

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Members:

Phillip Graham	City of Concord
Susie Morris	Cabarrus County
Ed Muire	Rowan County & Town of Cleveland
Stuart Basham	NCDOT Div. 10
Doug Paris	Town of Midland
Fred Haith	NCDOT Div. 9
Franklin Gover	Town of China Grove
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Erin Burris	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Ron Miller	Town of Landis
Wendy Brindle	City of Salisbury

Others:

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Phil Collins	Cabarrus County
Loretta Barren	FHWA
J. Scott Miller	NCDOT Div10
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
LeDerick Blackburn	Concord
LJ Weslowski	RIDER Transit
Randy Strait	NCDOT
Jeff Littlefield	NCDOT Div10
Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD
David Wasserman	NCDOT STIP
Hannah Cook	NCDOT STIP
Adam Fisher	Ramey Kemp
Van Argabright	NCDOT-STIP

Call to Order

The Wednesday, August 19, 2020 virtual meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC was called to order by Chairman Wendy Brindle. After acknowledging the members, Chairman Brindle called the roll of eligible TCC members and determined that a quorum was met. Chairman Brindle continued the meeting by asking if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda. At that time, CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad addressed Chairman Brindle and requested that an item regarding the 2020 Census be added until Reports/MPO Business. With no additional requests heard, TCC members agreed by consensus to add the item to the agenda. Chairman Brindle asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With no speakers being heard, Chairman Brindle moved to the next item.

Approval of Minutes

TCC Chairman Brindle called the TCC members' attention to the meeting minutes of the June 17, 2020 TCC meeting included in their meeting packets. Chairman Brindle asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With no corrections or additions being heard, Mr. Doug Paris made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Phillip Graham seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

RIDER Transit Program of Projects (POP)

Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that the Program of Projects (POP) is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of RIDER Transit System in Fiscal Year 2020. Phil explained that RIDER Transit System has decided to use the CRMPO's Public Involvement procedures to process this annual requirement. Phil then called members' attention to Attachment 3 of the POP included in their packets. Phil reported that the public comment period was concluded on August 10, 2020 with no comments received. After review Director Conrad asked for questions or comments.

With none heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the RIDER Transit System Program of Projects be forwarded to the CRMPO TAC for endorsement. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

CTP Amendments

Director Conrad reported to the members that the City of Concord has provided DOT and MPO staff with some CTP amendments. Director Conrad added that the last CTP update was completed in March 2019. He also reported to the TCC members that the City of Concord has already adopted these newly presented amendments as part of the City's CTP process and called members' attention to Attachment 4 which included the CTP amendments adoption sheet and summary. Director Conrad reviewed the information with the TCC members and then asked for questions or comments.

With no questions or comments heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing the CTP amendments. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded his motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #2

Director Phil Conrad reminded the TCC members that MPO staff is requested at times to bring amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. A request from the last NCDOT BOT meeting was made to modify additional projects.

The first project modification, EB-5619B Director Conrad explained, is a modification to delay construction to FY 2023 of the Grants Creek Greenway. The second project modification is for project EB-5619C which is asking for a modification to add construction in FY 2023 for segment C of the Grants Creek Greenway. Both projects Phil reported, are federally funded with STBGP funds.

The third project, EB-5861, is for a delay in construction to FY 2021 for the Third Street Greenway which is federally funded with TAP funds. The fourth and final project is U-6237 which was for the delay in construction to FY 2021 of the Long Ferry and I-85 service road which is a state funded project. He called attention to Attachment 5 which was a draft resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects.

With no questions or comments heard, Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing modification #2 to the FY 2020-2029 MTIP. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded his motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment #2

Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that the CRMPO has requested a STIP Amendment to add HL-0001 Poplar Tent Road/Harris Road intersection improvement project and HL-0005 the Salisbury Signal System Upgrade project. Both of these projects Director Conrad explained, were approved by the CRMPO at the June 2020 meeting for STBGP funds.

Director Conrad added that this amendment to the STIP would be presented to the Board of Transportation for approval at an upcoming meeting and called attention to Attachment 6 which was a draft resolution.

With no questions or comments heard, Mr. Wilmer Melton made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing Amendment #2 to the FY2020-2029 MTIP. Mr. Phillip Graham seconded his motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Release of Federal Funds to the CRMPO for Local Projects

Director Phil Conrad explained to the TCC members that NCDOT has indicated that they will release an initial allotment of federal funds for locally administered projects now that they are above the cash floor. These projects Director Conrad reported, can be DA or CMAQ projects. He went on to explain that the initial allotment is \$993,319 of which \$256,425 must be used on highway projects. Director Conrad then called members' attention to Attachment 7 which was a summary table of the projects under consideration. He then introduced Mr. Van Argabright with the NCDOT STIP office. Mr. Argabright explained that there had been a hold on funding projects but that the hold had now been lifted and funds are being allocated to the MPO's. He also explained that this will not be the only allocation and more releases of funding will be forthcoming.

At the close of his report, Mr. Doug Paris reported to Mr. Argabright that the Town of Midland has a project that has been held up for 1-1/2 years even though the Federal Highway Administration has not withheld any funding for projects like this. Mr. Argabright explained the funding levels for the MPO's and that the FHWA funds were received, but the STIP Unit has not been given authorization to distribute the funds until now. He explained that all divisions of State government have been hard hit by COVID financially and NCDOT has as well. Mr. Paris reiterated that he did not understand why his Town's project was not being immediately funded.

