

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday October 19, 2011 – 12 Noon

Cabarrus Region Chamber of Commerce
3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083

Members:

Dan Mikkelson
Ken Deal
Dan Peters
Wilmer Melton
Jonathan Marshall
Adrian Cox
Linda Dosse
Lex Patterson
Keith Deal
David Pugh
Richard Hancock
Brett Abernathy
Ed Muire
Steve Rowland

City of Salisbury
Town of China Grove
Town of Granite Quarry
City of Kannapolis
Cabarrus County
Town of Mt. Pleasant
NCDOT TPB
City of Concord
Town of Faith
Town of Midland
NCDOT-Division 10
NCDOT- Division 9
Rowan County/Town of Cleveland
Town of Landis

Others:

Rob Walter Concord Airport
Phil Conrad CRMPO Director
Thad Howell Rowan Airport
Connie Cunningham CRMPO Staff
L. J. Weslowski CK Area Transit
Richard Smith City of Kannapolis
Marc Morgan NCDOTDivision 10
Steve Cude Cabarrus Co., Tran
Jason Walser Land Trust Cent.NC
Travis Morehead CTT

Call to Order

TCC Chairman Adrian Cox called to order the October 19, 2011 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC. Chairman Cox welcomed the members and called the roll of the TCC membership. He then requested that all those present introduce themselves. After introductions were made, TCC Chairman Cox asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. With none heard, he continued on to the next item of business.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Cox called TCC members' attention to the minutes of the August 17, 2011 meeting that had been included in the agenda packets they received by mail. He then asked for any comments or corrections to those minutes. After none were heard, Mr. Jonathan Marshall made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Mr. Wilmer Melton followed with a second. The TCC members voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2011 minutes.

TIP Priority Project SPOT Results

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad reported to the TCC members that NCDOT had applied their methodology to rank all of the highway projects across North Carolina and that the methodology includes a quantitative component that was just recently released for candidate projects. Phil continued by stating that NCDOT will take the data and incorporate the local rankings with the quantitative scores to develop the FY 2014-2020 TIP. Director Conrad then called TCC

members' attention to Attachment 3 in their packets which was a list of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO's top thirteen projects. Attachment 3 included the 2009 Regional Priority Number, where each project is located, 2011 Regional Priority Number, NCDOT's Total Points given to each project, the NCDOT TIP number and the TIP funding status. After review of each project, NCDOT Division 10 Engineer Richard Hancock added that each Division will score the projects as well. After discussion, Phil reported that the full results will be presented to the CRMPO TAC at their next meeting.

New Bike and Ped TIP Priority Projects

Director Conrad continued the meeting by reporting that NCDOT has finalized a methodology to rank bicycle and pedestrian projects across North Carolina. As with the highway projects, NCDOT's methodology includes a quantitative component. Those priority projects were also recently released. Phil went on to say that NCDOT has asked each MPO to rank their top five bicycle projects and top five pedestrian projects. Once these projects are submitted, NCDOT will incorporate the quantitative scores with the local rankings and compile a list of selected projects for the Draft TIP. Phil then directed TCC members to Attachment 4 in their packets with was a list of the eight proposed bicycle/greenway projects and the twelve proposed sidewalk projects in the CRMPO area.

Phil reviewed Attachment 4 with TCC members which included the Division where each project is located, the 2009 Regional Priority Number, the 2011 Regional Priority Number, the amount of points NCDOT (SPOT Office) gave to the project, whether or not the project is included in the Carolina Thread Trail, if the project was newly submitted in 2011 and the length of each project in miles. He informed TCC members that MPO staff has, as they did with the highway projects, applied the local methodology to the candidate projects and that the local project point totals are included in the last column, Project Criteria Points on Attachment 4. Phil also called members attention to additional information provided in their packets regarding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Modes criteria.

