

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

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

### Members

JC McKenzie	City of Concord
Mike Tallent	Town of Midland
Wayne Starnes	Town of China Grove
Steve Miller	Town of Spencer
Jim Greene	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
Meredith Bare Smith	Town of Landis
Tamara Sheffield	City of Salisbury

### Others

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Brett Canipe	NCDOT Division 10
Pat Ivey	NCDOT Division 9
Connie Cunningham	CRMPO Staff
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Division 9
Karla Foster	Rowan Chamber
Wilmer Melton	City of Kannapolis
Sean Epperson	NCDOT Division 10
Albert Smith	Town of East Spencer
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Theo Ghitea	NCDOT Division 10
John Rhyne	NCDOT Division 9
Amna Cameron	NCDOT OSI
Kenneth Geathers	Former CRMPO TAC Member

### Call to Order

TAC Chairman Brittany Barnhardt called the November 20, 2024 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (CRMPO) to order after a meal/reception provided by the CRMPO staff. The reception was held in honor of Mr. Pat Ivey and Mrs. Loretta Barren who both are retiring at the end of 2024.

Chairman Barnhardt welcomed everyone and asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed. TAC Chairman Barnhardt went on to call the roll of eligible voting TAC members and determined that a quorum had been met.

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 including their top priority interchange project in northern Rowan. 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.

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad addressed the members and thanked everyone who was able to attend the reception for Mr. Ivey and Mrs. Barren. Director Conrad asked the two honorees to come forward and he introduced each of them and provided a short bio on each of their respective careers. TAC Chairman Barnhardt presented each of the honorees with a standing plaque provided by CRMPO staff to honor their hard work with the CRMPO TCC and TAC over their many years of professional service. Each honoree thanked the members and attendees for honoring them. Both will be greatly missed by everyone associated with the CRMPO.

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. Wayne Starnes 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:

### **PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING: SAFETY TARGETS**

The federal transportation legislation requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. 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 and is an annual requirement.

The request is for the CRMPO TAC to release the Safety Targets for public comment.

## **THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Approval of August 28, 2024 Minutes**

TAC Chairman Barnhardt called members' attention to the minutes from the August 28, 2024 TAC meeting included in their meeting packets. Chairman Barnhardt asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. With no corrections or additions heard, Mr. J.C. McKenzie made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion, and the TAC members followed with a unanimous vote to approve.

## **FY 2024-2033 MTIP Modification #7**

CRMPO Director Conrad reminded the TAC members that the CRMPO staff regularly brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. The first project modifications were statewide project additions: TO-0004, HB0099-A, HB-0099B, HB-0099C, C-5600VA, HB-9999A, HB-9999B, and HB9999C. The second project modification is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Concord sidewalks (BL-0087). The third project modification is to delay right-of-way to FY 25 for the US 601/Flowe Store Road intersection project (C-5603I). The fourth project is to add right-of-way and utilities in FY 25 for the Grants Creek Greenway project (EB-5619C). The fifth project is to remove the Jake Alexander Boulevard sidewalk project (BL-0034). The sixth project is to add construction in FY 28 for the Roberta Road roundabout, which is project number HN-0036. The seventh project is to change funding from federal to state for the Caldwell Road Extension project HL-0063. The eighth and final project R-5706A, is to reflect the cost increase by \$2 million and the 25 percent threshold for the NC73 widening west of the county line. After explaining the modifications, Director Conrad noted Attachment 4 which was a *Draft* resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects.

With no questions or comments heard, Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith made a motion to endorse modification #7 with the exception of projects BL-0034 and R-5706A to the FY 2024-2033 MTIP and to release projects BL-0034 and R-5706A for public comment. Mr. Ron Smith seconded that motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

## **STP Funding Request**

Mr. Theo Ghitea from NCDOT Division 10 addressed the TAC members and explained that NCDOT Division 10 is coming to them tonight to request funds for the installation of interchange lighting at the interchange of I-85 and George W Liles Pkwy. Mr. Ghitea explained the this is the only interchange on I-85 in Cabarrus County that does not currently have interchange lighting installed. Mr. Ghitea went on to state that NCDOT does not have a dedicated funding source for interchange lighting outside interstate widening or interchange improvement projects. However, Division 10 staff did evaluate the crashes at the intersection and while the majority of the crashes were occurring during the daylight hours, the State Traffic Engineer was willing to commit some safety funds toward the project. Mr. Ghitea went on to say that the cities of Kannapolis and Concord have agreed to support the project.

