

Meeting Minutes

**Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization (“S/WMPO”)
Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”)
September 22, 2020**

WebEx Conference Call at 10:30 A.M.

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
Marvina Cephas, DNREC – Division of Air Quality
Tremica Cherry-Wall, Delaware Transit Corporation (“DTC”)
Jenn Cinelli-Miller, Delaware Department of Transportation (“DelDOT”)
Chris Davidson, Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport
Lauren DeVore, Sussex County Planning & Zoning
Bob Forrester, Delmarva Water Transport Committee
Keith Hall, S/WMPO Executive Director
William Hardin, Town of Delmar
Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, City of Seaford
Dorothy Morris, Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination (“DOSPC”)
Will White, City of Salisbury Department of Infrastructure and Development

Staff:

Jesse Drewer, S/WMPO Planner
Brian Soper, S/WMPO Administrator
Melissa Cassimore, S/WMPO Executive Assistant

Introduction

Chairman Berkheimer opened the meeting at approximately 10:30 A.M. and welcomed attendees during these unprecedented times. Chairman Berkheimer requested staff to conduct roll call of members and staff. Ms. Cassimore conducted a roll call of members and staff.

Ms. Cassimore provided a brief overview about procedures and tips for teleconference meeting participants.

Minutes

The second item of business was approval of the minutes from the June 2, 2020 meeting. Ms. Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; the motion seconded by Ms. Cinelli-Miller, Mr. Davidson abstained and 14 members voted in favor, the motion passed.

The next item of business was approval of the minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting. Ms. Gordy made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; the motion seconded by Mr. Forrester with Mr. Davidson abstained and 14 members voted in favor, the motion passed.

Draft Amendments to the FY21 Unified Planning Work Program

Keith Hall (S/WMPO)

Chairman Berkheimer asked Mr. Hall to present the amendments to the FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (“UPWP”).

Mr. Hall stated that in accordance with the Public Participation Plan the draft amendments to the FY2021 UPWP and Appendix F of the Long Range Transportation Plan, Connect 2050; as well as the draft FY2021 – FY2024 Transportation Improvement Program (“TIP”) were available for the necessary public comment period and no comments were received in opposition or support.

Mr. Hall stated the FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program adopted on February 27, 2020 was \$212,189.00. The advanced unencumbered funding from the FY2020 budget year is \$515,788.88. The Maryland portion is \$407,154.74 and the Delaware portion is \$108,634.14. As proposed the revised budget total is \$727,977.88. The Maryland portion is approximately 78% with the remaining 22% from Delaware apportionment. The funding sources for the budget is split between Federal Highway at 57%, Federal Transit Administration at 23%, the DOT’s are 10% and local is 10%. Upon a satisfactory review by the TAC, the proposed amendment will be forwarded to the Council for review and action.

Chairman Berkheimer asked how the FY2021 UPWP future funding will be impacted by the pandemic effects on the State revenue. Mr. Beam responded the bulk of the budget is federally funded and there is a pending reauthorization bill, but there are no specific details. Ms. Cinelli-Miller stated FY2021 is funded and later this week there is a meeting with the Secretary of DelDOT to discuss FY2022.

Chairman Berkheimer asked any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion for a favorable recommendation to the S/WMPO Council.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVore for a favorable recommendation to forward the proposed amendments to the S/WMPO Council for review and action; seconded by Ms.

Cinelli-Miller. A roll call vote was conducted with Ms. Cherry-Wall not voting, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Hall abstained, and 12 members voted in favor, the motion passed.

Draft Amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan, Connect 2050, Appendix F

Brian Soper (S/WMPO)

Chairman Berkheimer asked Mr. Soper to present the amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan, Connect 2050, Appendix F.

Mr. Soper stated the proposed amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan, Connect 2050, Appendix F for the Maryland portion is the additional construction funding for the US 13 bridge replacement over the East Branch of the Wicomico River. The Delaware amendments include system preservation projects for roads, bridges, and dams, as well as replacement and additional transit buses. Two existing bridges located in Laurel, BR 3-314 and BR 3-320, were added to the Delaware projects. Staff recommends a favorable recommendation to the S/WMPO Council for review and action.

Chairman Berkheimer asked if members of the public had any questions or comments. There were no members of the public on the call.

Chairman Berkheimer asked for questions or comments. There were no TAC member questions or comments.

A motion was made by Ms. Cinelli-Miller for a favorable recommendation to forward the proposed amendments to the S/WMPO Council for review and action; seconded by Mr. Hardin. A roll call vote was conducted with Ms. Cherry-Wall and Mr. Forrester not voting, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Hall abstained, and 11 members voted in favor, the motion passed.

