

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

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

Members

Terry Crawford	City of Concord
Steve Miller	Town of Spencer
Larry Pittman	Cabarrus County
Dillon Brewer	Town of Rockwell
Jim Greene	Rowan County
Brittany Barnhardt	Town of Granite Quarry
Deloris High	Town of East Spencer
Ryan Dayvault	City of Kannapolis
Meredith Bare Smith	Town of Landis
Justin Simpson	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Lee Withers	Town of China Grove
Dale Peeler	Town of Faith
Mike Tallent	Town of Midland
Ron Smith	Town of Harrisburg

Others

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Sean Epperson	NCDOT Division 10
John Rhyne	NCDOT Division 9
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Albert Smith	Town of East Spencer
Karla Leonard	Rowan Chamber
Marty Sung	NCDOT-TPD
Mezak Tucker	NCDOT-Division 9
Barbara Mallett	Town of East Spencer
Harry Warren	NC House
Theo Ghitea	NCDOT Division 10
Andy Bailey	NCDOT-TPD
Felix Obregon	NCDOT Division 10
Scott Miller	NCDOT Division 10
Laura Evans	Town of Faith
Isaac Davis	Town of Midland
Ryan Nelms	Town of Landis
Naomi Hatchell	City of Kannapolis

Call to Order

TAC Chair Meredith Bare Smith called the meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (CRMPO) TAC to order after a meal provided by the Town of Mount Pleasant. TAC Chair Smith welcomed those in attendance and asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed. After the pledge was recited, TAC Chair Smith went on to call the roll of eligible voting TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met. She then asked everyone around the room to introduce themselves.

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.

Director Conrad then recognized Representative Harry Warren from the NC House, who reported that the NC General Assembly would be working on a budget in the upcoming session. He asked members to reach out to him with any questions.

TAC Chair Smith continued with the meeting and asked for any Chamber of Commerce updates. Mrs. Karla Leonard representing the Rowan Chamber reported to the TAC members that the Chamber is working on letters of support for the Build Grant application for the Town of East Spencer's new interchange. She also noted the 100th Chamber Gala for January 29th.

TAC Chair Smith began a service recognition for Connie Cunningham by presenting a service plaque and custom vase and flowers to Mrs. Cunningham. She provided a summary of Connie's contributions for the past 25 years noting the start of the CK Rider Transit System and other notable accomplishments. TAC members also recounted her efforts over the years and appreciative of her contributions to TAC meetings including cooking meals and navigating the State Ethics requirements. The Town of East Spencer presented an appreciation from the Town including some personal gifts and recognized Connie's value to the MPO. Both the TAC Chair and Director Conrad concluded with wishing Connie well in retirement and inviting her to return for future meetings at her pleasure.

TAC Chair Smith then asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With none heard she moved onto the consent agenda.

TAC Vice Chairman Smith then requested any adjustments to Consent Agenda for the night's meeting. The items under the Consent Agenda were the RIDER Transit Program of Projects and Performance-Based Planning: Safety Targets. Director Conrad briefly reviewed the items for the members. With no adjustments being heard, Mr. Terry Crawford made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Brittany Barnhardt seconded the motion and after no questions or discussion, 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)

The Program of Projects is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of Rider Transit in Fiscal Year 2026. Rider has elected to use the MPO Public Involvement procedures to process this annual requirement. No comments were received during the noticed public comment period.

Performance-Based Planning: Safety Targets

The federal transportation legislation requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. The 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. The proposed safety targets were published on the MPO's website with the public comment period closing on December 22, 2025. No comments were received.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of October 22, 2025 Minutes

TAC Chair Smith highlighted the minutes from the October 22, 2025 TAC meeting included in their meeting packets. Chair Smith asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With no corrections or additions heard, Mr. Justin Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Terry Crawford seconded the motion, and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

Nomination and Election of TAC Vice-Chair

Director Conrad noted 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 next calendar year. He also noted that the TAC Chair and Vice-Chair must be rotated between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties, and the TAC will need to nominate and elect a Vice-Chair from Cabarrus County for 2026. TAC Chair nominated Ryan Dayvault to be the Vice-Chair for 2026. Mrs. Brittany Barnhardt made a motion to close the nominations that was seconded by Mr. Larry Pittman.

