

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

HYBRID MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

NC Research Campus
Kannapolis City Hall
401 Laureate Way
Kannapolis, NC 28081

Members:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Phillip Graham | City of Concord* |
| Phil Collins | Cabarrus County |
| Ed Muire | Rowan County & Town of Cleveland |
| Stuart Basham | NCDOT Div. 10* |
| Wendy Brindle | City of Salisbury |
| Erin Burris | Town of Mt. Pleasant |
| Jason Hord | Town of Granite Quarry |
| Joel Taylor | Town of Spencer |
| Mallory Hodgson | Town of Harrisburg* |
| Richard Smith | City of Kannapolis |
| Brian Brown | Town of Landis |

Others:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Phil Conrad | CRMPO Director* |
| Wendy Miller | CRMPO Staff |
| Phillip Craver | NCDOT Div 9* |
| Todd Pasley | NCDEQ |
| Scott Miller | NCDOT Div 10* |
| Jason Schronce | NCDOT STIP |
| Roger Castillo | NCDOT TPD |
| LeDerick Blackburn | City of Concord |
| Teresa Robinson | NCDOT STIP |
| Eric Keravuori | Summit |
| Andy Christy | Rider Transit |
| Alex Rotenberry | NCDOT IMD |
| Peter Franzese | Town of Spencer |
| Andy Bailey | NCDOT TPD |
| Brad Lagano | City of Concord |

*Met in person

The August 17, 2022 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC was called to order by MPO Director Phil Conrad. Director Conrad started the meeting by welcoming the members and called the roll of eligible TCC members and determined that a quorum was met. Director Conrad continued on by asking if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda. With none heard, Mr. Ed Muire made a motion to accept the agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Wendy Brindle. Director Conrad continued by asking if there were any speakers from the floor. With no speakers being heard, Director Conrad moved to the next item of business.

Approval of Minutes

Director Conrad called the TCC members' attention to the meeting minutes of the May 18, 2022 TCC meetings included in their meeting packets. Director Conrad asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With no corrections or additions being heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Stuart Basham seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

NCDOT Request to Segment U-6029

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad presented information on the request to segment the Poplar Tent Road widening project U-6029. Director Conrad noted that with the release of the Draft STIP, it has become apparent that U-6029 or the Poplar Tent Road widening may face an uphill climb to gain funding in the near term. NCDOT staff is recommended segmenting this 4-mile project into 2 separate projects that would be scored and programmed independently. The break point would be at the Harris Road intersection where the City of Concord already has a project on the horizon. NCDOT has been conducting an express design on this corridor to ascertain a better cost estimate. Mr. Stuart Basham, NCDOT Division 10 representative presented information on the project history and recommended segmentation. He noted that the project was first funded in 2015 at \$37.7 million but there have been significant cost increases and the revised draft STIP released on August 4, 2022 shows the project as unfunded with a current cost estimate of \$125 million. He noted the Harris Road intersection project funded in 2020 with STPBG will extend road improvements north and south along Poplar Tent Road which should help with the segmented cost estimates. Mr. Basham said the segmentation of U-6029 should increase the scoring and ability to fund more manageable pieces of the project. He noted that the segmentation would require another project slot in the P7.0 process to obtain funding in future STIPs. Director Conrad pointed out that there would need to be an additional 200 points assigned from the MPO and Division office for the segmentation to be fully considered. Director Conrad asked if this would require additional environmental documentation. Mr. Basham said the environmental document has a 3-year shelf life and would likely require updating. Director Conrad noted that this project has been in the STIP needs for 20 years and the cost will likely increase from the \$125 million. Mr. Basham said it was discouraging to see the funding lost in the current STIP but that he is seeing success in obtaining funding by splitting projects.

Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the TAC consider endorsing segmentation of the Poplar Tent Road widening (U-6029) at the Harris Road intersection and Mr. Stuart Basham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification #13

Director Phil Conrad reminded the TCC members that the MPO staff typically brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. The first project modification is the addition of project break for the Old Concord Road pavement markings (HS-2009E) from Jake Alexander Blvd to the county line. The second project is the addition of a project break for the NC 24-27 reduced conflict intersection (HS-2010F). The third project is the delay of construction to FY 2023 for the Norfolk Southern Crossover Relocation (P-5726B). The fourth project is to add the Clarke Creek Greenway (BL-0060) in FY 2025. delay construction to FY 2023 for P-5726A Salisbury Train station second platform and pedestrian underpass. The fifth project is to delay construction to FY 2023 for the US 29/601 bridge replacement B-5808. The sixth project is to modify the scope and funding amounts for the NC 152 intersection project (HE-0009). The seventh project is the addition of a project break for the NC 152 intersection project (HE-0009A). The eighth project is the delay in preliminary engineering to FY 2022 for the Poplar Tent and Harris Road intersection project (HL-0001). The ninth and final project is the increase in cost of NCDOT Statewide Traffic Operations (HO-0005) greater than \$2 million or 25 percent. Director Conrad provided input from FHWA that the Clarke Creek Greenway - BL-0060 is time sensitive and that HO-0005 is being pulled due to its impact on air quality conformity. This project will come back at a later date.

With no questions or comments, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing Modification #13 to the FY 2020-2029 MTIP. Mr. Stuart Basham seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Performance-Based Planning: CMAQ Targets

Director Phil Conrad explained that the FAST Act required State DOTs and MPOs to adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. The NCDOT has consistently used the following congestion performance measures for the Charlotte, NC-SC UZA: 1) annual hours (34) of peak hour excessive delay per capita (PHED) and 2) percent (21) of non-SOV travel. Due to the small portion of the Charlotte UZA in Cabarrus County, these performance measures apply to the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO. The PHED is a 4-year target and the non-SOV is a 2 and 4-year target. It is up to each MPO to either adopt these targets or devise their own targets. NCDOT convened a joint meeting on June 10th and all parties agreed to maintain the same targets. These targets were originally endorsed by the MPO in May of 2018. Director Conrad pointed out that this action is because of the overlap of the Charlotte UZA into the Cabarrus Rowan MPO and all urbanized areas within the regional air quality conformity model must adopt the new measures.

Director Conrad asked for questions or comments. Mrs. Wendy Brindle made a motion to recommend that the TAC consider endorsing the CMAQ Performance Targets as presented. Mr. Phillip Graham seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports – MPO/NCDOT Division 9 and 10/PTD - Mr. Phillip Craver, NCDOT Division 9 representative called members' attention to the Division 9 spreadsheet included in their packets. Mr. Craver noted a few projects with schedule changes. U-5738, Julian Road had utility relocation issues and will start soon, U-5901, Airport Parkway and U-6062, Main Street have moved up a year in the draft STIP. He reported he had no additional information to report but would gladly answer any questions. Mr. Muire asked about the U-5901 project and who the design consultant is for the project. Mr. Craver responded that the consultant is NV5 and work is under way on the alternatives and estimates. He noted that the project is on the Move Forward list for Preliminary Engineering on the September NC Board of Transportation agenda. Mr. Muire asked about the IJR study at McCanless Road. Mr. Craver said the Express Design is complete and the project needs updated costs. It was submitted and scored in P6.0 and can be submitted in P7.0. Mr. Craver said the project needs to be coordinated with FHWA and that has been initiated. Director Conrad said the contingency funds were approved in the spring and will be going to the NCDOT Board in September.

Mr. Stuart Basham, NCDOT Division 10 representative 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 noted that U-3440, NC 3 in Kannapolis is 85% complete and will be open to traffic in April 2023 and Centergrove Road bridge is 93% complete and will be open October 2022.

Mr. Roger Castillo, NCDOT TPB called members' attention to the NCDOT newsletter. Mr. Andy Bailey, NCDOT PTB noted that NCDOT submitted the Electric Vehicle infrastructure plan to USDOT based on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Alex Rotenberry,

NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division, had to leave the meeting but provided links to the July 27th Integrated Mobility webinar and the new equity and transportation disadvantaged screening tool.

