

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 17, 2005 – 6:30 pm

Salisbury City Hall

Members:

Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Don Bringle	Town of China Grove
Mark Lewis	City of Salisbury
Maura Eberhardt	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Phil Cowherd	Town of Harrisburg
Larry Helms	NCDOT-Board Member Div. 10
Ken Geathers	City of Kannapolis
Carolyn Carpenter	Cabarrus County
Darrell Page	Town of Midland
Al Brown	City of Concord

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Planner
Linda Dosse'	NCDOT – TPB
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Mike Nunn	MPO Director
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Phil Conrad	MPO Planner
Pat Ivey	NCDOT- Division 9
Dan Mikkelson	City of Salisbury Staff
Bob Wright	Rowan Chamber
John Casey	Rowan Chamber
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Benton Payne	NCDOT Division 10

Call to Order

TAC Chair Carolyn Carpenter called the August 17, 2005 TAC meeting to order. TAC Chair Carpenter welcomed the members and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. With no changes being heard, the TAC Chair asked for information from any speakers from the floor. Mr. Benton Payne and Mr. Larry Helms addressed the TAC members with information regarding the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO High Priority Projects. Mr. Payne passed out a spreadsheet to the TAC members which listed five High Priority Projects within the CR MPO area and how much funding had been allocated to the projects. They explained how the funding would be used and in what timeframe it could be used. After brief discussion, Chairman Carpenter moved on to the next order of business.

Cabarrus Chamber Representative Alex Rankin gave an update on the Chamber's upcoming summit; Planes, Trains & Automobile Transportation meeting. Mr. Rankin stated that the event will be held at Lowes Motor Speedway on November 2, 2005 from 8:00 am until 1:30 pm. He welcomed all TAC members to attend and will provide additional information upon request. Rowan Chamber Representative John Casey and Bob Wright were present to report that the Rowan County Chamber continues to support the efforts of the MPO.

Approval of Minutes

TAC Chair Carpenter asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the May 18, 2005 TAC meeting. Mr. Don Bringle made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Ken Geathers seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote.

2006-2012 TIP Conformity and LRTP Amendment

Mr. Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that Cabarrus-Rowan MPO Staff and the Metrolina Regional Partners have been working on another Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. Due to the delay of the I-85 widening project over the Yadkin River (I-2304), the CR MPO is required to amend their Long Range Transportation Plan to show the new schedule for this project. This report demonstrates that the financially constrained Long Range Transportation Plan's (LRTP) in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. The report also certifies that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a subset of the 2030 LRTP and the Conformity Report is consistent with the State Improvement Plan (SIP). Phil informed the TAC members that the Public Comment Period has been extended to September 6, 2005 so that the public can review the amended Plan and make comments. On September 6, 2005 the Report will be forwarded to FHWA for the Federal Conformity finding.

With no further discussion from the TAC members, Mr. Don Bringle made a motion to adopt the Resolution Finding the Cabarrus-Rowan Urban Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and 2006-2012 Transportation Improvement Program in compliance with the Provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Mr. Kenneth Geathers seconded the motion. The TAC members voted unanimously to accept.

Mr. Kenneth Geathers then made a motion to adopt the Resolution Adopting the FY 2006-2012 Cabarrus-Rowan MPO Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). That motion was seconded by Ms. Carolyn Carpenter and TAC members followed with a unanimous vote.

A motion was then made by Mr. Don Bringle, to approve the adoption of a resolution by the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee Approving the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Kenneth Geathers seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the TAC members.

Low Emission Vehicle Program

Mr. Dan Mikkelson addressed the TAC members regarding legislature currently being considered in the North Carolina General Assembly that would implement a low emission vehicle program. The low-emission rules would apply to light-duty cars and trucks 8,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight rating. This program would begin with model year 2007 for State-purchased vehicles and the model year 2008 for the general public. Dan called the TAC members attention to a memo that was included in their agenda packets explaining in detail the benefits of the program. After discussion, the TAC members requested further information and clarity on some of the information that had been presented to them by Mr. Mikkelson. By consensus, the TAC members deferred any decision on supporting a resolution in favor of the low emissions program until the next TAC meeting. Mr. Mikkelson will report back to the TAC members at the time with answers to their questions.

NC 73 Transportation/Land Use Corridor Plan MOU

Mr. Mike Nunn reported to the TAC members that North Carolina Highway 73 corridor is an important east-west link for Cabarrus County, Cities of Concord and Kannapolis and the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO jurisdictions. Due to the fact that this corridor is so vital to the area NCDOT and local jurisdictions along this corridor have sponsored a comprehensive transportation/land use plan. As part of this plan, a Memorandum of Understanding was created to ensure cooperation and coordination of future land use and transportation plans. Mike went on to explain that an original MOU was adopted by the CR MPO in

2004, but due to revisions suggested by NCDOT, a revised MOU is now being circulated to the local partners including the CR MPO. With no discussion, Mr. Ken Geathers made a motion to adopt the revised Memorandum of Understanding for the NC Hwy 73 Transportation/Land Use Corridor Plan. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote.

Reports & Updates

- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Larry Helms, NCDOT Division 10-Board Member, Mr. Benton Payne, NCDOT Division 10 and Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 updated the TAC members on the revised completion dates of pressing area projects and discussed funding option sources.
- 2007-2013 TIP priority Needs List – Mike Nunn reported that TCC members made recommendations to the list and it will be brought to TAC at their next meeting.
CMAQ Update – Mike Nunn reviewed with the TAC members, the STIP that was included in their packets. He pointed out the revisions made by NCDOT. After some discussion, Ken Geathers made a motion to adopt the STIP and requested staff to prepare a letter from CRMPO to NCDOT voicing their concerns over the CMAQ funding process and its outcome in regard to their submitted projects. Mr. Phil Cowherd seconded the motion and the members of the TAC followed with a unanimous vote.
- NEPA Merger Process – Mike Nunn presented TAC members with a Resolution Confirming Participation in the Project Development Process for Transportation Improvement Program Projects. He explained that the resolution formalized a process that was already in place. Mr. Mark Lewis made a motion to adopt the resolution and this motion was seconded by Mr. Don Bringle. TAC members followed with a unanimous vote.
- TCC/TAC presentation Request Form – TAC members reviewed the enclosed TCC/TAC Presentation Request Form and by consensus approved the form and the use of it.
- SAFETEA Update – Mike Nunn called the TAC members attention to the NC SAFETEA-LU Projects handout in their packets for their review.
- Concord/Kannapolis Area Transit Commission Update – Minutes and ridership data was included for review.

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Mr. Ken Geathers made a motion to adjourn the August 17, 2005 TAC meeting. Mr. Mark Lewis seconded the motion and all TAC members voted unanimously to adjourn. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2005 and will be held at the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce.