

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

NC Research Campus
Kannapolis City Hall
401 Laureate Way
Kannapolis, NC 28081

Members

JC McKenzie	City of Concord
Greg Edds	Rowan County
Karen Alexander	City of Salisbury
Justin Simpson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Mike Tallent	Town of Midland
Brittany Barnhardt	Town of Granite Quarry
Steve Miller	Town of Spencer
Ron Smith	Town of Harrisburg
Cheryl Sheets	Town of China Grove
Delores High	Town of East Spencer
Tim Furr	Cabarrus County

Others

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Theo Ghitea	NCDOT Div 10
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Div 9
Chris Peoples	NCDOT
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
Albert Smith	East Spencer
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Brett Canipe	NCDOT Div 10
Sean Epperson	NCDOT Div 10
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Lori Furr	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Tamara Sheffield	City of Salisbury

Call to Order

The Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC was called to order by TAC Vice Chairman Brittney Barnhardt. Vice Chairman Barnhardt welcomed those in attendance and asked all present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed. At that time, CRMPO Director Phil Conrad thanked the Town of Rockwell for a meal that was served prior to the start of the meeting. TAC Vice Chairman Barnhardt proceeded to call the roll of eligible voting TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met.

Vice Chairman Barnhardt continued by reading the NC State Ethics Commission Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest requirement and stated that should a conflict arise during any part of the meeting; members should recuse themselves from that portion of the meeting.

At this time CRMPO Director Phil Conrad introduced Mr. Chris Peoples newly designated COO at NCDOT. Director Conrad read a bio on Mr. Peoples. Mr. Peoples addressed the TAC members and reported that NCDOT has been working on their budget and making some good funding improvements. He reported they are working to develop better project estimates. He talked about Design/Build projects and reviewed the need to be able to sell the Build NC bonds

for additional funding. Mr. Peoples reviewed what his office is currently working on and their plans for future priorities. Director Conrad thanked Mr. Peoples for coming and speaking with the TAC members.

Director Conrad addressed the members and went into detail explaining the update on Legislative Session Law 2023-136. He explained that changes were made in the NCDOT Board Member appointment process. Those approved changes would now call for Board Members to be appointed based on funding regions with there being 14 appointments from those regions and 6 at-large appointments made by the current Governor of North Carolina. With little discussion, Director Conrad turned the meeting back to the Vice Chairman.

Vice Chairman Barnhardt asked for any Chamber of Commerce updates. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad addressed the members on behalf of Cabarrus Chamber. He reminded TAC members about the upcoming Cabarrus County Chamber's State of the Region Summit scheduled for November 17, 2023. With no other reports heard, Vice Chairman Barnhardt asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With none being heard she moved on to the next order of business.

TAC Vice Chairman Barnhardt asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda including the Consent Agenda. Without any adjustments being heard Mr. Greg Edds made a motion to approve the agenda including Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith seconded the motion and 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

The RIDER Transit System's Program of Projects (POP) is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of Rider Transit in Fiscal Year 2024. RIDER Transit has elected to use the CRMPO Public Involvement procedures to process their annual requirement. Attachment 2 is a copy of the POP to release for public comment.

Performance Based Planning: Safety Targets

Federal transportation legislation requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. NCDOT has 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. He explained why this planning is necessary to address Statewide Trends, Safety Programs and Safety Resources. Attachment 3 is a draft resolution on the new safety targets for 2024 to release for public comment.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of August 23, 2023 Minutes

Vice Chairman Barnhardt called members' attention to the minutes from the August 23, 2023 meeting included in their meeting packets. Vice Chairman Barnhardt asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With none being heard, Mr. Ron Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Justin Simpson seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

FY 2024-2033 MTIP Modification #1

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad reported that MPO staff typically bring amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. The first project modifications Director Conrad reviewed all of the modifications with the members and explained the items are statewide project additions: HM-9999, HS-2420DIV, HS-2420, HS-2420REG, HS-2420SW, HS-2421DIV, HS-2421REG, HS-2421SW, HS-2422DIV, HS-2420REG, HS-2422SW, SM6215DIV, SM-6215REG, SM-6215SW, HO-0010B, M-556, TO-0004, P-2918, P5719C, TC-0008, TC-0010, and TC-0012. He continued by stating the second project modification is the addition of preliminary engineering for the Concord sidewalk projects (BL-0087). The third project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the north apron expansion at Concord Regional Airport (AV-5892). The fourth project modification is to delay construction to FY 25 for the Bethpage Road sidewalk (C5603F). The fifth project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Grants Creek Greenway (EB-5619B). The sixth project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Grants Creek Greenway (EB-5619C). The seventh project modification is to the cost increase for the NC 152 roundabout (HE-0009). The eighth project modification is to delay right-of-way to FY 24 for the Poplar Tent and Harris Intersection project (HL-0001). The ninth project modification is to delay right-of-way to FY 24 for the Brenner Avenue roundabout project (HE0049). The tenth project modification is to delay construction to FY 25 for the US 29/Main Street improvements (HL-0064). The eleventh project modification is to add intersection improvements at NC 152 and NC 153 with construction in FY 24 (HS-2009I). The twelfth project modification is to add wrong way pavement marking signs on I-85 in FY 24 (HS-2010M). The thirteenth project modification is to increase the cost for the equipment and capital yard maintenance facility (P- 2918). The fifteenth project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Piedmont Corridor trains and maintenance facility (P-5719C). The sixteenth project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Norfolk Southern crossover relocation (P-5726B). The seventeenth project modification is to accelerate right-of-way to FY 24 for the Salisbury Train Station waiting area improvements (P-5733). The eighteenth project modification is the segmenting of NC 73 into BA and BB for R-5706B. The nineteenth project modification is the delay of construction to FY 26 for the Dale Earnhardt Blvd intersection improvements (U-5761). The twentieth project modification is the addition of segment E to the Rice Street and Cannon Farm Road project (W-5709E) in FY 24. The twenty-first project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Old Salisbury Road/Irish Potato Road safety improvements (W-5710AO). The twenty-second project modification is the cost increases to the North Main Street improvements (U-6062). The twenty-third project modification is the project break for the Robinson Church Road/Peach Orchard Road improvements (HS-2010R). The

