

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

### VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

#### Members

Meredith Bare Smith	Town of Landis
Lori Furr	Town of Mt. Pleasant
JC McKenzie	City of Concord
Greg Edds	Rowan County
Ryan Dayvault	City of Kannapolis
Brittany Barnhardt	Town of Granite Quarry
Karen Alexander	City of Salisbury
Ron Smith	Town of Harrisburg
Dillon Brewer	Town of Rockwell
Charles Seaford	Town of China Grove
Andrew Perkins	NCDOT Board

#### Others

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Div 9
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Stuart Basham	NCDOT Div 10
Jeff Littlefield	NCDOT Div 10
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Roger Castillo	NCDOT TPD
Jason Pauling	City of Concord
Elaine Spaulding	Rowan Chamber
Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Phillip Graham	City of Concord
Carl Ford	NC Senator
Brielle Hartney	City of Concord
Terry Crawford	City of Concord
Cheryl Sheets	Town of China Grove
Eddie McFalls	NC DOT Rail Div
Kyle Bridges	13 <sup>th</sup> District Office
Diamond Staton-Williams	Town of Harrisburg

#### Call to Order

TAC Chair Meredith Bare Smith called the January 26, 2022 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC to order. She welcomed all in attendance and asked all present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed on their screens. After reciting the pledge, Chair Smith called the roll of eligible voting TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met.

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad 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.

Director Conrad recognized NC Senator Carl Ford who indicated that work continues in Raleigh, and was happy to report the completion of the State Budget, which included a lot of compromises and negotiations. Director Conrad asked NCDOT Board member Anthony Perkins for any comments. Mr. Perkins reported to the members that construction estimates on projects were complete. With this information the Board will be able to determine which projects to pursue and which pending projects to evaluate when funding becomes available.

CRMPO Executive Director Conrad continued by asking for any Chamber of Commerce updates. Mr. Alex Rankin with the Cabarrus Chamber reported to TAC members of upcoming meetings at the Cabarrus Chamber as well as a successful State of the Region Summit held in November. Mrs. Elaine Spaulding from the Rowan Chamber reported of upcoming meetings with the Rowan Chamber as well as the resumption of in-person Power in Partnership meetings in 2022.

Director Conrad indicated the untimely passing Mr. Tony Hillian and his service to the Town of East Spencer and the MPO Board. He asked for a moment of silence in Mr. Hillian's memory. The TAC membership followed with a moment of silence.

Vice Chair Smith asked if there were any speakers from the floor who would like to speak. With none heard, she moved on to the next order of business.

Director Phil Conrad introduced Mr. Phillip Graham from the City of Concord who provided the TAC members with an update on the CRMPO staffing situation. Mr. Graham indicated that the City had decided to continue with the bid or contract process for staffing rather than bringing the function in house. TAC members commended Mr. Graham on this decision and for coming back to the TAC with an update.

Mr. Kyle Bridges from the 13<sup>th</sup> District of Tedd Budd's office provided an update on federal activities including the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. He noted a number of grant opportunities in the bill.

Chair Smith asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda including the Consent Agenda. Without any adjustments, Chair Smith made the motion to approve the agenda with adjustments including the Consent Agenda and Mayor Barnhardt 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:

### **FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #10**

The project modification is the deletion of AV-5820 at the request of Mid-Carolina Regional Airport and Rowan County.

### **2050 MTP and Transportation Conformity Update**

The Cabarrus-Rowan MPO and the Metrolina Regional Partners have been working on the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. This report demonstrates that the financially constrained MTP's in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. It also certifies that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a subset of the 2050 MTP, and that the Conformity Report is consistent with the approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) by EPA.

## **THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Approval of October 27, 2021 Minutes**

Chair Smith called members' attention to the minutes from the October 27, 2021 meeting included in their meeting packets. Chair Smith asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With none being heard, Chair Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

### **Nomination and Election of TAC Vice-Chair**

CRMPO Director Conrad indicated that the Cabarrus-Rowan TAC Bylaws state that a new TAC Vice-Chair must be elected each year and the TAC Vice-Chair rotates to the Chair position automatically in the following year. In addition, the TAC Chair and Vice-Chair must be rotated between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. He stated that the TAC will need to nominate and elect a Vice-Chair from Cabarrus County for 2022.

Mayor Karen Alexander made a motion to nominated Ryan Dayvault as the TAC Vice Chair. Mr. Greg Edds seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve Mr. Dayvault's appointment.

### **Rider Transit Program of Projects**

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 in Fiscal Year 2021. Rider has elected to use the MPO Public Involvement procedures to process this annual requirement. Phil noted that no public comments were received during the comment period, which ended on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Director Conrad asked if there were any questions or comments. With none heard, Mr. JC McKenzie made a motion to adopt the Rider Transit Program of Projects (POP). Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **Performance-Based Planning: Safety Targets**

Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that the federal transportation legislation or FAST Act requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. He stated that the NCDOT just released the next round of safety targets for North Carolina and it is up to each MPO to either adopt these targets or devise their own targets. The proposed safety targets were published on the MPO's website and no public comments were received during the comment period, which concluded December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Director Conrad asked if there were any questions or comments. With none heard, Chair Smith made a motion to endorse the Safety Targets for 2022. Mayor Charles Seaford seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **Proposed CMAQ Project Submittals**

Director Conrad reported that the CMAQ or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds are a federal funding source for areas designated non-attainment by the EPA. He stated that CMAQ funds require a local sponsor and a 20 percent local match. Eligible projects must demonstrate an emissions reduction benefit to the local area. He indicated that NCDOT has issued a call for new project applications that must be submitted by the end of March 2022. He stated that the MPO received a CMAQ project proposal for the Clarke Creek Greenway from the City of Concord. NCDOT has estimated that the MPO will receive about \$1.55 million in the federal CMAQ funds for FY 2023. Jason Pauling provided some feedback on the application and the City Council's support for the project. There were no other projects submitted by the membership.

Director Conrad asked if there were any questions or comments. With none heard, Mr. JC McKenzie made a motion for the MPO to endorse the CMAQ project proposed by the City as presented. Chair Smith seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **FY 2022-2023 DRAFT UPWP**

Director Conrad indicated that each year the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO develops and adopts a unified planning work program (UPWP). The UPWP is the MPO budget and follows the state fiscal year 2022-2023. He stated that the UPWP identifies the planning tasks, responsible agencies, and funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be conducted within the planning area during the next fiscal year. He concluded that these projects include MPO planning activities undertaken by local agencies, the N.C. Department of Transportation, and a line item for Regional Model and MTP Maintenance. NCDOT has indicated that the allocation in FY 23 to the CR MPO is \$354,600.

### **Reports/CRMPO Business**

1. Local Reports - NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 informed TAC members that Division 9 Updates are included in their meeting packet. He offered to discuss any projects on the list with members.

Mr. Brett Canipe, NCDOT Division 10 representative called TAC members' attention to a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates. He reviewed some of the ongoing projects in Division 10.

2. NCDOT Rail Update – This item was tabled until a future meeting.
3. Special Studies Update – Rowan County, Town of China Grove, and 2050 MTP Assistance - Director Conrad gave a brief update on the 3 special studies that are ongoing.
4. FY26 STBGP Balance and 2022 Project Call – CRMPO Director Conrad reported that information was included in the packet for their information and review.
5. TAC Member Orientation: Metropolitan Transportation Planning – This item was tabled until a future meeting.

### **Informational Items**

- ✦ RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.

Next Meeting is February 23, 2022

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to bring before the TAC, Chair Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Barnhardt followed with a second and the meeting was adjourned.