

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Members

Elizabeth Poole	Cabarrus County
Lori Furr	Town of Mt. Pleasant
JC McKenzie	City of Concord
Karen Alexander	City of Salisbury
Greg Edds	Rowan County
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Ashley Stewart	Town of Landis
Ron Smith	Town of Harrisburg
Tony Lathrop	NCDOT Board
Ryan Dayvault	City of Kannapolis

Others

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Div 9
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Scott Miller	NCDOT Div 10
Brett Canipe	NCDOT Div 10
Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD
Terry Crawford	City of Concord
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Diamond Staton-Williams	Town of Harrisburg
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Senator Carl Ford	NC Senate
Elaine Spaulding	Rowan Chamber
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Stuart Basham	NCDOT Div 10
LJ Weslowski	RIDER Transit
David Wasserman	NCDOT STIP
Van Argabright	NCDOT STIP
Brett Canipe	NCDOT Div 10
Stephen Rosenburgh	NCDOT Board
Randy Strait	NCDQAQ
Dari Caldwell	Rowan Chamber
Doug Wilson	City of Kannapolis

Call to Order

TAC Chairman Greg Edds opened the virtual meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC at approximately 5:45 pm. Chairman Edds welcomed everyone to the meeting and then asked all present to please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed on their screens. After reciting the pledge, Chairman Edds called the roll of eligible voting TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met. He then asked the group to introduce themselves.

After introductions were made, Chairman Edds read 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, TAC members should recuse themselves from that portion of the meeting.

Chairman Edds continued by asking for any Chamber of Commerce updates. Mr. Alex Rankin with the Cabarrus Chamber reported that the Chamber had nothing new to report to the group since their last meeting. Mrs. Elaine Spaulding with the Rowan Chamber invited members to the Rowan Chamber Power in Partnership virtual event on October 15, 2020 where they will be hosting NCDOT Secretary J. Eric Boyette. TAC Chairman Edds then asked if there were any speakers from the floor who would like to speak. With none heard, he moved onto the next order of business.

Chairman Edds asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda including the Consent Agenda. With no adjustment heard, Mr. Ron Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion. The TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are considered 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 were presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

RIDER Transit Program of Projects POP

Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that the Program of Projects is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of RIDER Transit System in Fiscal Year 2020. RIDER Transit System has decided to use the CRMPO's Public Involvement procedures to process this annual requirement. The public comment period was held with no comments received.

CTP Amendments

Director Conrad reported to the members that the City of Concord has provided DOT and MPO staff with some CTP amendments. The City of Concord has already adopted these newly presented amendments as part of the City's CTP process.

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #2

The first project modification, EB-5619B is a modification to delay construction to FY 2023 of the Grants Creek Greenway. The second project modification is for project EB-5619C

which is asking for a modification to add construction in FY2023 for segment C of the Grants Creek Greenway.

The third project, EB-5861, is for a delay in construction to FY 2021 for the Third Street Greenway which is federally funded with TAP funds. The fourth and final project is U-6237 which was for the delay in construction to FY 2021 of the Long Ferry and I-85 service road which is a state funded project.

RIDER Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad explained to the TAC members that the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) under final rule 49 C.F.R. Part 673 requires certain operators of public transportation systems that are recipients or subrecipients of FTA grant funds to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures necessary for implementing Safety Management Systems. The Concord Kannapolis Area Transit/City of Concord elected to draft and certify their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan under NCDOT's template and requirements as they were approved by FTA to do so as a small public transportation provider. The Cabarrus Rowan MPO's approval is being requested as well before being submitted to NCDOT for final approval and certification.

Draft Public Participation Policy Revisions

Director Conrad informed the TAC members that as a result of the recent CRMPO Federal Certification Review, FHWA staff made a suggestion that the CRMPO consider some modification to the CRMPO's Public Participation Policy. These suggested modifications would make the Policy consistent with the recently adopted CRMPO TAC by-laws authorizing virtual meetings. Any changes to the Public Participation Policy require a 45 day public comment period or review.

At that time, Mrs. Karen Alexander made a motion to approval all items included under the consent agenda. Mr. J.C. McKenzie seconded her motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of June 24, 2020 Minutes

Chairman Edds called the members' attention to the minutes from the March 25, 2020 meeting included in their meeting packets. Chairman Edds asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With none being heard, Mrs. Lori Furr made a

motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Ron Smith seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment #2

Director Conrad reported to the members that the CRMPO has requested a STIP Amendment to add HL-0001 Poplar Tent Road/Harris Road intersection improvement project and HL-0005 the Salisbury Signal System Upgrade project. Both these projects Director Conrad explained, were approved by the CRMPO at the June 2020 meeting for STBGP funds.

Director Conrad informed TAC members that this amendment to the STIP would be presented to the Board of Transportation for approval at an upcoming meeting and called attention to Attachment 8 which was a draft resolution.

With no questions or comments heard, Mrs. Karen Alexander made a motion to endorse Amendment #2 to the FY2020-2029 MTIP. Mr. Ron Smith seconded her motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Cabarrus County Long Range Transit Master Plan

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad informed TAC members that Cabarrus County and the Concord-Kannapolis RIDER Transit System have been working in unison on a study to evaluate the consolidation of services and a master plan for transit expansion over the coming years. This master plan Director Conrad explained, would include many recommendations that can be incorporated into the 2050 MTP Update. Director Conrad then acknowledged Mr. LJ Weslowski with RIDER Transit to continue with more information regarding the study.

Mr. Weslowski provided a power point presentation to the members explaining concepts for new service, additional routes, improved and updated equipment and additional funding options for future expansion. Once his presentation was complete, Mr. Weslowski asked for questions or comments. TAC Chairman Edds asked if Mr. Weslowski knew if property values are going up in areas where transit is present. Mr. Weslowski provided what information he had available to the Chairman.

Director Conrad asked if there were any additional questions or comments and with none being heard, he informed the members that the financial portion of the plan would come back before the members at a future meeting.

Transportation Conformity MOA Renewal

Director Conrad informed TAC members that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that all MPO's who have non-attainment counties must sign an interagency agreement for transportation conformity. He continued by stating that NCDOT has created a draft renewal agreement template and is currently in the process of renewing and updating all the MPO's affected in the State. The agreement with the CRMPO was last updated in March 2011. He then referenced a copy of an email from NCDOT explaining what was being required.

Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 10 which was a draft of the proposed renewal agreement. He directed members to page 4 of the attachment which was a list of MPO duties as part of the Transportation Conformity process.

At that time, Director Conrad offered the floor to Mr. Randy Strait with NCDEQ Planning Division. Mr. Strait addressed the members and explained the planning process and need for updated renewals. He reported that this is more of an administrative update and that NDOT, NCDEQ, USDOT, EPA, and FTA will all have duties contained in these updated renewals. Mr. Strait also pointed out that the new version of the agreement would make completing the renewals less intensive and time-consuming, as well as would allow for removing the sunset clause in the agreement and would allow for administrative changes in the future as needed.

After Mr. Strait was finished and with no questions or comments heard, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to approve the MOA renewal as presented. Mrs. Karen Alexander seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Release of Federal Funds to the CRMPO for Local Projects

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad explained to the TAC members that NCDOT has indicated that they will release an initial allotment of federal funds for locally administered projects now that they are above the cash floor. These projects Director Conrad reported, can be DA or CMAQ projects. He went on to explain that the initial allotment is \$993,319 of which \$256,425 must be used on highway projects. This requirement is due to the fact that these are INFRA funds which carry this requirement. Director Conrad then called members' attention to Attachment 11 which was a summary table of the projects under consideration and approved by the CRMPO TCC. Phil reported to the TAC members that the first four projects on the table are ready to go awaiting release of funds.

He then introduced Mr. David Wasserman with the NCDOT STIP office and asked if he had anything to add. Mr. Wasserman explained that there had been a hold on funding projects but that the hold had now been lifted and funds are being allocated to the MPO's.

He also explained that this will not be the only allocation and more releases of funding will be forthcoming.

Director Conrad asked for questions or comments and with none being heard, Mr. JC McKenzie made a motion to approve the list of locally administered projects. Mrs. Karen Alexander seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports - NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Director Conrad reported that Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 Engineer who was on the call during the bulk of the meeting had to leave for another meeting. He requested Director Conrad to call TAC members' attention to the Division 9 Updates included in their meeting packet. He asked to highlight the Coach Deal Drive project which is now open for traffic.

Mr. Stuart Basham, NCDOT Division 10 Engineer reported to members that Division 10 has been working to update and revise the project update spreadsheet to contain more information and in a format similar to Division 9. Mr. Scott Miller, NCDOT Division 10 provided updates to various projects included in the updated spreadsheet. In closing, Mr. Basham reported that P6.0 project submittal date ended July 31, 2020.

Mr. JC McKenzie thanked Division 10 staff for the newly updated and revised Project Update Spreadsheet.

2. Financial Update - NCDOT - Mr. David Wasserman reported that NCDOT is above the cash floor and they are in the process of reprogramming funding for projects and releasing funds.
3. EPA Decision on the 8 Hour Ozone NAAQS – Mr. Randy Strait, NCDOT reported that the standards will remain the same.
4. Letter Regarding 2020 Census Impacts – Director Conrad called members' attention to a letter of support in their packets regarding the impact COVID-19 has had on the US Census currently underway. Director Conrad reported to the members that MPO staff and members have been participating in local events to promote the Census. Director Conrad reported that the CRMPO TCC members responded by wondering how to get remaining citizens to complete it. It was determined by TCC members to request that the CRMPO TAC write a letter of support for the Census effort consistent with the one presented in their packet.

Informational Items

- ✦ RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- ✦ I-95 Corridor Coalition – Director Conrad reported that the MPO has joined the coalition and as a result will have access to transportation data.

Next Meeting is September 23, 2020.

Adjournment

With no other business to bring before the TAC, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Karen Alexander followed with a second and the meeting was adjourned.