

## MINUTES

### TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 20, 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 Graham	City of Salisbury
Fred Haith	NCDOT Div. 9
Sushil Nepal	Town of Harrisburg
Scott Kaufman	City of Kannapolis
Erin Burris	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Franklin Gover	Town of China Grove
Joel Taylor	Town of Spencer
Larry Smith	Town of Granite Quarry

#### 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
Adam Fisher	Ramey Kemp
Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD
Peter Francese	Spencer
Rodney Harrison	SalisburyTransit
Jeff Littlefield	NCDOT Div10
Donald Arant	NCRR
Neda Fahim	NCDOT
Kimberly Bell	SalisburyTransit
Jason Orthner	NCDOT Rail

### Call to Order

TCC Chairman Phillip Graham called the virtual meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC at approximately 10:00 am. After welcoming the members, Chairman Graham 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. Chairman Graham asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With no speakers being heard, Chairman Graham moved to the next item.

### Approval of Minutes

TCC Chairman Graham called the TCC members' attention to the meeting minutes of the October 21, 2020 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. Mr. Sushil Nepal seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

## **Nomination and Election of TCC Vice-Chair**

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad reported that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC Bylaws state that a new TCC Vice-Chair must be elected each year. Phil reported that the Vice-Chair will rotate to the Chair position in January 2022. He stated that the TCC would need to nominate and elect a Vice-Chair from a jurisdiction in Rowan County at today's meeting since the current Chair was from a Cabarrus County jurisdiction. After discussion, Mr. Franklin Gover volunteered to become the 2021 Vice Chair of the CRMPO TCC. Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to close the nominations and Mrs. Susie Morris seconded that motion. The TCC members voted unanimously to approve Mr. Gover to the position.

## **Performance-Based Planning: Safety Targets**

Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that the federal transportation legislation or FAST Act requires State DOT's and MPO's to adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. He went on to say that NCDOT recently released the next round of safety targets for North Carolina and that it is up to each MPO to either adopt those targets or create their own. Director Conrad informed members that the proposed Safety Targets had been published on the CRMPO website. Phil also reported that no public comments were submitted during the open comment period which ended on January 13, 2021.

Phil then called members' attention to a memo included in their packets pertaining to the safety targets. He continued by stating Attachment 4 also included in their packets was a draft resolution in support of the new Safety Targets for year 2021. Phil reported that approving safety targets has now become an annual requirement.

With no comments heard, Mrs. Susie Morris made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing the proposed Safety Targets. Mrs. Erin Burris seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

## **FY 2020-2021 DRAFT UPWP**

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 5 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.

Phil then reviewed the budget line item by line item for the members. He explained that there is no longer any unobligated balance for PL funds to MPO's in North Carolina. Phil also reported that any jurisdictions who has a project to submit for funding under the Special Studies must have them submitted by March 2021 for consideration. The deadline for adoption is the end of May 2021. Phil let the TCC members know that the Long Range Transportation Plan was in the process of being updated with a completion date of March 2022.

After he completed the review, he moved on to the attachment containing the member contributions for operations. After review, he asked for any questions or comments. With none heard, Phil reminded the TCC members that this was information for their review and would come back before them for approval at a future meeting.

### **FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #4**

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 first project modification is the delay in right-of-way to B-5805 to FY2021 for a bridge project on US 29/US 601. The second modification is for project AV-5820 which would delay the right-of-way to FY 2028 for an aircraft helipad. The third and final modification is for B-5772 which requests a delay in construction to FY 2022 for the Hurley School Road bridge replacement over the railroad tracks.

He then called members' attention to Attachment 6 which was a draft resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. He asked for any questions or comments regarding the information presented. With none heard, Mrs. Wendy Brindle made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing modification #4 to the FY 2020-2029 MTIP. Mrs. Susie Morris 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 would have some additional CTP amendments to incorporate. Mr. Sushil Nepal from the Town of Harrisburg also reported that the Town has a new Comprehensive Transportation Plan that they would like included in the MPO's 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.

