

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 26, 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
Rick Burleyson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Tammy Corpening	Town of East Spencer
Kenneth Geathers	City of Kannapolis
Lee Withers	Town of China Grove
H.A. Hilton	Town of Landis
Carl Ford	Rowan County
Elizabeth Poole	Cabarrus County
Jim Ramseur	City of Concord
Ralph Womble	NCDOT Division 9 Board Member
Richard Wise	Town of Midland

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Tom Kincaid	City of Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Barry Moose	NCDOT-Division 10
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Carolyn Carpenter	CCSC

Call to Order

TAC Chairman Rick Burleyson called to order the October 26, 2011 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC. Chairman Burleyson called the roll and confirmed that a quorum had been met and then requested that all those present introduce themselves. After introductions, Chairman Burleyson read the list of eligible TAC voting members to confirm their attendance.

Chairman Burleyson asked for any corrections or additions to the agenda. With no additions or corrections to the agenda being heard, Mr. Lee Withers made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting and Mrs. Elizabeth Poole seconded the motions. All TAC members voted unanimously to approve. Chairman Burleyson moved on 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 of Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. Alex also invited everyone present to the Cabarrus Regional Chamber's Transportation Summit on November 2, 2011 from 8:00 am until 12:30 pm. Attendees were directed to begin the Summit at J.E. Howard in the Town of Harrisburg and then move on to the Town of Midland to hear speakers from the NC Rail Division.

With no other Commerce reports heard, Chairman Burleyson asked for any speakers from the floor. With none heard, he moved on to the next order of business.

Approval of Minutes

TAC Chairman Burleyson made a request for any comments or corrections to the minutes from the August 24, 2011 TAC meeting. Mr. Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve the minutes as they appear. Mrs. Elizabeth Poole seconded the motions and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a TAC member requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. The following items are presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

Rocky River Greenway Segment TIGER Application

Mr. Kenneth Geathers made motion that the CRMPO TAC should endorse and sign the Resolution of Support for the Rocky River Greenway Funding Application. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

TIP Priority Project SPOT Results

Director Conrad reported to the TAC membership that NCDOT had applied their methodology to rank all of the highway projects across North Carolina and that the methodology includes a quantitative component that was just recently released for candidate projects.

Phil continued by stating that NCDOT will take the data and incorporate the local rankings with the quantitative scores to develop the FY 2014-2020 TIP. Director Conrad then called TAC members' attention to Attachment 4 TIP Priority Project SPOT Results in their packets, which was a list of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO's top thirteen projects. Attachment 4 included the 2009 Regional Priority Number, where each project is located, 2011 Regional Priority Number, NCDOT's Total Points given to each project, the NCDOT TIP number and the TIP funding status. After review of each project by Phil, NCDOT TPB representative Linda Dosse reminded TAC members that if there are projects that may be changing in the LRTP, now is the time to submit them.

Phil reported to TAC members that none of the projects would begin before 2018. With no further discussion, TAC members by consensus agreed that the information contained in Attachment 4 was complete and could be submitted to NCDOT by MPO staff.

NEW Bike and Ped TIP Priority Projects

Director Conrad continued on by explaining to TAC members, that NCDOT has finalized a methodology to rank bicycle and pedestrian projects throughout North Carolina. As with the highway projects, NCDOT's methodology includes a quantitative component and that those priority projects were also recently released. Phil went on to say that NCDOT has asked each MPO to rank their top five bicycle projects and top five pedestrian projects. Once these projects are submitted, NCDOT will incorporate the quantitative scores with the local rankings and compile a list of selected projects for the Draft TIP. Phil then directed TAC members to Attachment 5 MPO Pedestrian TIP Priorities and MPO Bicycle TIP Priorities in their packets, which was a list of the ten proposed pedestrian/greenway projects and the eight proposed bicycle projects in the CRMPO area.

Phil reviewed Attachment 5 with the TAC members, which included the Division where each project is located, the 2009 Regional Priority Number, the 2011 Regional Priority Number, the amount of points NCDOT (SPOT Office) gave to the project, whether or not the project is included in the Carolina Thread Trail, if the project was newly submitted in 2011, and the length of each project in miles. He informed TAC members that MPO staff has, as they did with the highway projects, applied the local methodology to the candidate projects and that the local project point totals are included in the last column, Project Criteria Points, of Attachment 5. Phil also called members attention to additional information provided in their packets regarding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Prioritization Criteria.

Chairman Burleyson then opened the floor for comments and or questions. A question was posed as to whether or not NCDOT has a Greenway Program and NCDOT representatives replied that there is not an official program. Phil reported that there is approximately \$6 million statewide for sidewalk projects which equates to about one project per division and that this list would need to be reduced down from eleven projects to five. Bicycle projects will need to be prioritized from eight projects to five. All CR MPO TCC staff had been requested to make any submittals no later than July 1, 2011 to be considered.

