

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 – 12 Noon

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

Members:

Dan Mikkelson	City of Salisbury
Kenneth Geathers	Town of East Spencer
Dan Peters	Town of Granite Quarry
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Jonathan Marshall	Cabarrus County
Adrian Cox	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Josh Watkins	Town of Harrisburg
Ed Muire	Rowan County
	Town of Cleveland
William Pless	Town of China Grove
David Pugh	Town of Midland
Joe Wilson	City of Concord

Others:

Rob Walter	Concord Airport
Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Jeff Young	City of Concord
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Thad Howell	Rowan Airport

Call to Order

TCC Chairman Kenneth Geathers called the March 17, 2010 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC to order. Chairman Geathers called the roll and determined that a quorum was met and welcomed the members. Chairman Geathers asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. With none heard, Chairman Geathers continued on to the next item of business.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Geathers asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the August 19, 2009 TCC meeting. With no comments or corrections being heard, Mr. Dan Mikkelson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Wilmer Melton seconded the motion. The TCC followed with a unanimous vote.

Nomination and Election of TCC Vice-Chair

TCC Chairman Kenneth Geathers requested Phil Conrad to present this item of business. Mr. Conrad explained to the TCC members that the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO TCC bylaws state that a new TCC Vice-Chairman must be elected each year. The TCC Vice-Chairman rotates to the Chair position automatically. In addition, the TCC Chair and Vice-Chairman are rotated between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. According to Phil, the TCC will need to nominate and elect a Vice-Chairman from Cabarrus County for 2010.

With no questions or discussion, Mr. Joe Wilson nominated Mr. Adrian Cox, Town of Mount Pleasant representative, to the position of TCC Vice-Chairman. Mr. Wilmer Melton seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously in favor of electing Mr. Cox to the position of TCC Vice-Chairman.

Draft FY 2010-2011 UPWP

MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to TCC members that each year, the Cabarrus Rowan MPO is required to develop and adopt a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Phil explained that the UPWP is the MPO budget and follows the state fiscal year 2010-2011. He went on to explain that the UPWP identifies the planning tasks, responsible agencies and funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be conducted within the planning area during the next fiscal year. Phil called TCC members attention to Attachment 4A in their packets for their review. He continued by stating that these projects include MPO planning activities undertaken by local agencies, the N.C. Department of Transportation, and a line item for Regional Model and LRTP Maintenance to be performed by the Cabarrus Rowan MPO, Charlotte DOT, and NCDOT. It also includes urbanized area transit related planning activities conducted by the RIDER Transit System.

Mr. Conrad reviewed Attachment 4A, FY2010-2011 DRAFT Planning Work Program: Funding Source Table, with TCC members. Phil continued by explaining that in addition, the CRMPO allocated the 20 percent local match among the member jurisdictions. This allocation has been based on the 2000 Census population of each of the CRMPO jurisdictions. He reviewed Attachment 4B with the TCC members which identifies each jurisdiction member, their 2000 Census population, their percentage of the total population and their portion of the local match due from their jurisdiction for 2010-2011.

Phil continued by calling TCC members attention to Attachment 4C in their packets. He explained that NCDOT is now requiring that a 5 year planning calendar be developed in coordination with the annual UPWP. Attachment 4C outlines all of the major work tasks within the UPWP over the FY's 2010-2015. The calendar was developed by MPO staff and the lead planning agency.

Phil reported that the UPWP will be brought back before TCC for final approval in March or April 2010.

2035 LRTP and Transportation Conformity Update

MPO Director Conrad informed TCC members that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO staff and the Metrolina Regional Partners have been working together on the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. This report Phil explained, demonstrates that the financially constrained Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP's) in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. In addition, Phil reported that the report also certifies that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a subset of the 2035 LRTP and that the Conformity Report is consistent with the recently submitted State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Phil reported to the TCC members that NCDOT is requesting a revision to the 2035 LRTP fiscally constrained projects list and called members attention to Attachment 5A which is a letter from NCDOT making the request. The letter Phil explained, is in regard to Project I-3803, the widening of I-85, which the CRMPO had placed in the 2016 to 2025 horizon year. NCDOT has modeled the project in the 2006 to 2015 horizon year and is requesting that the CRMPO move project I-3803 to horizon year 2006 to 2015 in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Phil called TCC members attention to Attachment 5B which outlines the proposed change.

After little discussion, Mr. Joe Wilson made a motion to recommend to CRMPO TAC that they move project I-3803 from the 2016 to 2025 horizon year to the 2006 to 2015 horizon year. Mr. Wilmer Melton seconded the motion and TCC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Draft FY 2010-2011 UPWP

Phil Conrad reported to the TCC members that as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, NCDOT had requested that all MPO's in North Carolina amend their Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan's (MTIP's) in order to accommodate municipal, county, and state stimulus package projects. The CRMPO TAC, Phil explained, approved amending the MTIP in May 2009. Phil continued by stating that this amendment included several projects for the RIDER Transit System which contained estimated unit costs. After the MTIP amendment was approved, the Federal Transit System requested that the MPO modify the MTIP again to include actual costs for the RIDER Transit System projects. Phil requested the TCC members review Item N in their packets which details the actual cost for the RIDER Transit System projects.

