

Metro Mayors Launch Public Safety Working Groups at August Summit

Recognizing the terrible effects that gangs and gang violence are having on communities across the state, the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition held a statewide public safety summit in August to take the lead in developing strategies to curb urban crime.

The summit, "Seamless Solutions to Urban Crime," was held in Salisbury at the historic Train Depot and included more than 200 key players in public safety issues statewide, including Governor Beverly Perdue and Attorney General Roy Cooper. Using the summit as a platform, the Metro Mayors sought to develop a consensus agenda with these key public safety stakeholders and determine potential solutions for reducing gang violence in North Carolina through prevention, intervention and penalties, as well as strengthening the state's judicial system.

The meeting was moderated by Metro Mayors Chairman Kevin Foy, host city Mayor Susan Kluttz, and Metro Mayors Public Safety Co-Chairs Mayors Ronnie Wall and Allen Joines.

"This issue struck the heart of our community in 2007 with the death of 13-year-old Treasure Feamster, a promising young girl who was caught in gang crossfire after attending a birthday party," said Kluttz. "Although the problem is complex, it's essential that all those involved in and concerned for the safety of our North Carolina communities come

together to find workable solutions that we can put into action."

The day's format allowed attendees to focus on the following: 1) Assess recently-enacted gang legislation; 2) examine the judicial system, including case backlog and funding sources; 3) identify priority areas for improvement; and 4) assemble working groups to research viable solutions.

Michael Yaniero, police chief of Jacksonville and the chairman of the Metropolitan Police Chiefs, reported that 87 percent of North Carolina jurisdictions reported gang activity for a total of 550 gangs. The average gang has 26 members who range in ages from approximately 15 to 27.

Keynote speaker Governor Perdue spoke about reducing gang activity through a combination of law enforcement and early prevention. She emphasized that law enforcement must work with community members to address underlying issues among children and teenagers that lead to gang involvement.

Attorney General Cooper voiced a similar perspective, saying that tougher sentences will not be effective unless public safety officials address root causes that influence children and teens to join a gang. Taking action will prevent the large percentage of repeat offenders, Cooper said.

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Metro Mayors Transportation Forum A Success

In August, the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition brought together more than 200 leaders from across North Carolina to Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord to discuss strategies to address North Carolina's urban transportation issues.

The forum, "Metro Cities in the Pole Position," focused on critical transportation issues facing North Carolina's metropolitan areas, including the state's transportation equity formula, metro roadway congestion and comprehensive public transit development.

"Our goal in hosting August's transportation forum was to bring together the various parties that have a stake in our state's transportation systems so that all voices could be heard in the same venue," said Transportation Committee Co-Chair and Durham Mayor Bill Bell.

Those in attendance included city council members, city managers, urban transit officials, community organizers and transportation business representatives.

Keynote speaker and White House Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Ag-



Secretary Conti speaks at the "Transportation in the 21st Century" meeting at the NCLM Annual Conference in Greenville.

new gave national context to the issues facing North Carolina, saying that 83 percent of Americans

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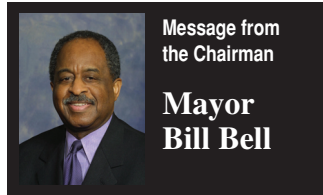
Chairman Column

One of the more important issues facing the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition—and our state — is transportation. As mayors, we know how important quality transportation infrastructure and planning is for our communities, our economy and our future.

Our cities are responsible for maintaining nearly 20 percent of public roads in our state. They invest nearly \$1 billion of city revenues on transportation — roughly equal to the annual federal investment in our State's transportation system. From 2001 to 2007, cities increased investments in roads by 51 percent, yet still struggled to meet the growing demands of transportation. And, the challenges are getting even greater. Projections show that 88 percent of the state's population growth from 2000 to 2030 will be in the metropolitan regions that make up our membership.

To give mayors and our members a greater voice in transportation issues across the state, we have made it a priority to strengthen local government relationships with the N.C. Department of Transportation. The leadership of NCDOT has been supportive of this effort, opening and improving the lines of communication. Secretary Gene Conti has met with our Transportation Co-Chairs and spoke at the transportation session at the N.C. League of Municipalities Annual Conference. Chief Operating Officer Jim Trogon met with the Metro Mayors for the second year in a row at our fall meeting.

