

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 – 5:30 pm

Salisbury City Hall

217 South Main Street
Salisbury, North Carolina 28146

Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Tracy Aitken	Town of Spencer
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Ralph Womble	NCDOT Div. 9 Board Member
Rick Burleyson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Al Brown, Jr.	City of Concord
Chad Baucom	Town of Harrisburg
John Bradford	Town of Cleveland
Tony Hilton	Town of Landis
Tina Hall	Rowan County
Tammy Corpening	Town of East Spencer
Maggie Blackwell	City of Salisbury
Richard Wise	Town of Midland

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
David Pugh	Town of Midland
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Bob Scaggs	Town of Harrisburg
Carolyn Carpenter	CCSC
David Eberspeaker	CME
Eric Moore	Town of Rockwell

Call to Order

TAC Chairman, Bill Feather, called the meeting of January 27, 2010 to order. Chairman Feather welcomed the TAC members and guests and asked all those in attendance to please introduce themselves. After introductions were made, TAC Chairman Feather performed the roll call to determine if there was a quorum for the meeting. After determining that a quorum was present, Chairman Feather asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda.

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad requested that an item regarding the MPO Consolidation Study be added under reports. With no additional additions or corrections to the agenda being heard, TAC Chairman Feather continued on to the next item of business.

Phil Conrad introduced Mr. Ralph Womble, NCDOT Board Member for Division 9. Mr. Womble addressed the TAC members and reported that the NCDOT Board is working very hard to secure funding for projects for North Carolina.

TAC Chairman Feather asked for updates from the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce representatives respectively. 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 the transportation needs in the two county areas. Mr. Rankin reported that the Cabarrus Chamber has a transportation committee that meets regularly and extended an invitation to all TAC members to attend. He reported that MPO Director Phil Conrad does regularly attend these meetings on behalf of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO.

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

Approval of Minutes

TAC Chairman Feather asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the October 28, 2009 TAC meeting. Mr. Charles Wingerson made a motion to approve the minutes as they appear and Mr. Al Brown seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

Nomination and Election of TAC Vice-Chair

Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that per the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC By-laws each year in January, a new TAC Vice Chairman must be elected. The newly elected TAC Vice Chairman will rotate to the Chairman position automatically next year. Phil also informed the TAC members that the Chairman and Vice Chairman are rotated between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. He explained that the TAC would need to elect a Vice Chairman from Cabarrus County for 2010.

With little discussion, Mr. Bob Scaggs nominated Mr. Rick Burleyson for Vice Chairman of the CRMPO TAC. TAC Chairman Feather asked for additional nominations from the floor. With none being heard, Mr. Tony Hilton made a motion that the nominations be closed. Ms. Tammy Corpening seconded the motion and the TAC voted unanimously to close the nominations. Chairman Feather requested all those in favor of electing Mr. Rick Burleyson show a raise of hands. TAC Chairman Feather then asked for those opposed. The CRMPO TAC unanimously voted to elect Mr. Burleyson as the 2010 Vice Chairman of the CRMPO TAC.

2035 LRTP and Transportation Conformity Update

MPO Director Conrad reminded TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO staff and the Metrolina Regional Partners have been working together on the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. This report Phil explained, demonstrates that the financially constrained Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP's) in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. In addition, Phil reported that the report also certifies that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a subset of the 2035 LRTP and that the Conformity Report is consistent with the recently submitted State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Phil reported to the TAC members that NCDOT is requesting a revision to the 2035 LRTP fiscally constrained projects list and called members attention to Attachment 4A which is a letter from NCDOT making the request. The letter Phil explained, is in regard to Project I-3803, the widening of I-85, which the CRMPO had placed in the 2016 to 2025 horizon year. NCDOT has modeled the project in the 2006 to 2015 horizon year and is requesting that the CRMPO move project I-3803 to horizon year 2006 to 2015 in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Phil called TAC members attention to Attachment 4B which outlines the proposed change.

With brief discussion, Mr. Al Brown made a motion to move project I-3803 from the 2016 to 2025 horizon year to the 2006 to 2015 horizon year. Mr. Charles Wingerson seconded the motion and TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

RIDER ARRA MTIP Modification

Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, NCDOT had requested that all MPO's in North Carolina amend their Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan's (MTIP's) in order to accommodate municipal, county, and state stimulus package projects. The CRMPO, Phil explained, amended the MTIP in May 2009. Phil continued by reporting that this amendment included several projects for the RIDER Transit System which contained estimated unit costs. After the MTIP amendment was approved, the Federal Transit System requested that the MPO modify the MTIP again to include actual costs for the RIDER Transit System projects.

Phil called TAC members attention to Attachment 5 in their packets which is a draft resolution for modifying the MTIP to reflect actual project costs for the RIDER ARRA projects. After review, Mr. Rick Burleyson made a motion that the CRMPO TAC approves the resolution for the ARRA MTIP modification for the RIDER Transit System projects. Mr. Al Brown seconded the motion and TAC members followed with a unanimously vote to approve the resolution.