At that time, Director Conrad called TAC members' attention to Attachment 5A in their meeting packets which were resolutions of support from the cities of Concord and Kannapolis. Mr. Ghitea stated that the cities and Division 10 would request STP funds from the CRMPO for this project as the federal match. He explained that Division 10 staff anticipates the total cost of the project, which calls for the installation of four lights, being \$1 million, so the request is for \$800,000 federal match from the CRMPO's STP account. Director Conrad informed the TAC members that an accounting of available STP funds is included as Attachment 5B in their packets.

With little discussion and no questions, Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith made a motion to endorse the STP funding request as presented. Mr. Ryan Dayvault seconded the motion and the TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

## **RIDER Transit Program of Projects**

Director Phil Conrad reported to the TAC members that 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 2025. As in the past, he went on to say, RIDER Transit has elected to use the CRMPO's Public Involvement procedures to process this annual requirement. Phil reported that Attachment 6 is the final POP. He concluded by stating that a public comment period was held and that no comments were received.

With no questions or comments heard, Mrs. Meredith Bare Smith made a motion to endorse the RIDER Transit System's POP. Mr. Justin Simpson seconded that motion and the CRMPO TAC members voted unanimously to approve.

## **TIP Priority Project STI Regional and Division Tier Results**

Director Conrad reported to the TAC members that NCDOT has applied their methodology to rank transportation projects across North Carolina. NCDOT has indicated what the available funds for the next STIP are going to be. He then presented a power point presentation explaining all the processes. Phil went on to say that the quantitative scores were released for all the P7.0 projects this past spring. He explained that NCDOT will now incorporate the quantitative scores with the CRMPO designated points and the Division Engineer points to finalize the development of the FY 2026-2035 TIP.

Director Conrad then highlighted Attachment 7 in their packets which were the results for the top highway, aviation, rail and sidewalk/greenway projects in the CRMPO area. Phil reviewed the attachment with the members.

## **Reports/CRMPO Business**

1. Advance NC Transportation Website-Office of Strategic Initiatives – Director Conrad introduced Mrs. Amna Cameron with NCDOT SIPS who provided the TAC members with a power point presentation explaining the new website. She explained how transportation is funded, why will transportation revenues decline, why is it important to modernize and stabilize transportation revenues and gas tax revenues. She urged all members to go to the website and take the survey that is included in it.
2. 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. Theo Ghitea, NCDOT Division 10 called members' attention to the updated format of their report. He then went on to highlight a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates.

3. CMAQ Priority Submittal and Funding Awards – Director Conrad called members' attention to a letter in their packets from Mr. Mark Eatman with NCDOT who a Senior Statewide Initiatives Engineer with the Office of Strategic Initiatives & Program Support is. The letter was regarding two CMAQ projects that have been awarded funding in the CRMPO.

4. Special Study Update – Director Conrad reported that the public meetings are still ongoing for the China Grove Corridor Study.
5. FY 25 Special Studies (2055 MTP/CTP Update)– Director Conrad highlighted information in their meeting packets for the MTP/CTP Update.
6. Amendment #1 to the FY UPWP – Director Conrad noted that this amendment would be forthcoming in January.
7. FY25 Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies - Director Conrad informed members that both the Town of Cleveland and Town of Rockwell studies are moving forward.

### **Informational Items**

- RIDER Transit and Salisbury Transit Ridership Information - Phil highlighted the ridership information included in the TAC packets.
- CRMPO Newsletter - Phil noted the quarterly newsletter in the TAC packets.

Next Meeting : January 22, 2025

### **Adjournment**

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