

Meeting Minutes

Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization
September 21, 2010

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

Attendees:

TAC Members:

Ed Heatwole, Wicomico Department of Public Works
Mike Nixon, Maryland Department of Transportation
Julie Wheatley, Sussex County Economic Development
Sara Bynum-King, Town Administrator, Town of Delmar
Brenden Frederick, City of Salisbury Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee
Tracey Gordy, Maryland Department of Planning
Rick Konrad, City of Fruitland
Riggin Johnson, Shore Transit/Tri-County Council
Jim Magill, Salisbury/Wicomico Planning Commission
Keith Hall, S/W MPO staff

Others:

Mike Pennington, Tri-County Council
Robin Ayele, S/W MPO staff

Introduction

Keith Hall opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions of all attendees were made.

Minutes

Mr. Hall introduced the first item on the agenda, which was review of the July 14 meeting minutes. Mr. Magill moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Mr. Frederick seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the motion to approve the minutes was passed.

FY 2011- 2014 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Mr. Mike Nixon stated that the TIP outlines capital transportation-related needs in the Salisbury/Wicomico County Metropolitan Planning Organization area. Mr. Nixon stated the TIP needed to be approved by the TAC and adopted by the MPO Council by October 1, 2010. A MPO Council meeting has been scheduled for September 28th. By the first week in October, the approved TIP will be forwarded to FHA and FTA as part of the state-wide capital transportation improvement program.

Mr. Hall identified differences between the adopted FY 2010-2013 and the draft FY 2011-2014 TIP's, which included: a decrease of \$225,000 in funding of the Northeast Collector Road Phase II Bikepath (project code 7); and an increase in funding levels of Shore Transit (project codes 8 & 9), otherwise, the two TIP's are consistent.

Mr. Johnson moved to make a favorable recommendation to forward the draft FY 11-14 TIP to the MPO Council for adoption, and Mr. Magill seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye, with none opposed, and the TIP was approved.

Financially Constrained and Unconstrained Expansion Transportation Projects

Mr. Nixon presented a table to the TAC members that included the constrained and unconstrained expansion projects through 2035. He stated that the highway projects as identified in the State's Highways Need Inventory are listed using 2009 constant dollars. Mr. Nixon mentioned that he recently realized that his year expenditure numbers on the financial plan are based on year of expenditure dollars, which means the available revenue from the financial plan have been inflated. To correct this situation, adjusted numbers will be provided to Mr. Hall in 2009 constant dollars.

Mr. Nixon provided an overview of the table, which consisted of Tables D.1 and D.2. The first eight projects listed in Table D.1 are unfunded and include estimates of the HNI study. The first eight unfunded expansion projects total approximately \$356 million, which exceed the available funding of approximately \$200 million. The first eight uncommitted projects should be prioritized based on available state capital funds, which would be approximately \$200 million. He also noted the need to confirm the list of constrained projects, both system expansion and preservation projects.

Mr. Magill asked about the MPO's geographical boundaries, and should these eight unfunded projects be located completely within the MPO boundary. Mr. Hall provided an overview of the boundaries of the MPO boundary as identified on a map. Mr. Hall suggested the TAC members should take a moment to identify the projects within the MPO. Following a discussion confirming the location of each project within the MPO, it was determined that they were all located within the MPO boundary with the exception of the U.S. Route 50-Ocean Gateway (Vienna Bypass to White Lowe Road) project.

Mr. Nixon requested information related to potential/unfunded projects for inclusion to the unconstrained projects list for expansion and preservation projects. He asked for any additional transit needs for Shore Transit to be included in the list. Mr. Pennington stated that there are still unmet needs, but ridership is stable.

Studies and Reports

Ms. Ayele and Mr. Hall provided a brief overview of the current MPO projects including: MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan; Riverside Drive Corridor Study; Beaglin Park Drive Safety Study; U.S. Route 13 / Naylor Mill Road Corridor study; Shore Transit / Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) Traffic Impact Study and Routing Analysis; Delmarva Freight Plan; and the MPO Freight Study.