Another important initiative in forging stronger relationships with NCDOT is the new Transportation Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Group (TIPAG). This advisory group was established last year to design and manage a collaborative process to identify opportunities for local governments and NCDOT to work together more effectively. Its goals include developing policies, processes and tools to provide the desired growth and quality of life for the state's communities while protecting significant transportation infrastructure and investments, as well as enhancing working relationships, communications, coordination and collaboration between local governments and NCDOT. This



advisory group demonstrates the commitment at the highest levels, including Secretary Conti and Governor Perdue, to improve the way the department works.

The Metro Mayors have been active in this effort. Our director, Julie White, serves on the TIPAG Steering Committee along with professional staff from the N.C. League of Municipalities, the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, NCDOT, N.C. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the N.C. Association of Regional Planning Organizations and others.

White is also a co-sponsor of the communications working group with Ted Vaden, deputy secretary for communications at NCDOT. This group is charged with developing recommendations to foster effective communications with elected officials, especially mayors and county leaders. This group will be researching the communication policies currently in place for these officials and determining how they can be improved. It will study the information and background that mayors and local leaders need regarding transportation and develop recommendations to meet those needs. Finally, it will work toward establishing a standing method for local officials to communicate with NCDOT regarding transportation issues and to receive information and education from NCDOT.

Other working groups are focused on developing a pro-active strategy to prepare and plan for future federal transportation reauthorization legislation and improving the coordination between land use planning and transportation. These working groups are formulating recommendations that will also be brought back to the steering committee.

TIPAG and other activities with NCDOT and its leadership demonstrate progress toward strengthening relationships between local government and NCDOT. We appreciate the commitment NCDOT has shown toward improving communication, and we are hopeful that we will continue to make important strides in this area. We all need to work together to meet the transportation challenges facing our cities and our state in order to build the future we want.

Transportation Forum Continued from Page 1

live in the largest 300 metropolitan areas nationwide and these areas produce 90 percent of the gross national product.

Agnew talked about reform that would allow mayors across the nation to have a bigger voice and a seat at the table when it comes to developing transportation systems and initiatives.

"What mayors have to offer in this debate is being directly connected to the people," Agnew said. He went on to explain that the close ties between mayors and their citizens helps them identify key issues that need to be addressed at all levels of government.

Agnew also stressed that public transportation must be an essential component of metropolitan transit infrastructure. He emphasized that the federal government sees this as a priority for ongoing development and would encourage steps in this direction.

North Carolina's transportation priorities and the potential for reform were the focus of a presentation by Jim Trogon, chief operating officer of the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Trogon stated that making improvements to the I-85 corridor, including the infamous Yadkin River Bridge, is the No. 1 project NCDOT is asking the federal government to fund with stimulus grant money. The estimated cost of the repairs needed to improve the highway's safety is \$300 million.

Much of the dialogue focused on the pitfalls of allocating transportation funds using the equity formula. The formula, created more than 20 years ago when North Carolina's population looked very different, has been criticized for not taking into account roadway use. The General Assembly approved an official study of the equity

formula's methodology and effectiveness shortly before the Metro Mayors' transportation forum.

The forum sparked meaningful discussion, not only among those in attendance but also in the media. The event received positive coverage from the local news media, including several Charlotte-area evening news teams and the *Concord Independent Tribune*.

Metro Mayors In Action



White House Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew delivers the keynote address at the Metro Mayors' transportation forum in August.



Attorney General Roy Cooper speaks about the dangers of gang violence at the Metro Mayors' public safety summit.



Governor Bev Perdue delivers the keynote address at "Seamless Solutions to Urban Crime" in August.



Jim Trogon, chief operating officer of NCDOT, speaks to mayors about the state's transportation priorities.



Concord Mayor Scott Padgett, Gastonia Mayor Jennie Stultz, Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz and Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines gather in the Red Room of the White House during the U.S. Conference of Mayors' visit with President Obama.

