

## **Open Work Session**

### **Wicomico County Priority Letter – Recommended Transportation Improvements**

**July 16, 2019**

Mr. Dallas Baker, Director of Public Works, came before Council and said, to refresh their memory, once a year the County sends a letter to the Department of Transportation with their recommendations or suggestions of items to include in the Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP). He said the letter includes addressing issues at the Airport, issues on the roads, and issues they want improved generally relating to transportation. He said the letter Council has before them is basically the same letter as last year, and he will run down the recommendations. He said a couple items that were addressed this year have been removed, but, other than that, there are not too many changes from what they have seen in past years.

Mr. Baker said the first item is a list the Airport would like to see addressed, which was provided by Mrs. Veatch and her staff. He said next they would like to have the Route 13 truck weigh station relocated, which has been on the letter for several years. He said there are some feasibility and planning studies along the Salisbury Bypass, particularly a couple intersections where they see heavy weaving motions and crash patterns, and there are improvements to the intersection of Route 12 and Nutters Cross Road. Mr. Dodd said he has a concern with the intersection at Robins Avenue. He said he rides by there a lot when he heads to Worcester County or Accomack County, a lot of times riding his motorcycle, but when he gets close to that intersection he really gets nervous. He said he does not know if the speed needs to be reduced, but there was talk of a traffic study. He said in November he was in a pretty bad accident there when somebody pulled out in front of him, and they have accidents there quite often, even more than Nutters. He said Nutters is a concern, but he would like to see Robins Avenue considered as well. He said it is in the City, but it is at that intersection, to which Mr. Baker responded, Mr. Dodd is exactly right, and that item is included in the City of Salisbury's request. He said the end of the letter includes requests from various towns, including Salisbury, but their list was pretty extensive, so he did not copy everything from it into the County's letter, but referenced it. He said item number seven on their list specifically references Route 12, Johnson Road, and Robins Avenue improvements, and installation of a traffic signal in conjunction with realignment of Johnson Road to line up with Robins Avenue, which he knows has been on the City's priority list for quite some time. Mr. Dodd asked if Council can see that letter at some point because the City is in his District, to which Mr. Baker responded, it should have been included in the package they have. He said he attached it to the email, but he can forward it again.

Mr. Baker said, continuing on, other items include access management for Wor-Wic Community College to have an entrance or exit off Route 50 directly into Wor-Wic, a Nanticoke Road/MD 349 drainage improvement study, as well as Bypass embankment stabilization. He said the banks are sloughing into Peggy Neck Branch where the railroad tracks go under from Perdue just north of Old Ocean City Road causing a backup and flooding problems for folks along that corridor. He said there are pedestrian and sidewalk improvements for a couple of locations around the County mostly centralized in the metro core, and there are requests from Salisbury, Delmar, Hebron, and Pittsville.

Mr. Holloway said Mr. Baker did not put Walston Switch and Mt. Hermon in there, to which Mr. Baker responded, the previous request was for a speed reduction. Mr. Holloway clarified, or a light, but they did a speed reduction, to which Mr. Baker responded, he can certainly add that back. Mr. Holloway said they did the speed reduction, and that is great, but he thinks they are waiting to see how the speed reduction affects the volume or severity of accidents, and he thinks they still should keep that on the list, to which Mr. Baker responded, he will add that item. Mr. Holloway said possibly a traffic signal, but

he thinks it is a wait and see game right now with the speed reduction to see how that affects things there. He explained, this just shows how this process works. He said it took a while to get it done, but they brought it to the State last year, they did some studies, and finally they got the speed limit lowered.

Mr. Holloway said he has something else, but he does not know if it is even worth putting in the letter. He said he had a lot of requests from some of the Councilmembers of the Town of Willards. He then asked if Mr. Baker could reach out to them about this, to which Mr. Baker responded, the town requests were all filtered through Planning and Zoning, and he was working with Mr. Keith Hall. He said they reached out to all the incorporated towns and included everyone's comments. Mr. Holloway said he hears from some of the Councilmembers down there as well as citizens about Bent Pine Road, which is kind of a connector road between Route 50 and 346, and it is about maybe a little over half a mile long, and it is owned by the Town of Willards, but they do not have the money to fix it. He said they are kind of thinking that since they have Route 610 to the east, and in Pittsville they have Sixty Foot Road maintained by the State between Route 50 and 346, so they were kind of wondering if that could be done. He said he does not know whether that is something they can approach the State with or not, to which Mr. Baker responded, he can include that in the letter.

Mr. Cannon asked where they go from here with this, to which Mr. Baker explained the process. He said he will make the changes in the requests and send it back to the Administration to forward to Council again, and at that point he believes it goes to a discussion with Secretary Ron at summer MACO, and then formal submittal of the letter to the State Delegates for their endorsement. He said, from there, it would be submitted to the Department of Transportation in the fall, and then followed up by their CTP Tour, which is also typically in the fall. Mrs. Hurley added, the CTP Tour is going to be on October 10 this year, and it is on Council's Outlook calendar. There was no further discussion.

  
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John T. Cannon, President

  
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Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3

  
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Ernest F. Davis, District 1

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Josh Hastings, District 4

  
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Joe Holloway, District 5

  
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William R. McCain, At-Large

  
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Laura Hurley, Council Administrator