

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members:

Phillip Graham	City of Concord
Susie Morris	Cabarrus County
Ed Muire	Rowan County & Town of Cleveland
Theo Ghitea	NCDOT Div. 10
Mallory Hodgson	Town of Harrisburg
Fred Haith	NCDOT Div. 9
Larry Smith	Town of Granite Quarry
Richard Smith	Town of Kannapolis
Wendy Brindle	City of Salisbury
Erin Burris	Town of Mt. Pleasant

Others:

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
Sean Epperson	NCDOT Div 10
Roger Castillo	NCDOT TPD
Alex Rotenberry	NCDOT IMD
Mark Eatman	NCDOT TSU
Wendy Miller	MPO Staff
Brian Murphy	NCDOT TSS
Teresa Robinson	NCDOT STIP
Martin Kinnamon	Charlotte DOT
Neda Fahim	NCDOT

The October 18, 2023 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC was called to order by TCC Chairman Richard Smith at approximately 10:00 am. 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. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad addressed Chairman Smith and made a request to add an item under the Reports section of the agenda. He requested to add a report on Congestion Reduction Strategies after the report on CMAQ Program Update. By consensus, TCC members approved the addition under Reports.

Director Conrad then reported some very sad news to the members. He announced the passing of former NCDOT Division 10 Engineer Scott Cole. Mr. Cole worked very closely with the CRMPO TCC members for many years before his retirement. Director Conrad also announced that NCDOT TPD liaison Roger Castillo will be leaving the CRMPO TCC to accept a position with the CRTPO.

With no other comments 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

TCC Chairman Smith called the members' attention to the minutes of the August 16, 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, Mrs. Susie Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Phillip Graham seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2024-2033 MTIP Modification #1

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad requested that CRMPO Staff Planner Wendy Miller provide information to the TCC members regarding this item. Staff Planner Miller reported that MPO staff typically brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. The first project modifications Staff Planner Miller explained are statewide project additions: HM-9999, HS-2420DIV, HS-2420, HS-2420REG, HS-2420SW, HS-2421DIV, HS-2421REG, HS-2421SW, HS-2422DIV, HS-2420REG, HS-2422SW, SM6215DIV, SM-6215REG, SM-6215SW, HO-0010B, M-556, TO-0004, P-2918, P5719C, TC-0008, TC-0010, and TC-0012. She continued by stating the second project modification is the addition of preliminary engineering for the Concord sidewalk projects (BL-0087). The third project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the north apron expansion at Concord Regional Airport (AV-5892). The fourth project modification is to delay construction to FY 25 for the Bethpage Road sidewalk (C5603F). The fifth project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Grants Creek Greenway (EB-5619B). The sixth project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Grants Creek Greenway (EB-5619C). The seventh project modification is to the cost increase for the NC 152 roundabout (HE-0009). The eighth project modification is to delay right-of-way to FY 24 for the Poplar Tent and Harris Intersection project (HL-0001). The ninth project modification is to delay right-of-way to FY 24 for the Brenner Avenue roundabout project (HE0049). The tenth project modification is to delay construction to FY 25 for the US 29/Main Street improvements (HL-0064). The eleventh project modification is to add intersection improvements at NC 152 and NC 153 with construction in FY 24 (HS-2009I). The twelfth project modification is to add wrong way pavement marking signs on I-85 in FY 24 (HS-2010M). The thirteenth project modification is to increase the cost for the equipment and capital yard maintenance facility (P- 2918). The fifteenth project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Piedmont Corridor trains and maintenance facility (P-5719C). The sixteenth project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Norfolk Southern crossover relocation (P-5726B). The seventeenth project modification is to accelerate right-of-way to FY 24 for the Salisbury Train Station waiting area improvements (P-5733). The eighteenth project modification is the segmenting of NC 73 into BA and BB for R-5706B. The nineteenth project modification is the delay of construction to FY 26 for the Dale Earnhardt Blvd intersection improvements (U-5761). The twentieth project modification is the addition of segment E to the Rice Street and Cannon Farm Road project (W-5709E) in FY 24. The twenty-first project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Old Salisbury Road/Irish Potato Road safety improvements (W-5710AO). The twenty-second project modification is the cost increases to the North Main Street improvements (U-6062). The twenty-third project modification is the project break for the Robinson Church Road/Peach Orchard Road improvements (HS-2010R). The twenty-fourth project modification is the project break for the NC 49/Old Airport Road U-turn bulb-out (HS-2010Q). The twenty-fifth project modification is the project break for the NC 49/US 601 rumble strips (HS-2010P). The twenty-sixth project modification is the project break for the NC 73 rumble strips (HS2010O). The twenty-seventh project modification is the delay of right-of-way to FY 24 for the Little Texas Road sidewalk (EB-5844). The twenty-eighth project modification is the delay of right-of-way to FY 24 for the US 601/Flowers Store Road intersection improvements (C-5603I). The final project modification is the project additional related to a federal grant for pedestrian safety elements such as countdown signal heads, crosswalks, etc. (BO-2419) Attachment 3 is a resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. Staff Planner Miller closed by stating the new STIP was adopted in June 2023 and became effective October 1, 2023.

With no questions or comments, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing modification #1 to the FY 2024-2033 MTIP. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

RIDER Transit Program of Projects

CRMPO Director Conrad reminded the TCC members that the RIDER Transit System's Program of Projects (POP) is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of Rider Transit in Fiscal Year 2024. He went on to state that RIDER Transit has elected to use the CRMPO Public Involvement procedures to process their annual requirement. Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 4 in their packets which was a copy of the POP.

