

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, July 23, 2014**

North Carolina Research Campus  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor UNC Building  
500 Laureate Way  
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28081

**TAC Members:**

Al Brown  
Bill Feather  
Jim Sells  
H.A. Hilton  
Richard Wise  
Elizabeth Poole  
Reid Walters  
Lee Withers  
Ryan Dayvault

City of Concord  
Town of Granite Quarry  
Town of Mt. Pleasant  
Town of Landis  
Town of Midland  
Cabarrus County  
Town of Spencer  
Town of China Grove  
City of Kannapolis

**Others:**

Phil Conrad CRMPO Director  
Denise Hallett Cabarrus Chamber  
Bobby Moore Town of Rockwell  
Linda Dosse NCDOT-TPB  
Elaine Spalding Rowan Chamber  
Rick Cloutier Concord Regional  
Stuart Basham NCDOT-Div. 10  
LJ Weslowski CK Rider  
Scott Cole NCDOT-Div. 10  
Pat Ivey NCDOT-Div. 9  
Joe Wilson City of Concord  
Wendy Brindle City of Salisbury  
Rodney Harrison City of Salisbury  
Jonathan Marshall Cabarrus County  
Josh Watkins Town of Harrisburg  
Jeff Wells City of Kannapolis  
Dan Peters Town of Granite Quarry  
David Pugh Town of Midland  
Ed Muire Rowan County  
Gary Price Rowan Transit  
Wilmer Melton City of Kannapolis  
Diane Hampton NCDOT- Div. 9  
Alex Rankin Cabarrus Chamber  
Tim Hagler Charlotte Speedway  
Carolyn Carpenter CC Schools

### **Call to Order**

TAC Chairman Lee Withers called to order the July 23, 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO to order. Chairman Withers welcomed those in attendance to the joint meeting and asked for introductions. TCC Chairman Muire indicated that there was a quorum of the TCC membership in attendance. Chairman Withers continued by calling the roll of eligible TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met. Once introductions were complete, Chairman Withers moved onto the next item.

Chairman Withers reminded TAC members of the NC State Ethics Commission Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest requirement and asked that should a conflict arise during any part of the meeting, the member should excuse themselves from that portion of the meeting.

Proceeding on, Chairman Withers asked if there were any updates from the Rowan or Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce's. Elaine Spalding with the Rowan County Chamber addressed the TAC mentioned a regional transportation meeting in Charlotte hosted by the Charlotte Chamber on toll roads. Mr. Rankin did not have anything new to report from the Cabarrus Regional Chamber.

TAC Chairman Withers recognized Tim Hagler with Charlotte Motor Speedway and former Mayor of the Town of Harrisburg who mentioned a committee of stakeholders at exit 49. He confirmed support for the flyover at Concord Mills Mall, Derita Road widening, and sidewalks on Bruton Smith Boulevard. Chairman Withers then asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda and consent agenda. He requested an addition under reports for a Public Transportation Overview by MPO staff. Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Mrs. Elizabeth Poole seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

NO ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

### **THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Withers asked for members' review of the minutes of the June 25, 2014 TAC meeting included in their agenda packets. He asked if there were any adjustments or corrections to the minutes. With none heard, Mrs. Elizabeth Poole made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Reid Walters seconded the motion. The TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

### **TIP Priority Project STI Division Point Results**

Phil Conrad introduced this item. He stated that NCDOT Division 9 and 10 have applied their methodology to rank transportation projects across the divisions, which includes a quantitative/qualitative component. He stated that the NCDOT Divisions have conferred with the MPO in their point assignment and noted that at the June TAC meeting, it was decided that the MPO and Division would re-convene on July 23rd to discuss coordination of point assignments for projects. He referred to several attachments in the MPO packets and recognized Division 10 staff to make a presentation. Stuart Basham began with a summary of the regional and division point assignments in Cabarrus County. He said that the regional points are consistent with the MPO's priorities. He highlighted a couple of projects in the Division Tier: George Liles Pkwy and a short section of Poplar Tent Road. He stated that the George Liles project would connect with NC 49 and was a victim of limited traffic on parallel routes in the STI scoring scheme. Mrs. Poole noted the importance of George Liles to Cabarrus County and the Events Arena. She said that economic development was a very important component to this project. Mr. Cole agreed with the need to complete George Liles to NC 49. A discussion ensued about the sidewalk project for

