

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday August 25, 2010 – 5:00pm

Salisbury City Hall
217 South Main Street
Salisbury, North Carolina 28146

Members:

Maggie Blackwell
Charles Wingerson
Bill Feather
Kenneth Geathers
Ralph Womble
Rick Burleyson
Jeff Phillips
John Bradford
Don Fleener
Al Brown
Carl Ford
Reid Walters
Tammy Corpening
Tony Hilton
Lee Withers
Elizabeth Poole

City of Salisbury
Town of Rockwell
Town of Granite Quarry
City of Kannapolis
NCDOT Board Member
Town of Mt. Pleasant
Town of Harrisburg
Town of Cleveland
Town of Midland
City of Concord
Rowan County
Town of Spencer
Town of East Spencer
Town of Landis
Town of China Grove
Cabarrus County

Others:

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Tom Kincaid	City of Kannapolis
Eric Moore	Town of Rockwell
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Division 9
Richard Wise	Town of Midland
Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 10
Lorene Coates	NC House
Bud Berro	Gov Perdue Office
Fred Steen	NC House
Linda Johnson	NC House
Jeff Barnhart	NC House
Todd Hall	Mel Watts Office
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Joe Wilson	City of Concord
Sheila Armstrong	CECC
Bob Wright	Rowan Chamber
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Dan Mikkelson	City of Salisbury
David Pugh	Town of Midland
Carolyn Carpenter	CCS
Robert Van Geons	Rowan EDC
Richard Flowe	Town of Midland
Hugh Fisher	Salisbury Post

Call to Order

The August 25, 2010 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC was called to order by TAC Chairman Bill Feather. Chairman Feather introduced the guests in attendance by recognizing Mr. Fred Steen, Mrs. Lorene Coates, Mrs. Linda Johnson, and Mr. Jeff Barnhart all representatives to the North Carolina House, Mr. Bud Berro with Governor Beverly Perdue's office, and Mr. Todd Hall representing Congressman Mel Watt's office. MPO Director Phil Conrad, followed by reporting to the TAC members that at the May 2010 meeting, MPO staff had recognized Councilman Jim Ramseur from the City of Concord with an award for his continuous years of service to the CRMPO. Phil informed TAC members that staff would get the award to Councilman Ramseur since he was not in attendance. Mr. Conrad also presented the Legislative Delegation with letters of recognition for the hard work and assistance they provide to the CRMPO as well as Governor Beverly Perdue for the creation of the NC Mobility Fund. Mr. Bud Berro received a letter of recognition on behalf of the Governor.

Chairman Feather continued by welcoming everyone present and proceeded to do a roll call of the attending members. After determining that a quorum had been met, Chairman Feather asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda.

Phil Conrad, CRMPO Director requested that Item 4 in the agenda be moved to Item 3 and the original Item 3 be moved to Item 4. With no further additions or corrections to the agenda heard, Alderman Charles Wingerson made a motion to amend the agenda as requested. Commissioner Liz Poole seconded the motion and TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Chairman Feather asked for reports from the Cabarrus Regional Chamber and from the Rowan County Chamber respectively. Mr. Alex Rankin reported for the Cabarrus Chamber and reported that the Chamber had recently prepared their Transportation Legislative Agenda and was in support of the CRMPO projects for Cabarrus County. Mr. Bob Wright, Rowan County Chamber representative, echoed Mr. Rankin's comments and reported that the Rowan County Chamber had also completed their Legislative Agenda and supported the CRMPO efforts.

TAC Chair Feather then asked for speakers from the floor. With none heard, Chairman Feather continued onto the next order of business.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Feather informed the TAC members that the minutes of the May 26, 2010 meeting had been included in their packets and made a request for any corrections or additions to those minutes. With none heard, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2010. Councilwoman Maggie Blackwell seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

2009 CMAQ Call and Project Submittals

MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that additional funding is available for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects. CMAQ funds Phil explained, are a federal funding source for areas designated non-attainment by the EPA, but do require a local sponsor and a 20 percent local match. Phil continued by stating that eligible projects must demonstrate an emissions reduction benefit to the local area. Project applications must be submitted to NCDOT no later than September 30, 2010.

Phil reported that MPO staff has received five new CMAQ Project proposals from the City of Concord, City of Kannapolis and the Town of Midland as well as a request for statewide funds for the City of Salisbury Traffic Signal System included in their packets as Attachment 4A. The Salisbury Traffic Signal project Phil stated, is expected to cost \$3-3.5 million with 80 percent of the project to be funded by CMAQ. The 20 percent local match would be provided by NCDOT Division 9 and the City of Salisbury. The CMAQ funds for this project would be in addition to the funds sub-allocated by NCDOT directly to the CRMPO.

