

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 – 5:30 pm

Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce

3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083

Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Don Fleener	Town of Midland
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Tina Hall	Rowan County
Rick Burleyson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Jody Everhart	Town of Spencer
Kenneth Geathers	City of Kannapolis
John Brafford	Town of Cleveland
Jim Ramseur	City of Concord
Bob Scaggs	City of Harrisburg
Tammy Corpening	Town of East Spencer
Butch Bivens	Town of China Grove

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
John Cowan	Town of East Spencer
Barry Moose	NCDOT – Division 10
Carolyn Carpenter	CC BOE
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Joe Morris	City of Salisbury
Jody Everhardt	Town of Spencer
Ed Dehlin	City of Kannapolis
Alex Rankin	CRCC
David Eberspeaker	CME

Call to Order

TAC Chairman Kenneth Geathers called the January 28, 2009 meeting to order. Chairman Geathers welcomed the TAC members and guests and asked all those in attendance to introduce themselves. After all the introductions were made, Chairman Geathers asked if there were any additions to the agenda. With none heard, Chairman Geathers moved onto the next item of business and asked for updates from the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce representatives respectively. Mr. Alex Rankin with the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce welcomed the TAC members to the Chamber and reported that the Chamber continues to support the Cabarrus Rowan MPO. He explained that the Chamber's Transportation and Land Use Planning Committee had sent a resolution of support for the Regional Roads Committee.

Chairman Geathers 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 Geathers asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the November 19, 2008 TAC meeting. Mr. Charles Wingerson made a motion to approve the minutes as they appear and Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of November 19, 2008.

Nomination and Election of TCC Vice-Chairman

TAC Chairman Geathers called upon MPO Director Phil Conrad to explain this item of business. Mr. Conrad explained to the TAC members that the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO TAC bylaws state that a new

TAC Vice-Chairman must be elected each year. The TAC Vice-Chairman rotates to the Chair position automatically with the advent of the calendar year. In addition, the TAC Chair and Vice-Chairman are rotated between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. Phil continued by explaining that the TAC will need to nominate and elect a Vice-Chairman from Rowan County for 2009. At that time, Chairman Geathers asked for any nominations from the floor for the position of TAC Vice Chairman. Mr. Charles Wingerson nominated Mr. Bill Feather to the position of TAC Vice-Chairman. TAC Chairman Geathers asked for additional nominations from the floor, with none being heard, Mr. Charles Wingerson made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Bob Scaggs seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously in favor of electing Mr. Bill Feather to the position of CRMPO TAC Vice- Chairman.

2011-2017 TIP Priority Needs List

MPO Director Phil Conrad reviewed with TAC members that the NCDOT Board of Transportation adopted the 2009-2015 TIP on June 5, 2008. With this adoption, he explained the process can now begin for developing a draft 2011-2017 TIP. Phil pointed out that most of the projects on the current CRMPO priority list remain unfunded in the current TIP. He went on to inform the TAC members that the TCC Subcommittee and TCC members reviewed the draft TIP Priority List and made several recommended changes. Phil called the TAC members attention to the draft 2011-2017 Priority Needs List included in their agenda packets, labeled as Attachment 4A Rowan County and Attachment 4B Cabarrus County. Phil went on to review both attachments with the TAC members. After discussion, Mr. Charles Wingerson made a motion to accept the Cabarrus Rowan Urban Area Priority Project List for Division 9. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and the Rowan County TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval. Mr. Jim Ramseur then made a motion to accept the Cabarrus Rowan Urban Area Priority Project List for Division 10 with the addition of adding a project #19 to the list which would be the addition of a Traffic Management Center project for the City of Concord. Mr. Bob Scaggs seconded the motion and the Cabarrus County TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

TAC members voiced concerns over the current state of funding for Cabarrus Rowan MPO projects. By consensus, members expressed a desire to have MPO staff conduct workshops for TAC members and to possibly hold an MPO-sponsored transportation summit.

CMAQ Fast Track Project Proposals

Phil Conrad explained to the TAC members that NCDOT has initiated a call to Fast Track CMAQ projects currently approved by NCDOT and new project submittals that demonstrate an emissions reduction benefit to the non-attainment area. Phil continued by explaining that the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds are a federal funding source for areas designated as non-attainment by the US EPA. These funds require a local sponsor and a 20 percent local match. He explained to TAC members that several notices have been sent by MPO staff to them and their staff in regard to this Fast Track proposal and to date proposals have been received by the MPO from the City of Salisbury, Town of China Grove, Mobility Solutions LLC, City of Concord, Town of Mount Pleasant and the City of Kannapolis. Phil called the TAC members attention to the proposal letters enclosed in their agenda packets for their review, along with a Proposed CMAQ Fast Track Project spreadsheet.

