

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 27, 2013 – 5:30 pm

Concord Fire Station #9 Community Rooms
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
Tammy Corpening	Town of East Spencer
Jeff Phillips	Town of Harrisburg
Craig Pierce	Rowan County
Elizabeth Poole	Cabarrus County
Al Brown	City of Concord
Ryan Dayvault	City of Kannapolis
Richard Wise	Town of Midland
Jake Alexander	NCDOT Board Member

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Div. 9
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Joe Wilson	City of Concord
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
John Sullivan	FHWA
Davis Diggs	NCDOT- Div. 10
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Carolyn Carpenter	CCSC
John Connaughton	
Gary Morton	
Aaron Rodgers	

Call to Order

The Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC meeting of March 27, 2013, was called to order by Chairman Elizabeth Poole. Chairman Poole read the roll of eligible TAC members and confirmed that a quorum had been met. She proceeded by requesting that all present introduce themselves. After introductions were complete, Chairman Poole recognized Mr. Jake Alexander newly appointed NC Department of Transportation Board Member. Mr. Alexander provided a brief summary of his experience in the field of transportation.

Chairman Poole continued by reading the NC Ethics requirements and asked that anyone having a conflict of interest with any item during the meeting to refrain from participating in that item. Moving on to the next item, Chairman Poole asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. MPO Director Phil Conrad made a request to add an item for discussion on a resolution submitted by the City of Kannapolis related to the inclusion of the Winecoff/Mt. Olivet Road overpass into the I-85 widening project. Chairman Poole requested approval for the addition. Mr. Richard Wise made a motion to add the Kannapolis resolution discussion as item #8 on the agenda and move Reports to item #9. Mr. Jeff Phillips seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve. Chairman Poole continued to the next item of business.

Chairman Poole 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. He identified and praised the ongoing I-85 projects as well as the south Ridge Road project. At that time, Mr. Bill Feather acknowledged that Rowan County has a new Chamber Director and suggested

that an invitation be extended to them to attend future TAC meetings. Director Conrad said he would make the contact and extend the invitation.

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Poole called TAC members' attention to the minutes of the February 27, 2013 TAC meeting included in their agenda packets. With no comments or corrections being heard, Mr. Richard Wise made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Charles Wingerson seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

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:

2008 Ozone Standard Transportation Conformity Report

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad referred to handouts in the TAC packets related to this item. Phil reported that an advertised public comment period had concluded without any comments.

Socioeconomic Projections

Phil explained that MPO Staff has worked to compile and project population and employment for the three horizon years: 2020, 2030 and 2040, which was included in Table 1: Population Projections, and Table 2: Employment Projections for Rowan and Cabarrus Counties. Phil asked if there were any questions or comments on the information.

With none heard, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to endorse the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Charles Wingerson provided a second and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve both items.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

FY 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Director Conrad reminded TAC members that each year, the Cabarrus Rowan MPO must develop and adopt a Unified Planning Work Program. This UPWP is the MPO's budget for State fiscal year 2013-2014. Phil called TAC members' attention to Attachment 5A in their packets and reviewed it with the members. Phil explained that the UPWP lists the planning tasks, responsible agencies, and funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be performed within the CRMPO planning area.

Phil continued by stating that as part of the UPWP, the Federal government requires all MPO's to certify their transportation planning process on an annual basis. Phil called members' attention to Attachment 5B also in their packets, that was a detailed checklist for the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO to use to certify their planning process.

Phil reported that these projects include MPO planning activities done by local agencies, the NCDOT, and also includes a line item for Regional Model and LRTP Maintenance. He referred TAC members to Attachment 5C which was a five year planning calendar for fiscal years 2013-2018. Phil stated that this calendar is required by NCDOT and was developed in coordination with the annual UPWP. He reported that the CRMPO TCC members had reviewed Attachments 5A, 5B, and 5C and had recommended the TAC certify the planning process and adopt the FY 2013-2014 UPWP.

At this time, Chairman Poole both asked for questions or comments. With none heard, Mr. Reid Walters made a motion to certify the Cabarrus Rowan MPO transportation planning process. A second was heard from Mr. Ryan Dayvault and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

In addition, Mr. Richard Wise made a motion to adopt the Cabarrus Rowan MPO 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program. His motion was seconded by Mr. Craig Pierce and members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Old Beatty Ford Road Interchange Update

Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 Engineer provided a report to TAC members regarding project I-3804 Old Beatty Ford Road Interchange. The report provided STIP status information which was in regards to the unfunded status for this project. The report also showed a project development timeline which Pat reviewed and explained.

