

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

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

Members

JC McKenzie	City of Concord
Steve Morris	Cabarrus County
Wayne Starnes	Town of China Grove
Dale Peeler	Town of Faith
Greg Edds	Rowan County
Brittany Barnhardt	Town of Granite Quarry
Dillon Brewer	Town of Rockwell
Ryan Dayvault	City of Kannapolis
Deloris High	Town of East Spencer
Ron Smith	Town of Harrisburg
Justin Simpson	Town of Mt. Pleasant

Others

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Brett Canipe	NCDOT Division 10
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Division 9
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Division 9
Chris Cranford	Town of Rockwell
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Sean Epperson	NCDOT Division 10
Albert Smith	Town of East Spencer
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Karla Foster	Rowan Chamber

Call to Order

The meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC was called to order by Chairman Brittany Barnhardt at approximately 6:00 pm, after a meal provided by the City of Concord. Chairman Barnhardt welcomed everyone and asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed. After the pledge CRMPO Director Phil Conrad recognized the City of Concord for providing the meal. TAC Chairman Barnhardt went on to call the roll of eligible voting TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met. Chairman Barnhardt then requested that all those in attendance introduce themselves to the group.

At that time, CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad read the NC State Ethics Commission Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest requirement and stated that should a conflict arise during any part of the meeting; members should recuse themselves from that portion of the meeting.

CRMPO TAC Chairman Barnhardt continued with the meeting and asked for any Chamber of Commerce updates. There was no staff from the Cabarrus Chamber present. Mrs. Karla Foster representing the Rowan Chamber reported to the TAC members that the Rowan Chamber is continuing to seek funding for infrastructure projects in the CR MPO area. TAC Chairman Barnhardt then asked if there were any speakers from the floor. With none being heard she moved on to the next order of business.

TAC Chairman Barnhardt asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda including the Consent Agenda. With none heard, Mr. Dillon Brewer made a motion to approve the agenda including the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a TAC member requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. The following items were presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

CTP Amendment

The Town of China Grove would like to add a new interchange at Mt. Hope Road to the CRMPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Director Conrad went on to state that this addition would be in advance of P8.0 and the scoring for project H090764 which is the NC 152 Bypass of the Town of China Grove.

RIDER Transit System Program of Projects (POP)

The RIDER Transit System's Program of Projects is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of RIDER Transit in Fiscal Year 2025. As in the past, RIDER Transit has elected to use CRMPO's Public Involvement procedures to process this annual requirement. The request is to release the RIDER Transit System POP for public comment.

RIDER Transit System Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

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 subrecipients of FTA grant funds to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures necessary for implementing Safety Management Systems (SMS).

The document was approved by the Concord Kannapolis Area Transit Commission on August 22, 2024 and will go to the Concord City Council for approval following action by the CRMPO. A request for approval by the NCDOT is the last step prior to final certification. The request is to approve the RIDER Transit System Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan.

At this time, Mr. Justin Simpson made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Mr. Ron Smith seconded that motion, and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of May 22, 2024 Minutes

TAC Chairman Barnhardt called members' attention to the minutes from the June 26, 2024 TAC meeting included in their meeting packets. Chairman Barnhardt asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. J.C. McKenzie pointed out that the minutes show Mr. Terry Crawford as being with the City of Kannapolis when it should read City of Concord. With no other corrections or additions being heard, Mr. J.C. McKenzie made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Dillon Brewer seconded the motion, and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

FY 2024-2033 MTIP Modification #6

CRMPO Director Conrad reminded the TAC members that CRMPO staff regularly brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. He explained that this modification was as a result of the July and August 2024 Board meetings. The first project modifications are statewide project additions: M0426-DIV, M-0426REG, M-0426SW, M-0460, M-0478, and M-0480. The second project modification is the cost increase for the Clarke Creek Greenway (BL-0060). The third project modification is the cost increase for the US 601/Flowe Store Road intersection project (C-5603I). The fourth project is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Morehead Road access management improvements (HL-0062). The fifth project is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Caldwell Road improvements (HL-0063). The sixth project is to add a project break for the Old Concord Road/Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue intersection project (HS-2409B). The seventh project is to add a project break for the Concord Parkway/Bruton Smith Boulevard intersection project (HS-2410D). The eighth project is to delay construction to FY 25 for the Old Concord Road sidewalk project (C-5603D). The ninth project is to delay right-of-way to FY 25 for the Bethpage Road sidewalk project (C-5603F). The tenth project is to increase the cost for the track improvements and pedestrian underpass Kannapolis Train Station (P-5725). The eleventh project is to delay construction to FY 28 for the NC 73 widening west of the county line (R-5706A). The twelfth and final project is to change funding source for the Poplar Tent Road widening from east of I-85 to Poplar Tent Road (U-3415A). Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 5 in their packets which was a resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. With very little discussion or comments, Mr. Wayne Starnes made a motion to endorse modification #6 to the FY 2024-2033 MTIP. Mr. J.C. McKenzie seconded that motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

TIP Priority Project STI Results

CRMPO Director reported to the TAC members that NCDOT has applied their methodology to rank transportation projects across the state and reported what funds are available for the next STIP. Director Conrad went on to state that the quantitative scores were recently released for all P7.0 projects in NC. NCDOT will incorporate the quantitative scores with the CRMPO input points and Division Engineer rankings/points to initiate the development of the FY 2026- 2035 TIP.

Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 6 which were the results for the top highway, aviation, rail, and sidewalk/greenway projects in the CRMPO area. He went on to say that CRMPO staff has applied the local methodology and provided options for allocating points to

projects in the regional and division tiers which were released for public comment at the June 2024 TAC meeting.

Director Conrad reviewed and explained the point assignments with the members. Spreadsheets with the information were provided in the meeting packets. Director Conrad also provided members with a power point presentation explaining the tiers and results.

With no questions or comments heard, Mr. Wayne Starnes made a motion to endorse the regional and division tier point assignment portion of the TIP Priority Project List. Mr. J.C. McKenzie seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

TIP Priority Project Existing and Committed Projects

CRMPO Director Conrad reported that the NCDOT-STIP Unit is seeking input from MPOs and NCDOT Divisions on priorities of existing and committed projects in the development of the 2026-2035 STIP. Existing and committed projects have previously been selected for funding in the current 2024-2033 STIP through the NCDOT Seniority Prioritization process 3.0 (P3.0; 2015), P4.0 (2017) or Prioritization 5.0 (2019). He went on to say that the input will be used to assist the STIP Unit when adjusting schedules to meet federal and state fiscal constraint requirements.

Phil explained that the STIP Unit will use the Seniority Approach as the initial ranking of priorities for the Regional Impact and Division Needs STI funding categories. The Seniority Approach was recommended by the NCDOT Prioritization Workgroup and MPOs must submit any revisions to the rankings by August 30th.

Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 7A which was a copy of an email on this process. He also referred to Attachment 7B which was a list of projects by tier. Director Conrad reviewed all the projects with the members. Director Conrad stated that the CRMPO would like to move the Division 9 Airport Parkway project to the top of the list. He then requested that the Poplar Tent Road widening be moved to the top of the Division 10 list.

There were discussions among the members as to what order the intersection safety projects should be listed. After discussions were complete, it was determined by consensus that all intersection safety projects are equally important and should be left in the order shown on Attachment 7B. Director Conrad also reviewed the projects that are still funded.

With no additional questions or comments, Mr. J.C. McKenzie made a motion to endorse the existing and committed project priority order with the two revisions (Airport Parkway and Poplar Tent Road) requested by staff. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and the CRMPO TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

CMAQ Project Funding/Priorities

Director Conrad informed the TAC members that CMAQ or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds are a federal funding source for areas designated non-attainment by the EPA. He explained that CMAQ funds require a local sponsor and a 20 percent local match. Eligible projects must demonstrate an emissions reduction benefit to the local area.

Director Conrad went on to state that NCDOT issued a call for new project applications for a continuous process with quarterly deadlines that began in 2023. The CRMPO recently submitted a total of 6 CMAQ projects, with 5 already funded previously with CMAQ funds. Director Conrad continued by stating that NCDOT had indicated that the MPO should prioritize the remaining projects to be considered for future funding. Phil reminded the TAC members that the CRMPO TCC/TAC recommended a rank order of projects to NCDOT as shown in Attachment 8. He also noted that Attachment 8 contained an email from NCDOT staff suggesting using future federal allocations for the 5 remaining projects from 3 project sponsors (Mt. Pleasant, Harrisburg, and Salisbury).

Director Conrad provided a power point presentation to the members regarding the CMAQ program. After the presentation, Director Conrad called members' attention to the list of CMAQ projects submitted since July 18, 2023 by the CRMPO. After the review, Mr. Justin Simpson and Mr. Ron Smith each provided information on their respective projects on the list to the TAC members and took any questions.

After all the discussion was complete, Mr. Ron Smith made a motion to endorse the remaining list of CMAQ Project submittals for an advancement of federal funds. Mr. Justin Simpson seconded the motion, and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports - NCDOT Division 9 & 10 – Mr. Pat Ivey, NCDOT Division 9 reported to the TAC members that Division 9 updates were included in their meeting packet. He highlighted some updates on projects in Division 9. Mr. Ivey also announced that he would be retiring from NCDOT effective December 31, 2024. Mr. Ivey was praised by many members and NCDOT staff who have worked with him over the years. He will certainly be missed by all.

Mr. Brett Canipe, NCDOT Division 10 also highlighted a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates. He reported that there were no major changes to the spreadsheet.

Director Phil Conrad noted that Mrs. Loretta Barren with FHWA who will be retiring from Federal Highway Administration on December 31, 2024. Mrs. Barren has been assisting the CRMPO for almost 22 years and will be missed as well.

2. Special Study Update – Mr. Wayne Starnes with the Town of China Grove reported that the Highway 152 Corridor Study team held an open house last night on the project and was well attended by citizens.
3. FY 25 Special Studies – Director Conrad made a request for project proposals and called members' attention to information provided in their packets.
4. FY 25 Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies – Director Conrad also made a request for project proposals for these low match planning study grants.

Informational Items

- RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- TPD Newsletter- Phil noted the newsletter in their meeting packets.

Next Meeting : September 25, 2024

Adjournment

With no other business to bring before the TAC, Mr. Ron Smith made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.