

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 – 12 Noon

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

Members:

Joe Wilson
Dan Peters
Adrian Cox
Jonathan Marshall
Ed Muire

David Pugh
Brett Abernathy
Dan Mikkelson
Richard Hancock
Wilmer Melton
Keith Deal
Linda Dosse
Josh Watkins

City of Concord
Town of Granite Quarry
Town of Mt. Pleasant
Cabarrus County
Rowan County
Town of Cleveland
Town of Midland
NCDOT Division 9
City of Salisbury
NCDOT- Division 10
City of Kannapolis
Town of Faith
NCDOT-TPB
Town of Harrisburg

Others:

Phil Conrad
Thad Howell
Loretta Barren
Rob Walter
Jarrod Carr
Nicole Bennett
Johnny Banks
Steve Drum
Tyley Bray

CRMPO Director
Rowan Co. Airport
FHWA
Concord Airport
Town of Harrisburg
Mulkey Engineers
Mulkey Engineers
Mulkey Engineers
NCDOT-TPB

Call to Order & Quorum

The June 15, 2011 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC was called to order by TCC Chairman Adrian Cox. Chairman Cox called the roll and determined that a quorum was met. Chairman Cox asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. With there being none heard, Chairman Cox continued to the next item of business.

Approval of Minutes

TCC Chairman Cox proceeded by requesting any comments or corrections to the minutes from the April 20, 2011 TCC meeting. With there being no corrections or comments heard, Mr. Jonathan Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Ed Muire seconded the motion. The TCC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2011 meeting.

FY 2012-2018 TIP Conformity and LRTP Amendment

Cabarrus Rowan MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the TCC members, that the CR MPO and the Metrolina Regional Partners have been working on the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the 2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). A copy of the full report Phil explained, is available on the CRMPO website.

The TIP conformity report Phil explained, demonstrates that the financially constrained LRTP's in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. It also certifies that the TIP is a subset of the 2035 LRTP and the Conformity Report is consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Phil

continued on by calling TCC members' attention to an excerpt from the TIP Conformity Report included in their agenda packets and labeled as Attachment 3.

Phil reported that due to the acceleration of project I-2304 the I-85 widening project over the Yadkin River, the Cabarrus Rowan MPO is required to amend their LRTP to reflect the new schedule for this project. A public comment period is open until June 17, 2011 and the Report would be forwarded to FHWA for the Federal conformity finding in July or August 2011.

With minimal discussion, Mr. Dan Mikkelson made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination for the 2012-2018 TIP pending completion of the thirty (30) day public comment period. Mr. Wilmer Melton seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

New TIP Priority Projects

Phil Conrad reported to the TCC members that the MPO has finalized a methodology to rank highway projects in the MPO area, which was recently adopted at the April TAC meeting. He noted that he and the TCC Vice-Chair attended a workshop on the process for submitting projects for the next TIP cycle. Mr. Dan Peters noted the value of this workshop and importance of MPO staff participation. Phil noted a series of slides outlining the schedule for submitting projects for the 2014-2020 TIP as included in the TCC packets as attachment 4A. He stated that these slides were only a sampling of the 58 slide presentation that was presented at the workshop. Phil referred the TCC to the regional lists for the following modes: highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and CMAQ in the TCC packets as attachment 4B. He noted the consistency of the highway list to previous presentations using the 1300 point control total. He highlighted the bicycle/greenway list and pedestrian list and referred to the slide that outlines the ranking methodology for these projects. There was some discussion about the deadlines for submitting new projects thru the MPO. Phil referred to the list of new CMAQ projects and stated that final guidance had not been released from NCDOT on this process yet. Mr. Dan Mikkelson noted that the City of Salisbury was interested in submitting an additional greenway project and asked about possible deadlines. Phil explained that the June MPO meetings would be the last opportunity for public review of new projects, but the absolute deadline to get projects into NCDOT was July 29th.

After some discussion, Mr. Dan Mikkelson made a motion to recommend elements of 4B to the TAC with 2 adjustments: 1) Rank all of the bike and ped projects on a list; 2) Extend the deadline for submitting any new projects to the MPO to July 5th. This motion was amended by Mr. Joe Wilson to identify those bike and ped projects that qualify for CMAQ, which was accepted by Mr. Mikkelson, and seconded by Mr. Wilson. The TCC members voted unanimously to approve this motion.

