

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 27, 2009 – 5:30 pm

Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce

3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083

Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Jim Ramseur	City of Concord
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Tammy Corpening	Town of East Spencer
Warren Chapman	Town of Mount Pleasant
Jody Everhart	Town of Spencer
Kenneth Geathers	City of Kannapolis
Bob Scaggs	Town of Harrisburg

Others:

Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Beau Taylor	Town of Rockwell
Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis

Call to Order

Councilman Kenneth Geathers, TAC Chairman, called the meeting of May 27, 2009 to order. Chairman Geathers welcomed the TAC members and guests and asked the guests in attendance to introduce themselves. Once all the introductions were made, Chairman Geathers asked if there were any additions to the agenda. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad requested that two items be added under agenda item #3 Stimulus Package Project TIP Amendments; the first being a report on the Yadkin River Bridge and the second item as a report on I-85/485 funding. With no additional additions or corrections to the agenda, 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. Alex Rankin mentioned the Transportation Committee meeting on Friday.

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 March 25, 2009 TAC meeting. Alderman Charles Wingerson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Ms. Tammy Corpening seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of March 25, 2009.

Stimulus Package Project MTIP Amendments

Phil Conrad reported to TAC members that NCDOT is requesting that all MPO's across North Carolina amend their Metropolitan TIP's in order to accommodate municipal, county and state stimulus package projects for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He explained that

the TAC had released a list of stimulus project at the March meeting for public comment. He also referred to 5 projects that are additions to this list and received since the March meeting. He explained that no comments were received from the public. Phil continued by calling TAC members attention to Attachment 3A, which includes project revisions to 2009-2015 STIP Additions and MTIP amendments. He stated that the TCC had unanimously recommended these amendments and referred a resolution in the TAC packets. With no further discussion, Councilman Bob Scaggs made a motion to adopt the MTIP Amendments as presented. Councilman Jim Ramseur seconded the motion, and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Phil Conrad distributed a letter from NCDOT Secretary Eugene Conti to USDOT Secretary Ray LaHood regarding the state of North Carolina's intention to submit an application for discretionary stimulus funding for the Yadkin River Bridge. He explained that NCDOT has indicated that they will request the maximum amount of \$300,000 for this project. He also mentioned the TAC's action at the March meeting to endorse the concept of federal discretionary stimulus funding as part of the 2035 LRTP. Phil distributed a sample resolution that could be considered by each of the MPO members in support of this statewide application. Pat Ivey indicated that the City of High Point had recently sent a letter of support to the USDOT Secretary. By consensus, TAC members directed MPO staff to distribute a sample resolution to the membership in support of discretionary stimulus funding for replacement of the Yadkin River Bridge.

Phil Conrad distributed a draft resolution in support of the I-85 widening project in Cabarrus County. Councilman Jim Ramseur noted that it was patterned after a resolution that was adopted by the Concord City Council the previous night. He stated there was some concern that NCDOT may transfer funds from the I-85 project to the I-485 Loop project in Mecklenburg County. There were several media accounts in Charlotte Observer on this issue. Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to adopt a resolution preserving the funding for the I-85 widening project in Cabarrus County and Alderman Charles Wingerson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve.

2009 CMAQ Call

Phil Conrad informed the TAC members that NCDOT had issued a call for new CMAQ projects for the fiscal years 2013 thru 2017. CMAQ or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds are a federal funding source for areas designated non-attainment by the EPA. He stated that CMAQ funds require a local sponsor and a 20 percent local match. He noted that the expected annual allocation to the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO is \$1.57 million or \$7.8 million over a 5 year period. He also stated that eligible projects must demonstrate an emissions reduction benefit to the local area. The deadline for the MPO to submit projects to NCDOT is September 4, 2009. Phil explained that a total of 9 new CMAQ Project Proposals were received by the MPO as well as requests for additional funding for 8 existing projects. He also referenced project narratives for each of the new projects included in the TAC packets and distributed a schedule for completing these proposed projects, which was labeled attachment 4B. He explained that the TCC had unanimously endorsed this project schedule for TAC review and referenced a resolution in the TAC packets. Councilman Jim Ramseur made a motion to adopt a resolution endorsing the candidate CMAQ projects and proposed project schedule and Alderman Bill Feather seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve.

2035 LRTP

Phil Conrad reported to TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO released the 2035 LRTP for a 30 day public comment period on April 13, 2009. He explained that the 2035 LRTP is a fiscally constrained multi-modal plan, which is consistent with federal guidelines for a 20 year plan horizon and current socioeconomic data/projections. He pointed out that the last LRTP was adopted on May 18, 2005. He referenced an Executive Summary in the TAC packets and explained that the full report is posted on the MPO website. He stated that no comments have been received from the public during the comment period. He pointed to the horizon year project lists and a request from Charlotte DOT and the Model Team to revise the horizon years from 2010, 2020, and 2030 to 2015 and 2025. Members expressed concerns with changing project horizon years to match the MPO partner LRTPs that were several months from completion. After some discussion, Councilman Jim Ramseur made a motion to change the horizon years in the 2035 LRTP and Alderman Bill Feather seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to support. Phil noted a resolution of support for the 2035 in the TAC packets and stated that the TCC had unanimously endorsed the 2035 LRTP. Councilman Bob Scaggs made a motion to adopt the 2035 LRTP and Alderman Charles Wingerson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve.

Public Involvement Policy

Phil Conrad reported to TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO released the draft Public Involvement Policy at the January meeting for a 45 day public comment period. He explained that FHWA is requesting that all MPO's revise their public involvement policies to be compliant with Federal guidance. He stated that the MPO previously completed a survey to gauge the effectiveness of public involvement efforts and those results have been used to revise the current Public Involvement Policy. He stated that MPO staff presented results from the survey at the May 2008 TAC meeting. He stated that no comments have been received from the public during the comment period. Councilman Jim Ramseur made a motion to adopt the Public Involvement Policy and Councilman Bob Scaggs seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve.

Reports & Updates

- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 provided information on Rowan County projects. There were no updates from Division 10.
- House Bill 881 – Phil Conrad explained that this bill had language regarding the transfer of maintenance responsibility from NCDOT to cities and counties, but that the language had been stripped out in committee at the Legislature. He stated that staff would continue to monitor this legislation.
- Joint TAC/TCC Meeting - Phil Conrad reported to TAC members that staff has been working with the Chair and Vice Chair on an agenda for the joint TAC/TCC member workshop. Phil distributed a meeting abstract for this meeting for consideration by the TAC and asked for any feedback. He noted that members should support by consensus the idea of pursuing Air Quality as a main topic for this meeting. Chairman Geathers reiterated that the workshop should include the new Secretary of Transportation. Phil stated that staff would continue to finalize plans for the meeting including speakers and a list of questions.

- FY 2009-10 Section 5303 PWP – Phil stated that NCDOT has indicated some more grant dollars for transit planning to the Rider Transit system for FY 2009-10.

Information Items

Letters from Secretary Conti – Phil referenced some letters from Secretary Conti in the TAC packets as information.

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

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Jim Ramseur seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2009 in Spencer.