Phil called TCC members attention to Attachment 6 in their packets which is a draft resolution for modifying the MTIP to reflect actual project costs for the RIDER ARRA projects. After review, Mr. Wilmer Melton made a motion that the CRMPO TCC recommend the resolution for the ARRA MTIP modification for the RIDER Transit System projects and forward it to the TAC for their approval and signature. Mr. Josh Watkins seconded the motion and TCC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve the motion.

Reports / MPO Business

- Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Brett Abernathy from NCDOT Division 9 presented handouts and updates on the Rowan County projects. Brett reported to TCC members that FHWA recently conducted an audit of NCDOT funds spent on projects. The DOT he continued, performed poorly and has been required to do a better job and that stricter guidelines have been added. Brett also stated that CMAQ projects will fall under these newly implemented guidelines.

Mr. Marc Morgan with NCDOT Division 10 reported that jurisdictions should wait to proceed on projects until they have received their official authorization from NCDOT.

- Metrolina Travel Model Survey Costs – Phil Conrad presented TCC members with the Metrolina Regional Model Estimated FY11 and FY12 Revised Budgets based on the Model Team Meeting of January 7, 2010. Phil also provided TCC members with a spreadsheet that outlined the amounts each CRMPO member would have to budget within their respective jurisdictions to cover the costs of the Metrolina Surveys. This is for information only at this time as CRMPO staff is working with the Regional Partners to try and find ways to cuts costs for completing the surveys.
- Metro Coalition Equity Formula Resolution – Mr. Dan Mikkelson reviewed with TCC members, a resolution included in their packets being circulated by the NC Metropolitan Mayor's Coalition supporting the evaluation and revising of the North Carolina Transportation equity formula. Dan explained that the Coalition is made up of the 26 largest cities in North Carolina and they are requesting that all cities, towns and MPO's in the state support this resolution. The Cities of Salisbury, Kannapolis and Concord are members of this Coalition. Phil and Dan both relayed to TCC members that many of the member jurisdictions with the CRMPO have already passed this resolution within their own communities. With no questions, Mr. Joe Wilson made a motion to recommend that TAC review and approve the resolution. Mr. Wilmer Melton seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.
- CTP Update – Linda Dosse with NCDOT TPB reported to TCC that she continues to work on updating the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Linda called TCC

members attention to a letter in their packets that she received from Cabarrus County requesting the Coldwater Creek Bypass currently included in the CTP be removed. The letter also includes a proposed alternative which would begin the route at Lane Street and I-85 and follow Lane Street, Irish Potato Road and Cold Springs Road to connect to NC 49. Cabarrus County TCC representative Jonathan Marshall explained to TCC members that this proposed route would also permit further connection to US 601 by continuing to follow Cold Springs Road and Cold Springs Road South. Jonathan provided TCC members with a map outlining the proposed alternative. Ms. Dosse informed TCC members that she can make the proposed change after approval by CRMPO TAC. Jonathan Marshall made a motion to recommend that TAC approve the removal of Coldwater Creek Bypass from the CTP. Mr. Joe Wilson seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve the recommendation.

Linda also commended the staff of the CRMPO for their work on the Conformity Report. She informed TCC members that staff had taken the lead for the Metrolina Region and got the report completed for all of the Regional Partners and met the deadline for submittal. She reported that staff had done a good job and the CRMPO should be pleased with their work.

- Clean Air Campaign Update – Mr. John Wear from the Center for the Environment at Catawba College presented TCC members with information and a handout on the Campaign for Clean Air. This initiative is funded by a CMAQ grant through the CRMPO.
- East Rowan Express Update – Rodney Harrison and Jack Flaherty provided TCC members with updates on the progress of the East Rowan Express. The route for the East Rowan Express will connect Granite Quarry, Rockwell and Faith to the Salisbury Transit System which in turn can connect passengers to the Rowan Express and the RIDER Transit System.

Rodney informed TCC members that a Joint City/County Transit Committee had been formed by the City of Salisbury, Rowan County, Granite Quarry, Rockwell and Faith to study unmet transit needs in the area. Public meetings will be conducted at a later date to obtain public input.

Information Items

- Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express and RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TCC members attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- Letter from Secretary Conti – Phil reviewed a letter from Secretary Conti in their packets.
- Proposed New Ozone Standards – This information was provided by Phil Conrad for review.

Adjournment

With no other business to consider, the meeting of the TCC was adjourned. The next meeting will be February 17, 2010 at the Cabarrus Regional Chamber.