NC DENR SIP Public Comment

Phil noted that he NC DENR has released the State Implementation Plan (Air Quality Plan) for the Metrolina Region for public input. As expected, this SIP includes some options for Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets. Phil stated that all but one option includes Cabarrus and Rowan Counties in a single subarea budget, with some variation for the remaining counties in the Metrolina Region. (Currently, the interim SIP has county level emission budgets for Cabarrus and Rowan Counties). He stated that an excerpt of the SIP with the emission budget options is included in the TCC packets as attachment 5B. He referred to a table that summarized the 4 options in the packets at the end of 5B. TCC members noted their concerns with options A and D, specifically the single Mecklenburg County

budget as part of option D. Mr. Joe Wilson made a motion to recommend option B and C to the TAC for their consideration, which combined Cabarrus and Rowan into a single emission budget. Mr. Jonathan Marshall seconded the motion. The TCC members voted unanimously to approve this motion.

DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Ms. Linda Dosse stated that she had spent the past year working on a series of maps to replace the Thoroughfare Plan. These maps would serve as the MPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) to compliment the currently adopted and fiscally constrained LRTP. She noted regular updates on the CTP at previous TCC meetings. She stated that NCDOT was asking for the initiation of public involvement/comment on the maps. Several TCC members questioned the applicability of the CTP to the land use and transportation linkage. It was determined that the CTP was primarily a multi-modal mapping exercise to date, but Ms. Dosse indicated additional text including "problem statements" that could be used to support project cross sections and improvement recommendations. Ms. Dosse stated that this information would follow in the next fiscal year. She encouraged the TCC members to recommend release of the maps for public comment, so that she could finalize the maps. It was noted that some members maintain their own CTP that they expected to mirror the format of the MPO's CTP, so this discussion is about more than just mapping. It was noted that several jurisdictions use the MPO's Street Appendix in development review and as well as older thoroughfare plans, originally generated by NCDOT staff.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Dan Mikkelson made a motion to recommend that the TAC release the CTP maps for public comment. Mr. Josh Watkins seconded the motion. The TCC members voted unanimously to approve this motion.

Reports / MPO Business

- Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Brett Abernathy with NCDOT Division 9 presented and reviewed a handout on the Rowan County projects. Mr. Richard Hancock with NCDOT Division 10 also provided TCC members with the status of projects in Cabarrus County including Morehead Road, NC 49, I-3802A, and George Liles Parkway.
- 2040 Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan – Mr. Tyler Bray provided a presentation on the 2040 Statewide LRTP. He reviewed the Plan Framework including the connection to the Department's mission and goals. He said that there were 9 study goals driving the Plan development. He noted that the 2040 Plan should reflect the Metropolitan Transportation Plans and CTPs. He reviewed the schedule for completion with BOT adoption in June 2012. He highlighted the ongoing public involvement effort and the challenges and opportunities as the next step in the Plan development process. Tyler encouraged TCC members to take the NCDOT survey and provide their input thru the web.

I-85 Widening (I-3802) Update – Ms. Nicole Bennett provided a presentation on the I-85 widening project (I-3802). She noted that the EA should be complete in November 2011. She stated that the A section was scheduled for construction in 2017 and the B section was scheduled for construction in 2020. Relative to proposed designs, she indicated that a diverging diamond was proposed for exit 58, a diamond with slip ramp for exit 60, diamond with roundabouts for exit 63, and a full diamond with

roundabouts at exit 68. She stated that this project is in the “merger” process and design is ongoing.

- HB 635 Adjust Highway Equity Formula – Phil Conrad noted that this bill died in committee, but may return next session. He stated that the TAC sent a letter of support to the Bill sponsors and the local legislative delegation.

Information Items

Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express, East Rowan Express, Cabarrus Links and the RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TCC members’ attention to the ridership information included in their packets.

Adjournment

With no other business to bring before the CR MPO TCC, the June 15, 2011 meeting of the CRMPO TCC was adjourned with a motion made by Mr. Josh Watkins and seconded by Mr. Dan Mikkelson. The next meeting will be August 17, 2011 at the Salisbury City Hall.