility should be included in the Interim Plan.

A discussion ensued concerning the general operations of Shore Transit. Mr. Hart explained that even though ridership data for July indicates their ridership estimates were accurate, and all other cost projections were accurate as well, the increasing cost of gas is having an adverse effect on the budget. This situation will need to be monitored since the fiscal year has just begun, and Mr. Hart explained other financial issues that affect Shore Transit, such as fares, driver salaries and insurance.

Concerning the Interim Plan, in addition to including the new facility, Mr. Hart stated he would provide Mr. Pusey with the summary of the Transit Development Program that was prepared by his consultant. This summary will explain Shore Transit's operations and needs and can be included in the "Future Transportation Needs" chapter.

Mr. Pollitt also stated that the City of Fruitland's project to improve South Division Street should also be included, and he would provide Mr. Pusey with additional

information on that project. Mr. Pusey responded that he would include it in the “Future Transportation Needs” chapter.

After discussion, the consensus of the Committee was that with the items discussed today that will be included in the Interim Plan, then a favorable recommendation could be made to the MPO Council for adoption of the Interim Plan. With that understanding, upon a motion made by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Mr. Nixon, and all members voting aye, the Committee recommended that the MPO Council adopt the Interim Plan with the suggested inclusions as discussed.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee discussed the next meeting date, and agreed that a future meeting would be set when needed.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Mr. Nixon, with all members voting aye, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.