

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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

Members

Terry Crawford	City of Concord
Greg Edds	Rowan County
Karen Alexander	City of Salisbury
Justin Simpson	Town of Mount Pleasant
Mike Tallent	Town of Midland
Brittany Barnhardt	Town of Granite Quarry
Steve Miller	Town of Spencer
Steven Rosenburgh	NCDOT Board
Lee Withers	Town of China Grove
Delores High	Town of East Spencer
Ryan Dayvault	City of Kannapolis
Meredith Bare Smith	Town of Landis
Dillon Brewer	Town of Rockwell
Randall Barger	Town of Faith

Others

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Brett Canipe	NCDOT Div 10
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Div 9
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
Albert Smith	East Spencer
Emily Stupka	NCDOT-TPD
Scott Miller	NCDOT Div 10
Wayne Starnes	Town of China Grove
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Tamara Sheffield	City of Salisbury
Brian Murphy	NCDOT
Andy Bailey	NCDOT-TPD
Dale Peeler	Town of Faith
Karla Foster	Rowan Chamber
NC Senator Carl Ford & Mrs. Angela Ford	
Rep Harry Warren	NC House
Diamond Staton Williams	NC House

Call to Order

The meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC was called to order at approximately 6:10 pm by TAC Chairman Brittnay Barnhardt. Chairman Barnhardt welcomed those in attendance and asked all present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed on the screen. At that time, CRMPO Director Phil Conrad thanked the Town of Midland for a meal that was served prior to the start of the meeting. TAC Chairman Barnhardt continued by calling the roll of eligible voting TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met. Chairman Barnhardt then requested that all those in attendance, to please introduce themselves to the group.

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad welcomed the group and 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.

At this time, CRMPO Director Phil Conrad welcomed NC Senator Mr. Carl Ford and his wife Mrs. Angela Ford, NC House Representative Harry Warren, NC House Representative Mrs. Diamond Staton-Williams and current NC Transportation Board member Mr. Steven Rosenburgh. Director Conrad asked for any comments from our representatives. Senator Ford addressed the group and reported that the Senate will be back in session in April and even though it is anticipated to be a short session lots of things are going on with transportation in our State and new initiatives will be coming soon.

Representatives Warren and Staton-Willims echoed Senator Ford's information and reported they are working with the cities and towns in their areas to secure more transportation projects and funding.

NCDOT Board Member Rosenburgh thanked the CRMPO for inviting him and reported he is visiting the MPO's to ascertain what the true needs are of each MPO. He too reported that a lot is happening with transportation in the State and the Board is looking for ways to improve NCDOT and how projects are funded and completed. NCDOT Board Member Rosenburgh talked about funding options and cost increases and how they are affecting getting projects completed. In closing Member Rosenburg thanked Director Conrad and the CRMPO for the good job they do for the Cabarrus Rowan MPO and for communicating with him regarding the CRMPO.

Chairman Barnhardt proceeded on with the meeting and asked for any Chamber of Commerce updates. Karla Foster with the Rowan Chamber reported to the members that the Chambers Legislative Breakfast would be held on February 15, 2024, the Women in Business event is scheduled to be held on March 7, 2024 and the Power and Partnership Breakfast will be held on March 21, 2024. With no other reports heard, Chairman Barnhardt 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. Without any adjustments being heard Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith made a motion to approve the agenda including Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Justin Simpson 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:

RIDER Transit Program of Projects

The RIDER Transit System's Program of Projects (POP) is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of RIDER Transit in Fiscal Year 2024. RIDER Transit has elected to use the CRMPO Public Involvement procedures to process their annual requirement.

CRMPO Smoothed Area Boundary

The Census Bureau recently released the new urbanized areas (UZA) for the United States. The UZA for the Cabarrus Rowan MPO grew significantly in Cabarrus and Rowan counties and is required to confirm where the Smoothed Area Boundary will be located. A map of the new smoothed area boundary was included in the packets.

CTP Amendment

The Town of Spencer would like to add a connection between Long Ferry Road and Hackett Street as a proposed minor thoroughfare to the CRMPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The Town has already incorporated this connection as part of their locally adopted plans. A map of the area was included in the packets. .

