

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 – 5:30 pm

Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce

3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083

Members:

Beau Taylor	Town of Rockwell
Jody Everhart	Town of Spencer
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Rick Burleyson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Al Brown, Jr.	City of Concord
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
Bob Scaggs	Town of Harrisburg

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
Jonathan Marshall	Cabarrus County
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Barry Moose	NCDOT – Division 10
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Dan Peters	Town of Granite Quarry
W.S. Rowland	Town of Landis
Joe Wilson	City of Concord
Adrian Cox	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Kenneth Geathers, Jr.	Town of East Spencer
Rob Walter	Concord Airport
Richard Hancock	NCDOT – Division 10
Laura Boothe	NCDQAQ
Van Argabright	NCDOT-TIP Unit
Amil Paniker	NCDOT-TPB
David Eberspaker	CME

Special Guests:

Ryan Combs	Office of Senator Richard Burr
Torre Jessup	Office of Congressman Mel Watts
Jim Trogdon	NCDOT Chief Operating Officer
Lorene Coates	NC House of Representatives
Fred Steen	NC House of Representatives
Linda Johnson	NC House of Representatives
Fletcher Hartsell	NC Senate
Andrew Brock	NC Senate

Call to Order

TAC Chairman, Councilman Kenneth Geathers, called the meeting of October 28, 2009 to order. Chairman Geathers welcomed the TAC members, TCC members, and guests and asked all those in attendance to please introduce themselves. MPO Director Phil Conrad made formal introductions for Laura Boothe from the North Carolina Division of Air Quality and Van Argabright from the North Carolina Department of Transportation TIP Unit. Once introductions were made, TAC Chairman Geathers asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Phil Conrad requested that the UPWP Amendment be removed from the Reports Section of the agenda.

With no additional adjustments to the agenda being heard, TAC Chairman Geathers continued on to the next item of business.

Chairman Geathers asked for updates from the Chamber of Commerce representatives. Mr. Bob Wright with the Rowan County Chamber reported to the TAC members that the Rowan Chamber fully supports the CRMPO in its decision to make the I-85 Yadkin River Bridge project its number one priority.

TAC 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 September 23, 2009 TAC meeting. With none heard, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to approve the minutes as they appear and Mr. Bob Scaggs seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of September 23, 2009.

Air Quality Planning in the Cabarrus Rowan MPO

Ms. Laura Boothe, Attainment Planning Branch Supervisor, with the North Carolina Division of Air Quality presented a power point presentation to TAC members on the Metrolina Air Quality Planning. Ms. Boothe provided some background information on the establishment of the 8-hour ozone standard in 1997 by the US EPA. After numerous lawsuits regarding the nonattainment designations for this standard, in June 2004, the US EPA designated the Metrolina Region, which included Cabarrus and Rowan counties, as Moderate nonattainment for 8-hour ozone standard

Ms. Boothe explained the Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets and how they relate and affect transportation conformity. She also explained how the input and comments from local partners has affected the Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEB). Laura reported that during the public comment process, Charlotte DOT provided new data to be used for setting MVEB's that had not undergone regional review and resulted in increased MVEB's for a few counties and decreased MVEB's for other counties. As a result, NC DAQ could not include the new data since it had not undergone through the proper interagency consultation process. Another issue, Laura stated was that the Charlotte DOT had also made adverse comments during the US EPA's adequacy process.

North Carolina's Division of Air Quality, Laura reported, made a commitment to run a sensitivity analysis to see if new data would adversely affect the attainment demonstration. The new data she reported went through the proper interagency consultation process. Then an analysis of the new data was done and showed an increase in the future design values for the Metrolina Region. Laura explained that with increased ozone levels in the region, NCDOQ decided not to incorporate the new data and possibly risk jeopardizing approval of the attainment demonstration.

Laura continued by explaining to the TAC members that in November 2008, US EPA notified NCDAQ that they intended to disapprove the attainment demonstration/SIP for the Metrolina Region because they did not feel the region would attain the standard that was set for the end of 2009. US EPA also reported that they did not believe the region would qualify for a 1-year extension of the attainment date and suggested to NC DAQ that they request a voluntary reclassification from Moderate to Serious. Ms. Boothe reported that in December 2008, NC DAQ withdrew its attainment/SIP from US EPA which resulted in the US EPA not being able to disapprove the SIP. NCDAQ worked with the Metrolina Regional partners and committed to re-do the analysis and submit a revised attainment demonstration by November 30, 2009. She went on to explain the proposed new schedule for the new SIP and the

concerns of a possible conformity lapse. If the region goes into a conformity lapse, only projects exempt from the conformity process (e.g. safety projects) can move forward.

