

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

VIRTUAL & IN PERSON MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Members

Elizabeth Poole	Cabarrus County*
Jim Sells	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
Diamond Staton-Williams	Town of Harrisburg
Anthony Perkins	NCDOT Board
Stephen Rosenburgh	NCDOT Board

*In person

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
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis*
Harry Warren	NC House
Donald Arant	NCRR
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Stuart Basham	NCDOT Div 10
Jason Orthner	NCDOT Rail
David Wasserman	NCDOT TIP Unit

Call to Order

TAC Chairman Greg Edds opened the virtual/in person meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC at approximately 5:45 pm from Kannapolis City Hall. The majority of the members attended virtually. Chairman Edds welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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 moved on to Chamber of Commerce updates. Mr. Alex Rankin with the Cabarrus Chamber reported that the Chamber would be holding part two of the State of the Region Summit on November 20th. With no other Chamber reports, Chairman Edds 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.

TAC Chairman Edds called members' attention to Mrs. Liz Poole, TAC representative from Cabarrus County. He told members that this was Mrs. Poole's last meeting with the CRMPO since she did not seek re-election to the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners. Chairman Edds thanked Mrs. Poole for her ten years of service to the CRMPO and awarded her a certificate and plaque in appreciation. Mrs. Poole highlighted some of the most meaningful projects she had helped to see come to fruition during her tenure.

Chairman Edds then asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda including the Consent Agenda. With no adjustments heard, Mrs. Liz Poole made a motion to approve the agenda as presented including the Consent Agenda 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:

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #3

Director Phil Conrad reminded the TAC members that MPO staff is at times requested to bring amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. A request from the last NCDOT BOT meeting was made to modify additional projects. Director Conrad called members attention to the information included in their packets regarding the specific project modifications.

The first project modification is a bridge project (B-5136) on US 29/US 601 that will utilize Build NC Bonds with construction beginning in FY 2021. The second project modification is the delay in construction to FY 2022 for a bridge project (B-5808) on US 29/US 601. The third project modification is the delay in construction to FY 2023 for a bridge project (B-5810) on NC 24/27. The fourth project modification is a bridge project (B-5813) on NC 73 that will no longer utilize Build NC Bonds with construction beginning in FY 2021. The fifth project modification is the delay in construction to FY 2024 for the Bruton Smith Blvd sidewalk project (EB-5732). The sixth project is the delay in construction to FY 2022 for the railroad track improvements in Rowan County (P-5726).

Director Conrad then called members attention to Attachment 2 which was a draft resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. He asked for any questions or comments regarding the information presented. With none heard, Mrs. Karen Alexander made a motion to endorse modification #3 to the FY 2020-2029 MTIP. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of August 26, 2020 Minutes

Chairman Edds called the members' attention to the minutes from the August 26, 2020 meeting included in their meeting packets. Chairman Edds asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With none being heard, Mr. JC McKenzie made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Mrs. Karen Alexander seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

Draft Public Participation Policy Revision

Director Conrad explained that with recent Federal Certification Review completion, the FHWA has suggested that the CRMPO consider some modifications to the CRMPO's Public Participation Policy in order to make it consistent with the recently adopted TAC by-laws authorizing virtual meetings. Director Conrad continued by stating that any revisions to the Public Participation Policy requires a 45-day public comment period or review. Director Conrad explained that the public comment period concluded on October 23rd and that no comments have been received. He called members' attention to Attachment 4 which was a DRAFT Public Participation Policy for the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO. He went on to review and explain in detail the changes and language of the policy.

Once the review was complete, he asked for any questions or comments. With none being heard, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to adopt the DRAFT Public Participation Policy. Mrs. Karen Alexander seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

2050 MTP DRAFT Projects List and CTP Amendment

MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC that since the reprogramming of the 2020-2029 TIP, MPO staff has been working on a draft revenue forecast for the 2050 Transportation Plan. Director Conrad then provided a power point presentation to better explain the forecast. This forecast, Director Conrad reported is based on the tier system included in the Strategic Mobility Formula, and statewide forecast methodology developed by NCDOT for regional and division tier allocations. Director Conrad went to say that these forecasts are applied to the projects listed in the 2045 Plan and most recent MPO SPOT/Priority List. He called members' attention to the Draft 2050 Projects List included in their packet as attachment 5A. Director Conrad reviewed in detail the projects list's and revenues associated with the projects. In addition, he went on to say that the MPO is being requested to incorporate the recommendations from the Cabarrus County Public Transportation Master Plan and that those projects can be found in attachment 5B also included in the meeting packet. Director Conrad called members' attention to memos

included in their packets regarding the lists and revenues. He then asked for questions or discussion. With none heard, he continued.

