

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 27, 2014

North Carolina Research Campus
UNC Building
500 Laureate Way
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28081

Members:

Al Brown
Bill Feather
Maggie Blackwell
Elizabeth Poole
Ryan Dayvault
H.A. Hilton
Reid Walters
Charles Wingerson
Jeff Phillips
Lee Withers
Richard Wise

City of Concord
Town of Granite Quarry
City of Salisbury
Cabarrus County
City of Kannapolis
Town of Landis
Town of Spencer
Town of Rockwell
Town of Harrisburg
Town of China Grove
Town of Midland

Others:

Phil Conrad CRMPO Director
Deborah Carter Cabarrus Chamber
Carolyn Carpenter CCSC
Connie Cunningham CRMPO Staff
Elaine Spalding Rowan Chamber
Pat Ivey NCDOT Div 9
Stuart Basham NCDOT Div 10
Warren Cooksey NCDOT Div 10
Scott Cole NCDOT-Div. 10
Loretta Barren FHWA
Linda Dosse NCDOT-TPB
Rodney Harrison Salisbury Transit
Bobby Moore Town of Rockwell
David Pugh Town of Midland
Wilmer Melton City of Kannapolis

Call to Order

TAC Chairman Lee Withers called the August 27, 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO TAC to order. Chairman Withers welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and asked that those present stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge was recited, Chairman Withers proceeded by calling the roll of eligible voting members and determined that a quorum had been met. He then requested that everyone present introduce themselves. Chairman Withers continued by requesting others present to introduce themselves. Once introductions were complete, Chairman Withers moved onto the next item.

Chairman Withers informed 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.

Continuing on, Chairman Withers asked for any updates from the Rowan or Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Elaine Spalding with the Rowan County Chamber reported that Rowan Chamber representatives as well as Cabarrus Regional Chamber representatives will be leading a delegation going to Washington, DC on September 8th and 9th to lobby for additional transportation funding for Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. Ms. Deborah Carter from the Cabarrus

Regional Chamber addressed the TAC members and reported that the Chamber's Transportation Committee has passed a resolution in support of additional adequate funding for transportation projects.

Chairman Withers proceeded by asking for Legislative updates. MPO Director Phil Conrad reported that members of the local Legislative delegation had been invited to attend but were unable due to schedule conflicts. TAC Chairman Withers then asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With none heard, Chairman Withers asked for any adjustments to the agenda and consent agenda. With none heard, Mrs. Liz Poole made a motion to accept and approve the agenda and the item in the consent agenda. Mr. Rich Wise seconded the motion and the members voted unanimously to approve.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Withers called members' attention to the minutes of the July 23, 2014 TAC/TCC joint meeting included in their agenda packets. He asked if there were any adjustments or corrections to the minutes. It was pointed out that there was a sentence in the Call to Order section of the July 23, 2014 minutes that referenced an incorrect name. The sentence was identified and it will be omitted from the minutes. With no other corrections being heard, Mr. Reid Walters made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and Mrs. Liz Poole seconded the motion. The TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

TIP Priority Projects STI Final Point Assignment

CR MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to members that NCDOT has now applied their methodology to rank all modes of transportation projects across the state. Phil explained that NCDOT's methodology includes a quantitative component that was recently released. NCDOT will now incorporate the quantitative scores with the CR MPO (local input) scores and the Division Engineers ranking (points) to work toward the development of the FY 2016-2025 TIP.

Phil continued by calling TAC members' attention to Attachment #4B in their packets which was a detailed list of Division 9 and Division 10 Highway STI Priorities for the Cabarrus Rowan MPO. Phil reviewed the spreadsheet with members highlighting past project ranking as well as current rankings. The rankings included in the spreadsheet detailed not only highway projects, but aviation, greenway, and sidewalk projects. Phil reminded members that during the July 2014 joint TCC/TAC meeting, TAC members made revisions to the point assignment of two projects which were outlined for members in Attachment 4A, also included in their packets. After review of all information on the spreadsheets, Phil called members' attention to a *Draft* resolution (Attachment 4C) in their packets endorsing the Project List and Ranking Methodology for the Cabarrus Rowan MPO.

Rowan County jurisdictions voiced concerns on the ranking of the Newsome Road and Main Street (Winecoff School Road to Kimball Road) projects. Some members are of the opinion that the Newsome Road project is more critical at this time and needed to be ranked higher. After lengthy discussions, Mrs. Maggie Blackwell made a motion to move the points in question to the Newsome Road project and adopt the TIP Priority Project List and Ranking Methodology with that change. Mr. Reid Walters seconded the motion. The Rowan County representatives voted in support of the motion with Mr. Tony Hilton and Mr. Ryan Dayvault voting against. The motion carried and was approved by majority.

