

Meeting Minutes

**Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization (“S/WMPO”)
Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”)
August 13, 2019**

**Salisbury University
Maintenance Bldg. Conference Room
1123 South Division Street
Salisbury, MD**

Attendees:

S/WMPO TAC members:

Eric Berkheimer, Chairman, Salisbury University (“SU”)
Tracey Gordy, Vice Chair, Maryland Department of Planning (“MDP”)
Ian Beam, Maryland Department of Transportation (“MDOT”)
Brad Bellacicco, Shore Transit
Julie Bellamy, Town of Hebron
William Hardin, Town of Delmar
Jenn Cinelli-Miller, Delaware Department of Transportation (“DelDOT”)
Dorothy Morris, Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination
Amanda Pollack, Chair, City of Salisbury Dept. of Infrastructure and Development (“DID”)
Becky Robinson, Delmarva Water Transport Committee (“DWTC”)
Tremica Cherry-Wall, Delaware Transit Corporation (“DTC”)
Jamie Whitehouse, Sussex County Delaware
Keith Hall, S/WMPO Executive Director

Others:

Stephen Miller, Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (“SHA”)
Jared Kaufmann, DTC
Lisa Ludwig, Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council (“LESHC”)
William White, DID

Introduction

Chairman Berkheimer opened the meeting at 10:30 A.M. and welcomed attendees. S/WMPO TAC members and participants stated their name and organization.

Delmarva Water Transport Committee (“DWTC”) presentation

Ms. Robinson began the presentation with an overview of DWTC, which was formed in 1974 with the purpose of keeping navigable waterways open for the transport of waterborne commerce on the Delmarva Peninsula. The Organization is comprised of 31 members, consisting of industry stakeholders, local legislators, and state and local government agencies.

Annually DWTC conducted a survey amongst area businesses using the waterways to evaluate the economic impact. This information is used to compare to statistics published by the Army Corps of Engineers. Other major yearly activities of DWTC included: coordinated local dredging operations with Army Corps of Engineers; participated in shoaling studies; and co-hosted the annual Ice Breaking Conference. She emphasized the importance of waterborne commerce and recreational use of the waterways as a benefit to the local economy. Also, continued dredging activities are imperative to ensure continued use of barges on the waterways.

Ms. Robinson stated water transport of large materials and goods by barge is much more cost effective and fuel efficient than transport by truck or rail. Inland barges can transport one ton of cargo 647 miles using one gallon of gas compared to 477 miles via train and 145 miles via truck. If waterborne commerce ceased on the Delmarva Peninsula, it would take 150 tractor trailers to replace the load carried on one (1) barge. Annually, 800 barges navigate the Wicomico River to offload commodities.

After a brief discussion amongst TAC members, Chairman Berkheimer thanked Ms. Robinson.

Minutes

The second item of business was the approval of minutes from the April 23, 2019 meeting. Mr. Bellacicco made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Ms. Pollack. With all TAC members voting in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Scenic Byways presentation

Lisa Ludwig (LESHC)

Ms. Ludwig began the presentation with an overview about major activities conducted by LESHC over the past year. These included, but are not limited to the following activities: coordinated local Scenic Byway efforts with the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration; conducted and attended various local, regional and State workshops about Heritage Areas and Scenic Byways; maintained and updated the organization's Blue Crab Byways mobile application and desktop mapping tool; administered LESHC mini-grants; and reviewed local submissions to the Maryland Heritage Authority Areas annual grant.

Daily activities included: presented to various groups, non-governmental organizations, and communities about the importance of Scenic Byways; responded to residents and visitors about amenities and attractions to visit along the Blue Crab Byway; staffed an exhibitor booth at major conferences across the State, and educated the public about the importance of heritage tourism.

Chairman Berkheimer thanked Ms. Ludwig for updating the Council about LESHC activities.

