

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 – 5:30 pm

Salisbury City Hall

217 South Main Street
Salisbury, North Carolina 28146

Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Jody Everhart	Town of Spencer
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Tony Dennis	NCDOT Div. 10 Board Member
Rick Burleyson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Butch Bivens	Town of China Grove
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
Bob Carruth	Cabarrus County
Al Brown, Jr.	City of Concord

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
Jonathan Marshall	Cabarrus County
Beau Taylor	Town of Rockwell
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Richard Hancock	NCDOT – Division 10
David Pugh	Town of Midland
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber

Call to Order

TAC Chairman, Councilman Kenneth Geathers, called the meeting of September 23, 2009 to order. Chairman Geathers welcomed the TAC members and guests and asked all those in attendance to please introduce themselves. Once introductions were made, TAC Chairman Geathers asked if there were any additions to the agenda. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad requested that two items be added under reports; the first an update on the East Rowan Express; and the second item being an update on the Public Comment for the statewide SIP. With no additional additions or corrections to the agenda being heard, TAC Vice-Chairman Bill Feather made a motion to accept the additions to the agenda and Mr. Charles Wingerson seconded the motion. The TAC members followed with a unanimous vot of approval. Chairman Geathers continued on to the next item of business.

Phil Conrad updated the TAC members on the selection of the current NCDOT Board of Transportation. Phil introduced Mr. Tony Dennis who will remain on the Board for Division 10. Phil went on to report that Mr. Ralph Womble has been selected to replace Mrs. Nancy Dunn on the Board representing Division 9.

TAC Chairman Geathers asked for updates from the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Rowan 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. He also stated that the Cabarrus Chamber looks forward to the upcoming hearings on the I-85 project.

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

Approval of Minutes

TAC Chairman Geathers asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the May 27, 2009 TAC meeting. Mr. Charles Wingerson made a motion to approve the minutes as they appear and Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of May 27, 2009.

FY2012-2018 TIP Priority Needs List

Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that NCDOT has been recently reorganized to improve its efficiency. As part of that reorganization, the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) was created to coordinate processes across the entire NC Department of Transportation. One of the processes includes the development of TIP Priorities. SPOT has initiated a process for developing the draft 2012-2018 TIP. Phil reported to the TAC members that NCDOT Board of Transportation did not release a 2011-2017 TIP.

Mr. Conrad continued by reminding TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO (CRMPO) has already adopted a list of priorities for the 2011-2017 TIP back in January 2009 and that most of the priority projects remain unfunded in the current TIP. Phil called the TAC members attention to four Attachments in their agenda packets. Attachment 3A which was the 2011-2017 TIP Priority Needs List for Division 9 of the CRMPO; Attachment 3B which was the 2011-2017 TIP Priority Needs List for Division 10; Attachment 3C, supporting documentation of SPOT as distributed by NCDOT at the last TCC meeting; and Attachment D, which is a draft 2012-2018 TIP Priority Needs List for the CRMPO as required by SPOT. SPOT, Phil reported has asked for the MPO's to submit their List beginning October 5, 2009.

Mr. Conrad, as well as Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 Engineer and Mr. Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 10 Engineer reviewed the draft 2012-2018 TIP Priority Needs List for the CRMPO with TAC members asking questions regarding the proposed List. TAC Chairman Geathers voiced concern over the merging of the projects between the two NCDOT Divisions into one list. Phil assured Chairman Geathers that all CRMPO Division 9 and Division 10 projects were going to be submitted to SPOT for inclusion into the statewide projects list. After all discussion, Mr. Jody Everhart made a motion to endorse the draft CRMPO Highway Priority List for submittal to the NCDOT SPOT Office. Ms. Tammy Corpening seconded the motion and all TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports & Updates