Planning Boundary Agreement

Phil Conrad informed TAC members that as a result of the 2000 Census, the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO executed an agreement to assume planning responsibilities for the part of the Charlotte Urbanized Area in Cabarrus County including the Town of Harrisburg. The agreement Phil explained required additional federal planning requirements including a certification review and congestion management plan. With the completion of the 2010 Census some areas including the Town of Harrisburg are now part of the CR MPO's Urbanized Area. Phil explained there are however, some small sections of Cabarrus County along the Mecklenburg County boundary that will remain in the Charlotte Urbanized Area. As a result, a new agreement is required by FHWA to formally transfer planning responsibilities for those portions of the Charlotte urbanized area designated by the 2010 Census from the Charlotte Regional TPO to the Cabarrus Rowan MPO.

Phil called members' attention to Attachment 5 *Draft* Boundary agreement for their review and consideration. After review, Mr. Ryan Dayvault made a motion to approve the Planning Boundary Agreement as presented. Mr. Al Brown, Jr. seconded the motion and members voted unanimously to approve.

Transit Appointment to the MPO

Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that one of the requirements of the MAP-21 is that a representative from the transit community must serve on the MPO Board. Phil stated that according to FHWA staff, this requirement can be met with a resolution rather than a formal amendment to the current CR MPO Memorandum of Understanding.

Phil continued on by explaining there are four transit operators currently in the CR MPO area and one of those operations is represented by an independent Transit Commission. Phil explained that the transit representative should probably be an elected official since all the current TAC representatives are elected officials. By consensus, TAC members agreed.

Phil reported to the members that this topic had generated a very lengthy discussion at the TCC meeting with their final recommendation being to select one elected official from each of the four transit systems boards. These four individuals would rotate the positions of two TAC representatives and alternates. Each year these four would rotate positions. TAC members overwhelmingly stated they did not want to select four additional members to the MPO Board. Members voiced concerns about who would be the best person to represent the interests of all the transit operators. Phil stated that MPO staff had considered how to select a representative who would represent all the transit operators in a fair manner. He proposed the TAC consider appointing Kannapolis Mayor Darrell Hinnant to serve as the transit representative. Mayor Hinnant, Phil stated is not only an elected official but is the Chairman of the Concord-Kannapolis Transit Commission and the area he serves is located in Cabarrus and Rowan counties. Members noted Phil's suggestion but continued to discuss other options.

Phil called upon Ms. Loretta Barren with FHWA to provide additional information or comments as to whom and how to make a transit representative selection. Loretta was not able to provide much guidance on the subject other than to say the MPO must have a transit representative. After a very lengthy discussion, by consensus TAC members made a decision to form a subcommittee to meet and bring a recommendation back to the TAC members at the September 2014 meeting.

CRAFT MOA Amendment

Phil reported that the Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT) Technical Committee has proposed several changes for the CRAFT Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation was initially created in 2002 and included the four MPO's in North and South Carolina. As time has passed, Rural Planning Organizations were created and included in the CRAFT organization.

Phil explained with the recently amended MPO/RPO boundaries and associated name changes it has become necessary to amend the CRAFT MOA. The amendments would reflect the boundary changes of the Charlotte MPO and the Gaston MPO and the rural portions of South Carolina which are now represented by the Catawba Regional Council of Governments who are requesting membership. Phil called members' attention to Attachment 7 which was a copy of the amended Memorandum of Agreement. After review, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to approve the amendment changes to the CRAFT MOA. Mr. Al Brown, Jr. seconded the motion and members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

- ✓ Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 reviewed the Division 9 project updates list included in the members packets. Mr. Scott Cole, NCDOT Division 10 also presented and reviewed current Division 10 projects with the members. Ms. Linda Dosse, Transportation Planning Branch reported to the TAC that work had begun with a TCC subcommittee to update the CTP. Linda reported that two meetings have been held to date and the update has a completion deadline of November 2014.
- ✓ CMAQ Resolution – Phil called members' attention to a resolution in their packets that supports the sub-allocation of CMAQ funds to the Charlotte/Metrolina Non-Attainment Area. The resolution specifically requests USDOT and NCDOT to sub-allocate additional CMAQ funds to the Charlotte/Metrolina Region and Cabarrus Rowan MPO as the only air shed in NC that did not meet the 2008 Ozone standard.
- ✓ Public Transportation Discussion – This item was tabled until the next meeting.
- ✓ MPO Member Spotlight: Town of Midland – Phil Conrad provided TAC members with background information and a presentation on the Town of Midland. He reported on the progress the Town has made over the years and highlighted their accomplishments. Mr. David Pugh added information about the Town's accomplishments and provided members with a handout on the Midland section of the Carolina Thread Trail.

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.
- NCDOT Report for Direct Attributable Funding to the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.
- Next meeting is September 24, 2014.

Adjournment

Chairman Withers adjourned the August 27, 2014 meeting.