Draft FY2021 – FY2024 Transportation Improvement Program (“TIP”)

Brian Soper (S/WMPO)

Chairman Berkheimer asked Mr. Soper to present the draft FY2021 – FY2024 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Soper stated the FY2021 - FY2024 TIP currently is \$87,039,000.00 for the Maryland portion and \$51,583,000.00 for the Delaware portion, not including state-wide projects. The Maryland projects consists of planning level estimates for the six area-wide categories and Shore Transit’s capital and operating line items. The Delaware projects consists of cost estimates for area-wide project and DART capital line items. The Delaware program includes the addition of two bridge replacements, BR3-314 and BR3-320. This draft FY2021 – FY2024 TIP is consistent with the Long Range Transportation Program, Connect 2050. Staff recommends a favorable recommendation to forward the draft FY2021-FY2024 TIP to the S/WMPO Council for review and action.

Chairman Berkheimer asked if members of the public had any questions or comments. There were no members of the public on the call.

Chairman Berkheimer asked for questions or comments. Hearing none he called for a motion for a favorable recommendation to the S/WMPO Council.

A motion was made by Ms. Gordy for a favorable recommendation to forward the draft FY2021-FY2024 TIP to the S/WMPO Council for review and action; seconded by Mr. Hardin. A roll call vote was conducted with Ms. Cherry-Wall not voting, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Hall abstained, and 12 members voted in favor, the motion passed.

Member Updates / Other Business

Chairman Berkheimer asked if there were any member updates.

Mr. Soper informed members the website and Facebook content have been regularly updated.

Mr. Hall applauded the Wicomico County Department of Planning and Zoning and other community partners efforts regarding Census2020. Director Lori Carter and Jesse Drewer have been working with community partners to help increase the Census response rate for Wicomico County. The money will be used for roadways, schools, hospitals, housing, and food. In the past week, the Department has been able to count an additional 250 people. Each person counted is \$18,250.00 over a ten-year period or approximately \$4.6 million in federal appropriations coming back to Wicomico County. Also, the 2020 Census defines the urbanized boundary area for the S/WMPO. Currently, the self-reporting rate is 90% for the projected population in Maryland and the County is close to meeting the 2010 self-response rate of 66.7%. The Maryland Department of Planning staff and Secretary McCord have been instrumental in Maryland being ranked 10th in the nation. In addition, the project partners and enumerators have worked hard to get people signed up.

In addition, Mr. Hall stated the amended budget will contain approximately \$728,000.00 for projects. While there is uncertainty at the federal and state level regarding funding; the current reserves are equal to two-and-a-half times the annual budget. Provided previously awarded appropriations are secure, staff is confident the call for project solicitation will continue with approximately \$100,000.00-\$200,000.00 for member projects in FY2022.

Mr. Hardin, who serves on the Complete Count Committee for Wicomico County, encouraged speaking to friends and neighbors to make sure they complete their Census.

Ms. Gordy stated John Watson has been working out of their office for Census2020. If supplies or help for a Census event are needed contact her and the message will be

forwarded to Mr. Watson. Ms. Cinelli-Miller would like Mr. Watson to contact her regarding a Bridgeville event. She stated if he is not able to attend, maybe he can provide a Delaware contact.

Ms. Gordy informed TAC members Julie Bellamy is no longer with the Town of Hebron and she contacted Rick Dwyer, the President of the Town Commissioners, to inquire about a new representative from the Town.

Ms. Gordy highlighted Walktober, an initiative by MDOT, and the four part virtual walkinar starting Oct 1st. The first walkinar on October 1st is "What Can We Do to Advance Walking and Walkability?", October 15th is "Pedestrian Infrastructure, Safety and Health", October 22nd is "New Trends and Technology to Support Walkability and Walking", and on October 29th the final walkinar is "Maryland Community Walk Initiatives Walking the Walk of Maryland's Pedestrian Agenda." Chairman Berkheimer requested that S/WMPO staff help promote the Walktober activities. Mr. Soper stated staff will promote the activities on the S/WMPO website as well as Facebook.

Ms. Cinelli-Miller shared the launch for the Coastal Corridor study evaluating MD404 into Delaware and across the State to the coastal areas has begun.

Mr. Hall discussed the virtual 2020 AMPO conference is being held October 27-29th. The S/WMPO will cover the registration fee for any member that would like to attend.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

S/WMPO staff will send out notification about the next meeting date.

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