

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

North Carolina Research Campus
UNC Building
Room 2201
500 Laureate Way
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28081

Members:

Al Brown
Bill Feather
Tony Hilton
John Bradford
Ryan Dayvault
Richard Wise
Lee Withers
Otis Gibson
Jeff Phillips
Greg Edds
Maggie Blackwell

City of Concord
Town of Granite Quarry
Town of Landis
Town of Cleveland
City of Kannapolis
Town of Midland
Town of China Grove
Town of East Spencer
Town of Harrisburg
Rowan County
City of Salisbury

Others:

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Div 9
Stuart Basham	NCDOT Div 10
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Denise Hallet	Cabarrus Chamber
Scott Cole	NCDOT-Div 10
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB
Carl Ford	NC House
Larry Pittman	NC House
Warren Cooksey	NCDOT Div10
Doug Paris	Midland
Jessica Hill	CCOG
Harry Warren	NC House

Call to Order

TAC Chairman Jeff Phillips called the October 28, 2015 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO to order at 5:45 pm. Chairman Phillips welcomed all those in attendance and asked that everyone present to please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge was recited, Chairman Phillips proceeded on by calling the roll of eligible voting members and determined that a quorum was met. Chairman Phillips proceeded by informing the TAC members of the NC State Ethics Commission Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest requirement and asked that should a conflict arise during any part of the meeting, the member should excuse themselves from that portion of the meeting.

The Chairman then requested that everyone present introduce themselves. At that time, CRMPO Director Phil Conrad explained that due to a conflict House Representative Larry Pittman had requested before the meeting to speak at the beginning of the meeting so that he could leave thereafter for another commitment. Representative Pittman addressed the TAC members and expressed his disappointment that funding for more transportation needs were not included in the new NC Bond Package. He explained the need for more work on bridges and ports within North Carolina and how important they are to the growth of the state. When finished, Representative Pittman thanked the TAC members and excused himself from the meeting.

House Representative Carl Ford then addressed the members and relayed to them that he was pleased with the new state budget and called attention to two items he felt would help to fund transportation projects. He explained about an increase in transportation fees and a change in sales tax distribution would both add dollars to transportation funds for completing projects. He praised the CRMPO members for all the work they do to advance transportation projects in their area. He then thanked members for the opportunity to speak with them. House Representative Harry Warren then introduced himself to the members.

Representative Warren called attention to the fact that the Historic Districts Tax Credits had been restored in the new budget and that this affected many jurisdictions within the CRMPO area. He also touched on what had been accomplished for North Carolina teachers.

Chairman Phillips thanked all three NC House of Representatives for attending the meeting and providing good information to the members. He then continued the meeting by asking for any updates from the Rowan or Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce's. Mrs. Denise Hallet with the Cabarrus Regional Chamber acknowledged the good work that the CRMPO has done concerning the transportation needs of the region and the Chamber continues to support those efforts.

Moving on to the next item, MPO Director Conrad provided members with an update on the North Carolina Air Quality Ozone Standard. Phil called members' attention to a copy of a press release included in their packets announcing the new EPA's 8-Hour Ozone Standard and that no air quality monitors in North Carolina are violating the new 70 parts per billion standard based on data for the 2013-2015 ozone seasons. He also referenced a map of North Carolina in their packets which showed NC Ozone Design Values for 2013 to 2015.

Chairman Phillips then asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With none heard, Chairman Phillips asked for any adjustments to the agenda and the consent agenda. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad requested to add an item, STI Projects Local Methodology under Reports. With no other adjustments or corrections being heard, Mr. Al Brown made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition under Reports and Mr. Otis Gibson seconded that motion. TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

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 were presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

NO ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of August 26, 2015 Minutes

Chairman Phillips called TAC members' attention to the minutes of the August 26, 2015 TAC meeting included in their agenda packets. He asked if there were any adjustments or corrections to the minutes. With no adjustments or corrections being heard, Mr. Richard Wise made a motion

to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Al Brown seconded the motion. The TAC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Proposed TAP Program Selection Process

Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that the MPO staff had introduced a new program at the May 2015 meeting called the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The TAP is similar to the STP-DA fund sub-allocation program of previous years. The TAP, Phil stated will also require a 20 percent local match for eligible bicycle and pedestrian projects. Phil went on to say that the ten year allocation of this program will total \$2.2 million to the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO. He then called members' attention to Attachment 3 in their packets which was an overview of the proposed TAP Selection Process for the CRMPO. Phil highlighted the State Transportation Alternatives Program project types that could be considered to be eligible. He reviewed criteria for eligibility and the application process.