After Director Conrad reviewed the attachment, he asked for any comments or questions. With none being heard, Mrs. Wendy Brindle made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider releasing the RIDER Transit POP for public comment. Mr. Phillip Graham seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Performance Based Planning: Safety Targets

CRMPO Director Conrad opened this item by introducing Mr. Brian Murphy with NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit (TSU). Mr. Murphy then addressed the TCC members and provided a power point presentation to explain that federal transportation legislation requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. He went on to state that NCDOT has released the next round of safety targets for North Carolina and it is up to each MPO to either adopt these targets or devise their own targets. His presentation explained why this planning and data are necessary, Statewide Trends, Safety Programs and Safety Resources. Upon the conclusion of his presentation, Director Conrad thanked Mr. Murphy for the presentation and for all of the hard work that Mr. Murphy and NCDOT have done.

Director Conrad then reported to the TCC members that proposed safety targets were published on the CRMPO's website. He went on to call members attention to Attachment 5 which was a draft resolution in support of the new safety targets for 2024.

After review, Director Conrad asked for any questions or comments. With none heard, Mr. Larry Smith made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider releasing the Safety Targets for public comment. Mr. Phillip Graham seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Metrolina Regional Model Update

Director Conrad reported to the CRMPO TCC members that the CRMPO is currently one of four MPO's in the proposed non-attainment Metrolina/Charlotte Region. He went on to state that the CRMPO will be working on projecting population and employment by TAZ for the four horizon years in the Metrolina Regional Model: 2025, 2035, 2045, and 2055.

At this time Director Conrad introduced Mr. Martin Kinnamon with Charlotte DOT. Mr. Kinnamon explained the Model Development Schedule to the TCC members along with information on the 2055 MRM forecast dates. After Mr. Kinnamon finished, Director Conrad called members' attention to Table 1 and Table 2 in their packets which included summaries of future economic and employment projections by horizon year. Director Conrad reviewed both Tables with the members.

With no questions or comments being heard after the review, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing the socioeconomic projections for Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports – MPO/NCDOT Division 9 and 10/TPD - Mr. Fred Haith, NCDOT Division 9 representative reported to the TCC members that the updated spreadsheet was included in today's meeting packet. He reported to the members that project 17BP.9R.76 was listed on the spreadsheet twice and this project is now in development. He informed the members 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 also addressed the TCC members and reviewed some additional projects from the spreadsheet.

Mr. Theo Ghitea, 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. Mr. Sean Epperson also from Division 10, reviewed a Division 10 organizational chart with the members.

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

2. Division 10 P7.0 List and Funding Scenario for P7.0 – Mr. Theo Ghitea with NCDOT Division 10 reported to the TCC members on funding for P7.0 by reviewing a draft summary list of the CRMPO projects in P7.0. Ms. Teresa Robinson reported to the group that NCDOT is still working on funding for the negative balances for the next STIP.

3. RCI Letter of Support – Division 10 - Mr. Theo Ghitea from NCDOT Division 10 provided the TCC members with a PowerPoint presentation on Reduced Conflict Intersections (RCI). The slides explained what an RCI is and provided pictures of how it would work and how much safer it is for the traveling public. Mr. Ghitea reported that NCDOT had done a study of these types of intersections and found them to be much safer in traffic operations, flexibility, costs and impacts. Mr. Ghitea requested that the CRMPO TAC endorse a letter of support for the RCI.

With no questions or comments heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC endorse a letter of support for Reduced Conflict Intersections. Mr. Larry Smith seconded the motion and the members voted unanimously to approve.

4. CMAQ Program Update - TPD Policy for non-federal Match – Director Phil Conrad provided the TCC members with an explanation of what CMAQ funding is and the Department’s policy for providing the non-federal match. He called members’ attention to information provided in their packets and reviewed it for the members. He also reviewed a list of CMAQ projects submitted for funding to NCDOT in the MPO area. Director Conrad then introduced Mr. Mark Eatman with NCDOT who provided members with information on the schedule for CMAQ awards.

5. Congestion Reduction Strategies - CRMPO Staff Planner Wendy Miller presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft Congestion Reduction Program Strategy. The presentation was prepared by NCDOT for MPO’s to share with their members. Mr. Mark Eatman also provided information to the members on the program.

5 Special Studies Updates – Director Conrad provided members with and update on the Town of China Grove Special Studies project. He stated it would be underway by the end of the year.

6. Pennies for Progress – Union County- Mr. Sean Epperson with NCDOT Division 10 called members’ attention to information included in their packet on Union County’s Critical Intersection Analysis Report. Mr. Epperson reviewed the information with the TCC members.

7. 2020 Census Smoothed Planning Boundary – Director Conrad directed members to a boundary map included in their packets. The map shows the proposed smoothed planning boundary.

8. Cabarrus County MicroTransit Grant Award - Director Conrad referenced a letter from Mr. Bob Bushey with Cabarrus County Transportation in regard to a grant the County was awarded to conduct a MicroTransit feasibility study. Mr. Bushey reported that the kickoff meeting to begin the study will be held soon.

9. Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies - CRMPO Staff Planner Wendy Miller reported to the members that CRMPO staff will be conducting Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies in 3 jurisdictions. Staff Planner Miller called members’ attention to information on these submitted projects in their packets.

10. MPO Newsletter Topics – CRMPO Staff Planner Miller asked for topics for the upcoming newsletter.

Informational Items

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

RIDER Transit, Salisbury Transit and MTC Ridership
CRAFT Meeting Minutes

Next scheduled meeting: November 15, 2023

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