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Jonathan Williams, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, identified several risk factors in children, including a lack of supervision after school and proximity to existing gangs within a child's neighborhood.

The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency's Director of Communications William Lassiter discussed several programs the state has undertaken to address childhood risk factors, including mentoring in schools and working with schools to find alternatives to at-home suspensions, which leave children unattended to and at greater risk.

Alvin Keller, secretary of the Department of Correction, warned that gangs have become more adept at avoiding detection, making it important for law enforcement and community members to be even more vigilant.

The judicial system's pitfalls, such as a lack of funds and a severe case backlog, were also high on the meeting agenda.

John Smith, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, outlined the significant challenges faced through budgetary constraints and recent cuts to key support programs in local communities, the same programs that many speakers spoke of as a possible solution to reduce gang activity.

Peter Gilchrist, Mecklenburg County district attorney, acknowledged that the current judicial backlog is problematic, but also defended the system as focused on quality rather than efficiency.

At the close of the meeting, working groups were established to devise viable solutions to address gang violence and judicial reform based on the day's presentations and

discussions. Eight strategies emerged, which included instituting work programs for teenagers, mentoring and increasing awareness among community members.

The groups will continue to work toward refining their solutions, a process that will culminate in the spring of 2010 with the announcement of a public safety agenda and action plan.

Quotables

“They have made a commitment to us personally today to do something about it. That is very exciting for us to hear.” – Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz on the progress made toward addressing gang violence at the Metro Mayors’ public safety summit, WCNC, 8/28/09

“We can make it happen over time if we involve the right people, if we listen to what’s happening at the grassroots level across the country and make sure the policy makers in Washington, D.C., are connected to those local conversations.” – White House Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew on sending federal transportation funding directly to cities, WSOC, 8/27/09

“We found that any way you slice it, based on population, unemployment or economic activity, the metropolitan regions of our state did not get their fair share of the stimulus money.” -- High Point Mayor Rebecca Smothers discussing the pitfalls of the state’s methods for distributing transportation funding, News 14 Carolina, 8/28/09

“We’re next door to the largest city in North Carolina. We know a little something about congestion here.” – Concord Mayor Scott Padgett, *Independent Tribune*, 8/30/09

“Through this decade, the metropolitanization of North Carolina intensified. As a result, the prospect is for Wake and Mecklenburg counties, as well as for neighboring counties in their regions, to gain additional seats in the state House and Senate.” –A statewide analysis by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill’s Program on Public Life that used Census Bureau population projections to determine the possible breakdown of House and Senate seats following the 2010 session, *Insider*, 10/14/09

“We’re taking our clues from you [mayors] and we want to be absolutely sure that we set the right policies and guidelines for investing federal funds in projects that will enable you to keep doing what you’re doing and do it better, with more federal support.” – U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, The U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, 1/21/10

“The administration heard that loud and clear. That message has been repeated over and over again. When it [stimulus money] gets directly to cities, we’re able to turn it out to communities a lot faster,” said Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx when he and other mayors urged the administration to funnel more stimulus dollars through cities, *Charlotte Observer*, 1/26/10

“Our focus is to make sure every metropolitan area, every community be competitive in the 21st century; the federal government must make sure it is a partner in that process.” – U.S. Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary Ron Sims, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, 1/22/2010

“Over the past 20 years, the equity formula has become an impediment to effective transportation decision-making,” said High Point Mayor Becky Smothers. “Major projects like bridges and interstates are just so expensive, and the way money is distributed now just won’t cover them.” *High Point Enterprise*, 1/5/2010

“Our mayors and local law enforcement officials have provided the Department [of Justice] with valuable insights from the front lines. You’ve told us what works, what doesn’t, and what we must do to enhance public safety. You’ve also taught me over the years that there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all answer to the dynamic and evolving problem of crime.” – Attorney General Eric Holder, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, 1/22/10

Three New Metro Mayors Take Office

November’s elections brought three new mayors into office and into the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition. Anthony Foxx is Charlotte’s new mayor, taking the reins from Pat McCrory, who chose not to seek another term after 14 years in office. Mark Kleindschmidt was elected mayor of Chapel Hill, succeeding Kevin Foy. And, Bill Knight became mayor of Greensboro after defeating incumbent Yvonne Johnson. With their terms just beginning, these new mayors have already made their marks in the history books.