Reports & Updates

- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 provided a handout which contained updates to projects in Division 9.
- East Rowan Express Update - Phil Conrad introduced Mr. Clyde Fahnestock with the Rowan Transit System. Mr. Fahnestock reported to TAC members that representatives of the Towns of Granite Quarry, Rockwell and Faith have been in meetings with Rowan County to discuss formation of an East Rowan Express. The East Rowan Express Clyde explained, would serve the towns of Granite Quarry, Faith and Rockwell with stops at the East Rowan YMCA, the Rowan County Health Department and the Rowan County Department of Social Services and would connect with the Salisbury Transit System. The Salisbury Transit System connects to the Rowan Express which in turn connects to the RIDER Transit System that serves Kannapolis and Concord. Phil Conrad called TAC members attention to an Overview of the East Rowan Express that was included in their packets. Mr. Fahnestock thanked the Towns of Rockwell, Granite Quarry and Faith for their work and support in bringing this service to the citizens in their respective areas. The target date to begin operations of the East Rowan Express in early April.
- MPO Consolidation Study – Phil Conrad called TAC member's attention to a Draft Proposed Consultant Work Scope/Draft RFP included in their packets. The purpose of the study as outlined in the document is to examine organizational/decision making structures and processes that would better position the greater Charlotte Bi-State Region in terms of transportation planning, funding and influence, and organizational efficiencies, to develop and implement an effective regional multi-modal transportation system. TAC Chairman Bill Feather reported to TAC members that he has been attending the ongoing meetings in regard to this proposal along with MPO Director Phil Conrad.

Several members of the TAC voiced concerns not only with the Draft RFP itself but also with the authors of the Draft RFP, Centralina Council of Governments. By consensus all CRMPO TAC members do not support the proposed study nor the idea behind the

study. TAC members voiced strong concerns over being a part of a “Super MPO” and the affects it would have on local transportation projects.

Also by consensus, the CRMPO TAC members stated they are very pleased with the CRMPO and how it operates and it’s accomplishments for the two counties’ transportation initiatives and made a request to Mr. Ralph Womble, NCDOT Board Member, to speak with Transportation Secretary Conti expressing their concerns and non-support for such a study. TAC members requested that MPO staff draft a letter to NCDOT Secretary Conti expressing their concern and non-support of the study and to send a copy of the letter to all Cabarrus and Rowan County legislators. The draft letter will be sent to TAC members for their approval and input prior to mailing. Chairman Feather suggested that TAC form a committee to continue attending the meetings in order to keep abreast of where this proposed study is headed. MPO staff was directed to begin work on forming a committee.

- Metro Coalition Equity Formula Resolution – Phil Conrad called TAC members attention to a resolution included in their packets being circulated by the NC Metropolitan Mayor’s Coalition supporting the evaluation and revising of the North Carolina Transportation equity formula. Phil explained that the Coalition is made up of the 26 largest cities in North Carolina and they are requesting that all cities, towns and MPO’s in the state support this resolution. Many of the member jurisdictions with the CRMPO have already passed this resolution within their own communities. With no questions or discussion, Mr. Al Brown made a motion to approve the resolution and not only forward it to the Metrolina Mayor’s Coalition, but also to our local legislative delegation. Mr. Chad Baucom seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

- Proposed New Ozone Standards – Phil called members attention to a Fact Sheet included in their packets for the proposal to revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone. He instructed TAC members that this was for information only at this time.

- Draft 2010-2011 Planning Work Program (PWP) Budget – Phil Conrad reviewed for the TAC members the Draft Planning Work Program included in their packets as information at this time. The budget Phil reported, will come before them at a later date for TAC approval.

- Metrolina Travel Model Survey Costs – TAC members were presented the Metrolina Regional Model Estimated FY11 and FY12 Revised Budgets based on the Model Team Meeting of January 7, 2010. Many TAC members voiced concerns with the costs of the surveys since all reserve PL Section 104f funds have been rescinded by the Federal Government. The survey costs were budgeted to be paid out of the PL fund balance before the rescission. Phil provided TAC members with a spreadsheet that outlined the amounts each CRMPO member would have to budget within their respective jurisdictions to cover the costs of the Metrolina Surveys. MPO staff was directed by the TAC to monitor the budget revisions and report back to TAC in March 2010.

Information Items

- Phil Conrad called TAC members attention to a copy of a letter received by TAC Chairman Bill Feather from NCDOT Secretary Conti in regard to the Conformity Lapse Grace Period.
- A letter from United State EPA on the Metrolina SIP/Emissions Budgets is included in the TAC packets for their review.
- Concord Express, RIDER and Salisbury Transit Ridership - Phil highlighted the Concord Express, Rider, Rowan Express, Cabarrus Links and Salisbury Transit ridership information included in their packets

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Mr. Chad Baucom made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Mr. Al Brown seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to adjourn. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at the Cabarrus Regional Chamber.