

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday May 26, 2010 – 5:00pm**

Kannapolis Amtrak Train Station  
201 South Main Street  
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28082

### Members:

Maggie Blackwell  
Charles Wingerson  
Bill Feather  
Kenneth Geathers  
Ralph Womble  
Rick Burleyson  
Jeff Phillips  
John Bradford  
Don Fleener  
James Ramseur  
Tina Hall  
Reid Walters

City of Salisbury  
Town of Rockwell  
Town of Granite Quarry  
City of Kannapolis  
NCDOT Board Member  
Town of Mt. Pleasant  
Town of Harrisburg  
Town of Cleveland  
Town of Midland  
City of Concord  
Rowan County  
Town of Spencer

### Others:

Eugene Conti, Jr. NCDOT Secretary  
Phil Conrad CRMPO Director  
Steve Osborne City of Concord  
Connie Cunningham CRMPO Staff  
Tom Kincaid City of Kannapolis  
Adrian Cox Town of Mt. Pleasant  
Steve Rowland Town of Landis  
Carl Ford Rowan County  
Bill Pless Town of China Grove  
Wilmer Melton City of Kannapolis  
Dan Peters Town of Granite Quarry  
Josh Watkins Town of Harrisburg  
Rob Walter Concord Airport  
David Pugh Town of Midland  
Ed Muire Rowan County  
Linda Dosse NCDOT-TPB  
Jamal Alavi NCDOT-TPB  
Kenneth Geathers, Jr. Town of East Spencer  
Dan Mikkelson City of Salisbury  
Richard Flowe Town of Midland  
Terry Arellano NCDOT-TPB  
Bob Wright Rowan Co. Chamber  
Alex Rankin Cabarrus Chamber  
Ryan Combs Senator Burr's Office  
Charlie Grady NCDOT  
Ted Vaden NCDOT  
Jonathan Marshall Cabarrus County  
Pat Ivey NCDOT – Division 9  
Barry Moose NCDOT – Division 10  
Richard Wise Town of Midland

### Call to Order

TAC Chairman Bill Feather called the May 26, 2010 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC to order. Chairman Feather welcomed the members and then began a roll call of the attending members. After determining that a quorum had been met, Chairman Feather introduced some of the guests in attendance. Chairman Feather then proceeded to recognize NCDOT Secretary Eugene Conti, Jr. and presented him with a gift from the Cabarrus Rowan MPO to show the MPO's appreciation of all of the hard work done by NCDOT. After introductions were complete, Chairman Feather asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Phil Conrad, CRMPO Director requested that a new item, a Resolution of Support to Exempt Garvee Bonds from the Equity Formula for the Yadkin River Bridge be

added under the reports section of the meeting. With no further additions or corrections to the agenda heard, Chairman Feather continued on to the next item of business.

Chairman Feather asked for reports from the Cabarrus Regional Chamber and from the Rowan County Chamber. Mr. Alex Rankin reported for the Cabarrus Chamber and reported that the Chamber had recently prepared their Transportation Legislative Agenda and was in support of the CRMPO projects for Cabarrus County. Mr. Bob Wright, Rowan County Chamber representative, echoed Mr. Rankin's comments and reported that the Rowan County Chamber had also completed their Legislative Agenda and supported the CRMPO efforts.

TAC Chair Feather then asked for speakers from the floor. With none heard, Chairman Feather continued onto the next order of business.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Feather informed the TAC members that the minutes of the March 24, 2010 meeting had been included in their packets and made a request for any corrections or additions to those minutes. With none heard, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2010. Councilman Jim Ramseur seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **Cabarrus Rowan MPO Accomplishments/Services**

Chairman Feather reported to those in attendance that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO has been operating for 30 years and during the past ten of those years, the MPO has tripled the membership and added significant territory to the planning area. He went on to explain that the CRMPO planning area covers two full counties and coordinates efforts with two NCDOT Division Offices. The MPO, Chairman Feather explained, has exhibited local support through the active participation of fourteen municipalities and two county governments including current and future fixed route transit service to all of the municipalities.

TAC Chairman Bill Feather continued by explaining that the CRMPO has funded almost fifty Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects which include a truck stop electrification, expanded transit service, electric vehicles, and road, intersection, and sidewalk improvements. In addition, the CRMPO participates in greenway planning which has been in conjunction with the Livable Community Blueprint and the new Greenway Master Plan for Cabarrus County.

Chairman Feather also reported to TAC members and guests that recently the MPO Staff as a partner agency with NCDOT, had completed the 2010 Transportation Conformity Report for the Metrolina Region. This year's report Chairman Feather explained, covers the seven ozone non-attainment counties in the region and was the first to include State Implementation Plan (SIP) motor vehicle emission budgets from NC DENR and extends the window for completing the next Transportation Conformity to the spring of 2014.

TAC Chairman Bill Feather summarized by stating the CRMPO members have worked diligently together as a unified group that focuses on project and plan delivery, multi-modal options, and working together with local, state and federal partners for the good of all members of the CRMPO.

