

Meeting Minutes

**Salisbury Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
September 13th, 2006**

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

Attendees:

TAC Members:

John Redden, Wicomico County Public Works, Chair
Linda Alder, Maryland Department of Planning
Riggin Johnson, Shore Transit
Mike Pennington, Tri-County Council
Rick Pollitt, City of Fruitland
Paul Weber, City of Salisbury Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee

Others:

Gary Pusey, S/W MPO staff, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning
Richard Kautz, Sussex Co. (Del.) Planning Dept.
Jack Lenox, City of Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning
Jim Magill, Salisbury/Wicomico Planning Commission
Gregory Oliver, Delaware Dept. of Transportation
Jim Thompson, Maryland State Highway Administration
Donald Ludlow, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Jocelyn Hoffman, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Joe Gidjunis, The Daily Times

Introduction

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

Minutes

Mr. Redden introduced the first item on the agenda, which were the minutes of the Committee's June 12, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Pollitt moved to approve the June 12, 2006 meeting minutes, and Mr. Weber seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the minutes was passed.

Consultant Presentation of Long-Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Redden asked Mr. Pusey to introduce the next item, and Mr. Pusey gave a brief background on the development of the Interim Plan that was adopted by the MPO Council last year, and then he introduced Donald Ludlow and Jocelyn Hoffman from Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

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.

Following the presentation, a number of questions were raised by the Committee members.

Mr. Thompson raised an important point of whether the Plan should focus on operational projects or capital expansion projects. The projects contained in the Plan consisted of both, and Mr. Thompson recommended that the Plan should focus only on capital expansion projects. There was agreement from other members of the Committee with this recommendation. Mr. Thompson also questioned the funding estimates provided by MDOT, especially as they pertained to the expected 4.7% increase in federal funds. Also questioned were the funding levels provided by each of the jurisdictions as listed in Table 4.3 of the Plan, especially the figure attributed to the MPO. The consultants were provided with a copy of all of the comments made by Mr. Thompson, dated Sept. 11, 2006.

Other comments made pertained to the traffic data provided by The Traffic Group, Inc., and included in chapter 3. There was a great deal of discussion about the figures that showed the existing congestion levels and those projected for the year 2030. The members believed a more accurate depiction would be congestion levels that considered peak volumes as opposed to average daily volumes, and also that a more easily-understood measure of congestion would be the Levels of Service that utilize “grades” from “A” to “F” to measure various degrees of congestion. Mr. Ludlow responded that they could revise the maps to reflect peak data, and the Levels of Service could also be provided.

Mr. Pennington questioned the funding levels provided for Shore Transit, asking if the funding amounts represented Section 5307 funds only or if all three counties were included. He further stated that the amounts should only include Section 5307 funds since that corresponds with the Metro Core.

Mr. Redden stated that he had written comments to submit, and also suggested that the County’s adopted road classification system should also be included in this Plan. Mr. Ludlow agreed.

It was agreed that Committee members would provide their comments in writing to Mr. Pusey, and he would compile all the comments and provide them to the consultants.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pennington, seconded by Mr. Pollitt, the Committee forwarded a favorable recommendation to the MPO Council to adopt the Long-Range Transportation Plan with the revisions as recommended by the various Committee members. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

FY 2007-2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Redden asked Mr. Thompson to report on this item.

Mr. Thompson stated that the TIP consisted of two elements – a Highway Element and a Transit Element. Focusing on the Highway Element, Mr. Thompson 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. No questions were asked by the Committee members.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pennington, seconded by Mr. Pollitt, with all members voting in favor, the Committee forwarded a favorable recommendation to the MPO Council to approve the FY 2007-09 TIP as presented by Mr. Thompson.

Other Business

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

No other new business was raised.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee discussed the next meeting date, which as agreed on previously will be on an every-other-month basis, and is scheduled for November 8 beginning at 1 p.m., with other dates as needed. Mr. Pusey stated he would notify the members if the meeting needs to be cancelled.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Mr. Pennington, seconded by Mr. Pollitt, with all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.