

# MINUTES

## TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, August 19, 2009 – 12:00 Noon**

Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce  
3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd  
Kannapolis, NC 28083

### Members:

Dan Mikkelson	City of Salisbury
Adrian Cox	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Dan Peters	Town of Granite Quarry
David Pugh	Town of Midland
Ken Geathers	Town of East Spencer
Josh Watkins	Town of Harrisburg
Joe Wilson	City of Concord
Ben Warren	City of Kannapolis
W.S. Rowland	Town of Landis
Ed Muire	Rowan County/Cleveland
Mike Byrd	Cabarrus County
Brett Abernathy	NCDOT – Division 9
Richard Hancock	NCDOT-Division 10
Linda Dosse	NCDOT-TPB

### Others:

Phil Conrad	MPO Director
Steve Osborne	City of Concord
Rodney Harrison	Salisbury Transit
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Richard Hancock	NCDOT-Division 10
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Colleen Nelson	CabarrusCounty/Midland
Jamal Alavi	NCDOT-TPB
Rob Walter	Concord Airport
Shane Stewart	Rowan County

### Call to Order

TCC Chairman Joe Wilson called the meeting of August 19, 2009 to order. Chairman Wilson welcomed the TCC members and guests and asked all those in attendance to introduce themselves. After all introductions were made, TCC Chairman Wilson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. With none heard, TCC Chairman Wilson moved onto the next item of business.

TCC Chairman Wilson then asked for any adjustments to the agenda. Phil Conrad, MPO Director requested that the Reports section of the agenda be moved to item three. By consensus, the TCC members approved the change. Chairman Wilson moved on to the next order of business.

### Approval of Minutes

TCC Chairman Wilson asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the May 20, 2009 TCC meeting. Mr. Dan Mikkelson made a motion to approve the minutes as they appear and Mr. Mike Byrd seconded the motion. The TCC followed with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of May 20, 2009.

### Local Reports: Stimulus Package Project Updates

Mr. Brett Abernathy, NCDOT Division 9 and Mr. Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 10, provided the TCC members with handouts that outlined each respective Division's current projects and what the status is on each project. Mr. Abernathy and Mr. Hancock each reviewed their Division's project list with TCC members. Both Division representatives reminded TCC members that funding is not

available for many projects currently on Division 9 and Division 10 priority lists and reported that both Divisions are faced with the same funding shortfalls. Both Division's are concentrating on safety and maintenance projects. Mr. Abernathy, NCDOT Division 9, also provided TCC members with a handout listing that Division's projects which had been submitted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Stimulus funding.

### **Yadkin River Bridge TIGER Application**

Mr. Jamal Alavi, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB), reported to TCC members that a component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is a discretionary grant program titled Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants. This discretionary grant program will provide \$1.5 billion in national surface transportation system money to be awarded on a competitive basis by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Mr. Alavi explained that the grant allocations can range from \$20 million to \$300 million, with not more than 20 percent of the total available allocated to any one state.

Mr. Alavi stated that NCDOT, North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue, Transportation Secretary Gene Conti and North Carolina's congressional delegation have been working together to prepare and submit a competitive application for a portion of the TIGER Grant to fund the I-85 Corridor Improvement/Yadkin River Bridge project. Mr. Phil Conrad provided TCC members with a handout that briefly explained the purpose of the Discretionary Grant and also provided details of why the I-85 Corridor Improvement/Yadkin River Bridge is necessary.

### **Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT)**

Mr. Alavi informed the TCC members that NCDOT has recently been reorganized to improve its efficiency with its divisions. He reported that the Strategic Planning Office was formed to coordinate processes across the entire department. Mr. Alavi stated that the project prioritization process would now call for MPO's and RPO's to rank their top 25 highway projects and submit them to the SPOT office. All the highway projects, Jamal stated, are then entered into a database that is set with criteria that is a needs-based decision making to determine the top 25 Highway projects in North Carolina. The SPOT office would then provide to MPO's/RPO's the rankings of projects by goal, tier, and mode and then forward these projects to the Board of Transportation to establish a resource allocation and priorities based on long range plans and the General Statutes. The final process would be to then apply any constraints and prepare a Draft STIP. Mr. Alavi provided TCC members with a handout that outlined his report to them on the SPOT office procedures and goals.

### **CTP/Problem Statements**

Ms. Linda Dosse and Mr. Jamal Alavi, NCDOT TPB reported to the TCC members that the Transportation Planning Branch office works with local areas to develop a transportation system to meet the future needs of the their area. Linda explained that it is this multimodal planning process that establishes a Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Jamal reported that due to recent revisions in state law, thoroughfare plans are now being replaced with comprehensive transportation plans which will include highway, transit/rail, and bicycle modes. Linda provided handouts to TCC members that contained all information on documentation for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Problem Statement. The information provided purpose, process, goals and deliverables regarding the CTP, as well as the criteria for determining which level of problem statement to use for various proposed projects within the CTP. The goal, they reported is to use the CTP Problem Statement as the primary source of information in establishing the "Purpose and Need" under NEPA for highway projects.

## **Reports & Updates**

- RIDER Transit Site Groundbreaking – August 13 - TCC Chairman Joe Wilson reported to TCC members that the City of Concord held a groundbreaking ceremony on August 13, 2009 to begin work on the RIDER Transit System Center site. The site is located at South Main Street and Highway 29.

## **Information Items**

Concord Express, RIDER and Salisbury Transit Ridership - Phil highlighted the Concord Express, Rider, Rowan Express and Salisbury Transit ridership information included in the TCC packets

## **Adjournment**

With no other business before this committee, TCC Chairman Joe Wilson adjourned the meeting of the CR MPO TCC. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2009 in Salisbury.