

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Members:

Phillip Graham	City of Concord
Susie Morris	Cabarrus County
Ed Muire	Rowan County & Town of Cleveland
Stuart Basham	NCDOT Div. 10
Wendy Brindle	City of Salisbury
Fred Haith	NCDOT Div. 9
Joel Taylor	Town of Spencer
Scott Kaufman	City of Kannapolis
Jason Hord	Town of Granite Quarry
Franklin Gover	Town of China Grove
Erin Burris	Town of Mt. Pleasant

Others:

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Phil Collins	Cabarrus County
Loretta Barren	FHWA
J. Scott Miller	NCDOT Div10
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
Zac Gordon	Kannapolis
Andy Christy	RIDER Transit
Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD
Jeff Littlefield	NCDOT Div10
LaDerrick Blackburn	Concord
Brielle Hartney	Concord

Call to Order

The March 17, 2021 virtual meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC was called to order by Chairman Phillip Graham. Chairman Graham welcomed the members and called the roll of eligible TCC members and determined that a quorum was met. Chairman Graham continued the meeting by asking if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda. CRMPO Executive Direct Phil Conrad addressed Chairman Graham and requested that the 2021 TIP Conformity Schedule report under Reports/MPO Business be moved to Item 2A. With little discussion, Mrs. Susie Morris made a motion to amend the meeting agenda as requested. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded that motion and the TCC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve. Chairman Graham continued by asking if there were any speakers from the floor. With no speakers being heard, Chairman Graham moved to the next item.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Graham called the TCC members' attention to the meeting minutes of the January 20, 2021 TCC meeting included in their meeting packets. Chairman Graham asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With no corrections or additions being heard, Mrs. Susie Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

2021 TIP Conformity Schedule

Mrs. Loretta Barren from FHWA provided the TCC members with a power point presentation to explain the Metrolina Transportation Conformity process. She provided background information on the history of the conformity process, how the process is done and why it is done and where the process currently stands. She explained the need for the process and what the goals are. She also provided dates of when each part of the process is due.

2050 MTP Draft Projects List

Executive Director Phil Conrad reported to the TCC members that since the reprogramming of the 2020-2029 TIP, CRMPO staff has been working on a *draft* revenue forecast for the 2050 Transportation Plan. Phil went on to explain that this forecast is based on the tier system which is included in the Strategic Mobility Formula as well as the statewide forecast methodology developed by NCDOT for regional and division tier allocations. Phil reported that these revised forecasts were applied to the projects already listed in the 2045 Plan and in the most recent MPO SPOT/Priority List. Phil then called members' attention to Attachment 3A in their meeting packets which detailed the Draft 2050 Projects List which he reviewed with the members.

Phil continued on by reporting that CRMPO staff had also incorporated the recommendations from the newly completed Cabarrus County Public Transportation Master Plan and he called attention to Attachment 3B which included those recommended projects. After review of the information, Phil provided members with a power point presentation on the 2020 MTP Survey results. After the presentation he called members' attention to memos included in their packets which identified and explained revenue sources and what revenue is available.

With no comments heard, Chairman Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing the proposed 2050 Projects List. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2021-2022 DRAFT UPWP

Executive Director Phil Conrad reminded the TCC members that each year the Cabarrus Rowan MPO is required to create and adopt a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Phil went on to say that the UPWP is the MPO's budget and uses the state fiscal year 2021-2022. He called members' attention to Attachment 4A in their packets which was the detailed line by line budget for their review. Phil explained that the UPWP identifies the planning tasks, responsible agencies and funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be conducted within the planning area during the next fiscal year. Phil went on to say that these projects include MPO planning activities conducted by local agencies, NCDOT and a line item for Regional Model and MTP Maintenance. He reviewed the budget line item by line item for the members.

Phil continued by stating that in the fall of 2020, NCDOT had reported to the CRMPO that their allocation of funds in FY 2022 would be \$365,637 which includes about \$100,000 in supplemental federal funds. He explained that there is no longer any unobligated balance for PL funds to MPO's in North Carolina. Phil also reported that since the January 2021 CRMPO TCC meeting, a request shown as Attachment 4B, had been received from the Town of China Grove for a Main Street Corridor Study which would utilize the supplemental funds. At that time, Mr. Franklin Gover reviewed the project for the TCC members.

After Mr. Gover completed the review, Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that as part of the UPWP, the federal government is requiring all MPO's to certify their transportation planning process on an annual basis. He called attention to Attachment 4C which was a checklist for the CRMPO to certify the MPO transportation planning process. He then moved on to Attachment 4D containing the member contributions for operations and closed by calling members' attention to Attachment 4E which was a Draft resolution adopting the UPWP and certifying the transportation planning process.

With no discussion, Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider certifying the CRMPO Transportation planning process and consider adopting the 2021-2022 UPWP. Mr. Scott Kaufhold seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #5

Director Phil Conrad reminded the TCC members that MPO staff is at times requested to bring amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. A request from the last NCDOT BOT meeting was made to modify additional projects. Director Conrad called members' attention to the information included in their packets regarding the specific project modifications.

The project modification is the addition of P-2918 CMAQ funding for the Piedmont/Carolinian 74/75 trains in FY 2021 at the request of the NCDOT Rail Division.

He then called members' attention to Attachment 5 which was a draft resolution modifying the MTIP for this project. He asked for any questions or comments regarding the information presented. With none heard, Chairman Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing modification #5 to the FY 2020-2029 MTIP. Mr. Scott Kaufhold seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

CTP Amendment

Director Conrad reminded the TCC members that CRMPO staff had presented some Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) amendments to the Public Transportation and Rail Map to them and the CRMPO TAC back in October 2020. The amendments Phil explained, were associated with the Cabarrus County Public Transportation Master Plan. He also explained that a public comment period for these amendments concluded on December 16, 2020.

Phil reviewed the map with the members and informed them that the last time this map was amended was in June 2020. Chairman Graham interjected that the City of Concord did a CTP that will be incorporated. Mr. Sushil Nepal from the Town of Harrisburg also reported that the Town has a Community Transportation Plan that they would like included in the final CTP. In closing, Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 7 which was the Draft adoption sheet for the CTP.

With no questions or further discussions, Chairman Phillip Graham made a motion to request the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing the CTP amendments as presented in the Public Transportation and Rail Map. Mrs. Erin Burris seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Proposed CMAQ Project Submittals

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad informed the TCC members that CMAQ funds are a federal funding source for areas designated non-attainment by the EPA. He continued on by explaining that CMAQ funds require a local sponsor and a 20% local match along with being able to demonstrate an emission reduction benefit to the local area.

As a result of a call for new projects issued by NCDOT, a total of four projects applications were received from four project sponsors within the CRMPO area. Phil went on to review a table listing the four projects labeled as Attachment 6A. The individual project applications were included in the members' meeting packets. Mr. Scott Kaufhold reviewed the application for the Kannapolis' project, Mr. Wendy Brindle reviewed Salisbury's application, Chairman Phillip Graham reviewed Concord's application and Director Conrad reviewed the application from Mt. Pleasant because Mrs. Burris had to leave the meeting for a family emergency.

Director Conrad reported that NCDOT has indicated to the CRMPO that the MPO can anticipate receiving about \$1.55 million in CMAQ funds for FY2022. He then called members' attention to Attachment 6B, which explained the NCDOT's target allocation for the MPO. With no questions or comments, Mrs. Wendy Brindle made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing the CMAQ Project submittals. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2021 Draft Local Priority Methodology

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad reported to the members that NCDOT staff has indicated that Session Law 2012-84 requires the Department to develop a process for standardizing or approving MPO local input methodology. Considering recent changes in the way that points can be flexed between tiers, CRMPO staff will submit a draft of the CRMPO local input methodology to NCDOT for content review. Phil went on to state that after the content review the DOT staff will grant conditional approval to the MPO's methodology subject to public input and the CRMPO Board approval. He called attention to Attachment 7 which was the CRMPO's local priority methodology. Director Conrad reviewed the methodology with the members.

With no questions or comments being heard, Mrs. Wendy Brindle made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider releasing the Draft Local Priority Methodology for public comment and NCDOT review. Chairman Phillip Graham seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

STBGP Methodology and 2021 Project Call

Director Conrad explained to the TCC members that NCDOT has reported that CRMPO has received a balance of \$1.45 million in STBGP funds and \$208,994 in Infrastructure STBGP funds thru the CARES Act. Director Conrad continued by explaining that this type of funding source has historically been used on high priority and hard to fund projects. He reported that the CRMPO adopted a new methodology to score STBGP project proposals in August 2019 and the first call for projects was issued and it was endorsed in June 2020. Director Conrad explained that given the recent distribution of funds thru the CARES Act it might be necessary to review the methodology to see if there are possibly any funding match changes. He then called members' attention to Attachment 8 and reviewed the methodology with the members.

Once he finished the review, Director Conrad asked for questions or comment. With none heard, Chairman Graham made a motion to forward this information on to the CRMPO for their review and input. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports - MPO/TPD/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Fred Haith, NCDOT Division 9 representative reported he had nothing to add beyond the spreadsheet included in the members' packets.

Mr. Stuart Basham, representative for Division 10 called the TCC members' attention to a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates and highlighted some of the ongoing projects in Division 10. Mr. Basham also provided members with information on the spring Litter Sweep.

2. COVID-19 Funding Impacts – COVID-19 has impacted funding for projects. Some revenues are still down but that some projects are starting to be released for construction.

3. Census Defined Urban Areas – Director Conrad reported that staff participated in the process and he provided a power point presentative to the members. He also reported that this item is out for public comment until May 20, 2021.

4. Letter to Congress for Support of Infrastructure Funding - Director Conrad called members' attention to a sample letter in their packets provided by Division 9. The letter was shared to be used as a template for the CRMPO to provide a similar letter of support for infrastructure funding. By consensus, the TCC members requested to send the letter to the CRMPO TAC for their consideration.

5. CTP Amendments – Director Phil Conrad reported that CTP amendments had been received from the City of Concord and the Town of Harrisburg.

Informational Items

- RIDER Transit, Rowan Express and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information – Phil called attention to the ridership information included in their packets

- CRAFT Meeting Minutes – Director Conrad called members' attention to the minutes included in their packets.

- Next scheduled meeting is April 21, 2021.

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Phillip Graham adjourned the meeting.