

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

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

Members:

Al Brown
Bill Feather
Maggie Blackwell
Craig Pierce
Richard Wise
H.A. Hilton
Reid Walters
Lee Withers
Jeff Phillips
Ryan Dayvault
Charles Wingerson
H.A. Hilton

City of Concord
Town of Granite Quarry
City of Salisbury
Rowan County
Town of Midland
Town of Landis
Town of Spencer
Town of China Grove
Town of Harrisburg
City of Kannapolis
Town of Rockwell
Town of Landis

Others:

Phil Conrad CRMPO Director
Denise Hallett Cabarrus Chamber
Bobby Moore Rockwell
Connie Cunningham CRMPO Staff
Elaine Spalding Rowan Chamber
Robert Van Geons Rowan EDC
Stuart Basham NCDOT Div 10
Fletcher Hartsell NC Senate
Scott Cole NCDOT-Div. 10
Pat Ivey NCDOT-Div. 9
Linda Dosse NCDOT-TPB

Call to Order

TAC Chairman Lee Withers called to order the April 23, 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO to order. Chairman Withers welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and asked that those present to please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge was recited, Chairman Withers continued by calling the roll of eligible members and determined that a quorum had been met. He then requested 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.

Proceeding on, Chairman Withers asked if there were any updates from the Rowan or Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce's. Denise Hallett with the Cabarrus County Chamber reported to the TAC members that the Chamber's Transportation Committee continues to actively pursue the transportation needs of Cabarrus County. Denise invited all members to the Cabarrus County Transportation Summit which will be held on June 3, 2014 at the Speedway Club. She reported to TAC members that invitations via email will be sent to them in the next few days.

Elaine Spalding with the Rowan County Chamber addressed the TAC and thanked those members who attended the recently conducted Rowan County Chamber Transportation Summit. She also invited members to the upcoming Rowan County Chamber School Summit.

TAC Chairman Withers then asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda and consent agenda. With none heard, Mr. Ryan Dayvault made a motion to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Reid Walters seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA

NO ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Withers called members' attention to the minutes of the March 26, 2014 TAC meeting included in their agenda packets. He asked if there were any adjustments or corrections to the minutes. With none heard, Mrs. Liz Poole made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion. The TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Old Beatty Ford Road Interchange Update

Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 Engineer addressed TAC members and reported to them that Mr. Bobby Lewis, NCDOT who was scheduled to attend by invitation from Chairman Withers and provide information on the Old Beatty Ford Road Interchange was unable to attend.

Pat continued by presenting a very detailed power point presentation to members regarding the interchange project from the original conception of the project to it's current status. The presentation outlined all the studies, processes and steps required to evaluate and approve the project.

Chairman Withers thanked Pat for the presentation on the project and the information provided to the TAC.

2040 MTP and Transportation Conformity Update

CR MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to members that CR MPO staff has been continuing to work with the Metrolina Regional Partners on the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. The report Phil explained, demonstrates that the financially constrained MTP's in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. This report also certifies that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a subset of the 2040 MTP and that the conformity Report is consistent with the recently approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) by the EPA.

Phil called members' attention to Attachment #5A, an Executive Summary of the 2040 Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Transportation Plan in their packets that detailed the purpose of the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. He also presented a power point presentation which reviewed the MTP for members. Phil also reported that the CR MPO released the *Draft* MTP for public comment for a thirty day public comment period on February 17, 2014 and that he had included the public comments in their packets as Attachment #5B. There was one public comment received that stated, "Forget Jake Alexander loop. Not needed". TAC member Reid Walters commented that he completely opposed and disagreed with the one public comment received.

Phil continued on by reviewing the Summary of the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the Metrolina Area 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plans and the FY2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Programs included in their packets as well. The summary outlined the conformity determination, the interagency consultation process, transportation control measures and the required emission comparisons for the Gaston MPO area, the Cabarrus Rowan MPO area and the Charlotte Region TPO area. Phil also provided members with a power point presentation outlining all the information included in their packets.