- East Rowan Express- Phil Conrad reported to TAC members that representatives of the Towns of Granite Quarry, Rockwell and Faith have met with Rowan County to discuss formation of an East Rowan Express. The East Rowan Express, Phil explained, would serve the towns of Granite Quarry, Faith and Rockwell with stops at the East Rowan YMCA, the Rowan County Health Department and the Rowan County Department of Social Services and would connect with the Salisbury Transit System. The Salisbury Transit System connects to the Rowan Express which in turn connects to the RIDER Transit System that serves Kannapolis and Concord. Mr. Conrad called TAC members attention to a copy of a Resolution Supporting East Rowan Express executed by Rowan County Board of Commissioners on September 21, 2009 in support of funding for the

new express system. Phil directed TAC members to a draft letter to Ms. Miriam Perry, Director of the NCDOT Public Transportation Division in support for the East Rowan Express included in their agenda packets. After review of the letter, Mr. Charles Wingerson made a motion that the CRMPO support the expansion of the Rowan Express into eastern Rowan County and forward this letter to Ms. Perry. Mrs. Tina Hall seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

- MPO Workshop: Products/Services/Acronyms – Phil called TAC members attention to three documents included in their packets. The first document, About the MPO, describes the responsibilities of the MPO, the members and the respective member representatives. The second document, Cabarrus-Rowan Services, outlines the documents produced by the MPO and planning assistance that is available to all member jurisdictions upon request, and the third document was a list of frequently used Acronyms and Technical Terms.
- Yadkin River Bridge TIGER Application – Phil Conrad reviewed with the TAC members the information provided in their packets on the Yadkin River Bridge Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Application. The Yadkin River Bridge project will upgrade 6.8 miles of I-85 in Davidson and Rowan Counties, including widening from four to eight lanes and realigning the roadway to eliminate sharp curves and improve intersections. The information provided in the agenda packets also outlined project details and information regarding historical details about the bridge.

The last informational item in the packet related to the Yadkin River Bridge Project was a copy of the letter sent by the CRMPO to Secretary Ray LaHood with USDOT which accompanied Resolutions of Support of Discretionary Grant Funding for the Yadkin River Bridge passed by all the jurisdictions of the CRMPO.

- 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. Mr. Richard Hancock of NCDOT Division 10 also provided members with a handout of updates specific to Division 10 projects.
- Division Stimulus Package Project Updates – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 and Mr. Richard Hancock of NCDOT Division 10 updated the TAC members on their respective Division projects.
- 2009 Charlotte Transportation/Air Quality Summit Sponsored by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Conrad reviewed with the TAC members the power point presentation that he presented at the 2009 Charlotte Transportation and Air Quality Summit on August 14, 2009. Phil reported that the presentation was to inform attendees about the air quality initiatives in the Cabarrus Rowan MPO as well as issues surrounding the federally required air quality conformity component of the Transportation Plan.
- Joint TAC/TCC Fall Meeting - Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that CRMPO staff have been working to organize another attempt at a joint meeting of the CRMPO TAC and TCC since the June meeting had to be postponed due to scheduling constraints for Transportation Secretary Conti. CRMPO Staff is continuing to work with the Secretary's office to arrange another meeting with either himself or his staff in October or November 2009. MPO staff will keep TAC/TCC updated as the meeting plans progress.

- NC DAQ Metrolina Air Quality Plan - Mr. Conrad called TAC members attention to the Internal Draft Report prepared by North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Air Quality (NCDENR) of The North Carolina 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration for the Charlotte, NC-Gastonia, NC-Rock Hill, SC 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area. After review and discussion regarding the report, Mr. Al Brown, Jr. made a motion to have MPO Staff draft a Letter of Support from the CRMPO in support of the NC DAQ Air Quality Plan. Mr. Bob Carruth seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve. Staff will prepare a letter and submit to TAC Chairman Geathers for his review and signature.
- House Bill 881 – Phil Conrad reviewed a copy of proposed House Bill 881 with TAC members.
- November 2009 TAC Meeting – Mr. Conrad called TAC members attention to the fact that the November 2009 would fall on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day. After consensus, TAC members agreed to move the meeting date to the 3rd Wednesday night in November.
- NCDOT Call for Bike and Pedestrian Planning Grant Proposals – Phil called TAC members attention to a NCDOT Statewide News Release stating that NCDOT is now accepting proposals for 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants.

Information Items

Concord Express, RIDER and Salisbury Transit Ridership - Phil highlighted the Concord Express, Rider, Rowan Express and Salisbury Transit ridership information included in their packets

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, TAC Vice-Chairman Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Mr. Jody Everhart seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at the Cabarrus Regional Chamber.