

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members:

Phillip Graham	City of Concord
Susie Morris	Cabarrus County
Ed Muire	Rowan County & Town of Cleveland
Sean Epperson	NCDOT Div. 10
Mallory Hodgson	Town of Harrisburg
Fred Haith	NCDOT Div. 9
Jason Hord	Town of Granite Quarry
Richard Smith	City of Kannapolis
Franklin Gover	Town of China Grove
Steve Blount	Town of Spencer

Others:

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Andy Christy	CK RIDER
Phil Collins	Cabarrus Co
Roger Castillo	NCDOT TPD
Alex Rotenberry	NCDOT IMD
Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD
Wendy Miller	MPO Staff
Caitlin Higgins	Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Andy Shook	Talbert, Bright & Ellington

TCC Chairman Richard Smith called the August 16, 2023 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC to order. Chairman Smith called the roll of eligible TCC members and determined that a quorum was met. Chairman Smith then asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda. With none heard, Chairman Smith continued by asking if there were any speakers from the floor. With no speakers being heard, TCC Chairman Smith moved to the next item of business.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Smith called the TCC members' attention to the minutes of the May 17, 2023 TCC meeting included in their meeting packets. TCC Chairman Smith asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With no corrections or additions heard, Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Steve Blount seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve. TCC Chairman Smith then made a request that in the future anyone attending the TCC meetings as a request from the City of Kannapolis should be shown as from the City of Kannapolis instead of Town of Kannapolis. CRMPO staff said the change would be effective immediately.

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #19

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad called upon CRMPO Staff Planner Wendy Miller to provide information to the TCC members regarding this item. Staff Planner Miller reported to the TCC members that sometimes staff will bring amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC and TAC for consideration. Staff Planner Miller continued by stating that the first project modification was the addition of preliminary engineering for the

Clarke Creek Greenway in FY 23 (BL-0060). The second project modification is the addition of the Concord Signal System project in FY 2024 (HE-0123). The third project modification is to add a project break for the Vulnerable Road User Pedestrian Bicycle Improvement Program in FY 23 for (HS-2024DIV) and (HS-2024REG) and (HS-2024SW) and (HS-2025DIV) and (HS-2025REG) and (HS-2025SW). The final project is to delay professional engineering to FY 23 for the Brenner Avenue Safety Improvements (HL-0049).

Staff Planner Miller called members' attention to Attachment 3 which was a resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. She continued by stating that the new STIP was adopted in June and will be effective October 1, 2023.

With no questions and comments, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing modification #19 to the FY 2020-2029 MTIP. Mr. Steve Blount seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2024-2027 TIP Conformity

CRMPO Director Conrad reminded the TCC members that the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO and the Metrolina Regional Partners have been working on an Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the 2024-2027 TIP. Director Conrad explained that the TIP Conformity Report demonstrates that the financially constrained MTPs in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. He went on to call TCC members' attention to an explanation of the fiscal constraint prologue which was included as attachment 4A.

The report Director Conrad explained, also certifies that the Transportation Improvement Program is a subset of the 2050 MTP and the Conformity Report is consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP). He also called attention to Attachment 4B which was an excerpt from the TIP Conformity Report. Director Conrad reviewed the excerpt in detail for the TCC members and called attention to the fact that the Poplar Tent Road widening project and the rail project in Salisbury had been delayed for one year and the North Main Street sidewalk project has been delayed by six years.

After all discussion, and with no questions or comments being heard, Mrs. Susie Morris made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination for the 2024-2027 as well as the supporting financial information for the STIP. Mr. Ed Muire seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2023-2024 UPWP Amendment #1

CRMPO Director Conrad explained that the CRMPO currently has some special study funds that have not been assigned. At that time CRMPO Director Phil Conrad called upon Mr. Franklin Gover from the Town of China Grove to present this item to the TCC members. Mr. Gover reported that the Town of China Grove is requesting \$48,000 in special study funds for a corridor study of NC 152 east. Mr. Gover explained the the Town would be responsible for the remaining 20 percent local match (\$12,000) for their proposed project.

With no questions or comments heard, Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment #5 which was a draft resolution to amend the UPWP and increase the line item for "Special Studies" (II-B-3) by \$48,000.

After review, Director Conrad asked for any questions or comments. With none heard, Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting Amendment #1 to the 2023-2024 UPWP. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Federal Certification Review

Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that since the CRMPO is a federal designated Transportation Management Area (TMA), the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO is required to participate in a Federal Certification review regularly. He went on to explain that this review is conducted by the FHWA and certifies whether the CRMPO has a valid transportation planning process. The FHWA conducted the most recent review on February 27th. Part of the requirement was for FHWA staff to complete a desk audit in advance of the review.

At that time Director Conrad introduced Mrs. Loretta Barren with Federal Highway Administration who provided an explanation of the need and requirements of the Certification Review process. She provided information specifically about the CRMPO review. Mrs. Barren thanked the CRMPO staff for the hard work they did, in preparing for the review and during the review. Director Conrad called members' attention to a summary of the findings of this review and a corresponding executive summary included in their TCC packets as attachment 6. Director Conrad asked the members if there were any questions or comments. With none being heard, Director Conrad thanked Mrs. Barren and other team members.

RIDER Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) final rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673) requires certain operators of public transportation systems that are recipients or subrecipients of FTA grant funds to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures necessary for implementing Safety Management Systems (SMS).

