

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

North Carolina Research Campus
1st Floor CORE Lab Building
150 Research Campus Drive
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28081

Members:

Al Brown
Bill Feather
Karen Alexander
Scott Cole
Pat Ivey
Linda Dosse
Reid Walters
Lee Withers
Jeff Phillips
Ryan Dayvault
Bobby Moore
W.S. Rowland
James Sells
Craig Pierce
Jake Alexander

City of Concord
Town of Granite Quarry
City of Salisbury
NCDOT-Div. 10
NCDOT-Div. 9
NCDOT-TPB
Town of Spencer
Town of China Grove
Town of Harrisburg
City of Kannapolis
Town of Rockwell
Town of Landis
Town of Mt. Pleasant
Rowan County
NC Board of Transportation

Others:

Phil Conrad CRMPO Director
Alex Rankin Cabarrus Chamber
Arin Wilhelm Granite Quarry
Connie Cunningham CRMPO Staff
Loretta Barren FHWA
Hunter Moore CCSC
Carolyn Carpenter CCSC
Karen Cimino Wilson Independent
 Tribune

Call to Order

The March 26, 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC was called to order by TAC Chairman Lee Withers. 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 requested those present to also mute or turn off their cell phones so as not to disrupt the meeting.

Chairman Withers continued by calling the roll of eligible members and determined that a quorum had been met. He then asked that those present introduce themselves. Chairman Withers asked others present to please introduce themselves. Once introductions were complete, Chairman Withers moved onto the next item.

Chairman Withers reminded 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.

Moving on, Chairman Withers asked if there were any updates from the Rowan or Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce's. Alex Rankin with the Cabarrus County Chamber reported to the TAC members that the Chamber's Transportation Committee is actively pursuing the transportation

needs of Cabarrus County and invited all members to the Cabarrus County Transportation Summit that will be held on June 6, 2014 at the Speedway Club.

TAC Chairman Withers then asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. With none heard, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Craig Pierce seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA

NO ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Draft Local Priority Methodology

Cabarrus Rowan MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that NCDOT staff has directed MPO staff to develop a process for standardizing or approving the MPO local input methodology. This requirement is due to the new Session Law 2012-84. Phil continued by saying that MPO staff has submitted two drafts of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO local input methodology to NCDOT for their review and input. NCDOT staff has granted conditional approval to the CRMPO's methodology subject to public input and MPO TAC approval.

NCDOT has directed that local input methodology must be approved by May 1, 2014 in order for any MPO to assign points under the new STI law. Phil reported that MPO staff has conducted two public comment meetings and released the Draft Methodology for public comment for thirty days. So far Phil stated, no public comments have been received. Phil called members' attention to Attachment 4 in their packets. The attachment contained the schedule, applicability and the public input process used in the point assignment process. After review, Phil asked if there were any questions or comments.

With no further discussion, Mr. Craig Pierce made a motion to adopt the Draft Local Priority Methodology. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Ramp Metering Feasibility Study

Mr. Scott Cole from NCDOT Division 10 addressed the TAC members with a proposal to conduct a ramp metering feasibility study for the Metrolina Region. Scott explained through a power point presentation that the study would evaluate about 245 ramps on I-85, I-77, I-277 and I-485 in Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Iredell and Gaston Counties. Scott continued by providing TAC members with a financial breakdown of how the study could be paid for by all the participating Counties. The proposal he explained, is requesting that the CRMPO pay \$10,714 of the almost \$700,000 cost of the study.

Scott continued by stating that once this initial phase is complete, a second phase would be done to narrow the search to 50 ramps for possible installation. The project is due to begin in June 2014 and Scott reported that the project is very important regionally. Several TAC members voiced concerns about why the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO would want to fund a project that will not provide any benefit to Rowan County. TAC members were also concerned about the possibility of no ramps in Cabarrus County being selected in phase one. After much discussion Chairman Withers suggested that the item be tabled until the next meeting. Chairman Withers requested that Mr. Cole return to the next scheduled meeting and provide additional information for the members so that they could make a more informed decision on the item. With no further discussion, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to table discussion on the Ramp Metering Feasibility Study proposal until the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Craig Pierce seconded the motion and members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2014-2015 UPWP

Phil Conrad reminded TAC members that each year the CRMPO must develop and adopt a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is the CRMPO budget and it follows the state fiscal year of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The UPWP identifies the planning tasks, responsible agencies and funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be conducted with the planning area during the next fiscal year. The projects include MPO planning activities undertaken by local agencies, the NCDOT, and a line item for Regional Model and MTP Maintenance. Phil proceeded to review Attachment 6A with the TAC members which was the *Draft* UPWP. Phil explained the budget in detail for the members.