2. Re-release of the DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP – Director Conrad reviewed the draft STIP and pointed out a few of the projects where the schedule has changed. Director Conrad introduced Jason Schronce with the NCDOT TIP unit. After the retirement of Mike Stanley, Mr. Schronce is the Central STIP Manager and will continue in his role as the Prioritization Manager for the time being. Mr. Schronce discussed the draft STIP and the changes that occurred with the reassignment of sales tax revenues by the General Assembly due to updated revenue forecasts. \$6 billion was added to the STIP over the 10 years which improved the financial outlook with the \$8 billion hole in the current STIP. No new projects were added but the STIP was able to retain project schedules.

Mr. Schronce updated the group on the P7.0 process which will begin in October with the work groups. New project submittals will begin in late spring or early summer.

Mr. Schronce discussed the SWAPs program which allows the MPO to swap projects with like funding and schedules to advance desired projects. There are some special requirements for Division 9 and 10 with conformity limitations and the deadline is October 28, 2022. Mr. Schronce noted that the current STIP ends on 9/30/2023. Director Conrad thanked the STIP unit for providing the information in spreadsheet format. He pointed out that the swaps are difficult to exercise because of the need to find like projects and this information will be shared with the TAC at their meeting.

3. MVEB Revisions for the Metrolina Region - Mr. Todd Pasley with NCDEQ gave a detailed presentation on the need to update the safety margin as part of the motor vehicle emission budgets (MVEB) for the Metrolina Region as US EPA is requiring a new emission model or MOVES3 (from MOVES2014b). The new safety margin would be 45 percent rather than 25 percent. The deadline is January 9, 2023 so NC DEQ is trying to get the notice in the Federal Register well in advance, and begin the travel demand modeling for the STIP Update under MOVES2014b. NCDEQ hopes to transmit a pre-draft maintenance plan to US EPA by August 22nd.

4. Special Studies Update- Rowan County and Town of China Grove - Mr. Ed Muire with Rowan County reported to members the County's Long Ferry Road Study has begun. Director Conrad noted that the Town of China Grove Main Street Corridor Study is underway.

5. MPO staffing team Introductions – Director Conrad introduced the MPO planning team. Nathaniel Haywood with Kimley Horn could not attend the meeting. He will be providing bicycle and pedestrian planning. Wendy Miller with Wendy Miller Landscape Architecture introduced herself as both a landscape architect and transportation planner with 25 years experience working with the Winston-Salem MPO and other regional partners. She will be providing transit, rail and aviation as well as other special planning study services.

6. FY 2023-2026 Carbon Reduction Program Funds – Wendy Miller presented an overview of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) established as a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The CRP requires MPOs to develop a carbon reduction strategy to identify projects and efforts to support the reduction of transportation emissions by reducing

congestion, facilitating use of vehicles or modes that lower emissions per person per mile, or facilitate transportation construction approaches that result in lower emissions. The MPO will receive funding for FFYs 2022 through 2026 with a \$481,266 FY 2022 allocation. The funds require a \$100,000 minimum project, 20% local match and 10% NCDOT oversight. The eligible projects include congestion management, public transportation, transportation alternative modes, and implementation of EV infrastructure. Director Conrad discussed the call for projects and timeline. There is time to develop a process possibly in tandem with the TAP funds.

7. Economic Development Threshold for Purpose and Need Statements - Director Conrad highlighted the importance of local land use plans and asked for some discussion on how to incorporate economic development as a factor in the purpose and need statement for projects like Airport Parkway.

Informational Items

Director Conrad called attention to the following informational items included in their packets:

- RIDER Transit, Salisbury Transit, and MTC Ridership
- TPD Newsletter
- CRAFT Meeting Minutes

Next scheduled meeting: September 21, 2022

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.