MAYOR ANTHONY FOXX

Occupation: Attorney

Age: 38

Family: wife, Samara Ryder, children Hillary and Zachary

Education: bachelor’s degree from Davidson College; law degree from New York University

Anthony Foxx made history with his election as mayor of Charlotte. He became the youngest mayor ever elected in Charlotte, just the second African American mayor in the city’s history and the first Democrat elected to that office in 22 years.

Foxx emphasized his life story throughout his campaign. He was raised in Charlotte by his single mother and grandparents, who were public school teachers and emphasized education. He was the first African American student body president at Davidson College and went to New York University to earn his law degree.

After law school and work in the federal government, Foxx returned to Charlotte to make a difference. He led efforts to organize volunteer lawyers to respond to election irregularities and served on a number of boards, including the Mecklenburg County Education Budget Advisory Committee

and the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching Foundation Board.

In 2005, Foxx was elected as an at-large member of the Charlotte City Council, where he chaired the environment and transportation committees and served as a member of the economic development committee. He urged the City Council to expand its economic development strategy to involve more neighborhoods, leading an effort to leverage private investment to transform communities across Charlotte.

In his campaign for mayor, Foxx continued to emphasize the importance of economic development and job creation. He has advocated recruiting more corporate headquarters to Charlotte, expanding incentives, supporting small businesses and focusing on emerging industries like clean

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City News

Joines, Foxx Appointed to Innovation Council



Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines (L) and Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx (R)

Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines and Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx were appointed by Gov. Bev Perdue to the new North Carolina Innovation Council in November. The purpose of the Council is to foster strategic investments and policies in the growing knowledge and innovation economy. The Council's membership will draw on a broad spectrum of expertise in entrepreneurship, science, academia and government. It is co-chaired by Steve Nelson, managing partner of the Wakefield Group, and Al Delia, senior advisor to the Governor.

Mayors Joines and Foxx will work with the other members of the Council to coordinate public and private investments and policies to promote innovation, move innovative ideas from the lab to the marketplace more efficiently and strengthen collaboration among business, academia, state and local government.

Bellamy Named to StreetSafe Task Force



Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy

Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy was one of 34 members named by Gov. Bev Perdue to the StreetSafe Task Force. StreetSafe brings together faith-based organizations, non-profits, local and state government agencies, business leaders and members of the community to develop a plan to combat recidivism and reintegrate offenders safely into the community.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and Department of Correction Secretary Alvin Keller will serve as co-chairs. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Secretary Linda Hayes and Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Lanier Cansler also will serve on the task force.

Wall Appointed to Board of Transportation



Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall

Gov. Bev Perdue appointed Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall to the state Board of Transportation in September. Wall, co-chair of the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Public Safety Committee, became one of 19 members of the statewide board. The Board of Transportation manages the Highway Trust Fund enacted by the legislature and the Federal ISTEA program in a manner to best meet the transportation needs of the State of North Carolina.

Stein, Carney Honored by Mayors

The North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition recognized N.C. Senator Josh Stein and Rep. Becky Carney with the 2009 Metro Mayors Legislative Award in recognition of their outstanding efforts in the areas of transit and transportation. The two legislators were honored at the Annual Fall Retreat dinner in August.

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energy, biotechnology, amateur sports and film.

Another top priority for Foxx is improving quality of life in all Charlotte's neighborhoods by strengthening public safety, promoting well-managed growth, improving transportation infrastructure and promoting affordable housing.

Supporting and furthering all his goals for the city is Foxx's commitment to strengthening Charlotte's relationships in Raleigh and Washington, an objective that lines up well with the mission of the Metro Mayors.

MAYOR MARK KLEINSCHMIDT



Occupation: Attorney and Executive Director of The Fair Trial Initiative

Age: 39

Education: bachelor's degree and law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill

At just 9 years old, Mark Kleinschmidt dreamed of attending UNC-Chapel Hill. That dream became a reality as he earned both a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the

University and began his career in politics as speaker of UNC's Student Congress.