Director Conrad reported that the Cabarrus County Public Transportation Master Plan also recommended further study on three high capacity transit corridors. Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 5C in their packets which were maps of the three corridors. In closing Director Conrad reminded members that the CRMPO adopts a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) that includes many unfunded concepts like the high capacity transit corridors. Phil asked for questions or comments. Chairman Edds addressed the members and reported on the Town of East Spencer's interchange project and requested that it also be added to the 2050 MTP Projects list. Hearing no discussion, Chairman Edds made a motion to add the Town of East Spencer's interchange project with Mrs. Liz Poole seconding that motion. TAC members unanimously voted to approve the addition.

With no further discussions, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to release the amended 2050 Projects List and financial assumptions for public comment. Mrs. Liz Poole seconded that motion and the members voted unanimously to approve.

In closing, Chairman Edds made a motion to release the amended CTP map for public involvement and comment. Mr. Bill Feather seconded the Chairman's motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Federal Certification Review

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad explained to the TAC members that due to the federal designation as a Transportation Management Area (TMA), the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO is required to participate in a Federal Certification review every 4 years. This review is conducted by the FHWA and certifies whether the CRMPO has a valid transportation planning process. The FHWA conducted the most recent review on July 28th virtually. Director Conrad called TAC members' attentions to a summary of the findings of this review and a corresponding executive summary included in their packets as attachment 6.

Director Conrad went on to introduce Mrs. Loretta Barren with FHWA to provide a summary of the certification process and the outcomes. Mrs. Barren reviewed with the TAC members the certification process and pointed out specific items that are considered during the review. She reported that the CRMPO had achieved three commendations which she highlighted and had no corrective actions. In closing Mrs. Barren outlined some recommendations for a few items that FHWA would like to see included in the future.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports - NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 called TAC members' attention to the Division 9 Updates included in their meeting packet. He reviewed projects that are coming to completion. Chairman Edds took the opportunity to thank Mr. Ivy and his Division 9 staff for the event they held to mark the opening of the Officer Robert Clement Bridge. Chairman Edds also called upon NCDOT Board Member Anthony Perkins and thank him for the DOT support on this project. Mr. Perkins thanked Chairman Edds and took the opportunity to introduce new NCDOT Board Member Stephen Rosenburgh. Mr. Rosenburgh thanked Mr. Perkins and provided the TAC members with a short bio of his experience.

Mr. Brett Canipe, NCDOT Division 10 Engineer reviewed for members projects included in the update spreadsheet that was included in their packet.

2. NCDOT Rail Division Update - NCDOT - Mr. Jason Orthner NCDOT Rail Division and Mr. Donald Arant with NC Rail Road provided a power point presentation to the TAC members on rail projects. They provided members with information on the design phase of the new train station in Harrisburg which will be located on Highway 49 near the Harrisburg Town Center. They also reported to members that the Carolinian and Piedmont services will resume over the next few months. Mr. Orthner and Mr. Arant also provided information on the new platforms at the Kannapolis and Salisbury stations as well as information on the proposed Lexington, North Carolina train station.
3. Rowan Transit System Section 5310 Grant Application Letter of Support – Director Conrad directed the TAC members to information included in their packets regarding the Rowan Transit System's Section 5310 Grant Application. Rowan Transit is asking the CRMPO for a letter of support to accompany their application. With no questions or discussions heard, Chairman Edds made a motion to send a letter of support and Mr. Bill Feather seconded the motion. TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

NC Moves 2050 Plan Public Comment – Director Conrad called members' attention to a website shown in their agenda that provides further information on public comment.

Informational Items

- ✦ RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- ✦ Salisbury Transit System VW Settlement Program Award – Director Conrad congratulated the City of Salisbury on their recent award.

Next Meeting is November 18, 2020.

Adjournment

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