At this time Chairman Brindle addressed Mr. Argabright and asked what could the MPO do to speed the process along. He explained that if the MPO could prioritize their projects to accommodate the amount of funding available and submit the list to Mr. David Wasserman in the NCDOT-STIP Unit to begin the process. Mr. David Wasserman reported to the members that having a priority ranked list would get the process moving forward much more quickly. Mr. Paris voiced his desire to prioritize and approve the top four projects on Attachment 7 and forward to the CRMPO at their August meeting. Chairman Brindle and Mr. Phillip Graham both voiced concerns about doing that and both stated they would like to wait to see what additional funding

information is available in the next few weeks. Mr. Argabright informed the members that more funding information would be available by August 31, 2020.

Mr. Franklin Gover addressed the members and explained that the Town of China Grove would like to make an emergency request for funding to relocate drain lines along North Main Street due to a new large sinkhole along that corridor. Mr. Argabright suggested that Mr. Gover contact FHWA to see if the project qualifies for immediate federal funding. Mr. Paris continued by questioning both Chairman Brindle and Mr. Graham about their respective projects on the list as to whether they were shovel ready projects. Mr. Graham stated his project is ready and will be using primarily CMAQ funds for most of his project, but will need DA funds to finish the project. Chairman Brindle stated that the City of Salisbury's projects are ready just awaiting release of the funds. After discussions were complete, Mr. Doug Paris made a motion to amend Attachment 7 to reflect a prioritization of the projects to read Midland, Concord, and Salisbury projects to be prioritized in that order, and that it be forwarded to the CRMPO TAC at their August meeting. Mr. Phillip Graham seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Transportation Conformity MOA Renewal

Director Conrad reported that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that all MPO's who have non-attainment counties must sign an interagency agreement for transportation conformity. NCDOT has created a draft renewal agreement template and is currently in the process of renewing and updating all the MPO's affected in the State. The agreement with the CRMPO was last updated in March 2011. Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 8 which was a draft of the proposed renewal agreement. At that time, Mr. Randy Strait with NCDOT Planning Division addressed the TCC members and explained the planning process and need for updated renewals. He reported that this is more of an administrative update and that NDOT, NCDEQ, USDOT, EPA, and FTA will all have duties contained in these updated renewals. Mr. Strait also pointed out that the new version of the agreement would make completing the renewals less intensive and time-consuming, as well as would allow for removing the sunset clause in the agreement and would allow for administrative changes as needed.

With no questions or comments, Mrs. Susie Morris made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC approve the MOA renewal as presented. Mr. Fred Haith seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

RIDER Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

Mr. L.J. Weslowski reported to the TCC members that the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan final rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673) requires certain operators of public transportation systems to develop safety plans if they are recipients or subrecipients of FTA grant funds. These plans would include the processes and procedures necessary for implementing Safety Management Systems. He continued on by stating that on December 16, 2019, Concord Kannapolis Area Transit System/City of Concord informed NCDOT that they would not be drafting and certifying their own Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan but instead would be using NCDOT's template and requirements as allowed by FTA, to do as a small public transportation provider. Mr. Weslowski went on to report that their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan document was approved by the Concord Kannapolis Area Transit System Commission and the City of Concord City Council.

RIDER Transit System is requesting that the CRMPO also approve their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan in order for it to be submitted to NCDOT for final approval and certification.

With no questions or comments, Mr. Wilmer Melton made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider approving the RIDER Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Draft Public Participation Policy Revisions

Director Conrad explained that with recent Federal Certification Review completion, the FHWA has suggested that the CRMPO consider some modifications to the CRMPO's Public Participation Policy in order to make it consistent with the recently adopted TCC by-laws authorizing virtual meetings. Director Conrad continued by stating that any revisions to the Public Participation Policy requires a 45-day public comment period or review. He called members' attention to Attachment 10 which was a DRAFT Public Participation Policy for the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO. He went on to review and explain the changes and language of the policy.

After review and no questions or comments, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC release the DRAFT Public Participation Policy for public comment. Mr. Wilmer Melton then seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports - MPO/TPD/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Fred Haith, NCDOT Division 9 representative called members' attention to a spreadsheet included in their packets of project updates for Division 9. Mr. Haith reported he had nothing to add beyond the spreadsheet.

Mr. Stuart Basham, representative for Division 10 called the TCC members' attention to a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates included in their packets. Stuart highlighted some of the ongoing projects in Division 10.

2. Financial Update- Mr. David Wasserman reported that NCDOT is above the cash floor and they are in the process of reprogramming funding for projects.

3. Federal Certification Review – Director Conrad explained that the Federal Certification Review was held in July and that it occurs every four years. He thanked all those involved for helping to make it a seamless process.

4. I-95 Corridor Coalition – Director Phil Conrad reported that the CRMPO is now a formal member of this coalition and will have access to good data and information.

5. 2020 Census - Director Conrad reported to the members that MPO staff and members have been participating in local events to promote the Census. He reported that about 60 percent of citizens in both Rowan and Cabarrus County have completed the Census. TCC members responded by wondering how to get remaining citizens to complete it. It was determined to write a letter of support for the Census effort consistent with the one presented to the group. Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC forward a letter of support and that motion was seconded by Chairman Wendy Brindle. TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Informational Items

- RIDER Transit, Rowan Express and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information – Phil called attention to the ridership information included in their packets
- Supplement to the Revised Maintenance Plan for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area – Director Conrad reported that it is being proposed to maintain the current 8 hour ozone standard.
- P6.0 Identified Needs Project Forms – Mr. Scott Miller confirmed the deadline of September 11, 2020 for form submittals. Mr. Phillip Craver stated he is working on those in Division 9.
- Next scheduled meeting is September 16, 2020.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Doug Paris made a motion to adjourn the meeting followed by a second from Mr. Phillip Graham. The meeting was adjourned.