

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, January 22, 2014**

North Carolina Research Campus  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor CORE Lab Building  
150 Research Campus Drive  
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28081

### Members:

John Sweat  
Bill Feather  
Maggie Blackwell  
Elizabeth Poole  
Ryan Dayvault  
John Bradford  
Bobby Moore  
Richard Wise  
Reid Walters  
Lee Withers  
Jeff Phillips

City of Concord  
Town of Granite Quarry  
City of Salisbury  
Cabarrus County  
City of Kannapolis  
Town of Cleveland  
Town of Rockwell  
Town of Midland  
Town of Spencer  
Town of China Grove  
Town of Harrisburg

### Others:

Phil Conrad CRMPO Director  
Alex Rankin Cabarrus Chamber  
Arin Wilhelm Granite Quarry  
Jamal Alavi NCDOT-TPB  
Connie Cunningham CRMPO Staff  
Donna Carpenter Cabarrus CVB  
Ray Soporowski Concord Mills Mall  
Jennifer Parsley Cabarrus CVB  
Fletcher Hartsell NC Senate  
David Pugh Midland  
Wilmer Melton Kannapolis  
Larry G. Pittman NC House Dist 82  
Wendy Brindle Salisbury  
Joe Wilson Concord  
Denise Hallet Cabarrus Chamber  
Pat Ivey NCDOT-Div 9  
Louis Mitchell NCDOT-Div 10  
Linda Dosse NCDOT-TPB

### **Call to Order**

TAC Chairman Lee Withers called the January 22, 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC to order at 5:40 pm. Chairman Withers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that those present to please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge was recited, Chairman Withers recognized the 2013 TAC former Chair Liz Poole and thanked her for her leadership as past Chair.

Chairman Withers then continued by asking that members to please introduce themselves. Once those introductions were complete, Chairman Withers asked others present to please introduced themselves. Alex Rankin, Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce introduced Denise Hallet, current Chairman of the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee. Denise thanked the TAC for the opportunity to attend and reported to the TAC members that the Chamber has a new CFO, Mr. Patrick Conklin who will be starting to work in the next couple of weeks. Maggie Blackwell, TAC representative from the City of Salisbury introduced Richard Harris, a citizen of Salisbury.

Other guests present who introduced themselves were; Donna Carpenter with the Cabarrus Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ray Soporowski, Manager of Concord Mills Mall, Jennifer Parsley, Cabarrus Convention and Visitors Bureau, Fletcher Hartsell, NC Senate, David Pugh, TCC Representative Town of Midland, Wilmer Melton, TCC Representative City of Kannapolis, Larry G. Pittman, NC House of Representatives/District 82, Wendy Brindle, TCC Representative City of Salisbury and Joe Wilson, TCC Representative City of Concord.

Chairman Withers continued on by reminding TAC members of the NC State Ethics Commission Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest requirement and asked that should a conflict arise during any part of the meeting, the member should excuse themselves from that portion of the meeting. The Chairman then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Phil Conrad made a request to remove the last two items under Reports. The first item was TAC Member Information discussion and the second item was the Locally Administered Projects Resolution. By consensus, TAC members agreed to remove the items and approve the agenda as amended.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Withers asked if there were any speakers from the floor. Two speakers requested to speak. The first was Donna Carpenter representing the Cabarrus Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCVB). Ms. Carpenter addressed the members regarding a new project proposal to construct a 2 lane grade separated directional left flyover near the intersection of Concord Mills Blvd and Entrance #1 at Kings Grant Pavilion. Ms. Carpenter reported that CCVB, which supports the proposed project, had been working with a Task Force concerning Exit 49 on I-85 and how traffic could be better managed at Concord Mills Mall and surrounding businesses. She stated that the Task Force has met with Governor McCrory to express traffic concerns and ask for support for the proposed project.

