

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE & TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 27, 2013 – 4:00 pm

Kannapolis Train Station
201 South Main Street
Kannapolis, NC 28081

TAC Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Reid Walters	Town of Spencer
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Richard Burleyson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Tom Kincaid	City of Kannapolis
Al Brown	City of Concord
Jeff Phillips	Town of Harrisburg
Tammy Corpening	Town of East Spencer
Lee Withers	Town of China Grove
Elizabeth Poole	Cabarrus County
Tony Hilton	Town of Landis
Maggie Blackwell	City of Salisbury
Ralph Womble	NCDOT Board Member
Richard Wise	Town of Midland
Craig Pierce	Rowan County

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Scott Padgett	City of Concord
Louis Mitchell	NCDOT Division 10
Pat Ivey	NCDOT-Division 9
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Bobby Lewis	NCDOT-Raleigh
Davis Diggs	NCDOT
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Rosa Burris	Town of E. Spencer
Mike Downs	Cabarrus County
Mike Legg	City of Kannapolis
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
NCDOT Secretary Tata	

TCC Members: Jonathan Marshall, Ed Muire, Joe Wilson, F.E. Isenhour, W. Steve Rowland, Kris Krider, David Pugh

Call to Order

The TAC Chairman Elizabeth Poole called the February 27, 2013 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC to order. Chairman Poole welcomed everyone to the joint meeting of the CRMPO TAC and TCC. She then recognized NCDOT Secretary Anthony Tata, NCDOT Board Member Ralph Womble, and asked other guests to introduce themselves. When all guests had been recognized, Chairman Poole read the roll of eligible TAC and TCC voting members and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the guests. Once confirmed that a quorum had been met, Chairman Poole continued the meeting by reading the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder and asked if any CRMPO members present had a known conflict of interest concerning any item on the meeting agenda. With none heard, she moved on to the next item of business.

Chairman Poole continued by asking if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. With no corrections or additions heard, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Tom Kincaid seconded the motion. TAC members voted unanimously to approve

Chairman Poole asked for Commerce updates. No Chamber representatives were in attendance for a report. She then asked if there were any speakers from the floor who wished to be recognized to speak. With none heard, she proceeded to the next order of business.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Poole called TAC members' attention to the minutes of the January 23, 2013 TAC meeting included in their agenda packets. With no comments or corrections being heard, Reid Walters made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Tom Kincaid seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

Cabarrus Rowan MPO Introduction

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad provided a powerpoint presentation on the history of the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO. Phil reported to the group that the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO has been operating for over thirty years and has tripled the membership and added a significant amount of land to the planning area since 2000. He explained that the MPO covers two full counties and works with two NCDOT Division offices to coordinate projects. He went on to say that the MPO is made up of Cabarrus and Rowan Counties and fourteen municipalities within the two counties. Each member actively participates and the majority of the municipalities are served by some form of fixed route transit service.

In the presentation, Phil reviewed the current top priority projects of the CRMPO as; 1) I-85 Road widening and interchange improvements within the MPO area, 2) Kimball Road Extension, 3) Widening of Highway 73 and 4) Widening of Poplar Tent Road. In closing, Phil reported that the CRMPO is a member driven organization that truly focuses on tangible results for the respective municipalities and counties while working collaboratively with NCDOT and Federal agencies.

NCDOT Remarks

TAC Chairman Poole introduced NCDOT Board Member Ralph Womble and asked that he introduce NCDOT Secretary Anthony Tata. Before introducing Secretary Tata, Mr. Womble provided some background information of Secretary Tata's military and professional work experience and provided some details about his life. Once the introduction was made, Secretary Tata thanked Mr. Womble for the introduction and then thanked the CRMPO for inviting him to come and meet the respective committees.

Secretary Tata provided a background on his transportation work while serving in the military. He explained the extensive road and highway projects that were completed to supply access to areas that needed food, water, and medical supplies in the international arena. The Secretary also spoke of his family and his high school and military accomplishments as well as his work with the Wake County School Corporation.

The Secretary explained that his schedule has been very hectic since assuming his role as Secretary of Transportation and he has been reaching out to areas all across the State to see what the needs of the people truly are. He reported that he and the new Governor consider customer service a very high priority and have already begun to implement some changes. Secretary Tata stated that the Governor has tasked him with three main priorities; the first being to improve customer service on all levels at NCDOT. The Secretary explained that he has already initiated an overhaul of the DMV and has implemented some Saturday hours to give citizens more opportunities to avoid missing work to take care of their business at the DMV.

The second priority he explained is to leverage infrastructure projects to create and maintain jobs. This not only he explained, helps with the completion of projects but it also provides and maintains valuable job opportunities for the capable NC work force. Also included in this task he said, was to examine the Equity Formula and see where improvements/changes can be made to benefit all of NC.