Director Conrad explained that on December 16, 2019, the Concord Kannapolis Area Transit/City of Concord notified NCDOT that they would not be drafting and certifying its own Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. Instead, they chose to certify their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan under NCDOT's framework and requirements as they are allowed by FTA to do as a small (less than 100 bus) public transportation provider. Director Conrad reported that the safety plan was approved by the Concord Kannapolis Area Transit Commission on August 2, 2023, and will go to the Concord City Council for approval following action by the CRMPO. The CRMPO is being asked to review and approve the safety plan.

Mr. Andy Christy with the RIDER Transit System addressed the TCC members stating that the safety plan is an annual federal requirement. He offered to answer questions, but none were heard.

In closing, CRMPO Director Conrad stated that a request for approval by NCDOT is the last step prior to final certification. He went on to state that The PTASP (309 pages) can be found at

www.ckrider.com/resources/documents. With no questions or comments heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider approving the RIDER Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

Director Phil Conrad addressed the members and made a request to move topic number 3 to the head of the list due to time constraints in schedules. By consensus the TCC members approved.

1. Local Reports – MPO/NCDOT Division 9 and 10/PTD- Mr. Fred Haith, NCDOT Division 9 representative reported to the TCC members that the updated spreadsheet was included in today's meeting packet. He informed the members that if they had any questions, to please email them to him and he would get them the information they need. Mr. Phillip Craver with Division 9 addressed the TCC members and reviewed four projects from the spreadsheet.

Mr. Sean Epperson , NCDOT Division 10 representative called the TCC members' attention to a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates and highlighted some of the ongoing projects in Division 10. He specifically called attention to the Stough Road and Old Airport Road projects.

Mr. Alex Rotenberry with NCDOT IMD reported to the TCC members that the IMD division at NCDOT has quarterly webinars available to provide members assistance and information. He went on to report that NCDOT will be a co-sponsor for the 2023 NC Bike & Walk Transportation Summit being held in Salisbury on September 14-16, 2023 at Catawba College. MPO staff intends to participate in this Summit.

Mr. Roger Castillo with NCDOT TPD reviewed the TPD Newsletter.

2. CMAQ Program Update – Director Conrad reported that applications for CMAQ projects should be submitted to NCDOT by September 30th and that the CRMPO had received three applications already.

3. P7.0 Update - Director Conrad reported that CRMPO is being asked to submit two project proposals. The first project would assist the City of Salisbury with the Western North Carolina Rail Passenger Service between Asheville and Salisbury. This project would be install and operate an Asheville to Salisbury passenger service along the Norfolk Southern AS-Line for about 139 miles. Mrs. Wendy Brindle with the City of Salisbury provided members with information on the project.

The second project for consideration was a 5000 ft parallel taxiway at the Mid-Carolina Regional Airport. Project managers Andy Shook and Caitlin Higgins provided members with information on this project.

After reviewing both projects and with little discussion, CRMPO TCC Chair Richard Smith made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider supporting and approving the

inclusion of both projects into P7.0. Mr. Ed Muire seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

4. Rowan Transit System Section 5310 Grant Application Letter of Support –

Director Phil Conrad reported to the TCC members that Rowan County is seeking a letter of support from the CRMPO regarding their request for Federal Section 5310 funding. This funding would enable Rowan County to continue to provide transportation for elderly and disabled citizens. With no questions or discussion, Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC provide a letter of support for Rowan County as they seek Section 5310 funds. TCC Chair Richard Smith seconded that motions and the members voted unanimously to approve.

5 Special Studies Closeouts – Rowan County and Town of China Grove Special Studies Updates

- Director Conrad requested updates from the respective jurisdictions on their projects. Mr. Ed Muire with Rowan County reported that Rowan County and the Town of West Spencer have reviewed the draft study. Mr. Muire also reported that a NCDOT workshop will be held later this month and that public comments will be solicited after the workshop. Mr. Franklin Gover with the Town of China Grove reported that their Main Street Corridor Study is complete.

6. 2020 Census Planning Boundary Schedule

– CR MPO Director Phil Conrad provided the members with a power point presentation on the Planning Boundary Schedule. He provided some background information on the US Census and explained in detail the potential issues in setting these boundaries. He also reviewed the current MOU. He closed in requesting direction from the TCC members as to whether or not to update the current MOU or to continue with status quo. At that time, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CR MPO TAC consider remaining status quo in regard to the CR MPO MOU. TCC Chair Richard Smith seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously in favor.

7. Bike and Ped Planning Update

– Director Conrad reported to the members that CRMPO staff are currently developing a potential plans/study list that would increase bicycle and pedestrian safety issues. The plans would concentrate on intersection safety, complete streets projects, and identifying key safety needs.

Informational Items

Director Conrad called attention to the following informational items included in their packets:

RIDER Transit, Salisbury Transit and MTC Ridership
TPD Newsletter
CRAFT Meeting Minutes

Director Conrad relayed to members information provided by the Cabarrus County Chamber. The Chamber will be holding their Regional Infrastructure Summit on September 15, 2023 at the Cabarrus County Milestone Building.

Mrs. Loretta Barren reminded members that the MPDG grant submittal ending date is August 21, 2023 and the final date for the federal Tribal Assistance Program is September 28, 2023.

Next scheduled meeting September 20, 2023

With no further business to discuss, TCC Chairman Richard Smith adjourned the meeting.