Mr. Conrad reviewed the proposal letters with the TAC members and asked for any questions or comments regarding them. With no further discussion, Mr. Chuck Wingerson made a motion that the TAC approve the submission of the Fast Track proposed projects. Mr. Bob Scaggs seconded the motion and TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Draft Public Involvement Policy

MPO Director Conrad explained to the TAC members that as part of the new SAFETEA-LU requirements, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is requesting that all MPO's revise their public involvement policies to be compliant with Federal guidelines. Phil continued by reminding TAC members that CRMPO has already completed a survey to determine the effectiveness of the MPO's public involvement efforts. Those results Phil explained, have been used to revise the current Public Involvement Policy which was presented to TAC members at their May 2008 TAC meeting.

Phil went on to say that MPO staff has revised the current Public Involvement Policy to reflect the FHWA guidelines and that a copy of those revisions were included in their packets as Attachment 6. Phil explained that this policy addresses planning products such as the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Metropolitan TIP, and the Unified Planning Work Program. After discussion, TAC Chairman Geathers made a motion to accept the Draft Public Involvement Policy and release it for public comment. Mr. Bob Scaggs seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

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. Mr. Barry Moose of NCDOT Division 10 updated TAC members on the status of the I-85 resurfacing project from the Mecklenburg/Cabarrus County line to NC Highway 73 and reported that the widening project is still on schedule to begin in early 2011. Barry also explained to TAC members the current status of how the stimulus package may assist NCDOT in accomplishing current projects.
- Municipal and County Stimulus Package Project Proposals – Phil Conrad provided TAC members with a handout that outlined the Proposed Stimulus Package Projects. These projects Phil, explained had been submitted by CRMPO members and that all members had been given the opportunity to submit qualified projects. Phil requested that TAC members accept this as information. Rowan County Commissioner Hall stated she was very encouraged by the new Governor and her proposed plans for transportation funding assistance.
- Draft FY 2009-2010 UPWP – Phil presented the Draft UPWP and reported to TAC members that this was for information purposes at this time and for their review.
- Municipal Safe Routes to Schools Program Grant Proposals - MPO Director Conrad reported to TAC members that the information for this program had been made available on numerous occasions to each member jurisdiction and that currently there have been no requests made from any municipality to make application for this grant.
- 2035 LRTP Projects Update and NCDOT Model Results – Phil Conrad updated TAC members on the progress of the 2035 LRTP and NCDOT model results to date. He explained there have been numerous problems with the process and that MPO staff is continuing to work with the Regional Partners and wait for results.
- NCDOT Board Member Appointments – Phil reported that since a new Governor is now in office, new NCDOT Board members may be appointed by the Governor when the

current terms are complete. By consensus, TAC members discussed seeking to get a Cabarrus County resident appointed to the Board.

- TAC Correspondence – Phil Conrad noted to TAC members that with some changes made to the US Congress as a result of the November 2008 elections, he asked whether TAC members would like for MPO staff to send letters to incoming legislators as has been done in the past. By consensus, TAC members agreed this was a good idea and asked MPO staff to draft a letter for their review at the next CRMPO TAC meeting.
- Rowan Express Update – Phil reported to TAC members that a start date of April 6, 2009 has been set for the Rowan Express to begin operation. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 8:30 AM at the Frank T. Tadlock South Rowan Public Library to kick off the service.

Information Items

Concord Express, RIDER and Salisbury Transit Ridership - Phil highlighted the Concord Express, Rider, and Salisbury Transit ridership information included in their packets.

Phil reported that a letter accompanied by resolutions from CRMPO members opposing the 21st Century Transportation Committee's proposal of the NCDOT Transfer of Secondary Roads for Local Maintenance was mailed to Mr. Brad Wilson, Chairman of the 21st Century Transportation Committee as well as our local legislators, the NC Secretary of Transportation, NCDOT Division 9 Board Member, NCDOT Division 10 Board Member, and NCDOT Divisions 9 and 10 Division Engineers.

Phil Conrad called TAC members attention to a copy of a letter included in their packets from Mr. Lee Myers, Chairman of the Mecklenburg-Union MPO to President Elect Barack Obama requesting a freeze of "all federal transportation funding to the State of North Carolina until such time as a full and complete investigation into the funding policies and procedures of the North Carolina Board of Transportation has been completed."

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Mr. Bob Scaggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2009 in Salisbury.