With no further discussion, Mrs. Elizabeth Poole made a motion to approve the top five ranked Pedestrian TIP projects and submit them to NCDOT for consideration. Mr. Kenneth Geathers seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Then Chairman Rick Burleyson made a motion to approve the top five ranked Bicycle TIP projects and submit them to NCDOT for consideration. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and all TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

New CMAQ TIP Priority Projects

MPO Director Conrad reported to TAC members that Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds are a federal funding source for areas designated as non-attainment by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Phil continued by explaining that CMAQ funds require a local sponsor and a 20 percent local match. In order for projects to be eligible for the CMAQ funding, they must demonstrate an emissions reduction benefit to the local area. Projects must be submitted by the CRMPO to NCDOT no later than October 31, 2011 in order to be considered for funding.

Phil continued by calling TCC members' attention to Attachment 6A Candidate CMAQ Priority Projects, in their packets. He explained that a total of eight new CMAQ Project Proposals had been received by the CRMPO and that the TCC Subcommittee had met prior to the TCC meeting to score the candidate projects. Phil reported that this list of candidate projects was approved and a recommendation was made to bring before the TAC for their approval. Phil went on to say that NCDOT has indicated that the CRMPO can possibly receive about \$2 million per year in CMAQ funds for FY 2016 and 2017. With that in mind, Phil said that it appears that a majority of the candidate projects could be funded under this funding scenario. Phil also reminded members that all CMAQ grants require a 20% local match. But Phil cautioned TAC members that with uncertainties in the federal budget, there are no guarantees that the federal CMAQ program will still be in effect or the funds available in future fiscal years.

Phil continued on by reviewing the list of CMAQ candidate projects with TAC members explaining it in detail. He also called TAC members' attention to Attachments 6B which were copies of each CMAQ application that was included in their agenda packets for their review. After all review and discussion, Mr. Lee Withers made a motion to switch the priorities of the number one and number two priority projects in order and then submit the Cabarrus Rowan MPO Candidate CMAQ Priority Project list to

NCDOT for consideration. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Phil called TAC members attention to Attachment 6C which was a Resolution of Endorsement for the Candidate CMAQ Project Proposals. This resolution, Phil explained would be forwarded to NCDOT with the list of Candidate CMAQ Project Proposals. With no discussion, Mr. Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve signing of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO Resolution Endorsing Candidate CMAQ Project Proposals. Mr. Bill Feather followed with a second to the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports & Updates

Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 called TAC members' attention to a handout in their packets, which contained updates to projects in Division 9.

Mr. Barry Moose, NCDOT Division 10, reported to the TAC members that the I-85 bridge replacement and road widening projects (I-3803) are making great progress and moving along as planned. Mrs. Carolyn Carpenter from Cabarrus County Schools asked Mr. Moose about the status of the Harrisburg extension project as it relates to the Hickory Ridge Middle and High schools. Mr. Moose replied that \$500k has been committed to the project but there was concern that some environmental problems may become an issue.

Rural Traffic Circles – Mr. Pat Ivey provided TAC members with pamphlets on Your Guide to Understanding Roundabouts.

2040 Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan – Ms. Linda Dosse with NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch provided TCC members with a powerpoint presentation on the 2040 Plan update. She provided an overview of the Plan, the schedule for implementation, it's current status, data input and participation, policies, procedures and the financial aspects of the Plan. MPO staff provided TAC members with handouts of the presentation.

North Carolina Railroad Study – Phil called TAC members' attention to information provided in their packets on the NC Railroad Study.

NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Matching Grant Program – Phil Conrad called members' attention to information in their packets concerning NCDOT Bike & Ped Division's annual planning grant initiative to encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plans. TAC members opted to go ahead and approve any applications that may be presented to Director Conrad from Cabarrus Rowan MPO jurisdictions. Mr. Kenneth Geathers made a motion to endorse by resolution all applications received for the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Matching Grant Program by CRMPO jurisdictions. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and TAC members unanimously voted to approve.

Centralina Transportation Planning Organization Study – Phil reported that it appears there are no more funds available to continue the study.

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.

Phil Conrad informed TAC members that there will be a Centralina Council of Governments sponsored meeting on November 16, 2011 at Salisbury City Hall beginning at 9:30 am in regard to rehabilitations on some older structures in Salisbury.

Mr. Lee Withers asked how the high speed rail initiative was progressing and requested information on railroad crossing closings in the CRMPO area. MPO staff will make a request of NCDOT Rail Division to attend the next CRMPO meeting to answer questions regarding these items.

The next meeting of the CRMPO will be held on November 16, 2011 at Salisbury City Hall.

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Chairman Rick Burleyson seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote.