

Meeting Minutes

**Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization (“S/WMPO”)
Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”)
December 12, 2019**

**Government Office Building
Room 306
125 N. 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
Marvina Cephas, Del. Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (“DNREC”)
Tim Emge, Delmarva Water Transport Committee, Inc. (“DWTC”)
William Hardin, Town of Delmar
Berley Mears, City of Seaford
Jenn Cinelli-Miller, Delaware Department of Transportation (“DeIDOT”)
Dorothy Morris, Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination (conference call)
Tremica Cherry-Wall, Delaware Transit Corporation (“DTC”)
Will White, City of Salisbury Dept. of Infrastructure and Development (“DID”)
Jim Thomas, Salisbury-Wicomico Planning and Zoning Commission (“SWPZC”)
Keith Hall, S/WMPO Executive Director

Others:

La Fabian Marshall, MDP
Stephen Miller, MDOT State Highway Administration (“SHA”)
Debbie Pfeil, KCI Technologies
Jeff Riegner, WRA
Anne Roane, DID
Sam Sherman, DeIDOT
Cathy Smith, DTC
Josh Thomas, DeIDOT

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.

Minutes

The second item of business was the approval of minutes from the August 13, 2019 meeting. Mr. Hardin made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bellacicco. With all TAC members voting in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Seaford Streetscape presentation

Jeff Riegner (WRA)

Mr. Riegner greeted the Committee members and gave a brief history of the project. The City of Seaford created Seaford Riverfront Vision2025 to layout the future of the Downtown district and the area along the Nanticoke River.

The proposed improvements include: landscaped gateway to Downtown Seaford from the Nanticoke River; sidewalks on both sides of Gateway Park; new sidewalk along the east side of Front Street; crosswalks at southern point of Gateway Park; curb bump-outs; rain gardens for stormwater management and aesthetics; ADA-compliant curb ramps throughout the project area; and additional on-street parking. Mr. Riegner proceeded to show several Powerpoint slides illustrating the aforementioned improvements.

In 2019, the S/WMPO provided funding for further project development along a portion Market and Front Streets bounded to the north by High Street, which this area is called Gateway Park. Mr. Riegner explained the City was awarded Transportation Alternative Program ("TAP") funding to prepare a concept design report. TAP funding consists of 80% federal funds and the remaining 20% from a local government. The preliminary estimate to construct the improvements is approximately \$1.36 million. For the TAP program, DelDOT has a \$1 million cap, but Mr. Riegner foresees additional funding being obtained or potentially splitting the project into two phases.

Contingent upon available funding, Mr. Riegner expects final design to occur during 2020, construction bid documents advertised in late 2020/early 2021, and construction to begin in 2021.

After a brief discussion amongst TAC members, Chairman Berkheimer thanked Mr. Riegner.

Lower Eastern Shore Coordinated Transportation Plan presentation

Mr. Bellacicco briefed the Committee on the major components included in the Lower Eastern Shore Coordinated Transportation Plan update. This type of plan is developed on a regional geography, which in this case is the Lower Eastern Shore. Major transit partners include Dove Point and Lower Shore Enterprises operating in Wicomico and other transit agencies supporting the population needs in Somerset. The Plan includes an assessment of existing services, assessment of area needs, strategies and / or projects bridging the gap between existing services and underserved needs, and priorities for implementation. The overall goals of the Plan include: maintain existing services; expansion of outreach and access to public transit services; increase connectivity between transportation providers and modes, and future opportunities for funding and support.

A planning workshop was held at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center to discuss the existing obstacles in public transportation and possible solutions. Shortly afterwards, a preliminary draft

Plan for implementation was developed using input from various stakeholders, other plans and studies, as well as an analysis of local demographic data.

Transportation Performance Measure (“TPM”) 1 Safety – Calendar Year 2020 Targets

Ian Beam (MDOT) and Jenn Cinelli-Miller (DelDOT)

Mr. Beam and Ms. Cinelli-Miller presented a brief overview of TPM 1: Safety targets and the efforts of the DOT’s to develop and achieve the goals. Mr. Hall noted, in 2018 the S/WMPO adopted both State’s DOT’s TPM targets for safety. Also, given the amount of resources required to develop, track, and report on TPM 1, Staff recommends adopting the State’s TPM 1 targets for calendar year 2020.

After a brief discussion of TAC members, Ms. Cinelli-Miller made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation to the S/WMPO Council to adopt DelDOT’s and MDOT’s TPM 1 targets for calendar year 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. White. With all Committee members voting in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Draft FY 2020 – FY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (“TIP”)

Ian Beam (MDOT) and Jenn Cinelli-Miller (DelDOT)

Ms. Cinelli-Miller presented the Delaware portion of the TIP, which as proposed the 4-year planning – level budget is \$85.8 million or 47 percent of the total FY 2020 – FY 2023 TIP for the S/WMPO. Of which, roughly \$38.0 million is for road projects, \$13.1 million for bridge maintenance, and the remaining \$34.8 million for transit. This does not include programming for statewide projects.

Mr. Beam provided an overview of the Maryland portion of the TIP, which accounts for \$96.9 million for infrastructure improvements. The majority of funding is allocated towards roads, which accounts for \$62.3 million. The remaining \$34.6 million is allocated towards bridges and transit, \$12.9 million and \$21.8 million, respectively.

After a brief discussion about projects by the TAC members, Mr. Hardin made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation on the Draft FY 2020 – FY 2023 TIP to the S/WMPO Council for their review and action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jim Thomas. With all Committee members voting in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Draft 2019 Long Range Transportation Plan (“LRTP”)

Ms. Pfeil explained the purpose of the LRTP (*Connect 2050*), which is for various regional organizations to collaborate on planning efforts to maintain an efficient and comprehensive transportation system. The federal government mandates a MPO to update their LRTP on a five-year cycle; however, because a portion of the S/WMPO’s Urbanized Area is located within a Non-Attainment Area the Plan is required to be updated on a 4-year cycle. The last LRTP update for the S/WMPO occurred in 2015. Funding for the LRTP comes from various local, State, and Federal sources. Mr. Hall noted the update was done in-house. In doing so, it is estimated the Organization saved approximately \$200,000, which can be allocated to future planning efforts.

Ms. Pfeil summarized Chapters 1-8 of the LRTP. She recapped the following overarching goals of *Connect 2050*: manage the existing transportation system; increase safety and security; enhance

access and mobility; provide a connected, multi-modal transportation system; protect the environment and quality of life; and support economic development.

Mr. Bellacicco made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation on the Draft 2019 *Long Range Transportation Plan* 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.

Mr. Hall stated after local adoption by the S/WMPO Council, *Connect 2050* is submitted to the United States Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency for federal concurrence.

Member Updates / Other Business

Ms. Gordy gave a brief update on the successes of the WalkWicomico Committee, highlighting the Downtown Salisbury Christmas Ghost Walk. She gave various examples of ways the community has been involved, from participation to volunteering time and refreshments. She looks forward to future events and invites everyone to attend.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

Chairman Berkheimer stated the next TAC meeting date is scheduled for January 28, 2020, which the location is to be determined. This date is subject to change.

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