

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, March 24, 2010 – 5:30 pm**

### Salisbury City Hall

217 South Main Street  
Salisbury, North Carolina 28146

#### Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Reid Walters	Town of Spencer
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Warren Chapman	Town of Mount Pleasant
Maggie Blackwell	Town of Salisbury
Kenneth Geathers	City of Kannapolis
John Bradford	Town of Cleveland
Tony Hilton	Town of Landis
Tina Hall	Rowan County
Tammy Corpening	Town of East Spencer
Don Fleener	Town of Midland
Elizabeth Poole	Cabarrus County
James Ramseur	City of Concord
Jeff Phillips	Town of Harrisburg

#### Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
Jonathan Marshall	Cabarrus County
Tom Kincaid	City of Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Dan Mikkelson	City of Salisbury
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Shelia Armstrong	Catawba College

#### Call to Order

The Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC meeting of March 24, 2010 was called to order by TAC Chair Bill Feather. TAC Chairman Feather asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad requested that item #7 be removed under reports because the City of Concord had made a request to do so. Phil also requested that since some TAC members were arriving late, he would like to begin the meeting with item three on the agenda to give all members an opportunity to arrive. With no additional additions or corrections to the agenda being heard, Councilman James Ramseur made a motion to accept the corrections and additions to the agenda and Councilman Kenneth Geathers seconded the motion. The TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

TAC Chairman Feather asked for updates from the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce representatives respectively. Mr. Alex Rankin, representative for the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce relayed to the TAC members that the Cabarrus Regional Chamber continues to support the Cabarrus Rowan MPO in all of their endeavors to meet the transportation needs in the two county area.

Chairman Feather asked for any speakers from the floor. With none heard, he moved on to the next order of business.

## **TAC Workshop: Metropolitan Transportation Planning**

Phil Conrad explained to TAC members that since the CRMPO TAC has several new representatives this year, MPO staff has prepared information provided in their packets about the MPO including products and services. Phil went on to call TAC members attention to a list of transportation acronyms in their packets as well for their use.

Phil continued by showing TAC members a power point presentation developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the authority and the responsibilities of each MPO and what is the role of the TAC. After the presentation, Phil asked for questions or comments on the presentation and with none heard, TAC Chairman Feather moved on to the next item of business.

### **Approval of Minutes**

With all late TAC members having arrived, TAC Chairman Feather welcomed the TAC members and guests and asked all those in attendance to please introduce themselves. Once all introductions were made, Chairman Feather asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the January 27, 2010 TAC meeting. Councilwoman Maggie Blackwell made a motion to approve the minutes as they appear and Councilman Kenneth Geathers seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the January 27, 2010 minutes.

### **Transportation Conformity Determination Report**

Phil informed TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO and the Metrolina Regional Partners have been working for some time on the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. This report, Phil explained, demonstrates that the financially constrained Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP) in the Metrolina Region will meet national ambient air quality standards.

It will also certify that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a subset of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Conformity Report is consistent with the State Implementation Plan (STIP). Phil called TAC members attention to Attachment 4A Executive Summary included in their packets. He reviewed the information with TAC members. Phil informed the members that the public comment period had ended on March 10, 2010 with very minimal comments during the designated period. Phil called members attention to a letter included in their packets from North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), Division of Air Quality, confirming receipt of the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report from CRMPO staff. Phil also indicated that the CR MPO staff had coordinated and developed the Transportation Conformity Report for the 7 non-attainment counties in region at no cost to the other partners.

With no further questions or discussions from TAC members, Phil directed the TAC members attention to a resolution to adopt the Transportation Conformity Report included in their packets. Upon review of the resolution, Alderman Tony Hilton made a motion to adopt the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Councilman Kenneth Geathers seconded the motion and TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

### **2035 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Director Conrad reminded TAC members that the TAC had released the Cabarrus Rowan MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for a thirty day public comment period on February 8, 2010.

The 2035 LRTP, Phil continued, is a fiscally constrained multi-modal plan and is consistent with federal guidelines that require a 20 year plan horizon and current socioeconomic data/projections.

Phil called members attention to Attachment 5A, an Executive Summary provided in their packets and reported that the full report is posted on the Cabarrus Rowan MPO website. After review of the Executive Summary, Phil informed TAC members that a resolution of adoption was also included in their packets for their review and consideration. After reviewing the Draft resolution, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion that the CRMPO TAC adopt the CRMPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Alderman Tony Hilton seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Each year Phil Conrad reported, the Cabarrus Rowan MPO is responsible for developing and adopting a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP, Phil continued, is the MPO budget and follows the state fiscal year 2010-2011. Phil called TAC members' attention to Attachment 6A included in their packets. As Phil reviewed the attachment with the members, he explained that the UPWP identifies the planning tasks, responsible agencies for providing these tasks and the funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be conducted with the planning area during the next fiscal year.

The UPWP Phil reported, is due to NCDOT no later than April 16, 2010. He called TAC members attention to Attachment 6B, which was a checklist for the CRMPO to certify the MPO transportation planning process and Attachment 6C which was the Draft resolution of support for Certifying the CRMPO Planning Process for FY2011.

After little discussion, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve a resolution that certifies the CR MPO transportation planning process. Alderman Tammy Corpening seconded the motion and TAC member voted unanimously to approve.