After little discussion, Phil let the TAC members know that the TCC had made a recommendation at their August that the TAC support and release the TAP Program Selection Process for public comment. With no further questions or discussion, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to release the TAP Program Selection Process for public comment. Mr. Richard Wise seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Regional Freight Plan Funding Request

MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that the Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) has led an effort to pursue a Regional Freight Plan. Phil stated that the estimated total cost of the Freight Plan could be as high as \$700,000 with the budget for the first phase being projected at \$352,000. At this time CCOG Representative Ms. Jessica Hill provided members with a presentation regarding what the CCOG had deemed as the need and the purpose for conducting a Regional Freight Mobility Plan. She explained what has been done thus far on the project. TAC member's received information in their packets outlining project scope of work, deliverables, and the estimated project costs. Ms. Hill reported that the CCOG is requesting \$25,000 from the CRMPO and participation in the committee overseeing the project.

Some TAC members voiced concerns that this plan could be a duplication of the plan NCDOT will be doing and that the NCDOT plan would be free to the MPO. Other members reported that participating in a regional plan may be more directly beneficial. Phil called members' attention to a Local Match table included in their packets which broke down the amount of local match each jurisdiction would be responsible for providing. After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of participating, Mr. Ryan Dayvault made a motion to commit \$25,000 and participation in the Regional Freight Plan. Mr. Lee Withers seconded the motion and members voted to approve.

Phil presented members with a Draft resolution to approve Amendment #1 of the FY 2015-2016 UPWP which would program the funds to participate in the Regional Freight Plan. With no discussion, Mr. Al Brown made a motion to approved Amendment #1 with a second being heard from Mr. Richard Wise. The TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Community Viz Funding Request

Executive Director Conrad reported to TAC members that the CCOG has just finished a multi-year initiative to coordinate land use planning in the region known as the Connect Project. He continued by stating that as part of this initiative, the CCOG's consultant had presented a preferred growth scenario which may be part of the analytical framework for long range plans. Community Viz is the software that was used to formulate the data and would automate population forecasts for Cabarrus and Rowan Counties.

He reported that the total budget for this project is \$300,000 and that the CCOG is requesting \$22,000 from the CRMPO to participate and have access to the Community Viz software. Ms. Jessica Hill from the CCOG provided the TAC members with a short presentation on the Community Viz initiative. During her presentation it was disclosed that the first phase of the initiative was almost complete and a report would be coming out shortly after the first of the year. TAC members discussed the timing and determined that it was a moot point to consider participating at this time.

Mr. Lee Withers made a motion to table making any decisions on participating in the Community Viz initiative to a later date to consider participation in the next phase. Mr. Greg Edds seconded the motion, and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

- ✓ Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 reviewed the Division 9 projects update list included in the members' packets. He called members' attention to road closures as project work begins. Mr. Stuart Basham, NCDOT Division 10 reviewed updates on the Division 10 projects from the information included in TAC members' packets.
- ✓ Old Beatty Ford Road Interchange Update – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 reported to members that NCDOT is currently doing an Interchange Justification Report for FHWA.
- ✓ NCDOT Rail Update – Mr. Jamal Pulliam from NCDOT Rail Division provided TAC members with a powerpoint presentation on rail project updates in the CRMPO area.
- ✓ New State Ethics Contact – Phil Conrad reported that the new NC Ethics Committee contact is Ms. Peggy Malpass.
- ✓ TAC Vice Chairman for 2016 – Phil Conrad, CR MPO Director informed TAC members that the Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization's Bylaws state that a new TAC Vice-Chairman must be elected each year. The TAC Vice Chairman rotates to the Chairman position automatically in the next year. Phil continued by stating that the TAC Chairman must also rotate between jurisdictions in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. The 2015 Vice Chairman position was held by the previous Town of Spencer representative who came off of the TAC after leaving his position on the Spencer Board of Aldermen. With that in mind, Phil advised members that they would need to nominate and elect a Vice Chairman from Rowan County for 2016. After little discussion, Mr. Tony Hilton

nominated Mr. Greg Edds as the Vice Chairman to replace the current Vice Chair vacancy. Mr. Lee Withers seconded the motion. With no other nominations, the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

- ✓ STI Projects Local Methodology - CRMPO Director Phil Conrad provided members with a handout regarding a local methodology on rating rail projects for STI. He reviewed the four criteria points for the members. After review, he requested that the TAC consider releasing the methodology to NCDOT for review. With no questions or discussion Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to release this methodology to NCDOT for comment. Mr. Lee Withers seconded the motion and TAC members voted to approve.

Informational Items

- Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express, Cabarrus Links and RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- Next meeting is November 18, 2015.

Adjournment

With no other business to bring before the TAC, Mr. Bill Feather made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.