

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Members

Barbara Strang
Jim Sells
JC McKenzie
Karen Alexander
Doug Wilson
Bill Feather
Meredith Bare Smith
Ron Smith
Chris Cranford
Tony Hillian
Mike Tallent
Charles Seaford
Sharon Hovis

Cabarrus County
Town of Mt. Pleasant
City of Concord
City of Salisbury
City of Kannapolis
Town of Granite Quarry
Town of Landis
Town of Harrisburg
Town of Rockwell
Town of East Spencer
Town of Midland
Town of China Grove
Town of Spencer

Others

Phil Conrad
Pat Ivey
Connie Cunningham
Scott Miller
Brett Canipe
Alex Rankin
Phillip Craver
Loretta Barren
Stuart Basham
Tamara Sheffield
Diamond Staton-Williams
Wendy Brindle
Arthur Heggins
Phillip Graham
Carolyn Carpenter
Jeff Littlefield
Scott Kaulfold
Senator Carl Ford
Rep Harry Warren
Richard McMillan

CRMPO Director
NCDOT Div 9
CRMPO Staff
NCDOT Div 10
NCDOT Div 10
Cabarrus Chamber
NCDOT Div 9
FHWA
NCDOT Div 10
City of Salisbury
Harrisburg
City of Salisbury
Town of China Grove
City of Concord
CCS Board
NCDOT Div 10
City of Kannapolis
NC Senate
NC House

Call to Order

TAC Vice Chair Meredith Bare Smith called the virtual meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked all present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed on their screens. After reciting the pledge, Vice Chair Smith called the roll of eligible voting TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met. Vice Chair Smith then asked the group to introduce themselves.

After introductions were made, CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad read the NC State Ethics Commission Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest requirement and asked that should a conflict arise during any part of the meeting, TAC members should recuse themselves from that portion of the meeting.

Director Conrad moved on to Chamber of Commerce updates. Mr. Alex Rankin with the Cabarrus Chamber informed TAC members that the Chamber would be holding a 2021 Legislative Briefing on April 23rd and he reviewed the purpose of the event for the members. Director Conrad reported on behalf of Mrs. Elaine Spaulding from the Rowan County Chamber who could not be in attendance. Director Conrad informed the TAC members that the Rowan Chamber will be holding its 95th annual meeting during a virtual Power in Partnerships program on April 15th. With no other Chamber reports, Director Conrad introduced Senator Carl Ford and House of Representative Harry Warren and welcomed them to the meeting. Senator Ford expressed that he was glad to see that projects are starting to move forward in North Carolina.

Moving on, TAC Vice Chair Smith asked if there were any speakers from the floor who would like to speak. With none heard, she moved onto the next order of business.

Vice Chair Smith asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda including the Consent Agenda. With none heard, Mrs. Karen Alexander made a motion to approve the agenda as presented including the Consent Agenda and Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion. The TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a TAC member requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. The following items were presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #5

The project modification is the addition of P-2918 CMAQ funding for the Piedmont/Carolinian 74/75 trains in FY 2021 at the request of the NCDOT Rail Division.

2050 MTP Draft Projects List

Since the reprogramming of the 2020-2029 TIP, CRMPO staff has been working on a *draft* revenue forecast for the 2050 Transportation Plan. This forecast is based on the tier system which is included in the Strategic Mobility Formula as well as the statewide forecast methodology developed by NCDOT for regional and division tier allocations. The Draft 2050 Projects List is based on this revenue forecast. In addition, CRMPO staff incorporated the recommendations from the newly completed Cabarrus County Public Transportation Master Plan into the Draft 2050 Projects List. A memo explaining revenue sources was included.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of January 27, 2021 Minutes

Vice Chair Smith called members' attention to the minutes from the January 27, 2021 meeting included in their meeting packets. Vice Chair Smith asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With none being heard, Mrs. Karen Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. J.C. McKenzie seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

Proposed CMAQ Project Submittals

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that CMAQ funds are a federal funding source for areas designated non-attainment by the EPA. He continued by explaining that CMAQ funds require a local sponsor and a 20% local match along with being able to demonstrate an emission reduction benefit to the local area.

As a result of a call for new projects issued by NCDOT, a total of four CMAQ projects applications were received from four project sponsors within the CRMPO area. Phil went on to review a table listing the four projects labeled as Attachment 5A. The individual project applications were included in the TAC members' meeting packets. Mr. Scott Kaufhold reviewed the application for the City of Kannapolis' project, Mr. Wendy Brindle reviewed the City of Salisbury's application, TCC Chairman Phillip Graham reviewed the City of Concord's application and Mr. Richard McMillan reviewed the application from the Town of Mt. Pleasant.