Mr. Conrad continued on by reminding TAC members that each year, the CR MPO allocates the 20 percent local match among the member jurisdictions and has always been based on the 2000 Census population for each MPO member. He called members attention to Attachment 6D which showed the allocation of the local match based on the budget amount reviewed in Attachment 6A. Phil noted that the CR MPO receives federal funding based on the urbanized area population as defined by the Census, which is approximately 115,000. A resolution identified as Attached 6E, Phil stated was in their agenda packets as well for their consideration. In addition Phil reported, NCDOT requires a 5 Year Planning Calendar which is also provided as Attachment 6F in their packets.

In closing, Phil informed TAC members that Charlotte DOT is still requesting \$58,975 in FY 2010-2011 for the travel surveys and enhancements from the Cabarrus Rowan MPO for the Metrolina Model which is shown in Attachment 6G in their packets. Phil reminded members that this information/request was brought before them in last fiscal year but funds were not going to be required until FY 2011. At that time, CR MPO had more than ample unobligated funds in the Section 104 PL Fund account to cover the costs for the model surveys. Since that time all MPO's in North Carolina have had their PL fund balances rescinded by the federal government and are no longer available to our MPO. Therefore Phil reported, the money needed to fund the model surveys will come partially from the UPWP but the remaining approximately \$20,000 will have to come from other sources included requiring CR MPO members to bear an additional 20% in local match based on this \$20,000 figure. Phil reviewed with TAC members the additional allocations that would be required of their respective jurisdictions as outlined in Attachment 6D.

TAC members had a very lengthy discussion as to how their respective jurisdictions could delegate any additional funding at this time in their respective jurisdictions as they are all suffering budget and service cuts. Some TAC members said they could not approve the additional funding request for the model surveys without going back to their respective councils first to see if funds are available for such a request at this time. Other members said they could vote on the issue but could not guarantee that their councils would approve the funding request at the council level. Some discussion occurred as to whether to approve the UPWP until the funding issue for the model surveys was resolved. Director Conrad opened the floor to FHWA and NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch to provide comments or information to the discussions but no information or comments were provided. After all comments and discussion was complete, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve and adopt the FY 2010-2011 UPWP with Mr. James Ramseur seconding the motion. The majority of the TAC members voted to approve, with Tina Hall and Reid Walters voting against approving the resolution.

### **Reports & Updates**

- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 provided a handout which contained updates to projects in Division 9. TAC members from Division 10 requested that MPO staff make a formal request to Division 10 to provide similar information either in person at the TAC meetings or to forward information handouts to MPO staff to include in agenda packets.
- Yadkin River Bridge Update –The Yadkin River Bridge project will upgrade 6.8 miles of I-85 in Davidson and Rowan Counties, including repairing the bridge and widening from four to eight lanes and realigning the roadway to eliminate sharp curves and improve intersections. Division 9 Engineer Pat Ivey reported that the project may begin as soon as late summer 2011 and be completed by end of 2013.
- Federal Highway Report – No new or additional information was provided.
- Coldwater Bypass – Jonathan Marshall, Cabarrus County Planning Director made a presentation to TAC members requesting that a change be made to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan currently being updated by NCDOT-TPB. The request he presented was to remove the Coldwater Bypass from the Draft CTP as it was originally planned to be built. Jonathan explained that many changes had taken place in this area and the original building plan is no longer suitable for that area. Jonathan provided some alternative proposals that could be considered that would possibly have more value in the area. After discussion, the TAC members agreed by consensus to remove the Coldwater Bypass from the CTP as originally proposed.
- Resolution Opposing Transfer of Secondary Road Program to Counties-Rowan County – Phil reported that Rowan County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on March 15, 2010 opposing the transfer of secondary road construction, improvements, and maintenance. The request is that the CRMPO support the resolution. After discussion, TAC members agreed by consensus to have MPO staff revise the resolution of support for opposing the transfer of secondary roads program to include both Rowan and Cabarrus counties. Based on that request, Councilman Jim Ramseur made a motion to approve forwarding a resolution of support for opposing the transfer of secondary roads program with the requested revisions. Councilman Kenneth Geathers seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

- MPO Consolidation Study Update – Phil called TAC members attention to a copy of a letter from Secretary of Transportation Eugene Conti, Jr. in response to a letter sent to him from the CRMPO regarding the MPO concern over the upcoming Study of the Transportation Planning Framework in the Greater Charlotte Region. TAC Chairman Bill Feather and Phil Conrad informed members that they have continued to attend the Study Advisory Committee meetings in regard to this upcoming study to keep apprised of the progress. They reported that contract negotiations are currently underway with the Centrolina COG and Louis Berger, the consultant chosen to perform the study. Phil stated that each MPO/RPO in the Metrolina Region will be holding stakeholder meetings with the consultant to express opinions and concerns for the study. It was decided by consensus that the stakeholders would be TAC Chair Bill Feather, TAC Vice Chair Rick Burleyson, Rowan County Representative Tina Hall and Councilman Kenneth Geathers.
- Draft TIP Update – Phil provided TAC members with a spreadsheet in their packets that outlines the Cabarrus Rowan MPO Priority Project’s per division. The spreadsheet also included the MPO priority ranking, the points given to each project by the NCDOT and rankings provided by Division 9 and Division 10.

### **Information Items**

- ✓ Transportation Oversight Committee Meeting – Phil called TAC members attention to a letter in their packets dated March 1, 2010 providing the date, time, and place of the NC General Assembly Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee for their information.
- ✓ Concord Express, RIDER and Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express, Cabarrus Links and RIDER Para-Transit Ridership - Phil highlighted ridership information included in their packets.
- ✓ Phil reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2010 and would be a joint TCC/TAC meeting with the guest speaker being Transportation Secretary Eugene Conti, Jr.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business before this committee, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Alderman Tammy Corpening seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. .