### **Yadkin River Bridge Update**

Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 Engineer and Phil Conrad, CRMPO Director each presented power point presentation on updates for the Yadkin River Bridge project. As they explained, several new and

positive developments have occurred recently. Mr. Ivey explained that recently NCDOT announced the awarding of a \$136 million contract to Flatiron Constructors, Inc. and the Lane Construction Corp. for replacing the bridge and completing the widening of I-85 from Long Ferry Road to NC Highway 150 in Davidson County. Mr. Ivey continued by stating that the projects will be funded through Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bonds, NCDOT Division 9 funds, and TIGER Grant funds. He reported that construction is expected to begin in October 2010 and has a scheduled completion date of January 2013.

MPO Director Conrad presented information on the history of the Yadkin River Bridge project and explained in detail all of the steps that have been taken to identify the project, make application for funding, and where the project is currently in relation to other interstate projects in the area.

### **FY 2009-2015 MTIP Modification #2**

Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that NDOT has requested that all MPO's across the state modify their Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan's (MTIP) in order to accommodate contract bridge work and guardrail at selected locations throughout the state. Phil explained that with the adoption of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the MPO's can begin to submit amendments to the MTIP for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval. This modification, Phil explained, would include bridge contract work and guardrail in both Cabarrus and Rowan counties.

Mr. Conrad called TAC members attention to a resolution contained in the packets for Adopting Administrative Modification #2 to the CRMPO Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for FY2009-2015. After review, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to adopt the Administrative Modification #2 to the CRMPO Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for FY2009-2015. Mr. Jim Ramseur seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously in favor.

### **Reports / MPO Business**

- NCDOT Update – Mr. Eugene Conti, Jr. Secretary of NCDOT  
TAC Chairman Bill Feather introduced and welcomed Secretary Conti to the CRMPO Joint TAC/TCC meeting. Secretary Conti addressed the TAC/TCC members and thanked all for the opportunity to attend. Secretary Conti discussed the new proposed NC Mobility Fund and the current equity formula. He recognized the CRMPO's CMAQ projects and the teamwork required to accomplish those projects. He also reported there are over 2000 projects based on need in NC at this time, with the Yadkin River Bridge project currently being the number one project in the state.
- NCDOT Update from the NCDOT Board Member – Ralph Womble, Division 9  
NCDOT Division 9 Ralph Womble recognized the efforts of Secretary of Transportation Conti as well as the CRMPO to work together to get projects funded and completed. He discussed the Division 9 Equity Formula and what the Yadkin River Bridge project meant to the area.
- NC Mobility Fund – Phil Conrad called members attention to information contained in their packets regarding the new NC Mobility Fund. The information explained what the Mobility Fund is, why it is necessary, how it would benefit the project funding and completion, and how projects are selected. After discussion, Councilman Kenneth Geathers made a motion to adopt a Resolution of Support from the CRMPO for the NC Mobility Fund. Alderman Charles Wingerson seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

- DRAFT TIP Update/Release – MPO/NCDOT TIP Meetings – Phil Conrad provided members with updated information.
- CMAQ Project Update – NCDOT Systems Planning – Phil Conrad reviewed CR MPO CMAQ project applications and reported that 98% of the CMAQ funds allocated by NCDOT in the first call for projects in 2004 had been programmed. He further explained that in the winter of 2008, NCDOT had issued a second call for CMAQ Fast Track projects with the CR MPO submitting nine projects for consideration of which \$2.6 million was awarded. NCDOT recently issued a call for CMAQ funds across the state to the non-attainment MPO's and RPO's which calculated approximately \$8 million for the CR MPO in FY 2013-2015. This information was located in member packets. Terry Arellano with NCDOT-TPB reviewed with TAC members a memo and financial summary from her included in their packets that explains the last CMAQ project call. Ms. Arellano also reported that the CR MPO has done a good job of getting viable projects submitted for funding and they should keep up the good work.
- 2035 LRTP and Air Quality Conformity Process – Phil called members attention to a letter in their packets addressed to TAC Chairman Bill Feather from FHWA regarding the process and completion of the air quality conformity process and subsequent approval.
- Local Reports-MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Pat Ivey, Division 9 Engineer provided project update information for Division 9.

Linda Dosse, NCDOT-TPB updated TAC members on the progress of the CTP and reported to members that she will be bringing the draft document to TCC and TAC in August 2010 for their review and comments.

Before the close of the meeting, TAC Chairman Bill Feather and CR MPO Staff presented length of service awards to City of Kannapolis TAC Representative Councilman Kenneth Geathers, NCDOT-TPB Representative Linda Dosse, City of Concord TAC Representative Councilman Jim Ramseur, City of Concord TCC Representative Jeff Young and Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Representative Alex Rankin.

### **Information Items**

- Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express and RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TCC members attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- CR MPO Air Quality Awareness Outreach Program /Catawba College CMAQ Project- Phil called members attention to information included in their packets on this MPO CMAQ project.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to consider, TAC Chairman Feather thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.

The next scheduled meeting will be June 23, 2010.