Phil informed members that as part of the UPWP, the Federal government is requiring all MPO's to certify their transportation planning process on an annual basis. Phil called members' attention to Attachment 6B which was a checklist for the CRMPO to certify the MPO transportation planning process. Phil also called members' attention to Attachment 6C, the local match table included in their packets. Phil reported to the TAC members that should they decide at a later time to consider the Ramp Metering Feasibility Study, the local match for that project would be in addition to the 2014-2015 UPWP local match.

Phil concluded by presenting a *Draft* Resolution (Attachment 6D) certifying the Cabarrus Rowan MPO transportation planning process and a *Draft* resolution (Attachment 6E) adopting the FY2014-2015 UPWP. With little discussion, Mr. Ryan Dayvault made a motion to certify the Cabarrus Rowan MPO transportation planning process. Mr. Reid Walters seconded the motion. TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

A new motion was made by Mr. Craig Pierce to adopt the FY2014-2015 UPWP. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2012-2018 MTIP Amendment #9

Phil Conrad reported to members that the FY2012-2018 MTIP needs to be amended to reflect a bridge replacement project (B-4808) on Stokes Ferry Road over South Second Creek that has been delayed for a year due to permitting. Phil called members' attention to Attachment 9 in their packets which was a *Draft* resolution modifying the MTIP for this project. With little discussion, Mr. Craig Pierce made a motion to endorse amendment #9 to the FY2012-2018

MTIP. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and all members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Reports/CRMPO Business

- ✓ Local Reports and Breakout – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 - Chairman Withers addressed the members with an item for future local reports. His suggestion was for the members from Rowan County to break out into a separate group to hear updates on Division 9 projects and Cabarrus County members remain in a group to hear only Division 10 project updates. After discussion, TAC members agreed by consensus to remain in one group and hear both Division reports.

Pat Ivey from NCDOT Division 9 called TAC members' attention to a spreadsheet of updates on the Rowan County projects included in their packets. Pat highlighted the current projects under construction. Pat also informed members that Secretary of Transportation Tata will be in Rowan County on April 16, 2014 for a Transportation Summit. Scott Cole provided TAC members with information contained in a spreadsheet of Division 10 projects also included in the packet. .

- ✓ Old Beatty Ford Road Safety Project Update – Pat Ivey, Division 9 Engineer provided TAC members with a very detailed power point presentation on this project. Pat explained the history of the project and the need and purpose of the project. He provided a timeline of events for the project stating that the Environmental Assessment should be done in the spring of 2014, with the Environment Document being prepared in the summer of 2014. Right of Way acquisition should begin in September 2014 and the project should be ready to start construction in the fall of 2014. Pat reported that he and Board of Transportation Member Jake Alexander have spent many hours trying to get all the necessary approvals for this project. Chairman Withers stated that he too has spent time in Raleigh lobbying for the project and that he has invited Bobby Lewis with NCDOT to attend the April 2014 TAC meeting to further explain the use of DA funds for similar projects. Chairman Withers thanked Pat for his presentation.
- ✓ 2040 MTP and Transportation Conformity Update – Phil Conrad provided TAC members with a handout explaining the MTP and Conformity Report and reviewed it with the members.
- ✓ TAC Abstention Form/ NC State Ethics Commission – Phil provided members with a sample copy of the NC State Ethics Commission's new Abstention Voting form. TAC members should fill out this form and provide it to the Secretary prior to the meeting.
- ✓ MPO Member Spotlight: Town of Harrisburg – Phil Conrad provided TAC members with some background history and a short presentation on the Town of Harrisburg. He reported on the progress the Town has made over the years and highlighted their accomplishments. Jeff Phillips, representative for the Town, also provided some comments on the progress of the Town.

Informational Items

- 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.
- Next scheduled meeting is April 23, 2014.

Adjournment

With no other business to be considered, Mr. Reid Walters made a motion to adjourn the March 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC. Mr. Craig Pierce seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.