Upon completion of Ms. Boothe's presentation, Phil Conrad reported that CRMPO members and staff have been working very hard to improve the quality of the air we breathe as well as meet federal standards and guidelines for maintaining the CRMPO's Long Range Transportation Plan.

Phil reminded TAC members that they adopted the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan at their May 2009 meeting. He reported that CRMPO staff has been coordinating the Transportation Conformity document this past summer and fall for the Metrolina regional partners. Phil continued by reporting that NC DENR has spent the past four years trying to finalize a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Metrolina Region that would include county level emission budgets for Cabarrus and Rowan counties. This SIP would be the plan for how the Metrolina Region will attain the 8 hour ozone standard and is due to EPA by November 30, 2009. Phil called TAC member's attention to the Meeting Abstract, LRTP/SIP Chronology, NCDOT DENR Public Hearing Notice, and information on MVEB's included in their packets for review and information.

Remarks: NCDOT Chief Operating Officer Jim Trogdon

Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 Engineer made a formal introduction to the group for Mr. Jim Trogdon, Chief Operating Officer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Mr. Trogdon reported to TAC members and guests that since January 2009, NCDOT has been working hard to assess the areas within NCDOT departments that need improvement and address those issues. Mr. Trogdon elaborated on the Department's response to the Governor Perdue's Executive Order 2 and 3 as well as efforts to build new partnerships with local governments and MPOs. Mr. Trogdon also reported that the NC Turnpike Authority is now a part of the NC Department of Transportation organizational structure and has broken ground on their first project in North Carolina. Mr. Trogdon also reiterated the concerns that NCDOT shares with the Cabarrus Rowan MPO over air quality issues and that NCDOT is working to assist the region in obtaining attainment and a SIP without a lapse. He thanked the MPO for their role in coordinating the Metrolina Conformity report and support for other air quality initiatives.

Reports

- 2011 TIP Outlook and Funding – Mr. Van Argabright with the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Plan unit explained how the federal rescission of funds affected NCDOT ability to fund projects and how this has affected MPO's across the state.
- Federal Rescission – Phil called TAC members attention to a document included in their packets that shows a comparison of rescission proposals and reviewed them with TAC members. He then called their attention to a second document which was a letter to Secretary Eugene Conti from the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations President Mike Kozlosky, in which he explains how the rescission has affected the MPO's and questions how the process was executed.
- UPWP Amendment – Item deleted.
- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 reported no changes or updates to projects in Division 9. Mr. Richard Hancock of NCDOT Division 10 provided members with a handout of updates specific to Division 10 projects.

- Transportation Conformity Memorandum of Agreement-DENR – Phil Conrad called TAC members attention to a Draft of the Memorandum of Agreement proposed with North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Phil explained that this Draft outlines the duties and responsibilities of the CRMPO in regard to Interagency Consultation Conformity Determination Meetings and that NCDENR is taking comments at this time. After discussion and by consensus, the TAC members requested that the Draft MOA be deferred to the CRMPO TCC subcommittee for review and comment.
- Transportation Conformity Determination Report – Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the Cabarrus Rowan MPO, Mecklenburg-Union MPO, the Gaston Urban Area MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plans, and the FY2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Programs and for Non-MPO Areas of Lincoln County, Iredell County, Gaston County and Union County Areas (8-Hour Ozone and CO (Mecklenburg County Only) is prepared and ready to go out for public comment. Phil called members attention to the Executive Summary included in their packets as well as tables showing Emission Comparison Summary's for all the participants in the plan

After little discussion, Mr. Al Brown, Jr. made motion to release the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the Cabarrus Rowan MPO, Mecklenburg-Union MPO, the Gaston Urban Area MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plans, and the FY2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Programs and for Non-MPO Areas of Lincoln County, Iredell County, Gaston County and Union County Areas (8-Hour Ozone and CO Mecklenburg County Only) for public comment. Mrs. Tina Hall seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Information Items & Closing

NC Metro Mayors Funding Presentation – Phil Conrad reported to TAC members that information was included in their packets from the NC Metro Mayors Funding presentation.

Phil Conrad informed TAC members that the State Implementation Plan (SIP) Public Hearing will be held November 13, 2009 at 3:00pm at the Mecklenburg County Services Center in Charlotte.

Phil reminded TAC members that the MUMPO meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2009 at 7:00pm at the County Governmental Center.

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. Kenneth Geathers seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the Salisbury City Hall.