The third item Secretary Tata explained as a top priority is to create a more effective and efficient NCDOT. He reported that a 2% cut for all NCDOT departments has been implemented and customer service training is being implemented throughout all of NCDOT. Customer service, funding, and project completion are all things he will be reviewing very closely.

Secretary Tata then took questions from CRMPO members and once answered, thanked the CRMPO for inviting him and providing information on the MPO and what are the real needs. He explained he had another commitment in Charlotte and would need to leave soon. Chairman Poole once again thanked the Secretary for coming and speaking with the group and then told TAC and TCC members there would be a short five minute break to get refreshments provided by Mobility Solutions Unlimited LLC.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funds

After a five minute break, MPO Director Conrad continued on to the next item of business. Phil explained that with the completion of the 2010 US Census, the growth of the urbanized areas of Cabarrus and Rowan counties has surpassed a population of over 200,000. With a larger population, the CRMPO is now considered a larger MPO by the federal government and now qualifies to be able to program some of the Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to projects the CRMPO considers a high priority. Phil went on to call member's attention to Attachment 5A included in their packets which he explained was provided by NCDOT staff to show the members the MPO's annual allocation out of the statewide budget of STP funds. Phil went on to say that the total pot of STP funds did not change with the passage of the latest Transportation Bill (MAP-21).

Phil then called members' attention to a *Draft* Frequently Asked Questions sheet also in their packets. The sheet contained eight of the most important questions asked regarding what the STP funds are and how and when may they be used. After review of all questions, Phil called members' attention to Attachment 5B which was a *Draft* letter to Mr. Calvin Leggett of the NCDOT Program Development Branch regarding how the CRMPO could potentially use their allocation of STP funds. At that point, Phil stopped and asked if there were any questions. NCDOT Division 9 Engineer Pat Ivey reminded members that STP funds are not new money, but a means to have more input into which CRMPO projects the money is going to be used toward.

Reports & Updates

- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 reviewed a spreadsheet which contained updates to projects in Division 9 that was included in their agenda packets. Division 10 had supplied MPO staff information on Cabarrus County projects prior to the meeting which was also included in their packets.

Ms. Linda Dosse, NCDOT-TPB reported to members than an Amendment to the LRTP needed to be completed due to the acceleration of a portion of the I-85 project. After she explained the need for the amendment, by consensus TAC members approved work on the amendment to be completed and brought back to the TAC for approval.

- Old Beatty Ford Road Interchange Discussion – Phil reported that newly appointed NCDOT Division 9 Board Member Jake Alexander requested this item be discussed at a future meeting so that he had an opportunity to attend the TAC meeting.
- *Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* – Phil called members' attention to a copy of the amended MOU included in their packet for review. Phil explained that there are no boundary changes to the amended MOU and that MPO staff is working to get agreements in place with the urban areas surrounding the CRMPO area. Chairman Poole reinforced the need for moving forward with this amended MOU to get it completed in the timeframe outlined by FHWA. She requested that TAC and TCC work together to get this document to their respective municipality boards and/or legal department review so that the document could be approved for signatures at the March 2013 TAC meeting. Mr. Lee Withers made a request to have staff not only email the amended version of the MOU but also the current version so that they can be compared by the membership.
- 2008 Ozone Standard Transportation Conformity Report – Phil Conrad called members' attention to an introduction page and transportation conformity determination report included in their packets. He explained the findings of the report for members and reported that this report would be released to the public for input. He noted several townships previously discussed at prior TAC meetings would be attainment under this new standard.
- Cabarrus Rowan Socioeconomic Forecasts – Phil reported to members that updated census data had been used in the Population and Employment projections for Cabarrus and Rowan Counties and the current information was included in their packet as information.
- Filing Deadline for Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) – Phil reminded members of the April 15, 2013 deadline for filing the SEI.
- Ethics Education Deadline – Phil also reminded members of the June 30, 2013 deadline for completion.

Information Items

- ✓ Concord Express, RIDER and Salisbury Transit, both Rowan Express routes, Cabarrus Links and RIDER Para-Transit Ridership - Phil highlighted ridership information included in their packets.
- ✓ New NCDOT Division 9 Board Member Jake Alexander – Phil noted the newly appointed Division 9 Board Member by Governor McCrory.
- ✓ Revised Local Match Allocation FY 2013-14 - Phil called members' attention to the revised Cabarrus Rowan MPO Local Match Table in their packets and asked members to pass this information onto their respective managers.
TAC Chairman Poole advised members about the Centralina Workforce Development.

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Chairman Poole adjourned the meeting

Next Meeting: March 27, 2013