Phil then asked TCC members for comments and or questions. Mr. Wilmer Melton commented on the Dale Earnhardt Blvd Sidewalk project, stating that this project should be removed due to the fact that it was almost complete under other funding. Phil said he would remove the project from the list. Mr. Dan Mikkelson continued on by making a motion to use the local priority ranking as the final ranking for Bike and Ped projects. Mr. Jonathan Marshall seconded the motion, but TCC members requested more discussion on the ranking of the sidewalk projects and the motions were withdrawn. After further discussion and clarification, Mr. Dan Mikkelson made a motion to defer to the NCDOT/SPOT Office for ranking of the Bicycle/Greenway projects but use the local priority ranking for the Sidewalk projects. Mr. Ken Deal seconded the motion and TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

New CMAQ TIP Priority Projects

MPO Director Phil Conrad reported to TCC members that Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds are a federal funding source for areas designated as non-attainment by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Phil continued by explaining that CMAQ funds require a local sponsor and a 20 percent local match. In order for projects to be eligible for the CMAQ funding, they must demonstrate an emissions reduction benefit to the local area. Projects must be submitted by the CRMPO to NCDOT no later than October 31, 2011 in order to be considered for funding.

Phil continued by calling TCC members' attention to Attachment 5A in their packets; the Candidate CMAQ Priority Projects for the Cabarrus Rowan MPO. He explained that a total of eight new CMAQ Project Proposals had been received by the CRMPO and that the TCC Subcommittee had met prior to the TCC meeting to score the candidate projects. Phil reported that NCDOT has indicated that the CRMPO can possibly receive about \$2 million per year in CMAQ funds for FY 2016 and 2017. With that in mind, Phil said that it appears that a majority of the candidate projects can be funded under this funding scenario. But Phil cautioned TCC members that with uncertainties in the federal budget, there are no guarantees that the federal CMAQ program will still be in effect or the funds available in future fiscal years.

Phil continued by reviewing the list of CMAQ candidate projects with the TCC members explaining it in detail. He also called TCC members' attention to copies of each CMAQ application that was included in their agenda packets for their review. With little discussion, Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC endorse the CRMPO's Candidate CMAQ Priority Projects. Mr. Jonathan Marshall seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Rocky River Greenway Segment TIGER Application

Mr. Travis Morehead, representative of the Carolina Thread Trail, reported to TCC members that the Cities of Concord and Kannapolis and the Town of Harrisburg were working together to complete an application for TIGER III funding for sections of the Rocky River Greenway project. TIGER III funding, he explained is a competitive federal grant program designed to fund transportation projects that create jobs and transport people in more environmentally friendly modes.

Mr. Morehead called members' attention to a Resolution of Support for the application for a TIGER III Discretionary Grant to construct a transportation facility that will connect participating jurisdictions which include Cabarrus County and the Cities of Concord, Harrisburg and Kannapolis within the CRMPO area. The Carolina Thread Trail requested support from the CRMPO for their application. Phil Conrad called TCC members' attention to estimated cost per jurisdiction information included in their packets.

Mr. Jonathan Marshall made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC endorse and sign the Resolution of Support for the application for a TIGER III Discretionary Grant to construct a transportation facility that will connect participating jurisdictions which include Cabarrus County and the Cities of Concord, Harrisburg and Kannapolis within the CRMPO area. Mr. Wilmer Melton seconded the motion and TCC voted to approve.

Reports / MPO Business

- Local Reports - MPO/TPB/NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Brett Abernathy from NCDOT Division 9 provided TCC members with handouts on Rowan County projects and reviewed all projects on the handout. Mr. Richard Hancock of Division 10 verbally informed TCC members that the I-85 project is underway, the Morehead Road Re-alignment project is complete, that all resurfacing project for 2011 are done, that the Kannapolis Pedestrian Tunnel will be complete by end of 2011 and that the Derita Road project is still in the planning phase.

- CTP Index Update - Ms. Linda Dosse referred to an email of CTP material that she distributed recently. She indicated the need for local staff to coordinate the tabular part of the Index and her progress on the mapping components.
- 2040 Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan – Ms. Linda Dosse with NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch provided TCC members with a powerpoint presentation on the 2040 Plan update. She provided an overview of the Plan, the schedule for implementation, it's current status, data input and participation, policies, procedures and the financial aspects of the Plan. MPO staff provided TCC members with handouts of the presentation.
- NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Matching Grant Program – Phil Conrad called members' attention to information in their packets concerning NCDOT Bike & Ped Division's annual planning grant initiative to encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plans. Mr. Dan Mikkelson offered to help anyone who is considering completing either type of plan.

Information Items

- Concord Express, Salisbury Transit, Rowan Express and RIDER Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TCC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.

Adjournment

With no other business to consider, TCC Chairman Adrian Cox adjourned the October 19, 2011 TCC meeting.

The next meeting will be November 16, 2011 at Salisbury City Hall.