See **attachment #1**.

Other Business

Mr. Nixon asked if any changes have occurred to the Wicomico County Council as a result of the Primary Election. Mr. Hall stated that changes to the Council will occur as a result of Mr. John Cannon and Mr. Bill McCain not seeking re-election to the County Council; however, it is not anticipated that changes to the MPO Council will occur as a result of the County elections.

Mr. Nixon informed the TAC members of the upcoming SHA Pre-Tour, which will take place on September 28th at 10:00 A.M. in Princess Anne, Maryland.

Ms. Ayele provided a demonstration on the MPO website. Mr. Nixon stated the website could be used to advertise MPO Council meetings, which would eliminate the need to run notices in the local newspaper. Ms. Ayele noted the website has been online since July 2008, and is updated monthly. Ms. Ayele noted the website provides an overview of the MPO, including the purpose, goals and objectives, organization structure and membership, agendas for the Council and TAC, FY 2011 UPWP, TIP's from previous years, and the current Long-Range Transportation Plan for the MPO. Additionally, the site serves as repository of completed MPO studies and reports.

Ms. Wheatley recommended MPO staff contact the local jurisdictions within the MPO area to request a link on their websites to the MPO site.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

There being no further business, upon a motion by Mr. Magill, seconded by Mr. Konrad, with all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. U.S. Route 13 / Naylor Mill Road Corridor Study
 - a. Consultant: JMT
 - b. Project is 65 percent complete with anticipated completion date of Spring/Summer 2011.
 - c. The purpose of this study is to analyze current conditions; to project future conditions and needs; and to develop recommended prioritized improvements based upon realistic assumptions regarding available resources.
 - d. Consultant is conducting the technical background work including development of SYNCHRO model for the area, development of base travel demands for 2030, and began preparing materials for report.
2. Shore Transit - Traffic Impact Study
 - a. Consultant: The Traffic Group
 - b. The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze 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 information developed from the traffic counts, trip generation for the site, intersection capacity, and queuing analysis will be used as a basis to guide future actions in order to adequately address capacity and safety issues resulting from this relocation.
 - c. Recommend delivery of the draft to the Maryland Transit Authority
 - d. Consultant is prepared to present preliminary draft at an upcoming TAC meeting to be followed by a presentation of the final report to the MPO Council.
3. Shore Transit – Routing Analysis
 - a. Advertised RFP in August, 2010, which one (1) bid response was received.
 - b. Consultant: Sabra, Wang & Associates
 - c. Shore Transit will be relocating to its new facility in late-2010 or early-2011. It has identified the need for studying its current fixed routes and bus stops serving the Tri-County area, which includes Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. This task would evaluate the current delivery system (routes and bus stops) provided by Shore Transit and will include recommendations for any changes that may be necessary given Shore Transit's relocation to the new facility.
 - d. Final stages of executing contract. Work should begin within the next month.
4. Delmarva Freight Study & MPO Freight Study
 - a. Multi-Jurisdiction project (MDOT, DelDot, VDOT and MPO)
 - b. Consultant – BEACON
 - c. Purpose is to prepare a regional freight plan for the Delmarva Peninsula based on rail, trucking, water, and air freight “what if” scenarios.
 - d. Anticipated delivery of preliminary draft of Delmarva Freight Study is October 1, 2010. Final Plan should be completed by year's end. MPO Freight Study is in beginning stages.
5. Beaglin Park Drive Safety Study
 - a. Consultant: The Traffic Group
 - b. Extent of the study is from Glen Avenue to N. Park Drive. Focus is to make planning-related recommendations to decrease the high-volume of vehicular accidents along Beaglin Park Drive.

- c. Preliminary meeting between City and County staff, and The Traffic Group has occurred.
- d. The Traffic Group is prepared to present preliminary draft report to the TAC at an upcoming meeting.

DRAFT