Mr. Conrad called the TAC members' attention to Attachment 4B included in their packets, which was a table listing the five local CMAQ projects that had been submitted. Phil informed TAC members that NCDOT has indicated that the CRMPO has a balance of \$265,270 in 80 percent CMAQ matching funds available for CMAQ eligible projects.

Phil reported that copies of the five applications submitted were included in their packets for their review. Phil continued by reviewing the five projects with the TAC members and then informed TAC members that the CRMPO TCC members had recommended that TAC endorse the Little Texas Road Sidewalk Project and the Miramar Street Sidewalk Project as the candidate projects for the CMAQ

funding available, and to also request that TAC make the Midland Sidewalk Project a top priority in the next call for CMAQ projects. Mr. Conrad then opened the floor for discussion.

Councilmember Don Fleener from the Town of Midland reported to TAC members that on behalf of Midland he would request that the Town's project be considered as a candidate project in the current round of CMAQ funding instead of waiting until the next call for projects. Councilmember Fleener explained the Town of Midland project to TAC members and asked that the TAC not follow the TCC recommendation and instead requested TAC member to approve the Town of Midland project as one to the candidate CMAQ projects along with the Miramar Street Sidewalk Project. Councilmember Fleener made a motion that TAC approve the Town of Midland Sidewalk project and the City of Concord's Miramar Street Sidewalk project as the candidate projects submitted for CMAQ funding. TAC Chairman Feather seconded the motion. TAC members had a tie vote on the motion and the motion did not pass.

Councilman Kenneth Geathers from the City of Kannapolis provided TAC members with information on the Little Texas Road Sidewalk Project that was submitted by the City of Kannapolis for consideration. Councilman Geathers explained that this project would provide greater connectivity to schools, shopping, medical facilities, or parks at this time and had been part of the City's plans for a several years. This project, Councilman Geathers explained, would connect to other already established sidewalks and greenways and would enhance connectivity to schools, parks, libraries, medical facilities and shopping for goods and services. Commissioner Carl Ford also spoke in favor of the Little Texas Road Sidewalk Project.

Mr. Joe Wilson from the City of Concord requested to be acknowledged by the TAC Chair. Mr. Wilson went into detail explaining the Miramar Street Sidewalk Project and the Patton Street Sidewalk Project to the TAC members. Joe also provided information to TAC members about why TCC members endorsed the Little Texas Road Sidewalk Project and the Miramar Street Sidewalk Project as the candidate projects for the CMAQ funding available. Councilman Al Brown was called upon by TAC Chairman Feather as to whether or not he wanted to make any comments regarding either of the City of Concord submitted projects. Councilman Brown stated that either of the projects that the City of Concord submitted would connect to other already established sidewalks and greenways and would enhance connectivity to schools, parks, libraries, medical facilities and shopping for goods and services, and that Concord had had these projects on their transportation needs list for some time.

Councilmember Don Fleener addressed the TAC members once more and stated that although he valued the work and opinions of the TCC, he would still like to request that the Town of Midland's sidewalk project be moved to the number one priority project for the current call of candidate CMAQ projects eligible for funding. Councilman Kenneth Geathers opposed Councilmember Fleener's motion and stated it was his opinion that TAC should follow the recommendations of the TCC. After a few more members commented, TAC Chairman Feather requested members to vote on one project they would approval as a candidate CMAQ project. Chairman Feathers informed TAC members that the first two highest vote winners would be the candidate projects to receive a final vote. The choices were; City of Kannapolis Little Texas Road Sidewalk project, Town of Midland Sidewalk project, or the City of Concord Miramar Street Sidewalk project. With a show of hands, three TAC members voted for the City of Kannapolis Little Texas Road Sidewalk project; eight TAC members voted for the Town of Midland Sidewalk project and two TAC members voted for the City of Concord's Miramar Street Sidewalk project.

Chairman Bill Feather then made a motion to accept and approve the City of Kannapolis Little Texas Road Sidewalk project and the Town of Midland Sidewalk project as the candidate CAMQ projects from the CRMPO for the current CMAQ call for projects. Alderman Lee Withers seconded the motion and eleven TAC members voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Liz Poole voted no, Councilman Al Brown abstained, and Councilwoman Blackwell was not present to vote. After the vote,

Councilmember Don Fleener informed the TAC members that the Town of Midland would scale back their project monetarily in order for not only the Town of Midland to pay a 20 percent match, but also so that the City of Kannapolis would only have to provide a 20 percent match.

