

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 – 5:30 pm

Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce

3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083

Members:

Charles Wingerson	Town of Rockwell
Reid Walters	Town of Spencer
Bill Feather	Town of Granite Quarry
Warren Chapman	Town of Mount Pleasant
Maggie Blackwell	City of Salisbury
Kenneth Geathers	City of Kannapolis
Jeff Phillips	Town of Harrisburg
H.A. Hilton	Town of Landis
Carl Ford	Rowan County
Elizabeth Poole	Cabarrus County
Al Brown	City of Concord

Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT – Division 9
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Tom Kincaid	City of Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Alex Rankin	Cabarrus Chamber
Barry Moose	NCDOT-Division 10
Fred Steen	NC House – Dist. 76
Blake Kiger	CCSC

Call to Order

Vice Chairman H. A. Hilton called the June 22, 2011 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC to order. Vice Chairman Hilton called the roll and confirmed that a quorum had been met and then requested that all present introduce themselves. After all introductions, Vice Chairman Hilton read the list of eligible TAC voting members to confirm their attendance.

Vice Chairman Hilton continued by asking if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. With no additions or corrections to the agenda being heard, Vice Chairman Hilton moved to the next item of business.

North Carolina House of Representative Fred Steen from District 76 was introduced by Vice Chairman Hilton. Representative Steen thanked the CRMPO for the help and support they have provided him in helping to understand the transportation needs of the area. Fred also informed the TAC members that there is going to be additional funds for highway maintenance and construction in the upcoming budget. He also reported that there are still a lot of questions about high speed rail and issues that need to be addressed and more input is needed from the public concerning the high speed rail endeavor. Phil Conrad thanked Representative Steen for his efforts in the naming of the Yadkin River Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Vice Chairman Hilton then asked for Commerce updates. Mr. Alex Rankin, representative for the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce relayed to the TAC members that the Cabarrus Regional Chamber continues to support the Cabarrus Rowan MPO in all of their endeavors to meet transportation needs.

Vice Chairman H. A. Hilton asked for any speakers from the floor. With none heard, he moved on to the next order of business.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Hilton asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the April 20, 2011 TAC meeting. Commissioner Elizabeth Poole requested that the words "After little discussion" be removed from the beginning of the third paragraph under the item Draft FY 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program. With no further comments or corrections, Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve the minutes with the words removed and Councilwoman Maggie Blackwell seconded the motion. The TAC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be 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 are presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

Draft Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Commissioner Elizabeth Poole made a motion to release the DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan maps for public comment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Al Brown and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

FY 2012-2018 TIP Conformity and LRTP Amendment

MPO Director Phil Conrad informed TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO and the Metrolina Regional Partners have been working on an Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the 2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The report, Phil reported is on the Cabarrus Rowan MPO website. Phil explained that the TIP Conformity Report demonstrates that the financially constrained Long Range Transportation Plan's (LRTP) in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. The report also certifies that the TIP is a subset of the 2035 LRTP, and the Conformity Report is consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Phil called TAC members attention to Attachment 4A in their packets which was an excerpt from the TIP Conformity Report. He reviewed the Draft report with TAC members calling attention to the conformity determination dates of each of the Metrolina partners, meetings that are documented, public involvement, latest planning assumptions, and the amended schedule for Project #I-2304. Phil explained that due to the acceleration of the I-85 widening project over the Yadkin River (I-2304), the Cabarrus Rowan MPO is required to amend their Long Range Transportation Plan to reflect the new schedule for this project. Phil continued by stating that the public comment period was open until June 17, 2011 on the amendment and the Conformity Report. Phil reviewed with the TAC members a list of Transportation Improvements for Horizon Years 2006-2015. While reviewing the list, Councilman Kenneth Geathers asked about the progress of I-3802. Division 10 Engineer Barry Moose informed the TAC that he has accelerated project I-3802 to a let date of January 2013, but the project will end at Lane Street.

After discussion, Phil called TAC members attention to Attachment 4B a Resolution to Adopt the Conformity Report, Attachment 4C a Resolution to Adopt the MTIP, and Attachment 4D a Resolution to Amend the 2035 LRTP. With no further discussion, Commissioner Carl Ford made a motion to adopt the Conformity Report and was seconded by Alderman Bill Feather. TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

This action was followed by Commissioner Elizabeth Poole making a motion to approve adoption of the FY 2012-2018 CRMPO Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). Alderman Reid Walters seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Commissioner Elizabeth Poole continued by making a motion to approve for adoption an Amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kenneth Geathers and TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

NEW TIP Priority Projects

Director Conrad reminded TAC members that the CR MPO has finalized a methodology for ranking highway projects within the MPO area which was adopted by them at their April 2011 meeting. Phil explained that NCDOT recently applied a new statewide methodology to rank projects for the FY 2012-2018 TIP. He continued by calling TAC members' attention to Attachment 5 which were proposed regional lists for highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and CMAQ projects.

