

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, October 23, 2013 – 5:30 pm**

NC Research Campus  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor – CORE Lab Building  
150 Research Campus Drive  
Kannapolis, NC 28081

### Members:

Al Brown  
Bill Feather  
Maggie Blackwell  
Elizabeth Poole  
Craig Pierce  
Ryan Dayvault  
Tony Hilton  
Richard Wise  
Reid Walters  
Lee Withers  
Jeff Phillips  
Rick Burleyson

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

### Others:

Phil Conrad      CRMPO Director  
Alex Rankin      Cabarrus Chamber  
John Sweat      City of Concord  
Elaine Spaulding      Salisbury Chamber  
Connie Cunningham      CRMPO Staff  
Marc Morgan      NCDOT- Div. 10  
Pat Ivey      NCDOT – Div. 9  
Linda Dosse      NCDOT - TPB

### Call to Order

The October 23, 2013 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO was called to order by TAC Chairman Liz Poole at 5:30 pm. Chairman Poole called the roll of eligible TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met. She then asked that all those present to introduce themselves.

Chairman Poole continued by calling members' attention to the NC Ethics requirements and asked that anyone having a conflict of interest with any item during the meeting to please refrain from participating in that item. Moving on to the next item of business, Chairman Poole asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. MPO Director Phil Conrad requested that an item regarding a Town of East Spencer Resolution be added as Item 1 under Section 7: Reports. With no further corrections or additions being heard, Mr. Rich Wise made a motion to accept the agenda as amended and Mr. Tony Hilton followed with a second. TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

TAC Chairman Poole moved to the next item by asking for Chamber of Commerce updates. Mr. Alex Rankin, representative from the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce reported to members that the Cabarrus Regional Chamber participated in a recent Regional Roads Committee meeting in Statesville. Alex also informed TAC members that the Chamber's Transportation Committee met on September 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the area's continued transportation needs. Mr. Rankin closed by saying that the Chamber continues to support the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO in all of their work to meet transportation needs of our area. Ms. Elaine Spaulding

of the Rowan County Chamber also addressed TAC members and reported that Rowan Chamber representatives had traveled to Washington, DC in September to lobby for the region's transportation needs.

When Chamber reports were complete, Chairman Poole moved on by asking if there were any speakers from the floor. With none heard, she moved onto the next order of business.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Poole called members' attention to the minutes of the August 28, 2013 TAC meeting included in their agenda packets. She asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. With none heard, Mr. Rich Wise made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion. The TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a TAC member requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. The following items are presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

#### **NO ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Strategic Transportation Investment Project List**

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that since the Strategic Mobility Formula (SMF) was passed by the General Assembly, the CRMPO staff has been working on a *draft* list of projects for the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the next Transportation Improvement Priority (TIP) List which is due in the spring of 2014. Phil then provided members with a NCDOT-created video that explained the process of the Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) program and the tier system required to rank projects.

Phil also explained to members that the MPO will have the opportunity to assign points to a minimum of sixteen regional tier projects and sixteen division tier projects to compete for the \$9 billion available statewide within these two tiers.

He also reported that the quantitative scores for existing projects will be released by January 1, 2014 and that any new projects must be entered into the electronic submission template by January 31, 2014. The CRMPO Phil stated, will be assigning points to all modes of projects by July 31, 2014. Phil called members' attention to reference sheets and a memo included in their packets which he reviewed with the TAC members. Phil went on to review the CRMPO Strategic Transportation Investment projects' list as well. There was considerable discussion among TAC members regarding how projects are ranked and what types of projects compete

for funding. Mr. Craig Pierce shared his concerns with the members about how aviation projects compete against highway projects. Phil reported to members that NCDOT requires no less than 4% of available funding be designated to public transit, aviation, greenway or non highway projects. Chairman Poole informed TAC members that she had been made aware of an effort by the Exit 49 Group to try to secure \$20 million from NCDOT for improvements to that interchange outside of what the MPO is trying to accomplish. There is a concern among members that this could hamper their hard work and efforts to get vital projects funded.

Phil continued by stating new requirements on MPO's prioritization methodology to include all modes of transportation, such as aviation and ferry projects, is requiring amendments to the methodology of assigning points in this process. Until this methodology can be completed and approved by NCDOT, no points can be assigned to projects currently on the prioritization list.

Phil concluded by saying that MPO staff and the CRMPO TCC is continuing to work to get the methodology changes incorporated and approved by NCDOT staff.

### **FY 2012-2018 MTIP Amendment #7**

Phil informed TAC members that as a result of the 2010 US Census the population in the urbanized areas within Cabarrus and Rowan Counties has exceeded 200,000 people. Because of this growth, the CRMPO became eligible to program some Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds using a local selection process. Phil reminded members that they had requested NCDOT use these STP funds for the extension of Kimball Road to US 29. Phil went on to say that NCDOT has indicated that they are interested in beginning pre-construction on this project in 2013. Linda Dosse added that these DA funds do not go through the usual NCDOT prioritization process and using this type of funds could accelerate the project to a start date of January 2014. Linda also explained this amendment is not to change the project in any way except for it's schedule.

Phil called members' attention to a resolution in their packets for making an amendment to the project schedule. With little discussion, Mr. Lee Withers made a motion to endorse the resolution to amendment #7 to the FY 2012-2018 MTIP and to wave the thirty day public comment period. Mr. Craig Pierce seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **Reports/MPO Business**

- ❖ East Spencer Request – The Town of East Spencer presented a resolution to apply for planning grant funding through NCDOT for a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. (The Town subsequently enlisted the support and partnership with the Town of Spencer for this grant.) Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to endorse the resolution and Mr. Craig Pierce seconded it. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote of approval.
  
- ❖ Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey from NCDOT Division 9 called TAC members' attention to a spreadsheet of updates on the Rowan County projects included in their packets. He also informed members that the Dedication of the Yadkin River Bridge will be held on November 8, 2014. Mr. Marc Morgan provided TAC members with a handout of Division 10 project updates and reviewed them. Mr. Jeff Phillips, Town of Harrisburg commented that road closings

for railroad projects have caused a lot of frustration for citizens in Harrisburg and he will discuss with Marc after the meeting. Both Jeff and Marc pointed out to members that Harrisburg currently has 14 active projects in process.

- ❖ Functional Classification Maps – Phil Conrad called members' attention to a letter and update page from NCDOT regarding the Functional Classification Maps.
- ❖ MOU Approvals – Phil Conrad reported that signature pages from each of the CRMPO jurisdictions have been collected with the exception of one. The Town of Landis has not provided an original signature approving the MOU. Mr. Tony Hilton reported that he would check on it. Once the remaining signature is obtained, the MOU will be forwarded to the Secretary of Transportation for approval and his signature.
- ❖ 2040 LRTP Updates – Phil reported that a public meeting regarding the update was recently held in the Town of East Spencer.
- ❖ MPO Member Spotlight: Town of Faith – Phil Conrad provided TAC members with background information on the Town of Faith. He reported on the progress the Town has made over the years and highlighted their accomplishments.

### **Informational Items**

- ❖ Concord Express, RIDER, Rowan Express, East Rowan Express, Cabarrus Links and Salisbury Transit Ridership.
- ❖ I-85 Widening Project Local Officials Meeting – November 4<sup>th</sup> at Winecoff Elementary
- ❖ Old Beatty Ford Road Relocation Public Meeting – November 12<sup>th</sup> at Kannapolis Moose Family Center from 4:00-7:00 pm.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to bring before the membership, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the October 23, 2013 TAC meeting. With a second by Mr. Lee Withers, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2013