In November, that love of Chapel Hill and commitment translated into a new job – as mayor of Chapel Hill.

Mayor Kleinschmidt was the first mayor to be elected under Chapel Hill's Voter Owned Elections Program, an innovative pilot program that provides public financing for campaigns. Chapel Hill is the first municipality in the state to enact such a program.

Kleinschmidt, who served on the Town Council for 8 years, won following a race that hinged on growth and support for business. His election promises a continued commitment to progressive policies in Chapel Hill, including planned growth and green initiatives.

However, Kleinschmidt pledged to make his top priority uniting the Town and working with leaders from a variety of viewpoints. As mayor, he plans to build on his work as a council member to enhance economic well-being, to protect neighborhoods and community character, to work with the

University to monitor the commitments made during the creation of the Carolina North Development Agreement, to implement the newly proposed Inclusionary Zoning ordinance and to protect the environment.

A former public school teacher in Charlotte, Kleinschmidt served as a staff attorney at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation in Durham for six years. In October 2006, he became the executive director of the Fair Trial Initiative (FTI), where he represents several North Carolina capital defendants in post-conviction litigation, as well as recruits and mentors young attorneys.

Kleinschmidt has served on numerous boards and organizations, including the North Carolina American Civil Liberties Union, the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials, the North Carolina Democratic Party and Equality NC. He also holds membership with the Triangle Business and Professional Guild.

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2010 Upcoming Events

June 2: NCLM Town Hall Day
Raleigh, NC

September 23-24: Metro Mayors Fall Retreat
Asheville, NC

June 11-15: U.S. Conference of Mayors
Oklahoma City, OK

October 23-26: NCLM Annual Conference
Winston-Salem, NC

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2009 Chairmen and Committees

Communications Co-Chair, Anthony Chavonne, Fayetteville
Communications Co-Chair, Jill Swain, Huntersville

Economic Development Co-Chair, David Combs, Rocky Mount
Economic Development Co-Chair, Yvonne Johnson, Greensboro
Member Mayors:
Julie Robison
Jennifer Stultz
Pat Dunn
Rudy Wright

Public Safety Co-Chair, Allen Joines, Winston-Salem
Public Safety Co-Chair, Ronnie Wall, Burlington
Member Mayors:
Scott Padgett
Alfonzo King
Susan Kluttz
Robert Misenheimer
Bruce Rose

Revenue Co-Chair, Keith Weatherly, Apex
Revenue Co-Chair, Sammy Phillips, Jacksonville

Transportation Co-Chair, William Bell, Durham
Transportation Co-Chair, Rebecca Smothers, High Point
Member Mayors:
Terry Bellamy
Loretta Clawson
Mark Chilton
Patrick McCrory
Mary-Ann Baldwin
Bill Saffo
Kevin Foy

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MAYOR BILL KNIGHT

Occupation: Retired CPA

Age: 70

Family: wife, Pam, one daughter
and two grandchildren

Education: bachelor's degree from UNCG

Bill Knight won the mayor's office in Greensboro as a political outsider who vowed to bring change to the city.

Knight, who has not held public office before and was running for mayor for the first time, ran on a platform of fiscal conservatism and cleaning up the city's police department. A retired certified public accountant, Knight has promised to cut the city budget significantly and to bring efficiency to municipal government.

He identified economic development as the top issue facing Greensboro, saying that the City Council needed a "business face." Other top concerns included control over increases in spending, taxes and fees, disturbing crime statistics and trust and accountability in city government.

Knight moved to Greensboro in junior high and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He worked, built a business and raised his family in Greensboro. Since his retirement, he has been active in the community.

He has served on a number of board and commissions, including the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Commission, the Board of Directors for the Greensboro Opera Company, the Greensboro Jaycees Board of Directors

and the Finance Committee of Goodwill Industries. He also has held leadership positions in the community, including serving as treasurer for Congressman Howard Coble's campaign, president of Hamilton Lakes Lions Club and president of Cardinal Golf & Country Club.