

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

North Carolina Research Campus
1st Floor CORE Lab Building
150 Research Campus Drive
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28081

Members:

Joe Wilson
Dan Peters
Jeff Wells
Jonathan Marshall
Josh Watkins
F.E. Isenhour
Marc Morgan
Diane Hampton
Linda Dosse
David Pugh
Jim Sells
Ed Muire

City of Concord
Town of Granite Quarry
City of Kannapolis
Cabarrus County
Town of Harrisburg
Town of East Spencer
NCDOT-Div. 10
NCDOT-Div. 9
NCDOT-TPB
Town of Midland
Town of Mt. Pleasant
Rowan County, Town of Cleveland, Town of Spencer

Others:

Phil Conrad CRMPO Director
Wilmer Melton Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham CRMPO Staff
Scott Cole NCDOT-Div 10
Rob Walter Concord Airport
Vicki Eddleman Salisbury

Call to Order

TCC Chair Ed Muire called the March 19, 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC to order after the noon meal. Chairman Muire welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to call the roll of eligible TCC members. Once he determined a quorum had been met, Chairman Muire asked that guests please introduce themselves. Vicki Eddleman with the City of Salisbury introduced herself and stated she was there to observe for Wendy Brindle who was unable to attend.

Chairman Muire continued on by asking if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. With no corrections or additions, by consensus, TCC members agreed to the agenda as presented.

Chairman Muire asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With none heard, Chairman Marshall moved on to the next item of business.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Muire reported to the TCC member's that the minutes of the January 15, 2014 TCC meeting was included in their meeting packets. He asked members for any comments or corrections to those minutes. With no comments or corrections being heard, Jonathan Marshall made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Josh Watkins seconded the motion and TCC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

Draft Local Priority Methodology

Cabarrus Rowan MPO Director Phil Conrad began by informing the TCC members that NCDOT has indicated that Session Law 2012-84 will require them to develop a process for standardizing or approving MPO local input methodology. Phil reported that the CR MPO staff has been diligently working on developing drafts of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO local input methodology and submitting them to NCDOT for review and comment. NCDOT staff has also issued a statement indicating that the local input methodology must be approved by May 1, 2014 in order for any MPO to assign points under the new STI law.

Phil continued by stating that NCDOT staff has granted a conditional approval of the CR MPO's methodology subject to public input and MPO Board approval. Phil reminded members that their draft methodology had already been released for public comment on February 17, 2014 for a thirty day comment period. To date, Phil stated, no comments have been received. Phil called members' attention to Attachment #3 *Draft Cabarrus Rowan MPO 2014-MTIP Project Solicitation and Ranking Process* in their packets. Phil reviewed the *Draft Cabarrus Rowan MPO 2014-MTIP Project Solicitation and Ranking Process* calling members' attention to the schedule for project solicitation and ranking, the public input process, the ranking process, use of public input and comments in the final ranking process, and the final ranking and local point assignment. Scott Cole, NCDOT Division 10 informed the TCC members that NCDOT Divisions will also have to hold public meetings and comment periods to developing methodology at the Division level.

After this review and after little discussion, Joe Wilson made a motion to recommend that the CR MPO TAC consider adopting the *Draft Local Priority Methodology*. Jeff Wells seconded the motion and the TCC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

2040 MTP and Transportation Conformity Update

Phil reported to members that CR MPO staff has been continuing to work with the Metrolina Regional Partners on the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. The report Phil explained, demonstrates that the financially constrained MTP's in the Metrolina Region meet national ambient air quality standards. This report also certifies that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a subset of the 2040 MTP and that the conformity Report is consistent with the recently approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) by the EPA.

Phil called members' attention to Attachment #4A, an Executive Summary of the 2040 Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Transportation Plan in their packets that detailed the purpose of the Transportation Conformity Analysis and Determination Report. He also presented a power point presentation which reviewed the MTP for members. Phil also reported that the CR MPO released the *Draft MTP* for public comment for a thirty day period on February 17, 2014 and that he had included the public comments in their packets as Attachment #4B. There was one public comment received.

Phil continued on by reviewing the Summary of the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for the Metrolina Area 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plans and the FY2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Programs included in their packets as well. The summary outlined the conformity determination, the interagency consultation process, transportation control

measures and the required emission comparisons for the Gaston MPO area, the Cabarrus Rowan MPO area and the Charlotte Region MPO area.

Lastly, Phil explained a memo to the CR MPO TCC and TAC members which provided information for extending the public comment period for the *Draft* MTP. The extended public comment period, Phil explained, is needed to address two project changes that can be addressed before the MTP is adopted. The first change is in regard to the Old Beatty Ford Road project that was initially presented as an exempt project for federal interagency review. It has now been determined that the project will be studied as a new location alternative, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has suggested that it cannot be considered exempt and must now be noted as non-exempt.

Phil continued on by stating that the second change relates to the segmenting of the Derita Road widening project into an A and B project which is consistent with the project scheduling in the *Draft* 2040 MTP. Due to these changes, FHWA has requested that the CR MPO TCC and TAC delay adopting the 2040 MTP in order for the public to have an opportunity to review and comment on these two changes. The revised public comment period will now conclude on April 23, 2014 with a deadline for having the MTP adopted by May 2, 2014.

After all review and discussion, Chairman Ed Muire made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting the 2040 MTP and Metrolina Conformity Determination Report after observing the extended public comment period as required by FHWA. Joe Wilson seconded the motion and TCC members followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Ramp Metering Feasibility Study

Scott Cole, NCDOT Division 10 reported to the TCC members that NCDOT Division 10 is proposing to conduct a ramp metering feasibility study for the Metrolina Region. In order to fund the study, Division 10 is asking for financial assistance from the three Metrolina MPO's. Scott explained that the study would look at approximately 245 ramps along I-85, I-77, I-277 and I-485 in Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Iredell and Gaston Counties.

Scott provided members with a powerpoint presentation that fully outlined and explained the goal of the study and how the selected ramps would be monitored for potential traffic improvement measures. He went on to say that a second phase to this study would narrow the 245 ramps down to 50 ramps for possible implementation of the traffic improvements.

Scott explained that the Division is asking the Cabarrus Rowan MPO to contribute \$10,714 of the total cost of \$700,000. Phil Conrad explained to the TCC members that 80% of the \$10,714 could be funded by the special studies line item of the UPWP and the 20% local match could be distributed among the member jurisdictions. Phil called members' attention to a Local Match Table included in their packets. The table detailed the amount each jurisdiction would have to pay to fund the 20% local match.

After discussion, Joe Wilson made a motion to recommend that the CR MPO TAC consider approving and participating in the Division 10 Ramp Metering Feasibility Study. Jeff Wells seconded the motion and TCC members voted to approve. Ed Muire representing Rowan County voted no.

FY 2014-2015 UPWP

Phil Conrad reminded TCC members that each year the CRMPO must develop and adopt a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is the CRMPO budget and it follows the state fiscal year of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The UPWP Phil stated, identifies the planning tasks, responsible agencies, and funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be conducted with the planning area during the next fiscal year. The projects include MPO planning activities undertaken by local agencies, the NCDOT, and a line item for Regional Model and MTP Maintenance. Phil reviewed Attachment #6A, the Draft UPWP with the TCC members.

Phil continued by explaining that as part of the UPWP, the Federal government requires all MPO's to certify their transportation planning process on an annual basis. Phil called members' attention to Attachment #6B which was a checklist for the CR MPO to follow to certify the MPO transportation planning process.

Phil called members' attention to Attachment #6C which was the local match table for each jurisdiction and informed members that the Ramp Metering Feasibility Study would be in addition to the amounts included in the local match table.

With little discussion, Joe Wilson made a motion to recommend that the CR MPO TAC consider adopting the FY2014-2015 UPWP inclusive of the Ramp Metering Feasibility Study. Jonathan Marshall seconded the motion and TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY2012-2018 MTIP Amendment #9

Phil reported to members that as a result of recent NCDOT Board of Transportation requests, MPO staff has two amendments to present to the TCC and TAC for their consideration. The first project amendment refers to a segmentation of the Derita Road project which is NCDOT U-4910. This amendment would make it into an A and B section project based on limited availability of federal funds.

The second project Phil explained, is the construction of an access road from Heilig Road to serve a Salisbury manufacturing site which is NCDOT project U-5541. This project Phil reported was added to the STIP by Division 9 staff. Phil reported a third project initially included in the amendment had been pulled prior to the meeting.

With no discussion, Dan Peters made a motion to recommend that the CR MPO TAC consider endorsing amendment #9 to the FY 2012-2018 MTIP. F.E. Isenhour seconded the motion and members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

- ✓ Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Diane Hampton from NCDOT Division 9 called TCC members' attention to a spreadsheet of updates on the Rowan County projects included in their packets and reviewed for the members. Marc

Morgan provided TCC members with a handout of Division 10 project updates and reviewed them as well. Rob Walters from Concord Regional Airport provided TCC members with a handout showing Aircraft Operation Counts for the Concord Regional Airport from January 2011 to present. Rob also provided members with a report on the Concord Regional Airport Schedule Airline Activity Report.

Linda Dosse from NCDOT TPB reported to the TCC members that she had been contacted again by the NCDOT TPB Coordinator for the Stanly County RPO regarding a CTP amendment that they are preparing. Linda pointed out on a map to TCC members that a very small portion of southern Cabarrus County would be involved in their project. Linda wanted to give TCC members a heads up that the RPO will at some point contact the CRMPO requesting a letter of support for their project.

- ✓ Functional Classification Maps – Linda Dosse, NCDOT TPB reported to TCC members regarding the status of the updates and revisions to the CTP maps. She reported that she had spoken with Rockne Bryant and Terry Arellano with NCDOT TPB and that they stated they have all the info submitted by the CR MPO and are doing an internal review of the data and that all input should be completed by July 2014 so that the MPO can adopt it.

Joe Wilson inquired as to the projected final completion date for the CTP. Linda replied that she did not know. Chairman Muire pointed out that the CTP index is still listed as a “Draft” and inquired as to when the index will be considered final and done. Some TCC members expressed frustration over the CTP and it not being fully complete after months and months of providing data repetitively.

- ✓ East Innes Street Corridor Study Update – With the absence of the City of Salisbury’s representative and alternate the update was tabled to the next meeting. Chairman Muire asked if the consultant for the study could come to the TCC meeting and give a presentation/update on the study.

Informational Items

- Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express, Cabarrus Links and RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TCC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- Phil informed members of the NC MPO Conference on May 14-16, 2014
- Next scheduled meeting is April 16, 2014.

Adjournment

With no other business to be considered, F.E. Isenhour made a motion to adjourn the March 2014 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC. Dan Peters seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.