After all review and little discussion, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to adopt the Metrolina Conformity Determination Report. Mr. Al Brown, Jr. seconded the motion and TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Mr. Al Brown, Jr. continued on by making a motion to adopt the 2040 Cabarrus Rowan MPO MTP. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion. TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY2012-2018 MTIP Amendment #8

Phil reported to members that as a result of recent NCDOT Board of Transportation requests, MPO staff has two amendments to present to the TAC for their consideration. The first project amendment refers to a segmentation of the Derita Road project which is NCDOT TIP Project U-4910. This amendment would make it into an A and B section project based on limited availability of federal funds.

The second project Phil explained, is the construction of a safety project for Old Beatty Ford Road to include a new grade separation of I-85. This project Phil reported was requested by FHWA.

With no discussion, Mr. Ryan Dayvault made a motion to adopt amendment #8 to the FY 2012-2018 MTIP. Mr. Jeff Phillips seconded the motion and the members voted unanimously to approve.

Ramp Metering Feasibility Study

Scott Cole, NCDOT Division 10 addressed TAC members and briefly reviewed the item that he presented at the March 26, 2014 TAC meeting. Scott stated that NCDOT Division 10 is proposing to conduct a ramp metering feasibility study for the Metrolina Region. In order to fund the study, Division 10 is asking for financial assistance from the three Metrolina MPO's. Scott

explained that the study would look at approximately 245 ramps along I-85, I-77, I-277 and I-485 in Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Iredell and Gaston Counties.

Scott explained that all the information previously presented was still up to date and that he was in attendance to answer any questions that TAC members had in regard to the funding request.

At this point, Chairman Withers addressed Mr. Al Brown, Jr. and requested that he lead the discussion regarding the request. Mr. Brown said he had been in contact with Concord City Manager, Brian Hiatt and CR MPO TCC representative Mr. Joe Wilson to gather information on the request and what the benefits were of participating in the project. Al stated that with the possibility of the project having an impact on improving air quality for the region he felt that participating in the funding could be a long term positive impact on our area.

Scott confirmed for Chairman Withers that the Division is asking the Cabarrus Rowan MPO to contribute \$10,714 of the total cost of \$700,000. Phil Conrad reminded TAC members that 80% of the \$10,714 could be funded by the special studies line item of the UPWP and the 20% local match could be distributed among the member jurisdictions.

With no further discussion, Mr. Jeff Phillips made a motion to approve and participate financially in the Division 10 Ramp Metering Feasibility Study. Mr. Al Brown, Jr. seconded the motion and TAC members voted to approve. Mr. Bill Feather representing the Town of Granite Quarry and Mr. Tony Hilton representing the Town of Landis voted against the motion.

Reports/CRMPO Business

- ✓ Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 called members' attention to a spreadsheet of updates on the Rowan County projects included in their packets and reviewed for the membership. Mr. Scott Cole provided TAC members with a handout of Division 10 project updates and reviewed them as well. Chairman Lee Withers requested that Division 10 please provide their project updates to CR MPO staff so that they can included them in the meeting packets to give members an opportunity to review prior to each meeting. Mr. Scott Cole said he would provide the information to MPO staff.
- ✓ MOU Update – Ms. Linda Dosse from NCDOT TPB reported to the TAC members that the CR MPO MOU is currently in the Secretary's office and she does not know when it will be signed and forwarded to the Cabarrus Rowan MPO.
- ✓ Piedmont Improvement Program Update– Phil Conrad called members' attention to information included in their packets concerning the Piedmont Improvement Program projects and their status. After review of the information Chairman Withers asked if MPO staff could invite NCDOT Rail Division to a future TAC meeting to provide members with additional information. Senator Hartsell suggested that it would also be good to invite North Carolina Railroad to the meeting as well. Phil reported that staff would contact both divisions and confirm a meeting date.
- ✓ MPO Member Spotlight: City of Kannapolis – Phil Conrad provided TAC members with background information and a short presentation on the City of Kannapolis. He reported on the progress the City has made over the years and highlighted their

accomplishments. Mr. Ryan Dayvault added information about upcoming projects for the City.

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 May 28, 2014.

Adjournment

Chairman Withers closed by recognizing Mr. Robert Van Geons with the Rowan County EDC and Senator Fletcher Hartsell who were in attendance. With no other business to be considered, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the April 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC. Maggie Blackwell seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.