### **DRAFT 2022-2031 TIP Project Call-SPOT Request**

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad reminded the TCC members that the CRMPO held a call for new projects that concluded on January 31, 2019 for the next TIP cycle which is 2022-2031. After review of the submitted projects, NCDOT's SPOT Office determined that project H192609 Poplar Tent and Harris Road is considered a committed project and cannot be quantitatively evaluated. The SPOT Office determined that it would be best to remove the project for P6.0 consideration. Phil then called members' attention to a copy of an email included in their packet regarding the project.

With little discussion, Chairman Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing this request to remove H192609 from SPOT P6.0. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

### **Salisbury Transit Public Transportation Safety Plan**

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the members that the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) final rule 49 C.F.R. Part 673, requires certain operators of public transportation systems that are recipients or sub-recipients of FTA grant funds to develop safety plans that include the process and procedures necessary for implementing Safety Management Systems.

Mr. Rodney Harrison with Salisbury Transit addressed the members and explained that the PTASP was approved by the City of Salisbury's City Council and that the City is requesting the CRMPO review and approve their Plan as well. MPO approval is required for final approval and certification by NCDOT. Phil called members' attention to Attachment 9 in their packets which was a copy of the 37-page Plan.

With little discussion, Mrs. Wendy Brindle made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider approving the Salisbury Transit Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. Mr. Franklin Gover seconded the 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.

Ms. Neda Fahim, NCDOT Division 10 provided information to the members on recently funded safety projects that would convert 2 way stops to all way stops.

Mr. Andy Bailey, NCDOT TPD reported to the members that a new call for CMAQ projects applications has been issued and submittals should be submitted as soon as possible.

**2. NC Railroad Update-** Mr. Donald Arant with North Carolina Railroad Company presented a presentation to the TCC members and explained the beginning of the NCRR and how it operates. He highlighted several projects with the members. Mr. Jason Orthner with NCDOT-Rail Division added to the presentation and explained how NCDOT's Rail Division works jointly with the North Carolina Railroad Company.

**3. COVID-19 Funding Impacts** – Mr. Stuart Basham, NCDOT Division 10 provided TCC members information on how COVID-19 has impacted funding for projects. He reported that some revenues are still down but that some projects are starting to be released for construction.

**4. 2021 TIP Conformity Schedule and Model outputs** – Director Conrad provided a power point presentation to the members explaining the transportation conformity process and some initial modeling results based on recent TIP changes. His conclusions were as follows: some existing projects in the first 4 years of the TIP cannot move forward, travel model results seem to indicate favorable emissions testing for Cabarrus and Rowan, and delaying a conforming TIP into 2022 could delay project schedules.

**5. 2050 DRAFT MTP Projects List** - Director Conrad reported to the members that the 2050 Draft MTP Projects List was out for public comment and that no comments have been received to date.

**6. Regional Transit Plan HCT Recommendations** – Director Phil Conrad called the members' attention to a map included in their packets regarding the recommendations for the High Capacity Transportation Corridor projects from the Regional Transit Plan. Phil explained that MPO staff had requested data to substantiate the recommendations.

**7. Contract for CRMPO Consultant** – Chairman Phillip Graham reported to the members that the current contract with Mobility Solutions LLC will end in June 2022 and that the City of Concord is looking to start the RFQ process in the next few months. Chairman Graham explained that the contract with Mobility Solutions LLC will remain in force until the end of the contract but that the City would like to enhance their current process for advertising and selecting a consultant beyond that timeframe. He explained the vision is to include NCDOT, FHWA and CRMPO member jurisdictions in compiling the RFQ and establishing a new interview process. Chairman Graham stated he would be providing a presentation to the Concord City Council virtual meeting next week on how MPO's are structured and what their goals are. Mr. Ed Muire requested from Chairman Graham that the log in information for the meeting be provided to all CRMPO representatives and alternates via email. Chairman Graham will provide the members this information.

### **Informational Items**

- RIDER Transit, Rowan Express and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information – Phil called attention to the ridership information included in their packets
- CMAQ Project Call – Information provided by Mr. Andy Bailey, NCDOT-TPD
- CRAFT Meeting Minutes – Director Conrad called members' attention to the minutes included in their packets.
- Next scheduled meeting is February 17, 2021.

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