DelDOT Biennial Capital Transportation Program presentation

Jenn Cinelli-Miller (DelDOT)

Ms. Cinelli-Miller stated the purpose of HB-66, which was signed on May 6, 2019, was to change the timeframe from annual to a two-year update and approval of DelDOT's Consolidated Transportation Plan ("CTP") and State Transportation Improvement Program ("STIP"). Other highlights of the presentation included: first two-year cycle of aforementioned work program

items will begin in FY 2021; DelDOT will not be seeking approval of the FY 2020 STIP; and projects introduced last year will be incorporated into the FY 2021 CTP. She informed TAC members about the Sussex County draft CTP workshop, which is scheduled for September 25, 2019, from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM at DelDOT’s South District facility in Georgetown, DE.

The following represents major dates and associated deliverables for developing the CTP in 2019:

Early June – Conduct project evaluation and selection meetings;
June – DelDOT technical project scoring begins and candidates selected;
July – Project candidates evaluated and prioritized;
August – Projects submitted to DelDOT;
Late August – Draft CTP released by Council on Transportation; and
September 2019 – Public workshops on draft CTP.

After a brief discussion by Council members, Chairman Berkheimer thanked Ms. Miller for the presentation.

Amending the adopted FY 2020 – FY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (“TIP”)

Ms. Cinelli-Miller (DelDOT)

Ms. Cinelli-Miller presented the DelDOT requested TIP amendment, which adds Project T202050308 to replace four existing gasoline-powered buses with four 40’ electric-powered buses.

After a brief discussion amongst TAC members, Ms. Morris made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation on the proposed TIP amendment to the S/WMPO Council for their review and action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beam. With all Committee members voting in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Amending the adopted FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (“UPWP”)

Keith Hall (S/WMPO)

Mr. Hall presented the proposed amendments to the adopted FY 2020 UPWP, which the amendments are necessary to incorporate unencumbered carryover funding from the previous fiscal year. As proposed the FY 2020 UPWP will increase from \$209,193 to \$648,916.09. Upon approval by the S/WMPO Council, the Delaware and Maryland portions of the total budget will account for \$168,001.58 or 26 percent and \$480,914.51 or 74 percent, respectively. The total increase of \$439,723.09 is allocated to the following major project categories:

1. Administration = \$31,000.00 increase; and
2. Special Studies = \$408,723.09.

Ms. Cinelli-Miller made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation on the proposed amendments to the adopted FY 2020 UPWP to the S/WMPO Council for their review and action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hardin. With all Committee members voting in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Member Updates / Other Business

TAC members had a brief discussion about the U.S. Route 13 and MD 54 intersection. Mr. Hall stated a pedestrian and cyclist safety study for the intersection was requested by the Town of Delmar. In addition, the study could potentially include an access management / wayfinding component for the shopping center located on the north east quadrant of the intersection.

Ms. Pollack inquired about the timeframe for the U.S. Census Bureau to establish a new MPO boundary after the 2020 Census. Mr. Hall provided an overview of the 2020 Decennial Census process, which it is anticipated a new boundary will be established in or around March 2023. Ms. Gordy stated John Watson is the MDP Eastern Shore representative for the 2020 Census.

Ms. Gordy informed TAC members about activities of Walk-Wicomico, which held their signature annual glow walk – dance party in Fruitland. Over 100-persons registered for the event, which approximately 50 people attended the walk. It's anticipated the next monthly municipal walk will occur in Sharptown. Also, Ms. Gordy acknowledged the great TV interview between Greg Bassett and Amanda Pollack, which Ms. Pollack talked about current City of Salisbury projects.

Mr. Whitehouse updated TAC members about the recent decision of the Lewes Byways Committee to become an independent organization rather than an official Committee of the City. It's anticipated the Committee may look to expand their focus area to all of Sussex County. This would lend itself to potentially partnering with the Committee to create a County-wide bikeways network map.

Mr. White provided an overview of cycling projects occurring in the City of Salisbury. These projects included: a two-way cycle track on Waverly Drive; cycling lanes coming soon South Blvd., W. Carroll Street, and N. and S. Park Drive. Other projects in the queue include the Rail Trail, Eastern Shore Drive, and Main/Fitzwater/Parsons Street.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

Chairman Berkheimer stated the next TAC meeting date is scheduled for October 22nd. This date is subject to change.

There being no other business before the TAC, upon a motion by Mr. Hardin, seconded by Ms. Cinelli-Miller, with all members voting in favor, and none opposed, the meeting was adjourned.