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of October 25, 2023 Minutes

Chairman Barnhardt called members' attention to the minutes from the October 25, 2023 meeting included in their meeting packets. Chairman Barnhardt asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With none being heard, Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Dillion Brewer seconded the motion and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

Nomination and Election of TAC Vice-Chair

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad reported that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TAC Bylaws state that a new TAC Vice-Chair must be elected each year. Director Conrad reported that the Vice-Chair will rotate to the Chair position in January 2025. He stated that the TAC would need to nominate and elect a Vice-Chair from Cabarrus County since the current Chair was from Rowan County. After some discussion, Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith nominated Mr. Ron Smith to become the 2024 Vice Chair of the CRMPO TAC. Mr. Mike Tallent seconded the motion. With no other nominations heard, by consensus the nominations were closed. The TAC members voted unanimously to approve Mr. Smith to the position of TAC Vice-Chair.

FY 2024-2033 MTIP Modification #2

Director Conrad explained to the TAC members that MPO staff typically brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration.

The first project modifications he explained, are statewide project additions: ER5600, M-0563D, M-0563E, TC-0031, TC-0033, HS-2015DIV, HS-2015-REG, HS2015SW, M0552-ADIV, M0552-

AREG, M0552-ASW, M0552-BDIV, M0552- BREG, M0552-BSW, M0553-ADIV, M0553-AREG, M0553-ASW, M0553-BDIV, M0553-BREG, and M0553-BSW. The second project modification is the delay of construction to FY 24 for the Old Concord Road sidewalk project (C-5603D). The third project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Brenner Avenue intersection project (C-5603H). The fourth project modification is to accelerate construction to FY 24 for the RCI at NC 24/27 and Pine Bluff Road (HS-2010F). The fifth project modification is to delay construction to FY 27 for the NC 73 widening west of the county line (R-5706A). The seventh project modification is to delete the East Fisher Street bridge project at the request of the City of Salisbury (HM-0001). The eighth project is to add construction in FY 24 for the Division 10 ADA intersection improvements (R-5790). The ninth project is to delay right-of-way to FY 25 for the Jake Alexander Blvd sidewalk (BL-0034). The tenth project is to delay construction to FY 25 for the track improvements, pedestrian underpass, and second platform at the Kannapolis Amtrak Station (P-5725). The eleventh project is to delay construction to FY 25 for the second platform and pedestrian underpass at the Salisbury Amtrak Station (P-5726A). The twelfth project is to add preliminary engineering for the Division 9 ADA intersection improvements (BO-2409). The thirteenth project is to add preliminary engineering for the Division 10 ADA intersection improvements (BO-2410). The fourteenth project is to delay construction to FY 27 for the Bruton Smith Blvd sidewalk project (EB5732). The fifteenth project is to delay construction to FY 31 for the George Liles Pkwy extension (R-2246A). The sixteenth project is to delay construction to FY 29 for the Poplar Tent Road widening (U-3415A). The seventeenth project is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Union Cemetery Road realignment (U-5956). The eighteenth and final project is to delay construction to FY 27 for the Derita Road widening (U-6032).

After reviewing the projects, Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 7 included in their packet which was a draft resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. He closed by stating the new STIP was effective October 1, 2023.

Mrs. Karen Alexander, City of Salisbury Mayor, addressed the members regarding a project that was originally in this modification but was put on hold and removed awaiting more information requested by the TCC at their meeting on January 17, 2024. The original sixth project modification was to add a project break for the Henderson Grove Church Road railroad crossing project (Y-5500AI). Mayor Alexander explained that the City had been working with the NC Rail Division regarding this project and that the City wants to keep this project in Modification #2. Mayor Alexander stated this project modification would be a great asset for the City and their vision for future high speed rail projects. There was a lot of discussion among the Rowan County members about whether to add the project back into the modification. Mr. Pat Ivey with NCDOT Division 9 explained that the NC Rail Division has this project on their list of projects and a decision has already been made by them to close the crossing.

After all discussion or comments were heard, Mayor Karen Alexander made a motion to endorse modification #2 including project Y-5500AI from the FY 2024-2033 MTIP. Mr. Steve Miller seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Performance Based Planning: Safety Targets

Director Conrad introduced Mr. Brian Murphy, NCDOT Mobility Safety Division. Mr. Murphy provided a power point presentation to the TAC members regarding the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). He explained the goals of the plan, with the most important one being to reduce fatalities. Mr. Murphy continued by explaining that NC has had major

rapid growth which makes this plan even more important. His presentation had information broken down by municipalities, which included fatalities by travel mode, total crashes, fatal crashes, and serious injury crashes. Mr. Murphy also explained the safety performance measures for the TAC members.

Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that the federal transportation legislation requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. He continued by stating that NCDOT has released the next round of safety targets for North Carolina and it is up to each MPO to either adopt these targets or devise their own targets. The proposed safety targets were published on the MPO's website and advertised for public comment.

Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 8 in their packets which was a draft resolution in support of the new safety targets for 2024 along with a copy of the proposed safety targets. With no other questions or comments heard, Mr. Dillon Brewer made a motion to adopt the Safety Targets as presented. Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith seconded that motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

2024 Draft Local Priority Methodology

CRMPO Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that NCDOT staff has indicated that Session Law 2012-84 requires the Department to develop a process for standardizing or approving MPO local input methodology. He went on to say that given recent changes in the way that points can be flexed between tiers, CRMPO staff will submit a draft of the Cabarrus-Rowan local input methodology to NCDOT for content review. After the content review Director Conrad stated, the NCDOT staff will grant conditional approval to the CRMPO's methodology subject to public input and CRMPO Board approval. Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment #9 which was the local priority methodology and he reviewed it with the members.

Director Conrad asked for any questions or comments. With none heard, Mrs. Karen Alexander made a motion to release the 2024 Draft Local Priority Methodology for public comment. Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

Functional Classification System Request

Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes, or systems according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Director Conrad stated that as a general rule, highways fall into one of four broad categories: principal arterials, minor arterials, collector roads, and local roads and are based on whether the area is urban or rural. He explained that it has been determined by the City of Salisbury that the segment of Julian Road between US 601/Jake Alexander Blvd and I-85 at Exit 75 should be designated as a major collector in the federal functional classification system. He also reported on the need for reclassification and then called members' attention to Attachment #10 in their packets. The attachment was a draft resolution in support of the proposed functional classification system change and documentation for the proposed request.

After review and no questions or comments, Mr. Greg Edds made a motion to adopt the proposed Functional Classification System change to Julian Road. Mr. Steve Miller seconded that 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 are included in their meeting packet. He called attention to projects U-5738, HE-0009, W-5709E, Y-5500IA, 48921, and SM-5709G. Mr. Ivey also reported to the TAC members that Little Sweep will be held April 13th - 27th and that the 2024 Transportation Summit will be held on May 21st – 22nd 2024.

Mr. Brett Canipe, NCDOT Division 10 called TAC members' attention to a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates as well. He reviewed the Rogers Lake Road project and the NC 3 widening project for the members.

2. CMAQ Program Update and Awards – Director Phil Conrad reported to the members that the CRMPO submitted six eligible CMAQ projects and is waiting to see which ones were awarded funding later this month. He also stated that the CRMPO has been awarded approximately \$1.58 million annually in CMAQ funding.

3. Special Study Update – Director Conrad reported that the Town of China Grove is conducting a study on the 152 Corridor and that they are currently in the process of selecting a firm to do the work.

4. Pennies for Progress – Union County – Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that Union County has identified a critical intersection list. This list will be prioritized in the coming future. He stated he is providing this as information should the CRMPO membership be interested in doing the same. Information was included in their meeting packets.

5. FY 25 Draft UPWP – Director Conrad called members' attention to a *Draft* UPWP included in their meeting packet for review. Also included he stated, is the members' local match table. Director Conrad closed in stating this item will come back before them at a future meeting.

6. Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies – Director Conrad directed members to page 82 in their packets. It was a list of three projects being considered for planning funds.

Informational Items

- ✦ RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil called the TAC members' attention to the ridership information included in their packets.
- ✦ NCDOT's Guide to Transportation Decision Making - Director Conrad provided the members with a power point presentation provided by NCDOT.
- ✦ TAC Member Orientation: Metropolitan Transportation Planning – Director Conrad called members' attention to a copy of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning: Executive Seminar power point included in their packets for their information.

✦ NC MPO Conference – April 17-19, 2024

Next Meeting : February 28. 2024

Adjournment

With no other business to bring before the TAC, Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Karen Alexander seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.