

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

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

Members

Terry Crawford	City of Concord
Mike Tallent	Town of Midland
Larry Pittman	Cabarrus County
Steve Miller	Town of Spencer
Greg Edds	Rowan County
Rich Luhrs	Town of Granite Quarry
Chris Cranford	Town of Rockwell
Ryan Dayvault	City of Kannapolis
Deloris High	Town of East Spencer
Ron Smith	Town of Harrisburg
Justin Simpson	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Ryan Nelms	Town of Landis
Tony Perkins	NCDOT Board

Others

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Brett Canipe	NCDOT Division 10
John Rhyne	NCDOT Division 9
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Division 9
Karla Foster	Rowan Chamber
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Theo Ghitea	NCDOT Division 10
Albert Smith	Town of East Spencer
Brian Murphy	NCDOT TSS
Barbara Mallet	Town of East Spencer
Eddie McFalls	NCDOT Rail Division
	Consultant

Call to Order

The new 2025 TAC Chairman Ron Smith called the January 29, 2025 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (CRMPO) to order after a meal provided by the Town of Granite Quarry.

Chairman Smith welcomed everyone and asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed. After the pledge was recited, CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad addressed the members and guests and asked for a moment of silence to respect the passing of Mayor Karen Alexander. Mayor Alexander recently passed away and was a long time representative of the City of Salisbury to the CRMPO. Her presence and accomplishments will sorely be missed by this group.

TAC Chairman Smith went on to call 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 stated that if a conflict should arise during any part of the meeting; members should recuse themselves from that portion of the meeting.

At this time, Director Conrad introduced Mr. Anthony Perkins of the NC Board of Transportation. Mr. Perkins addressed the members providing updates from the Board of Transportation. He reported that the 2026-2035 STIP was released that day to the Division Engineers. After review by the Division Engineers, the document will be released for public comment. Each Division will hold a weeklong public comment period to give citizens an ample opportunity to comment on the proposed projects.

CRMPO TAC Chairman Smith continued with the meeting and asked for any Chamber of Commerce updates. Mrs. Karla Foster representing the Rowan Chamber reported to the TAC members that the Rowan Chamber's priority projects list will be presented to the new NCDOT Administration in Raleigh.

TAC Chairman Smith then asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With none being heard, he moved on to the next order of business.

TAC Chairman Smith asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda including the Consent Agenda. Director Conrad addressed the Chairman and requested that Item 4A regarding the release of the Draft STIP be added to the agenda following Item #4. With no others adjustments being heard, Mr. Ryan Dayvault made a motion to approve the agenda as adjusted. Mr. Justin Simpson seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Chairman Smith then requested a motion and second for the Approval of the Consent Agenda if no questions or comments. With none heard, Mr. Terry Crawford made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and 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 2024-2025 UPWP Amendment #1

The CRMPO currently has some special study funds that have not been assigned. There is a request of \$48,000 in special study funds for technical assistance for the 2055 MTP/CTP Update as was presented in the fall of 2024. The local match (\$12,000) was already budgeted in the current fiscal year.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of November 20, 2024 Minutes

TAC Chairman Smith called members' attention to the minutes from the November 20, 2024 TAC meeting included in their meeting packets. Chairman Smith asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With no corrections or additions heard, Mr. Mike Tallent 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.

Nomination and Election of TAC Vice Chair

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad reminded the TAC members that the by-laws of the CRMPO TAC requires that every year in January a new Vice Chairman must be elected. He went on to state that the newly elected Vice Chair will rotate to the Chair position automatically beginning 2026. Also, according to the by-laws, the TAC Chair and Vice Chair must be rotated between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. Since the new Chair is from Cabarrus County, a Vice Chair from Rowan County needs to be elected tonight.

With little discussion, Mr. Ryan Dayvault nominated Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith as the Vice Chair for 2025. With no other nominations being heard, Mr. Chris Cranford made a motion to close the nominations and elect Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith as CRMPO TAC Vice Chair. Mr. Ryan Nelms seconded that motion, and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Draft FY 2026-2035 STIP Release

Director Conrad provided a summary of major TIP projects in both counties for the TAC members and reviewed each project schedule for them. Mr. Terry Crawford asked about the Union Cemetery Road project and the importance to the City of Concord. Mr. Brett Canipe explained that right-of-way acquisition is ongoing and construction had been delayed slightly or about a year.

Mr. Brett Canipe and Mr. John Rhyne noted that they had not had an opportunity to completely review projects due to the recent release. It is anticipated that the Board of Transportation will adopt the STIP in July.

Director Conrad also reported that the CRMPO has more locally administered projects than ever before, and complimented the jurisdiction's staff for all their hard work in proposing and administering these projects. He closed in stating that this was all provided to them as information and would come back for an approval as part of the air quality conformity.

PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING: SAFETY TARGETS

Mr. Brian Murphy with NCDOT Traffic Safety Systems reported to the TAC members that federal transportation legislation requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. He explained that 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 and is an annual requirement. Mr. Murphy provided the TAC members with a power point presentation to explain the safety issues on NC roadways. He discussed traffic safety data and how NCDOT is trying to lower the risks on NC roadways. He answered questions from the TAC members.

Director Phil Conrad thanked Mr. Murphy after his presentation and reported to the members that the proposed safety targets were published on the CRMPO's website and advertised for public comment. He highlighted Attachment 5 which was a draft resolution in support of the new safety targets for 2025.

With no further questions or discussion, Mr. Justin Simpson made a motion to adopt the Safety Targets as presented. Mr. Steve Miller seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2024-2033 MTIP Modification #8

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that CRMPO staff regularly brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. He went on to say that the first project modifications are statewide project additions: R5753, BO-2024, HN-0037, HO-0024, M-0531DIV, M-0531REG, M-0531SW, TA6665, TC-0008, TC-0010, TC-0018, TC-0021, TM-0023, TM-0027, TM-0028, TM-0029, TM-0031, TM-0032, TO-0004, TQ-6954, and TU-0011. The second project modification is the delay of construction to FY 26 for the sidewalk project in Granite Quarry (BL-0088). The third project modification is to delay construction to FY 25 for the Brenner Avenue intersection project (C-5603H). The fourth project modification is to modify funding in FY 25 for the Little Texas Road sidewalk (EB-5844). The fifth project is to remove the Jake Alexander Boulevard sidewalk project (BL-0034). The sixth project is to add the George Liles Pkwy interchange lighting project (HL-0157). The seventh project is to delay preliminary engineering to FY 25 for the Concord Signal System Upgrade (HL0123). The eighth project is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Salisbury Train Station and pedestrian underpass (P-5726A). The ninth project is delay right-of way to FY 25 Salisbury Train Station waiting space expansion (P-5733). The tenth and final project is to reflect the cost increase by \$2 million and the 25 percent threshold for the NC 73 widening west of the county line (R-5706A). He concluded by referencing Attachment 6 which was a Draft resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects.

With little discussion or comments, Mr. Chris Cranford made a motion to endorse modification #8 to the FY 2024-2033 MTIP. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded that motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

2055 MTP Draft Projects List

Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that since the anticipated release of the 2026-2035 TIP, which occurred today, CRMPO staff began working on a draft revenue forecast for the 2055 Transportation Plan. This forecast 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. Phil continued by stating that these forecasts are applied to the projects listed in the 2050 Plan and most recent MPO SPOT/Priority List. He then called members' attention to a Draft 2055 Projects List summary shown on Attachment 7 in their packets. He also

provided a power point presentation. Director Conrad then reviewed with TAC members the projects on the list and the financial assumptions. Director Conrad also reported that the CRMPO is requested to confirm recommendations from the last Cabarrus County Public Transportation Master Plan, pending endorsement of the CK Rider Transit Commission.

With no further information presented or questions heard, Mr. Rich Luhrs made a motion to release the 2055 Projects List and financial assumptions for public comment. Mr. Justin Simpson seconded that motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Rail Corridor ID Program – NC Rail – Mr. Eddie McFalls provided the TAC members with a presentation on NC Rail Service. Mr. McFalls presented a power point presentation to provide such information as type of rail passengers, intercity passenger rail service, ways to expand services and how rail corridors are determined. Mr. McFalls provided a website to get more information at “NCbytrain.org”.
2. Local Reports - NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. John Rhyne, NCDOT Division 9 reported to the TAC members that Division 9 updates were included in their meeting packet. He highlighted some updates on projects in Division 9.

Mr. Brett Canipe, NCDOT Division 10 called members’ attention to their report included in their packet. He then went on to highlight a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates.

3. 2020 Census Smoothed Planning Boundary – Director Conrad presented updated information on recent minor changes to this boundary.
4. BUILD Grant Letter of Support for Division 10 and Town of East Spencer – Director Conrad referenced two separate letters in their packets. One from Division 10 and one from the Town of East Spencer, asking for letters of support for their respective federal grant application projects.

Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program Letter of Support – The Town of Harrisburg is applying for federal grant funding for a Rail Station in the Saddle Creek area of Harrisburg. They are requesting a letter of support for the Town’s application.

With no questions or comments, Mr. Greg Edds made a motion to provide all three requests with a letter of support from the CRMPO. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and members voted unanimously to approve.

5. FY25 Draft UPWP – Director Conrad reviewed the draft as information to the membership.
6. Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies - Director Conrad informed members that both the Town of Cleveland and Town of Rockwell studies are moving forward.

7. Special Study Update – Director Conrad informed the TAC members that the Town of China Grove's NC 152 Study is complete and going before their Planning Board and Town Council in the future.

Informational Items

- RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil highlighted the ridership information included in the TAC packets.
- TPD Newsletter
- FHWA Updates
- NCDOT's Guide to Transportation Decision Making
- NC MPO Conference – April 15-17 in Wilmington

Next Meeting : February 26, 2025

Adjournment

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