

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 24, 2011 – 5:30 pm

Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce

3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083

Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Reid Walters	Town of Spencer
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Richard Burleyson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Maggie Blackwell	City of Salisbury
Kenneth Geathers	City of Kannapolis
Jeff Phillips	Town of Harrisburg
Rich Wise	Town of Midland
Carl Ford	Rowan County
Ralph Womble	NCDOT BOT
Al Brown	City of Concord

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Tom Kincaid	City of Kannapolis
Tim Foley	Rowan-Cabarrus CC
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Richard Hancock	NCDOT-Division 10
Jamal Alavi	NCDOT-TPB
Carolyn Carpenter	CCSC
Rebecca Yarbrough	Centralina COG
Jim Prosser	Centralina COG

Call to Order

Chairman Burleyson called the August 24, 2011 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC to order. Chairman Burleyson called the roll and confirmed that a quorum had been met. Chairman Burleyson then read the list of eligible TAC voting members to confirm their attendance.

Chairman Burleyson continued by asking if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. He noted that 2 items were requested by the Centralina COG staff: HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Update on the Regional Transportation Planning Organization Study. He asked for a motion to add these items. Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to add these 2 items to the agenda after consideration of the June TAC minutes and Alderman Bill Feather seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Carl Ford and Alderman Reid Walters voting against. With no additions or corrections to the agenda being heard, Chairman Burleyson moved to the next item of business.

Chairman Burleyson then 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 and noted the upcoming Transportation Committee meeting on September 23rd and State of the Region Summit on November 16th hosted by the Chamber.

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Burleyson asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the June 22, 2011 TAC meeting. With no comments or corrections, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve the minutes and Councilman Al Brown seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

NO ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

Ms. Rebecca Yarbrough gave a powerpoint presentation on the Centralina COG's application for the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. She explained the work of the stakeholder work group. She noted the importance of working with businesses and improving quality of life. She mentioned work with the Sacramento COG on regional planning. She stated that COG is not requesting a match at this time nor commitment of staff time. She noted the previous application from August 2010. She stated that the request will be for \$3.9 million in matching funds. She referenced the preferred sustainability status from the first application. She stated that HUD has asked for more explanation of how traditionally underrepresented groups. She stated that the COG would be working with local municipal and county economic developers to support job creation. She concluded that the MPO would need to support the grant in order for member jurisdictions to participate. She stated that COG has set aside funds in their budget to supplement these efforts. TAC members asked about the level of participation in this grant. She stated that there would be quarterly meetings and participation was optional.

Commissioner Carl Ford noted that Rowan County has a land use plan, EDC, and functional planning department and he saw this effort as duplication by COG. Councilman Al Brown stated that he did not see any harm in supporting the grant and each participating member's staff could participate as desired. Councilman Kenneth Geathers noted the City of Kannapolis' action in support of the grant.

After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to endorse the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant application and Alderman Richard Wise seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Carl Ford and Alderman Reid Walters voting against.

Regional Transportation Planning Organization Study

Ms. Rebecca Yarbrough provided a powerpoint presentation on the Centralina COG's Regional Transportation Planning Organization Study. She noted the 3 options identified by the consultant for further progress: 1) Maintain status quo, 2) Create a new mechanism, or 3) Merge MPOs/RPOs. She believed that the Study was a vehicle for creating a mechanism to achieve one of the options. She acknowledged that there was not a lot of support for merging all of the MPOs and RPOs in the region. Ms. Yarbrough mentioned the work of the Policy Committee in the 4 meetings to date. She believed that the Committee was wanted to be pro-active and build trust with COG staff. Most of the discussion at these meetings revolved around 5 additional options. There was a consensus for Option C, which was to identify specific works products: Regional Freight Plan and Existing Conditions Map. She noted that the outcomes are reflective of a stakeholder driven process.

TAC members discussed the genesis of this study. Councilman Kenneth Geathers noted the financial participation of NCDOT in the initial study. Commissioner Carl Ford indicated that the Rowan County

Legislative Delegation was opposed to this study and the idea of consolidation. Alderman Bill Feather noted that the MPO had participated from the beginning and he was not opposed to the study, but wanted to find out more information before making a decision.

After an extended discussion, Commissioner Carl Ford made a motion to dissolve future participation in the Centralina COG's Regional Transportation Planning Organization Study and Alderman Reid Walters seconded the motion. The motion failed 2 – 9. Several TAC members asked about the value of continuing to participate. Councilman Al Brown suggested that it might be good to canvass the TAC membership on this issue and for staff to consolidate those comments for the next meeting. TAC members suggested that more info was needed and the next TAC meeting was the proper time to consider making a decision.

DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Ms. Linda Dosse reported to TAC members that the NCDOT has spent the past year working on a series of maps that will serve as the MPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) and compliment the currently adopted and fiscally constrained LRTP. She referenced the presentation in June and noted a 30 day public comment period which concluded on July 29. Linda provided a review of each of the 16 maps for the TAC. Mr. Kenneth Geathers asked about the relationship with the US Census. Staff confirmed that the CTP and Census were unrelated, but new census information was on the horizon. Commissioner Carl Ford noted that Rowan County was contesting the 2010 Census count. Linda also noted the inclusion of projects in the CTP as part of TIP funding authorization. She noted that the next step would be mutual adoption by the Board of Transportation and then distribution of copies of the maps.

With minimal discussion, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve the CTP maps as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Carl Ford. The TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

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. Ivey was excused from the meeting prior to this update.

Mr. Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 10, provided TAC members with a lengthy handout of TIP project updates including Mr. Hancock reported that the Highway 49 project in Mount Pleasant was under contract. He noted progress on the temporary construction bridge for the I-3803B project. He mentioned that the Morehead Road project will be complete before the fall race. He reconfirmed the let date of January 2013 for the I-3802A.

- 2040 Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan – Ms. Linda Dosse provided information to the TAC members on this new initiative and referred members to a handout in their packets for results from the recent online survey. She noted the relationship between the 2040 Plan and other local efforts. Phil Conrad mentioned the list of fiscally constrained LRTP projects that were submitted to the NCDOT consultant. Councilwoman Maggie Blackwell noted the lengthy horizon for the Plan and need to broaden our perspective on the preferred mode of travel, which could change significantly with the rising cost of gas and investment in other technologies.

- CK Rider Triennial Review Findings – Phil Conrad distributed a handout of the MPO’s Public Involvement Policy (PIP) and explained the relationship between the MPO and the CK Rider Transit System. He also stated that the City of Concord has decided to rely on the MPO’s PIP for the Program of Projects (transit). He noted a technical correction to include language explaining this relationship. With little discussion, Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to endorse the correction to the PIP and Ken Geathers seconded the motion. The TAC following with a unanimous vote of approval.

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. Councilman Jeff Phillips asked that the 79X ridership information be added to the ridership table.

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Councilman Al Brown seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. Chairman Burleyson thanked everyone for attending.