Mr. Richard Harris, a citizen of Salisbury made a request to speak to the TAC members in regard to a City of Salisbury road project. Mr. Harris reported that there is currently a project being considered at Newsome Road and Bendix Drive. Under the project's current design there would be a right hand turn only at the intersection which would hamper access to businesses in that immediate area. Mr. Harris requested that the design of the project be re-evaluated to consider better accessibility to the affected businesses and traffic on Bendix Drive.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Withers called members' attention to the minutes of the October 23 2013 TAC meeting. He asked members for any comments or corrections to the minutes. With no comments or corrections being noted, Liz Poole made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Bill Feather seconded the motion and TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a TAC member requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. The following items are presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

Relocation of Old Beatty Ford Road: Request from NCDOT for local input in evaluation

of potential environmental impacts from the relocation of Old Beatty Ford Road from Bostian Road to Lentz Road. Consider endorsing alternative #2 alignment for this NCDOT safety project.

2040 MTP and Transportation Conformity Update: Received an update on the 2040 MTP and Transportation Conformity Determination Report and consider releasing for public comment.

Reid Walters made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented and Rich Wise seconded the motion. TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

## **THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA**

### ***Nomination and Election of TAC Vice-Chair***

Phil Conrad, CR MPO Director informed TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization's Bylaws state that a new TAC Vice-Chairman must be elected each year. The TAC Vice Chairman rotates to the Chairman position automatically in the next year. Phil continued by stating that the TAC Chairman must also rotate between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. With that in mind, Phil advised members that they would need to nominate and elect a Vice Chairman from Cabarrus County for 2014. Chairman Withers asked if there were any nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Liz Poole made a motion to nominate Jeff Phillip as Vice Chairman for 2014. Rich Wise seconded the motion. At that point, Chairman Withers asked if there were any other nominations. With none heard, TAC members voted unanimously to elect Jeff Phillips TAC Vice-Chair for 2014.

### ***Strategic Transportation Investment New Projects***

Phil reported to members that since the passage of the new Strategic Mobility Formula (SMF) by the NC General Assembly, CRMPO staff has been working to prepare a draft list of projects for the next TIP which is due in the spring of 2014. Phil explained that these lists are based on a regional and division tier system as outlined by the SMF. The CRMPO will have an opportunity to assign points to a minimum of 16 regional tier projects and 16 division tier projects.

Phil continued by stating that scoring of the existing projects should be released by January 21, 2014. Any new projects will need to be entered into the NCDOT electronic scoring template no later than February 17, 2014 to be considered. He went on to say that the CRMPO will have an opportunity to assign points to projects by July 31, 2014. He then called TAC members' attention to Attachment 4, which was a list of new project requests for the *Draft* Strategic Transportation Investment (STI). Phil reviewed for the members the information contained in the Attachment and then called members' attention to the six newly submitted Local Priority List Projects being submitted by the following jurisdictions.

1. Town of Harrisburg's request for a Greenway Trail located on Back Creek at Caldwell Road to Back Creek at Robinson Church Road.

2. City of Salisbury's request for a Highway project at the intersection of Newsome Road and Innes Street to Bendix Drive in Salisbury.
3. Town of Midland presented two projects to the TAC members for consideration. Both were for sidewalks and bike lanes projects. The first project would cover an area on both sides of the street along Main Street, the second project would be approximately one mile in length on both sides of Broadway Avenue.
4. Two projects were presented by the City of Concord. The first project request was for Pedestrian/Bike Connectivity along Bruton Smith Blvd and Weddington Road from US Highway 29 to the Rocky River Greenway at Fire Station #11. The second was a Highway/Bridge project that would be located at the intersection of Concord Mills Blvd and Entrance #1 at Kings Grant Pavilion. This project is to construct a two lane grade separated directional left flyover.

After all new projects had been presented and thoroughly explained, Rich Wise made a motion to endorse the new project requests for STI quantitative evaluation. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **Draft Local Priority Methodology**

MPO Director Conrad informed TAC members that as a result of Session Law 2012-84, the Department is required to develop a process for standardizing or approving MPO local input methodologies. Phil called members' attention to a letter included in their packets as Attachment 5A that is the written request. CRMPO staff Phil stated, have already submitted two drafts of the Cabarrus-Rowan local input methodology to NCDOT for their review and are close to getting final approval. Recently NCDOT staff issued a statement stating that local input methodology must be approved by May 1, 2014 in order for any MPO to assign points under the new STI law. As part of the submitted draft, an aviation and transit component has been added to the local methodology as well. Phil called members' attention to the Draft methodology labeled as Attachment 5B in their packets. The attachment outlined the schedule, applicability, and the public input process that will be used in the point assignment process.

After review and discussion, Bill Feather made a motion to release this Draft methodology for public comment. Rich Wise seconded the motion and the TAC followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

### **Resolution Designation Federal 5310 Funds Recipient**

Phil reported that NCDOT is requesting each MPO/TMA designate a recipient for the federal 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds. In order for any local entity to receive these limited funds, a letter to the Governor and a resolution must identify the designated recipient. Phil explained that the City of Concord serves as the lead agency for transit planning funds and the RIDER Transit System funding. The City is currently serving as a direct recipient of federal FTA funds for RIDER Transit System and is currently the only eligible entity for those FTA funds. Phil went on to further explain that the City would be required to meet all of the federal guidelines in order to draw down the funds directly under the 5310 program.

Phil called TAC members' attention to Attachment #6 in their packet which was a Draft Resolution designating the City of Concord as the recipient of the federal 5310 funds. After review of the resolution, Ryan Dayvault made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC endorse a resolution designating the City of Concord as the recipient for the federal Section 5310 Program funds. Liz Poole seconded the motion and TAC member voted unanimously to approve.

### **FY 2012-2018 MTIP Amendment #8**

Phil Conrad reported to members that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has made a suggestion to the MPO that the MPO should amend the MTIP to include project W-5516 which is the safety project to relocate Old Beatty's Ford Road with a grade separation of I-85. Phil called members' attention to Attachment #7 which was a Draft amendment. This project had already been previously addressed in the Consent Agenda.

With no discussion, Bill Feather made a motion to endorse Amendment #8 to the FY 2012-2018 MTIP. Rich Wise seconded that motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **Reports/CRMPO Business**

- ✓ Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Pat Ivey from NCDOT Division 9 called TAC members' attention to a spreadsheet of updates on the Rowan County projects included in their packets. Louis Mitchell provided TAC members with verbal updates of Division 10 projects.

Linda Dosse from NCDOT TPB reported to the TAC members that she was contacted by the NCDOT TPB Coordinator for the Stanly County RPO regarding a CTP amendment they are preparing. Linda reported to TAC members that a very small portion of southern Cabarrus County would be involved in their project. Linda wanted to give TAC members a heads up that the RPO will at some point contact the CRMPO requesting a letter of support for their project.

- ✓ Functional Classification Maps – Linda Dosse, NCDOT TPB reported to TAC members regarding the status of the updates and revisions to the CTP maps. She stated that Rockne Bryant with NCDOT TPB has been working on the maps and he is waiting on two RPO's to return information for input to the mapping template. Once those are received and input, the CTP Maps will be forwarded to the MPO.
- ✓ Draft 2014-2015 Planning Work Program (Budget) - Phil called members' attention to a spreadsheet in their packets labeled FY 2014-2015 Planning Work Program Funding Sources Table and a second one labeled Cabarrus Rowan MPO Local Match Table. Phil stated the information will be brought back to them at a future meeting.
- ✓ MPO Member Spotlight: Town of Granite Quarry – Phil Conrad provided TAC members with background information and a short presentation on the Town of Granite Quarry. He reported on the progress the Town has made over the years and highlighted their accomplishments. Bill Feather and Arin Wilhelm also added comments.

### **Informational Items**

- Division 9 Priority Open House – January 27, 2014 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at 375 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston Salem.
- Division 10 Priority Open House – January 30, 2014 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at 2327 Tipton Drive, Charlotte.
- Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express, Cabarrus Links and RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- Monroe Bypass Comments by SELC
- Next scheduled meeting is February 26, 2014.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to be considered, Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the January 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC. Maggie Blackwell seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.