Bruton Smith Blvd. City of Concord staff indicated that discussions were in the works to transfer points from the Dale Earnhardt Blvd sidewalk to the Bruton Smith project. Dale Earnhardt is a much cheaper project, but may be built through the regional tier intersection project. Mr. Cole noted the limited funds for bike and ped projects statewide and indicated that he does not know the revenue scenario for Division 10. Wilmer Melton confirmed that the Dale Earnhardt sidewalks could be built under other funding streams. (Division 10 has not proposed to assign points to Dale Earnhardt.) Chairman Withers asked for a recommendation on the Bruton Smith Blvd project. All Cabarrus County jurisdictions agreed by consensus to switch points from Dale Earnhardt to Bruton Smith Blvd.

Division 9 staff provided a similar summary of the point assignments for projects in Rowan County. Mr. Pat Ivey indicated that the Division has about \$165 million over 10 years for Division projects and felt their point assignment reflects the MPO's priorities. Mr. Tony Hilton asked about the Main Street project and whether points could be reassigned to that project. A discussion ensued between representatives from China Grove, Landis and Granite Quarry about the Bendix Drive, Airport Runway extension, and Main Street improvements. A majority of members from Rowan agreed to switch points onto Main Street from the Bendix Drive. Some members felt like the Bendix Drive project would require more study and might not be a legitimate TIP project. Phil Conrad noted that neither Bendix Drive or Main Street are part of the recently adopted fiscally constrained MTP. (Bendix is part of the State's CTP.) He summarized that a list is currently out for public comment and changes from tonight's meeting will be shown as part of the presentation in August as well as any public comments received. The public comment period closes on Monday August 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Reports/CRMPO Business**

Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – NCDOT Division staff noted that there were no changes in project schedules from the June TAC meeting.

Public Transit Overview – Phil Conrad gave an update on the Rowan Express including recent ridership, background and history, and funding challenges for FY 2015. He indicated that the project was originally a demonstration project using CMAQ funds. Mr. Al Brown asked about CMAQ funding to the MPO and Phil indicated that funds have been limited by the number of non-attainment and maintenance areas in NC. Mr. Brown made a motion that the MPO communicate to the Congressional delegation of the need for more CMAQ funding to the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO and Mr. Tony Hilton seconded it. The TAC voted unanimously to approve. Phil continued that Rowan County serves as the administrative agent continued the service by using RGP and JARC funds when the CMAQ grant ran out. The four municipalities have also continued to provide the local match of \$30,000. Due to changes on the state and federal level, Rowan Express will no longer be eligible for RGP funds and JARC funds will end in FY 2015. Phil presented a number of options for extending the service beyond FY 2015. There was some discussion of overall transit funding by TAC members. TAC Chairman Withers indicated that new federal designation would impact both Rider and Salisbury Transit and the MPO may want to think of ways to improve administrative efficiency for both those fixed route services. LJ Weslowski pointed out the impacts of Cabarrus County's system on the 5307 funds used by Rider Transit in this fiscal year. Phil concluded that staff would be making presentations to the 4 municipalities about the Rowan Express, and would keep the TAC apprised of any developments on the 5307 funds.

### **Informational Items**

- Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express, Cabarrus Links and RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- I-3802A Public Meeting will be held tomorrow evening at 4 pm at Kannapolis Middle School.
- CRAFT Executive Committee meeting will be held August 14<sup>th</sup> in Rock Hill at 4 pm.
- The next scheduled TAC meeting is August 27, 2014.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to be considered, Chairman Withers adjourned the July 2014 TCC/TAC meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO.