

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 – 5:30 pm

Concord Fire Station #9 Community Room
1020 Ivey Cline Road
Concord, NC 28027

Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Reid Walters	Town of Spencer
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Richard Burleyson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Maggie Blackwell	Town of Salisbury
Tom Kincaid	City of Kannapolis
David Isaacs	Town of Harrisburg
H.A. Hilton	Town of Landis
Carl Ford	Rowan County
Elizabeth Poole	Cabarrus County
Jim Ramseur	City of Concord
Richard Wise	Town of Midland

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
David Pugh	Town of Midland
Ryan Dayvault	City of Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Laura Boothe	NCDNER
Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 10
Carolyn Carpenter	CCSC
Bud Berro	NC DOA

Call to Order

TAC Chairman H. A. Hilton called to order the January 25, 2012 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC. Chairman Hilton then requested that all present introduce themselves. After introductions were complete, Chairman Hilton called the roll of eligible TAC voting members and confirmed that a quorum had been met

Chairman Hilton continued by asking if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. With no additions or corrections to the agenda being heard, Chairman Hilton moved to the next item of business.

Chairman Hilton then asked for Commerce updates. Mr. Alex Rankin, representative for the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce, relayed to the TAC members that the Cabarrus Regional Chamber continues to support the Cabarrus Rowan MPO in all of their endeavors to meet transportation needs.

Chairman H. A. Hilton asked for any speakers from the floor. With none heard, he moved on to the next order of business.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hilton called TAC members attention to the minutes of the October 26, 2011 TAC meeting included in their agenda packets. With no comments or corrections being heard, Commissioner Liz Poole made a motion to approve the minutes and Councilman Richard Wise seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be 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 are presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

FY 2012-2013 MTIP Amendment #1

Councilman Jim Ramseur made a motion to endorse and approve Amendment #1 to the FY 2012-2013 MTIP. Commissioner Liz Poole seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Nomination and Election of TCC Vice-Chair

Phil Conrad, CR MPO Director reminded TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization's Bylaws state that a new TAC Vice-Chairman must be elected each year. The TAC Vice Chairman rotates to the Chairman position automatically in the next year. Phil continued by stating that the TAC Chairman must also rotate between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. With that in mind, Phil advised the TAC members that they would need to nominate and elect a Vice Chairman from Cabarrus County for 2012. With little discussion, Commissioner Carl Ford made a motion to nominate Commissioner Liz Poole as Vice Chairman for 2012. Councilman Richard Wise seconded the motion. Commissioner Poole stated that she would accept the position if elected. Councilman Tom Kincaid made a motion to close the nominations and that motion was seconded by Commissioner Carl Ford. TAC members then voted unanimously to approve Commissioner Liz Poole as Vice Chairman for 2012.

NC Mobility Fund Project Solicitation

Director Conrad informed the TAC members that NCDOT has issued a call for Mobility Fund candidate projects and have sent the CR MPO an application to submit projects. The deadline for project submittals Phil continued, is February 29, 2012 and each organization can submit no more than five candidate projects for review. He went on to say that projects must be on the statewide or regional tier and must also be ready to have funds obligated for construction within the next five years.

Phil called TAC members' attention to Attachment #5 in their packets which was a completed application for project I-3802 or the I-85 Widening Project. Projects that are selected by NCDOT will be funded from unused gap funds and reductions in the amount of money transferred from the Highway Trust fund to the General Fund but will not be subject to the NC Equity Formula. Phil stated, NC legislation designated that the first project to be funded is the I-85 Corridor Improvement Project Phase II in Davidson County.

Phil reviewed the Project Selection Criteria documents with TAC members that were included in their agenda packets. After all discussion, Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to endorse and approve Project I-3802, the widening of I-85, as a potential candidate project. Alderman Reid Walters seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

New Ozone Standard Non-Attainment Boundary

Phil called TAC member's attention to Attachment 6, a letter included in their packets to the Mayor of Kannapolis, Mr. Bob Misenheimer, from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DNER) in regard to ozone standard boundaries. The letter Phil reported, states that NCDENR held two public meetings in Mecklenburg County to discuss boundary recommendations for the new federal 8 hour ozone standard on January 18, 2012. One was held in downtown Charlotte and the second one was held later that evening in Cornelius. Phil said he attended the second meeting on behalf of the CR MPO.

Phil then introduced Ms. Laura Boothe with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Ms. Boothe provided TAC members with a power point presentation explaining that NCDENR is required to propose non-attainment boundaries each time a new standard is promulgated. Laura explained that the main component in smog, is unhealthy to breathe and can damage trees and crops. Ozone is formed when nitrogen oxides (NOx) react with hydrocarbons in the air on hot, sunny days with little wind. The main sources of the pollutants that cause ozone are cars and trucks, coal-fired power plants, and other industries. At one time, a number of North Carolina counties exceeded the ozone standard, but levels have declined due to lower emissions of ozone-forming pollutants. Currently, Laura explained, the only monitors exceeding the standard are located in Mecklenburg and Rowan counties.

Ms. Boothe continued by explaining that NCDENR has decided to look at data regarding some specific rural areas that may be exempted from the non-attainment boundary in the CR MPO area. Those potential areas were identified as Gold Hill Township in Cabarrus County and Morgan and Scotch Irish townships in Rowan County. TAC member Commissioner Ford asked how often monitoring stations are checked and recalibrated. Ms. Boothe reported that monitoring is done on an annual basis in the peak ozone season or the summer.

After Mr. Boothe's presentation, Phil called TAC members attention to four charts in their packets; 1) Population Density by Township, 2) Mecklenburg County ACS Incoming, 3) Metrolina Design Values and 4) NOx Point Sources. After reviewing the charts, Phil went on to tell TAC members that comments and input will accepted until February 10, 2012.

After all discussions were heard, Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to endorse townships meeting the 9 criteria to be considered for attainment. Commissioner Liz Poole seconded the motion. TAC members voted to approve the motion with no votes heard from Alderman Reid Walters and Commissioner Carl Ford.

Reports & Updates

- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 was unable to attend but had provided staff with a handout which contained updates to projects in Division 9. Mr. Richard Hancock of NCDOT Division 10 provided a handout to TAC members on Division 10 projects and reviewed for members the status of these projects.
- 2040 Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan – Linda Dosse reported the study is pretty much complete. NCDOT staff will present a formal report to the MPO at a future meeting
- Draft 2012-2013 Planning Work Program (Budget) - Phil Conrad reminded TAC members that each year, the Cabarrus Rowan MPO is required to prepare and adopt a

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which is the MPO's budget according to state fiscal year 2012-2013. Phil continued by stating that the UPWP outlines planning tasks, the responsible agencies for those tasks and the funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be conducted within the planning area during the next fiscal year. He called TAC members' attention to a spreadsheet included in their agenda packets that itemizes each task of the budget. He informed members that this will be brought back before them for approval at a future meeting.

- TIP Priority SPOT Results – Phil Conrad called TAC members attention to a spreadsheet in their packet that shows all the NCDOT priority scores for recently submitted CR MPO priority projects. He reviewed with the membership. Final scores will come to the CR MPO by the end of the month.
- TAC Member Info: Metropolitan Transportation Planning – Phil called TAC members attention to informational slideshow presentation that outlines the MPO planning function, funding sources, and basic requirements of the MPO boards.

Information Items

- ✓ Concord Express, RIDER and Salisbury Transit, both Rowan Express routes, Cabarrus Links and RIDER Para-Transit Ridership - Phil highlighted ridership information included in their packets.

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Councilman Richard Wise seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. Chairman Hilton thanked everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: February 22, 2012 in Salisbury