

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Salisbury Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
May 9th, 2007**

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

### **Attendees:**

#### TAC Members:

John Redden, Wicomico County Public Works, Chair  
Ray Birch, City of Salisbury Public Works, Vice Chair  
Tracey Gordy, Maryland Department of Planning  
LaTonya Franklin, Tri-County Council  
John F. McDonnell, City of Fruitland  
Mike Nixon, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Richard Kautz, Sussex Co. (Del.) Planning Dept.  
Jim Magill, Salisbury/Wicomico Planning Commission  
Gary Pusey, S/W MPO staff, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning  
Jeffrey Downes, Salisbury University

#### Others:

Gene Cofiel, Maryland State Highway Administration  
Debbie Wicker, Maryland State Highway Administration  
Gregory Oliver, Delaware Department of Transportation  
Bobbie Geier, Delaware Department of Transportation  
Keith Hall, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning  
Greig Mitchell, Salisbury University  
Jim Dooley, Maryland State Highway Administration  
Jim Thompson, Maryland State Highway Administration  
Kevin Quinn, Maryland Transit Administration  
Rai Sharma, Wicomico County Public Works  
Chip Messick, City of Salisbury Public Works  
Betty Tustin, The Traffic Group, Inc.  
Derek Joost, The Traffic Group, Inc.

### **Introduction**

Mr. Redden opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone, and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Redden introduced the first item on the agenda, which were the minutes of the Committee's March 14, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Nixon moved to approve the March 14, 2007 meeting minutes, and Mr. Birch seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the minutes was passed.

### **Presentation – Sussex County, Del., Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Redden welcomed Ms. Geier to the meeting.

Ms. Geier provided two handouts to the Committee members that summarized the process of the Sussex County Transportation Plan Update, and briefly discussed development and population trends that Sussex County was experiencing. Included in her discussion was the increase in population growth, with in-migration accounting for 90% of the growth; the aging of the population; job growth; and commuting distances and times. She also discussed the impact on transit that these factors are having.

Mr. Magill questioned the transit route map in the handout that appeared to indicate there was no transit service between Laurel and Delmar. Ms. Geier clarified that there was service available.

There also ensued a discussion about development and its impacts on the road system, and the role of the state governments in both Delaware and Maryland in the review process of proposed developments and in the funding of transportation improvements. It was acknowledged that in both States, land use decisions are made at the local level and the state governments have little authority to override these decisions.

As this item was presented for informational purposes only, there was no action to be taken by the Committee. Mr. Redden thanked Ms. Geier for the presentation, and she stated that she would like to be involved in future discussions the MPO has that will affect the Delaware portion.

### **Presentation – Pemberton Drive Corridor Study - The Traffic Group Inc.**

Mr. Redden asked Mr. Pusey to introduce this item. Mr. Pusey introduced Ms. Tustin and Mr. Joost from The Traffic Group, and gave a brief introduction of the Corridor Study. He stated that this is one of four corridors that the MPO had identified as needing more detailed study to anticipate future improvements. One other study (South Division St./College Ave.) is being worked on at the present time, and two others just received funding authorization from the MPO Council on April 30. He stated that as Committee members are watching the presentation, they may want to keep in mind that the scenarios shown in the computer simulation are based on "real" data, which was developed from a parcel-by-parcel analysis along Pemberton Drive that reflected existing zoning and the potential for future development.

Ms. Tustin and Mr. Joost presented their findings. They distributed two handouts to the Committee members. The first was a table summarizing the development data that was incorporated into their traffic model, and the second was a summary of their overall report that included their recommendations. In addition to the findings, this second handout summarized the assumptions that were made for each of the three target years (2010, 2020 and 2030).

They presented computer simulations of existing traffic based on actual counts their firm had conducted, and simulations of anticipated traffic based on the development assumptions made for the three target years. The simulations took into account road improvements that are being proposed by either the City of Salisbury, Wicomico County or the Maryland SHA.

There was a great deal of discussion about each of the scenarios and the assumptions made. The consultants referenced Exhibit 17A and 17B that indicated the Levels of Service for both morning and evening peak hours for the various intersections in the study area. They also summarized their recommendations. These were included on the first page of the second handout distributed to the Committee members, and will be included in the final report to be given to the Council members also.

They are summarized as follows:

- Double left turns for westbound and northbound approaches will be needed by 2030 at Nanticoke Road and Parsons Road;
- Additional southbound thru lane needed by 2010 at Parsons Road between Nanticoke Road and Pemberton Drive to accept double left turns;
- By 2030, the eastbound right turn lane at Pemberton Drive and Parsons Road needs to be lengthened (it was acknowledged there is a ROW problem to be resolved in order to accomplish this);
- By 2010, consider adding left turn lanes and consider signalization at Crooked Oak Lane and Nanticoke Road;
- By 2010, the addition of the Westside Collector connecting Crooked Oak Lane to U.S. Route 50 is important to alleviating congestion at the Nanticoke Road/Parsons Road/Pemberton Drive triangle;
- As development occurs, exclusive left turn lanes should be considered along Pemberton Drive for large developments (particularly in the westbound direction); and
- A two-lane roadway section should be sufficient along the length of Pemberton Drive, subject to the item above. Consideration should be given to providing a separate bike lane along Pemberton Drive from its intersection at Nanticoke Road to the west to Parsons Road to the east.

As this item was presented for informational purposes only and to receive comments, there was no action to be taken by the Committee. Mr. Pusey noted that this same presentation will be given again to the MPO Council at a meeting most likely in June, and that Mr. Pusey would notify the Technical Committee members of that meeting in

case anyone wanted to attend. The Traffic Group will also be submitting a final report summarizing their findings.

**Other Business**

No other new business was raised.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date is scheduled for July 11, 2007 at 1 p.m. Mr. Pusey stated he will send out reminders and all relevant meeting materials prior to the meeting.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Ms. Gordy, with all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.