Phil reviewed the ranked highway projects with TAC members and explained these projects would be submitted to NCDOT in July for consideration and brought back before TAC in the fall of 2011 for formal action after the NCDOT SPOT office has had time to review and score them. Phil continued by reviewing the Greenway projects lists. Commissioner Elizabeth Poole requested MPO staff to find out how the greenway projects match up with the projects of the Carolina Thread Trail and bring that information back to a later meeting.

The next list Phil reviewed was a list of CMAQ projects submitted for the DRAFT STIP. He explained that he was providing this as information only and that the MPO has not yet ranked these projects. He also explained that a 20 percent local funding match was required for each project and that before any action was taken by TAC, the actual applications for each project would be brought before them. Commissioner Elizabeth Poole reminded TAC members that the City of Concord's project from the last round of submittals should be considered a high priority since it was not submitted in the last call for projects. Councilman Al Brown stated that the City of Concord is doing some projects by other funding means/sources.

The final list Phil reviewed was the list of Sidewalk Projects. Phil reported that there is approximately \$6 million statewide for sidewalk projects, which equate to about one project per division and that this list would need to be reduced down from six projects to five. All CR MPO TCC staff has been requested to make any submittals no later than July 1, 2011 to be considered.

NC DENR SIP Public Comment

Phil reported to TAC members that the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DNER) have released the State Implementation Plan (SIP), or Air Quality Plan, for the Metrolina Region for public comment and input. Phil called TAC members attention to Attachment 6A in their packets which was an Emission Comparison Summary Test by Location and Pollutants for Gaston, Cabarrus, Rowan, Lincoln, etc. counties. He continued by stating that this SIP included a number of options for Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets and that all but one option includes Cabarrus and Rowan counties in a single sub-area budget with some variation for the remaining counties in the Metrolina Region. Attachment 6A is the interim SIP and has county level emission budgets for Cabarrus and Rowan counties. Phil reminded TAC members that at their April 2011 meeting they had approved a single sub-area budget for Cabarrus and Rowan counties.

Phil then called members attention to Attachment 6B which was a summary of the SIP Emission Budget Options currently being considered. Phil reported that the CR MPO TCC have reviewed the options and at their last meeting recommended endorsing Options B and C. Phil reminded members that NC DENR will make the final decision and that the public comment period is currently open until July 23, 2011. With some discussion, Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to endorse Options B and C for the SIP Emission Budget and the motion was seconded by Councilman Al Brown. The TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports & Updates

- Local Reports – MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey of NCDOT Division 9 provided a handout which contained updates to projects in Division 9. After reviewing the projects listed on the handout, Mr. Ivey stated to TAC members to keep informed on what is going on in Washington concerning transportation as there is a risk that budgets could be reduced to the states.

Mr. Barry Moose, NCDOT Division 10, reported to the TAC members that they should expect a robust bridge budget in this upcoming TIP and requested that TAC members let the public know that they need to be patient as funding is being utilized as best as possible. Mr. Moose also reported that there would soon be a bid opening for the Highway 49 project in Mount Pleasant.

- I-85 Widening (Cabarrus) Presentation by Mr. Rick Baucom from NCDOT – Mr. Baucom, Resident Engineer of Construction Projects, provided a power point presentation to the TAC members explaining and illustrating the plans for the widening project and exit ramps. The project is I-3803B which includes I-85 from Bruton Smith Blvd to NC Hwy 73 to increase from four lanes to eight lanes. The project, Mr. Baucom explained officially began July 20, 2010 with construction beginning in August 2011 and should be complete by November 19, 2013. Bridges and road projects he said, will be done at the same time.
- 2040 Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan – Linda Dosse with NCDOT – TPB provided information to the TAC members on this new initiative and asked members to complete an online survey no later than June 30, 2011. The website and information sheet was provided in the TAC packets.
- Yadkin River Veterans Memorial Bridge – TAC members once again thanked Representative Fred Steen for his work in getting the bridge renamed and for all his efforts in transportation in the CR MPO area.

Information Items

- ✓ Concord Express, RIDER and Salisbury Transit, both Rowan Express routes, Cabarrus Links, and RIDER Para-Transit Ridership - Phil highlighted ridership information included in their packets.

TAC member Councilwoman Maggie Blackwell asked for an update of the last COG meeting relating to their regional MPO initiative. Phil Conrad stated that to his knowledge no tangible next steps have been defined at this time regarding the study.

Vice Chairman H. A. Hilton asked Representative Steen about House Bill 635 and Representative Steen commented that the bill was dead at this time.

Adjournment

With no other business before this committee, Alderman Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the CR MPO TAC. Councilwoman Maggie Blackwell seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote. Vice Chairman Hilton thanked everyone for attending.