twenty-fourth project modification is the project break for the NC 49/Old Airport Road U-turn bulb-out (HS-2010Q). The twenty-fifth project modification is the project break for the NC 49/US 601 rumble strips (HS-2010P). The twenty-sixth project modification is the project break for the NC 73 rumble strips (HS2010O). The twenty-seventh project modification is the delay of right-of-way to FY 24 for the Little Texas Road sidewalk (EB-5844). The twenty-eighth project modification is the delay of right-of-way to FY 24 for the US 601/Flowes Store Road intersection improvements (C-5603I). The final project modification Director Conrad explained is the project addition related to a federal grant for pedestrian safety elements such as countdown signal heads, crosswalks, etc. (BO-2419)

In closing Director Conrad referenced Attachment 5 in their packets which was a resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. Director Conrad stated the new STIP was adopted in June 2023 and became effective October 1, 2023.

With no questions or comments, Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith made a motion to endorse modification #1 to the FY 2024-2033 MTIP. Mr. Justin Simpson seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve

Metrolina Regional Travel Model Inputs

Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that the CRMPO is currently one of four MPO's in the proposed non-attainment Metrolina/Charlotte Region. He went on to say that the CRMPO will be working on projecting population and employment for the four horizon years in the Metrolina Regional Model: 2025, 2035, 2045, and 2055. Director Conrad then provided a PowerPoint presentation to the TAC members explaining the process.

After the presentation, Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 6 in their packets which summarized that the CRMPO TAC is being asked to adopt county-level projections (control totals) for future population and employment in Cabarrus and Rowan counties for the 2055 MTP's four horizon years: 2025, 2035, 2045 and 2055. He explained that development of updated socioeconomic data is an essential component of the development of the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. These projections, he went on to say will inform allocation and distribution of future socioeconomic growth estimates at the TAZ level throughout the two counties of Cabarrus and Rowan.

Director Conrad referenced Table 1 and Table 2 included in their packet which were the projections on population and employment for the CRMPO. He reviewed the Tables with the members. After he concluded and with no questions or comments being heard, Mr. J.C. McKenzie made a motion to endorse the socioeconomic projections for Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports - NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 reported to the TAC members that Division 9 Updates are included in their meeting packet. He called attention to project B-5772 which had delays due to issues with the railroad that have since been resolved.

He also reported that project 17BP9 has been let, project HS-2009D is almost complete and project HE-0009 let date has been delayed.

Mr. Brett Canipe, NCDOT Division 10 called TAC members' attention to a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates as well. He reviewed the Stough Road bridge replacement project and stated it has been postponed, but a temporary repair has been made to the bridge until a permanent solution is made. He also reported to the members that the Stonewall Jackson pedestrian bridge repairs are complete.

2. Division 10 P7.0 List and Funding Update for P7.0 - Director Conrad and NCDOT staff reported to the TAC members' attention page 80 which was a spreadsheet of the projects submitted by Division 10 for P7.0.

3. RCI Letter of Support – Division 10- Mr. Theo Ghitea from NCDOT Division 10 provided TAC members with a PowerPoint presentation on Reduced Conflict Intersections (RCI). The PowerPoint explained what an RCI is and provided pictures of how it would work as well as how much safer it is for the traveling public. Mr. Ghitea reported that NCDOT has completed a study of these types of intersections and found them to be much safer in traffic operations, flexibility, costs, and impacts. Mr. Ghitea requested that the CRMPO TAC endorse a letter of support for the RCI concept.

With no questions heard, Mr. JC McKenzie made a motion to endorse a letter of support for Reduced Conflict Intersections. Mr. McKenzie also praised the use of roundabouts and diverging diamonds in our area. Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith then seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

4. CMAQ Program Update - Director Conrad reviewed a list of CMAQ projects in the CRMPO with the TAC members that have been submitted to NCDOT for additional funds.

5. TPD Policy for Non-Federal Match – Director Conrad reviewed the Policy information provided in their meeting packets.

6. NCDOT *DRAFT* Carbon Reduction Strategy – CRMPO Director Phil Conrad called members' attention to information included in their packet regarding NCDOT's *DRAFT* Carbon Reduction Strategy. He explained that this program provides funds for projects that reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the transportation sector.

7. Special Studies Update – Director Conrad reported to the members that the NC 152 East Study is underway. Director Conrad also announced that the NCDOT TPD liaison Roger Castillo will be leaving the CRMPO to accept a similar position as liaison to the CRTPO.

8. NCDOT Feasibility Study Grant Award to Cabarrus County for MicroTransit - Director Conrad highlighted a letter from Mr. Bob Bushey with Cabarrus County Transportation regarding a grant to the County from NCDOT to conduct a MicroTransit feasibility study. The email reported that the kickoff will begin soon. Director Conrad reported that this study will cover southern Rowan up to China Grove as well as Kannapolis and Concord.

Informational Items

- ✦ RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- ✦ Division 10 Organizational Chart and Contact Information – provided as information in their packets.

Next Meeting : November 15, 2023

Adjournment

With no other business to bring before the TAC, Mr. Ron Smith made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Justin Simpson seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.