FY 2026-2035 MTIP Modification #2

Director Conrad reminded the TAC members that CRMPO MPO staff typically brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to TCC/TAC for consideration. The first project modifications were statewide project additions: BO-2426, M-0417, TA-6665, TC-0018, TC-0021, TM-0028, TM-0029, TM-0032, TO-0004, TQ-6954, and TU-0011. The second project modification is to install rumble strips and pavement markings on NC 152 (HS-2409F). The third project modification is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Old Concord Road Sidewalk project (C-5603D). The fourth project modification is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Brenner Avenue safety project (C-5603H). The fifth project modification is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Grants Creek Greenway at Catawba College (EB-5619B). The sixth project modification is to delay construction to FY 27 for the Grants Creek Greenway at Kelsey Scott Park (EB-5619C). The seventh project modification is to delay utilities to FY 26 and construction to FY 27 for the Main Street Sidewalk project (HL-0064). The eighth project modification is to add the E. Franklin Street sidewalk project with construction in FY 29 (BN-0033). The

ninth project modification is to delay construction to FY 27 for the Brenner Avenue safety project (HL-0049). Director Conrad specifically noted the E. Fisher Street sidewalk and CMAQ award to the Town, which Mr. Simpson agreed was important to Mount Pleasant.

After review Director Conrad highlighted Attachment 6 which was a resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. Without any questions or comments being heard, Mrs. Brittany Barnhardt made a motion to endorse modification #2 to the FY 2026-2035 MTIP. Mr. Justin Simpson seconded that motion and the CRMPO TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

2055 MTP and Transportation Conformity Update

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad provided a powerpoint presentation to the TAC members on the 2055 MTP first and then the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report second. He highlighted components of the 2055 MTP including horizon year projects and inclusion of the CK Rider Transit Master Plan. He also explained the relationship between the recently approved State TIP and the 2055 MTP including the financial constraint component. He further noted that requirement to meet national ambient air quality standards due to the 2004 designation of the area as nonattainment for ozone. He mentioned the testing of project scenarios for the ozone tests and motor vehicle emission budgets, which were in the approved State Implementation Plan (SIP). He stated that the reports were available on the MPO website including all of the appendices. He stated that the federal review of the draft Conformity Report concluded in November and noted the upcoming April deadline for federal MTP approval.

After the review and with no questions or comments heard, Mrs. Brittany Barnhardt made a motion to release the 2055 MTP and Metrolina Conformity Determination Report for public comment. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and the CRMPO TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

2026 Draft Local Priority Methodology

Director Conrad noted NCDOT staff has indicated that Session Law 2012-84 requires the Department to develop a process for standardizing or approving MPO local input methodology. The last time the MPO approved changes to the Local Priority Methodology was in 2021, which included changes in the way that points can be flexed between the tiers. He stated that the MPO would be submitting a draft of the Cabarrus-Rowan local input methodology to NCDOT for content review. After the content review, the NCDOT staff will hopefully grant conditional approval to the MPO's methodology subject to public input and the MPO Board approval. He noted that most of the changes were updates to the proposed dates in the methodology. He concluded that this methodology would be applied in calendar 2026. Mr. Jim Greene asked about funding to the Mid-Carolina airport. Director Conrad noted that much of the aviation funding comes from FAA and the Mid-Carolina Airport is a general aviation airport that limits the total STIP funding statewide to around \$18 million based on the classification.

After review and no comments or questions being heard, Mr. Justin Simpson made a motion to release the Draft Local Priority Methodology for public comment and NCDOT review. Mr. Dale Peeler seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. 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.

Mr. Felix Obregon, NCDOT Division 10 noted the Division 10's report included in their packet. He then went on to highlight a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates. He noted the bid for the Union Cemetery Road realignment that came in under budget.

2. CMAQ Priority Submittal and Funding Update – Director Conrad reported an update on the Town of Mt. Pleasant's CMAQ project award from NCDOT.
3. BUILD Grant Letter of Support – Director Conrad explained that the Town of East Spencer and Rowan County have been working on a new BUILD Grant application using a federal grant writer. He noted that all letters of support are presented for consideration to the TCC/TAC. Mr. Lee Withers made a motion to endorse the letter of support for the Build Grant for the Town of East Spencer and Mrs. Brittany Barnhardt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
4. FY 26 Special Studies – Director Conrad reported that there are funds in FY 26 available.
5. FY 26 Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies – Director Conrad reported that there are funds in FY 26 available.
6. FY 27 UPWP – Director Conrad presented the FY 27 Draft UPWP. He explained the relevance for the municipal and county budgets including the proposed local match table.

Informational Items

- New NCDOT Secretary Daniel Johnson
- RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil highlighted the ridership information included in the TAC packets.
- NCDOT's Guide to Transportation Decision Making
- SEI Filing Deadline April 15th

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Next Meeting : February 25, 2026

Adjournment

With no other business to bring before the TAC, Mr. Lee Withers made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Brittney Barnhardt seconded the motion, and the TAC meeting was adjourned.