During the review, two items were addressed. Mr. Craig Pierce noted that with the updated Rowan County Land Use Plan covers this area and is now zoned for Industrial/Commercial use. MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to TAC members that the CR MPO did prioritize the Old Beatty Ford Road interchange project for the current Draft TIP, but it did not score well during the NCDOT SPOT scoring/evaluation process. (The NCDOT Division did not prioritize or assign any points to the project.) Pat continued on by outlining the three criteria that the project did not meet. They were:

Guideline 1 was *“The need being addressed by the request cannot be adequately satisfied by existing interchanges to the Interstate, and/or local roads and streets in the corridor can neither provide the desired access, nor can they be reasonably improved (such as access control along surface streets, improving traffic control, modifying ramp terminals and intersections, adding turn bays or lengthening storage) to satisfactorily accommodate the design-year traffic demands.”*

FHWA determination was; “Existing interchanges (with the proposed improvements) at Lane Street and US 153 were evaluated with and without an interchange at Old Beatty Ford, using 2035 traffic. Both Lane Street (with two-thirds of Old Beatty Ford Road traffic) and NC 152 ramp terminals would operate at LOS C or better in both peak hours. Ramp junctions at both Lane Street and NC 152 would operate at LOS D or better in both peak hours.”

.Guideline 3 was *“An operational and safety analysis has concluded that the proposed change in access does not have a significant adverse impact on the safety and operation of the Interstate facility (which includes mainline lanes, existing, new or modified ramps, ramp intersections with crossroad) or on the local street network based on both the current and the planned future traffic projections.”*

FHWA Results were; “A new interchange at Old Beatty Ford Road would create additional conflict points at the merge/diverge areas with I-85. However, the crash rates are expected to be low near the interchange due to the low traffic demand accessing the interchange. Existing crash rates on the mainline are below the statewide average.”

Guideline 7 was *“When a new or revised access point is due to a new, expanded or substantial change in current or planned future development or land use, requests must demonstrate appropriate coordination has occurred between the development and any proposed transportation system improvements.”*

Results were; “The Old Beatty Ford Road interchange is not proposed as a result of a change in land use. The existing Rowan County zoning data indicates that the area along Old Beatty Ford in the immediate vicinity of I-85 is undeveloped, rural and/or agricultural land. Local officials have indicated that construction of the interchange would help facilitate development in the area. However, no zoning or land use accommodations have been made in the vicinity of the proposed interchange. It should also be noted that ongoing discussions are occurring about a future private development in the area but no formal proposal has been submitted as of the date of this report.”

After Pat completed review of the timeline, he introduced Mr. John Sullivan with Federal Highway Administration who provided insight into how the project was initially turned down for construction. Mr. Sullivan explained there are eight guidelines of criteria that a project must meet before being considered for funding approval. The Old Beatty Ford Road Interchange project he stated, did not meet guidelines 1, 3, and 7 of the criteria. Mr. Sullivan went on to say that the proposed project can be re-submitted for consideration by completing and complying with the criteria. He explained that once re-submitted, a new operational analysis could be done taking into consideration any new traffic impacts. He also stated that a new NEPA environmental review could be done to see if any changes have occurred.

At that time, Mr. John Connaughton, a consultant hired by citizens to perform an Economic Impact Study for the area in question, addressed the TAC and Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Connaughton reported that his study is almost complete. He has determined that there has been a decline in population in the area because of the fact there is nothing located to bring people into the area. Mr. Gary Morton and Mr. Aaron Rodgers attending as concerned citizens lobbying for the interchange, asked Mr. Sullivan questions about how quickly the re-submittal process would take and discussed the possibility of private developers funding the interchange. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Ivey assured Mr. Morton and Mr. Rodgers that the process could move very quickly with private funding in place for the projects. Mr. Sullivan said that FHWA would work with NCDOT to make it as speedy a process as possible.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Director Conrad called members’ attention to the MOU included in their agenda packets. The MOU Phil reported, outlines the roles and responsibilities of the MPO and it’s member jurisdictions. Phil continued by stating that MPO staff presented this *Draft* MOU to the TCC and TAC for review and discussion at the February and March 2013 meetings. Phil reminded members that emails had been sent out during this timeframe as well, requesting any suggestions on the MOU content with a March 11th deadline for submittals.