Director Conrad informed members that NCDOT has indicated to the CRMPO that the MPO can anticipate receiving about \$1.55 million in CMAQ funds for FY 2022. He then called members' attention to Attachment 5B, which explained the NCDOT's target allocation for the MPO. In closing Director Conrad called TAC members' attention to Attachment 5C which was a draft resolution of support for their consideration. With no questions or comments, Mr. Ron Smith made a motion to endorse the CMAQ Project submittals. Mrs. Karen Alexander seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2021 Draft Local Priority Methodology

Director Phil Conrad informed TAC members that NCDOT staff has indicated that Session Law 2012-84 requires the Department to develop a process for standardizing or approving MPO local input methodology. Considering recent changes in the way that points can be flexed between tiers, CRMPO staff will submit a draft of the CRMPO local input methodology to NDCOT for content review. Director Conrad continued on by stating that after the content review the NCDOT staff will grant conditional approval to the MPO's methodology subject to public unput and the CRMPO Board approval. He called attention to Attachment 6 which was the CRMPO's local priority methodology. Director Conrad reviewed the methodology with the members.

After no questions or comments were heard, Mrs. Karen Alexander made a motion to release the Draft Local Priority Methodology for public comment and NCDOT review. Mr. Jim Sells seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

STBGP Methodology and 2021 Project Call

Director Conrad explained to the TAC members that NCDOT has reported that CRMPO has received a balance of \$1.45 million in STBGP funds and \$208,994 in Infrastructure STBGP funds thru the CARES Act. Director Conrad went on to explain that this type of funding source has historically been used on high priority and hard to fund projects. He reported that the CRMPO adopted a new methodology to score STBGP project proposals in August 2019 and the first call for projects was issued and was endorsed in June 2020. Director Conrad explained that given the recent distribution of funds thru the CARES Act it might be necessary to review the methodology to see if there are possibly any proposed funding match changes. He then called members' attention to Attachment 7 and reviewed the methodology with the members.

Once the review was complete, Director Conrad asked for questions or comment. With none heard, Mr. Charles Seaford made a motion to endorse the edits to the STBGP Methodology. Mr. J.C. McKenzie seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2021-2022 DRAFT UPWP

Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that each year the Cabarrus Rowan MPO is required to create and adopt a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He went on to say that the UPWP is the MPO's budget and uses the state fiscal year 2021-2022. He called members' attention to Attachment 8A in their packets which was the detailed line by line budget for their review. Director Conrad explained 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. He continued by stating that these projects include MPO planning activities conducted by local agencies, NCDOT and a line item for Regional Model and MTP Maintenance. He reviewed the budget line item by line item for the members. Director Conrad stated that in the fall of 2020, NCDOT reported to the CRMPO that their allocation of funds in FY 2022 would be \$365,637 which includes about \$100,000 in supplemental federal funds. He explained that there is no longer any unobligated balance for PL funds to MPO's in North Carolina. Phil also reported that since the January 2021 CRMPO TCC meeting, a request shown as Attachment 8B, had been received from the Town of China Grove for a Main Street Corridor Study which would utilize the supplemental funds.

Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that as part of the UPWP, the federal government is requiring all MPO's to certify their transportation planning process on an annual basis. He called attention to Attachment 8C which was a checklist for the CRMPO to certify the MPO transportation planning process. He then moved on to Attachment 4D containing the member contributions for operations and closed by calling members' attention to Attachment 4E which was a Draft resolution adopting the UPWP and certifying the transportation planning process.

With no discussion, Mr. Charles Seaford made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider certifying the CRMPO Transportation planning process and consider adopting the 2021-2022 UPWP. Mr. J.C. McKenzie seconded that motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

With there being no further questions or comments. Mrs. Karen Alexander made a motion to adopt the FY 2021-2022 UPWP. Mr. Charles Seaford seconded that motion and again, TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports - NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 informed TAC members that Division 9 Updates are included in their meeting packet. He offered to discuss any projects on the list with members. Mr. Ivey went on to report that Divisions have been notified that an additional \$1 million will be coming to each Division for ADA ramps. Pat thanked Senator Ford for his assistance.

Mr. Brett Canipe, NCDOT Division 10 Engineer reviewed for TAC members projects included in the updated spreadsheet that was included in their packet. Mr. Canipe also discussed the litter problem on North Carolina's roadways and the challenges it poses. He reported that there is 2.3 million pounds of roadway litter in North Carolina alone. He invited all those present to become involved in the clean up effort during Litter Sweep which is April 10-24, 2021.

2. Census Defined Urban Areas – Executive Director Phil Conrad addressed the TAC members by introducing Mrs. Loretta Barren with FHWA. Mrs. Barren provided a power point presentation on Qualifying Urbanized Area Boundaries by the US Census Bureau. She indicated that new boundaries will be introduced in the summer of 2022.
3. MPO Survey Results - Director Conrad provided TAC members with a power point presentation on the MTP survey results.
4. American Rescue Plan – Director Phil Conrad explained that the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 includes \$30.5 billion in federal funding to support the nation's public transportation system. He explained it is unclear as to when the funding will be forthcoming.
5. MPO Advocacy – Director Conrad called attention to a memo in their packets from Mrs. Loretta Barren, FHWA regarding advocacy and any letters of support on the MPO's letterhead.

Informational Items

- ♦ RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.

Next Meeting is April 28, 2021

Adjournment

With no other business to bring before the TAC, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Charles Seaford followed with a second and the meeting was adjourned.