DRAFT 2011-2020 TIP and Conformity

Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that the NCDOT Board of Transportation released the Draft TIP on August 5, 2010. The TIP Phil explained, includes highway, bicycle, pedestrian rail and transit projects for the fiscal years 2011 to 2020. He continued by stating that as part of the process, CRMPO had submitted a project priority list to NCDOT in the fall of 2009. The final State TIP is expected to be adopted by the NCDOT Board of Transportation in the spring of 2011.

Mr. Conrad called TAC members' attention to Attachment 3A included in their packets which was a funding report for the highway portion of the Draft 2011-2020 TIP. He also noted Attachment 3B which was a summary of any schedule changes for the major highway projects between the 2009-2015 TIP and the Draft TIP. Phil informed the TAC members that this information along with the remaining modes of transportation for the Draft TIP can be viewed on the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO website.

Phil informed TAC members that the TCC had discussed the need to have a one-on-one meeting with NCDOT's TIP Unit to review the Draft TIP and made a recommendation to the TAC to have a one-on-one meeting with NCDOT. By consensus, the TAC members approved the CRMPO Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the MPO Director conduct a one-on-one meeting with NCDOT's TIP Unit to review and discuss the Draft TIP.

Reports / MPO Business

- Local Reports – Mr. Pat Ivey called members' attention to a list of Division 9 projects progress included in their packets. Richard Hancock, NCDOT, Division 10 reported that the I-3803B Lane Street improvement project will start in 2011. Linda Dosse, NCDOT TPB, provided TAC members with a list of definitions for the almost completed CTP and informed TAC members that the CTP maps are available for review on the CRMPO website.
- Federal Rescission – Mr. Phil Conrad called TAC members' attention to information included in their packets regarding the federal rescission.
- TIGER II Application for Yadkin River Crossing Project Phase II – Mr. Conrad called members' attention to a copy of the TIGER II Grant Application for the I-2304AD/I-85 Corridor Improvement and Yadkin River Crossing Project included in their packets. He also requested that TAC members review a resolution of support for the grant application. With little discussion, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve the resolution. Alderman Tammy Corpening seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.
- NC Mobility Fund – Mr. Phil Conrad called TAC members' attention to a letter from Governor Beverly Perdue thanking the CRMPO for their resolution of support for the NC Mobility Fund. Phil also informed the members that information regarding the Mobility Fund was included in their packets. Representative Linda Johnson thanked the TAC members for their support as well.
- Old Beatty Ford Road Interchange Update – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 Engineer, provided updates to the TAC members in regard to this project. He explained to TAC members why this project may no longer qualify for federal funding

under the new guidelines set forth by FHWA. TAC members expressed concerns in regard to this new information. The project has been on the CRMPO TIP Priority List for many years and TAC members reported that it is a vital project to the area. Representatives Fred Steen and Lorene Coates along with Councilman Kenneth Geathers voiced concerns about the status of this project and the impact it will have on roadways as far as increased traffic.

Ms. Loretta Barren with FHWA reported that under new FHWA guidelines, projects must be able to justify that they meet the criteria of mobility and safety of the interstate system, local planning must be considered, and if the project is approved it must be completed within eight years. Ms. Barren also informed the TAC members that the new policies were enacted in August 2009 and there are now eight policy points that must be reviewed in order for a project to qualify. One of those points Ms. Barren explained, is that NCDOT must make a request to FHWA for granting access to the interstate and to date that has not been done.

By consensus, TAC members instructed MPO staff to prepare a letter to the NC Congressional Delegation, informing them of the concerns and objections that the CR MPO has with this new federal policy and possible impacts to the schedule for this project. Phil Conrad will prepare the letter and send by email to all TAC members for comments and then forward to the appropriate parties.

- Kimball Road Extension Update – Mr. Pat Ivey, Division 9 Engineer provided updated information on this project. By consensus, TAC members tabled the discussion to the next meeting when additional information will be provided by Mr. Ivey.
- HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant – Mr. Bill Feather reported to TAC members that the Centralina COG made a presentation to the TCC members on the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. Mr. Feather called members' attention to a resolution included with the presentation materials in their packet. TAC members voted in favor of authorizing TAC Chairman Bill Feather to sign the Resolution of Support on behalf of the CR MPO. TAC Members Ford and Hilton voted against this resolution.

Information Items

- Cabarrus Rowan MPO Focus Group Summary – Mr. Conrad called TAC members' attention to the summary included in their packets for their review.
- NCDOT Census Boundary Work Group Summary – Mr. Conrad called TAC members' attention to the summary included in their packets.
- Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express and RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.

Adjournment

With no other business to consider, Alderman Tony Hilton made a motion to adjourn and Alderman Tammy Corpening seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting will be September 22, 2010.