Chairman Poole then addressed the members reporting that she had been contacted via email by Mr. Lee Withers making a request that the MOU be delayed due to the fact that he nor Mr. Tony Hilton were able to attend the March TAC meeting. Chairman Poole said she felt every jurisdiction had had ample time to submit feedback prior to the meeting and proceeded to canvas each member jurisdiction representative as to whether or not they felt that their jurisdiction would approve and adopt the Draft MOU as presented in their packets that night. Mr. Bill Feather reported that Granite Quarry’s Board had already approved the Draft MOU and it was reported that the City of Salisbury has done the same. TAC representatives from Mount Pleasant, East Spencer, Cabarrus County, Concord, Kannapolis,

Harrisburg, Midland and Rockwell all stated their respective Boards would approve the MOU as presented in their packets.

Mr. Reid Walters informed TAC members that he had been contacted by Mr. Withers to postpone the vote to approve the MOU as well and that he would like to make a motion to postpone the vote to give Mr. Withers and Mr. Hilton the opportunity to be in attendance when the vote is taken. Mr. Craig Pierce seconded the motion but before a vote could be taken, discussions arose from numerous members as to what are the particular concerns by Mr. Withers. Mr. Bill Feather reported that Mr. Withers had shared some items with him including why Concord be the Lead Planning Agency. Another items was how the hiring of service providers is conducted and by whom. With this said, Chairman Liz Poole requested that Joe Wilson with the City of Concord provide historical background and information about the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO and Concord's participation in the MPO. Mr. Wilson provided TAC members background back to the inception of the MPO, how Concord became Lead Planning Agency, and fully explained the hiring process for the current service providers. Ms. Linda Dosse, NCDOT-TPB who has been the NCDOT liaison working with the CR MPO for twenty years reinforced Mr. Wilson's presentation and provided additional information to TAC members. Mr. Feather re-iterated that these views were not his, and that he was merely passing on concerns of Mr. Withers. With no more discussion, Chairman Poole reminded TAC members that a motion was on the floor to postpone the MOU approval vote and a second had been made. Before taking a vote, Chairman Poole reminded Mr. Walters and Mr. Pierce that they would each need to be present at the next meeting for the vote since they were making the requests to postpone it. Mr. Pierce reported that he would not be in attendance at the next meeting. With that said, Mr. Al Brown said he would second the motion to give absent members the opportunity to be heard at the next meeting and have their concerns heard. The TAC members voted to approve postponing the MOU approval vote.

City of Kannapolis Resolution

Mr. Wilmer Melton with the City of Kannapolis presented a resolution signed by the City Council related to a new overpass connecting Winecoff and Mt. Olivet Road. He indicated that this overpass would replace the old s. Ridge Avenue bridge and could be included as part of the I-85 widening project in this area. Mr. Ryan Dayvault indicated the City Council's support and ongoing conversations in Raleigh with NCDOT management about this request. By consensus, the TAC voted to send a letter to the NCDOT Secretary supporting this resolution.

Reports & Updates

- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 had to leave the meeting early but had provided Division 9 updates prior to the meeting that were included in the agenda packets. Mr. Davis Diggs provided a handout to TAC members on Division 10 projects and reviewed them for members.
- 2035 LRTP Amendment and Conformity – Ms. Linda Dosse with NCDOT-TPB made a request to have project I-3802A moved into a different horizon year. Linda reported this would allow the projects on I-85 to proceed as planned.
- Concord CTP Map Revision - Mr. Joe Wilson provided a power point presentation and maps showing the location of a roadway directional change that the City of Concord would like to have changed on the CTP map. After explanation of the map was complete, Mr. Al Brown made a motion to approve releasing the draft changes in the

roadway for public comment. Mr. Craig Pierce seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve for release.

- 2040 LRTP Project List – Phil Conrad called the TAC members' attention to a spreadsheet included in their packets that contained the projects in the 2040 LRTP. This was being reported as information at this time.
- TAC Member Info: Metropolitan Transportation Planning – This item was tabled until the April meeting.

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.
- ✓ Senate Bill 29/NC Railroad Dividends – Phil called members' attention to a copy of the Bill for their information.

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Mr. Richard Wise made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Mr. Jeff Phillips seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. Chairman Poole thanked everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2013